

RAKHINE STATE Myanmar airstrike kills 7 civilians

AFP, Kyauktaw

A Myanmar military airstrike has killed seven civilians including a five-year-old child in the country's conflict-ravaged west, a witness and a rescue worker said yesterday.

Local rescue worker Naing Win Lwin said from around 3:00 pm on Wednesday a trio of jets dropped nine bombs around the town of Kyauktaw in Rakhine, which borders Bangladesh.

He said seven people including the young child were killed and 15 people were wounded. A Myanmar military spokesman did not respond to a request for comment.

In Kyauktaw, the ruins of buildings were charred and still smouldering yesterday.

The military's air force furnished with Chinese and Russian jets has been key to fending off opposing pro-democracy guerrillas and ethnic minority armies.

US OIL BLOCKADE Drastic curbs on public transport take effect in Cuba

AFP, Havana

Drastic restrictions on cross-country travel took effect yesterday in cash-strapped Cuba, with spaces on ever scarcer trains and buses now reserved for the sick, people traveling for funerals and other emergencies.

Cuba has been running on empty since the United States in January cut off its fuel imports as part of a pressure campaign aimed at forcing changes to the communist island's economic model, if not its leaders in Havana.

Transport across the island, which was already reeling from the worst economic crisis in memory, has screeched to a near halt as petrol pumps run dry.

From yesterday, trains from the capital Havana to cities in the east only ran every 16 days - compared to around three times a week previously. Public buses, which used to run at least once daily to provincial cities, will only operate one to three times a week.

Deputy Transport Minister Luis Ladrón de Guevara emphasized that no permits were needed to travel but that a "priority system" would operate.



Women hold belongings as they walk among the rubble of a neighbourhood completely destroyed by an Israeli airstrike, following the US–Iran deal, in Qlailieh, Tyre district, Lebanon, yesterday. Israeli officials said that Israel was holding negotiations with the US as it seeks to continue its deployment of troops in southern Lebanon.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Ukraine brings the war to Moscow

Huge blasts shake oil refinery; flights suspended at all airports; Russia downs 180 drones, strikes Kyiv

REUTERS

Scores of Ukrainian drones bore down on Moscow yesterday, hitting the Russian capital's oil refinery for the second time this week in what Kyiv cast as a demonstration of its growing capabilities that should force Russia to accept a peace deal.

Russia, for its part, fired missiles into Kyiv, also for the second time this week, following an attack that damaged Kyiv's landmark 1,000-year-old monastery and drew international condemnation.

In Moscow, Reuters saw flames and plumes of smoke over the densely populated southeastern district of Kapotnya where the refinery supplying the capital is located.

"Air defense forces continue to repel a massive attack. Several drones managed to reach the Moscow oil refinery," Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said, adding that a shopping centre also suffered minor damage.

Russia's defence ministry said 555 drones were shot down across the country. Sobyanin said 180 were shot down around Moscow alone. State news agency TASS said the attack on Moscow was one of the biggest this year.

More than four years since Russia's full-scale invasion, Ukraine has increasingly been targeting Russia's energy



infrastructure with long-range drone strikes, while Russia has continued firing missiles at Ukrainian cities.

After years when Russian forces made slow but relentless gains on the battlefield, Kyiv says its improving drone capabilities are shifting the war's momentum in its favour, providing new impetus for Moscow to agree a peace deal.

"One of the most popular questions asked by Muscovites this morning is 'What is going on?' I can answer. Your country started a war of aggression against ours. For years, it has been killing our people. Now that you know what's going

on, ask Putin when he is planning to end it," Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha posted on X.

President Volodymyr Zelensky called the attacks on Russia a "totally fair response to Russian strikes on our cities and communities and another important result of the work of our soldiers on facilities that provide support for the Russian war machine."

An earlier drone strike on Tuesday on Moscow's refinery had already halted operations there, sources said, adding to widespread damage to Russian energy facilities.

IRAN WAR DEAL US media slam Trump's 'spin job'

AFP, Washington

US media outlets have reacted with near unanimity in condemning President Donald Trump's concessions to Iran in a new deal aimed at ending the Middle East war. Signed at a candlelit dinner outside Paris, the memorandum of understanding seeks to halt hostilities and pave the way for negotiations over Iran's nuclear ambitions.

Trump's return to Washington was met with a barrage of criticism from both allies and opponents. Even Fox News, typically supportive, highlighted concerns that Iran gained "huge financial benefits" without dismantling its nuclear program. The deal is temporary, designed to buy time for talks on long-term nuclear controls.

Once finalized, it would unlock a \$300 billion reconstruction fund backed by regional nations.

Critics argue the concessions far outweigh commitments secured. Fox News noted that despite the administration's portrayal of a breakthrough, "no one is buying his spin job."

Left-leaning MS NOW said truce extension abandoned prewar objectives while granting Tehran enormous financial concessions.

Cooperation

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negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

They will also seek to advance the implementation of five MoUs and three notes signed during former chief adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus' visit to Malaysia in August last year.

Those cover higher education, diplomatic training, halal ecosystem, defence cooperation, energy, strategic studies, private-sector collaboration, and trade and industry.

"Dhaka will seek to reopen the Malaysian labour market, a more transparent recruitment system, and regularising the workers who became undocumented because of recruitment irregularities," an official of the expatriates' welfare ministry told The Daily Star.

Dhaka will also raise the issue of Bangladeshis who obtained valid visas but were unable to travel before Malaysia closed its labour market on May 31, 2024, he said.

Malaysia shut the labour market amid allegations of irregularities in the recruitment process and abuses.

About 8 lakh Bangladeshi migrants currently work in Malaysia. However, there is a large number of undocumented workers.

Shameem Ahsan, former Bangladesh high commissioner to Malaysia, said labour issues have overshadowed many other areas of potential cooperation.

"It is important to recognise the contribution Bangladeshi workers make to the Malaysian economy. They could contribute even more if recruitment becomes more transparent and labour welfare is ensured," he said.

Experts and officials say Bangladesh now wants to expand cooperation in new areas.

"There is significant scope for boosting trade and investment, including in semiconductors and halal food, education, and research, but we have not done enough beyond labour migration," said a government official.

TRADE, INVESTMENT

Business leaders see the visit as an opportunity to deepen economic engagement between the two countries.

Anwar Shahid, president of Bangladesh Malaysia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BMCCL), said annual bilateral trade stands at around \$3.3 billion, but Bangladesh exports only about \$300 million worth of goods to Malaysia. "The trade gap is huge and needs to be reduced."

He added that the PM's first foreign trip to Malaysia sends a positive signal to the business community.

As Bangladesh prepares to graduate from least developed country (LDC) status, securing FTAs with major trading partners will become increasingly important, he said. "If an MoU is signed to begin FTA negotiations, it will be very positive news."

Officials and business leaders see considerable potential for collaboration in high-value sectors.

Malaysia is a major global semiconductor hub, accounting for an estimated 7 percent of global semiconductor trade and 13 percent of worldwide chip assembly, testing, and packaging activities.

Anwar added that Malaysia would require a growing pool of skilled workers in the sector and Bangladesh could become an important source of human resources with appropriate training and support.

South Africa

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For the first time at a World Cup match, both head coaches were aged over 70, and the two 74-year-old managers opted to shake things up after their sides put in poor performances in their opening game defeats.

Broos ditched his much-criticised conservative formation, while Czech boss Miroslav Koubek made five changes to his team.

Patrik Schick completely mishit a header in the opening minute as the Czechs began on the front foot and found the early goal when the South African defence was caught napping on a long throw-in.

Adam Hlozek, left unmarked up front, gathered the ball on the right and headed for the byline before pulling it back to the edge of the box where Alexandr Sojka slipped a perfect pass into Sadilek who fired a first-time shot past keeper Ronwen Williams.

South Africa lacked imagination and looked to have run out of ideas until a rather harsh handball decision was given against Pavel Sulc and Mokoena sent the keeper the wrong way from the spot.

Teboho Mokoena picked up a yellow card, and the heartbeat of South Africa's midfield will miss his side's final group game.

The contest also marked a landmark moment for football officiating, with an all-American all-female refereeing crew officiating a men's World Cup match for the first time in this edition - overall second.

Both hydration breaks were roundly booed by the crowd inside the air-conditioned Atlanta Stadium with its roof closed, which served as protection from the heavy rain and not the Georgia summer heat and humidity.

The jeers did come to a halt, however, once 'Take Me Home, Country Roads' was blasted over the stadium speakers sparking an enthusiastic sing-along.

A goal, an instant without shadows

FROM PAGE 1

That is why football continues to captivate billions around the world. At the FIFA World Cup 2026 so far, the magic of Lionel Messi, the explosive brilliance of Kylian Mbappe, the heroics of Cape Verde goalkeeper Vozinha against Spain, and the fearless performance of Morocco's teenage sensation Ayoub Bouaddi have all produced unforgettable moments.

But sometimes football's most powerful stories are not about the stars; sometimes they emerge far from the spotlight.

While much of the world remained transfixed by individual masterclasses and the underperformance of tournament giants, a small corner of the Democratic Republic of Congo was searching for something far more important than sporting glory: hope.

In Bunia, the capital of Ituri Province, daily life has been shaped by tragedy. The city sits at the epicentre of an Ebola outbreak that has infected hundreds and claimed many lives. Families have buried loved ones. Healthcare workers continue their relentless battle against the deadly virus. Fear, uncertainty, and grief have become part of everyday existence.

For many residents,

survival itself is the primary concern. Yet football has a unique ability to interrupt even the darkest realities.

When DR Congo - who had to stay outside the country for 21 days and symptom-free before entering North America - faced Portugal at the World Cup on Wednesday night, supporters gathered around the few functioning television sets they could find. Some squeezed into crowded bars. Others searched for restaurants and shops showing the match. For ninety minutes, attention shifted away from hospital wards, health warnings and daily anxieties.

Then came the moment, as Yoane Wissa found the net. It was not the most spectacular goal of the tournament. It may never be replayed as often as one of Messi's masterpieces or remembered alongside the iconic moments that define World Cup history. But for the people of Bunia, it meant something far greater.

The goal secured Congo's first-ever World Cup point and sparked scenes of pure celebration. Young people poured into the streets. Motorcycles roared through the city. Fans embraced one another and danced with national flags draped across their shoulders. In bars lit

by little more than a single bulb, strangers celebrated together. For a brief moment, the shadow of Ebola seemed to lift.

The goal did not cure the disease. It did not bring back those who had been lost. It did not solve the economic hardships, insecurity or health challenges facing the region. What it did was remind people that life continues.

"We need moments which bring us a little happiness and allow us to forget for just an instant the loss of our brothers and sisters," Heritier Kimbimbi, who had a national flag draped over his shoulders, told AFP.

Sport is often dismissed as a distraction from serious issues. Yet in places burdened by conflict, disease or poverty, that distraction can be profoundly meaningful. Human beings cannot live on fear and sorrow alone. They need moments of joy, moments of unity and moments that remind them of what they are fighting for. That is why football matters.

The World Cup is rightly celebrated as a showcase of sporting excellence. It brings together the world's finest players and creates memories that endure for generations. Yet beyond the dazzling skills and superstar narratives lies another story, the story

of ordinary people finding comfort, belonging and hope through a game.

The same can be seen in Bangladesh, where World Cup fever sweeps through cities and villages alike. Amid economic pressures and the stresses of everyday life, football offers millions a temporary escape. It creates conversations, friendships and shared emotions.

In Bunia, however, the stakes felt different. While the rest of the global audience remained preoccupied with tracking tournament storylines and debating the fates of footballing icons, those in Bunia were anchored in a much simpler, yet far more profound reality. For them, the true victory was simply a celebration of life itself.

"All day and every day they broadcast adverts on Ebola, but for the match they turn off the big screen," said an annoyed Heritier Dubo.

For 90 minutes, football gave them permission to forget their fears. And when Wissa scored, one goal became more than a goal. It became a reminder that even in the midst of suffering, joy can still be found, communities can still come together and hope can still survive.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
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e-Tender Notice
Tender Notice No: 75/2025-2026

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of Works as stated below:

Sl. No.	Package No.	Name of Works	Tender/ Proposal ID No.	Document last selling/ downloading Date and Time	Tender/ Proposal Closing Date and Time	Method of Tender
1	LGED/GOBM/C um/26-27/ RW-01	Periodic Maintenance of Gouripur UP office - Galiarchar via Lakshampur Road from Ch.340m-900m (Road ID: 419364033) under Daudkandi Upazila, District: Cumilla	1299012	05-Jul-2026	06-Jul-2026	LTM
2	LGED/GOBM/C um/26-27/ RW-02	Periodic Maintenance of Asadnagar Abdul Matin Kasru College - Malapara UP office Road via Purba Chadipur Road from Ch.00m-1000m (Road ID: 419134061) under Brahmanpara Upazila, District: Cumilla.	1299013	05-Jul-2026	06-Jul-2026	LTM
3	LGED/GOBM/C um/26-27/ RW-03	Periodic Maintenance of Bashimgal Chowmohani-Toilkupi Bazar Road via Jambari Sheikh Kamal Play Ground Road from Ch.00m-1000m (Road ID: 419674003) under Adarsha Sadar Upazila, District: Cumilla	1299014	05-Jul-2026	06-Jul-2026	LTM
4	LGED/GOBM/C um/26-27/ RW-04	Periodic Maintenance of Raghunpur (St. from Cumilla-Saldanadi Rd.) Ilashpur Pry. School Road from Ch.00m-1000m (Road ID: 419674036) under Adarsha Sadar Upazila, District: Cumilla	1299015	05-Jul-2026	06-Jul-2026	LTM
5	LGED/GOBM/C um/26-27/ RW-05	Rehabilitation (Remaining Works) of Raytola Kaziatol Road from Ch.00m-2500m (Road ID: 419813015) under Muradnagar Upazila, District: Cumilla.	1299017	05-Jul-2026	06-Jul-2026	LTM
6	LGED/GOBM/C um/26-27/ RW-06	Rehabilitation (Widening) of Chandia R&H Road-Deosh-Mandabag Bazar Road from Ch.00m-3025m (Road ID: 419154037) under Brahmanpara Upazila, District: Cumilla	1299018	05-Jul-2026	06-Jul-2026	LTM

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no Off-line/Hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited through online at any Branches of registered Bank. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd.) The Tender Notice will be available on the website: www.lged.gov.bd and www.lged.cumilla.gov.bd

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