

Russia Says Five Killed, 46 Injured in Ukraine Strike on Belgorod



Moscow says cluster munition strike killed 5 civilians, injured 46 in Belgorod region

MOSCOW (Reuters/AFP) – Five people were killed and 46 injured in a Ukrainian attack on the southwestern Russian city of Belgorod late on Friday, the local governor said, the latest in a series of strikes by Ukraine on the city in recent months.

Vyacheslav Gladkov said 37 of the injured, including seven children, were taken to hospitals in the city, which lies 40 km (25 miles) north of the border with Ukraine.

Video filmed from inside a vehicle, posted on social media and purporting to show the attack, showed a car being blown up while moving along a road. Seconds later another explosion is seen meters away. Reuters could not immediately verify the authenticity of the video.

Russia's Foreign Ministry condemned the attack.

"Once again we call on all responsible governments and relevant international structures to strongly condemn this brutal terrorist attack and publicly distance themselves from the Kyiv regime and its West-

ern curators who commit such crimes," it said on Saturday.

The ministry added that Russia's special military operation will continue until it reaches all the goals including Ukraine's "demilitarization and de-nazification".

Russia's Investigation Committee said on its Telegram channel that it had initiated a criminal case into the attack.

Authorities also reported that a woman was injured on Saturday during Ukrainian shelling of the border town of Shebekino in the Belgorod region.

The Russian defense ministry said on Saturday that Russian forces have gained control of the Kirovo settlement, known in Ukraine as Verezamske, in eastern Ukraine's Donetsk region.

Russia has been making incremental gains in the region at a time when Ukrainian troops seek to advance in Russia's Kursk region after a surprise cross-border attack that began on Aug. 6.

Separately, the defense ministry said in a bulletin about developments in Russia's Kursk region that its forces had repelled

Ukrainian attacks there, including toward settlements of Korenevo and Malaya Loknya.

Russian officials have said Kyiv's attack on the Kursk region will fail to divert Russian forces away from the east of Ukraine where they are still advancing.

The officials also say Ukraine's foray into Russian territory will ensnare thousands of its troops in a new front which has little strategic or tactical importance.

In another development, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky dismissed his air force chief after one of the country's F-16 fighter jets crashed while repelling a Russian air attack, killing the pilot, Oleksiy Mes.

"We need to protect people. Protect personnel. Take care of all our soldiers," Zelensky said in an address.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Friday dismissed the country's air force chief, a day after Kyiv said a U.S.-made F-16 fighter jet had crashed in combat, killing the pilot.

In a video message Zelensky said he had "decided to replace the commander of the air force" to strengthen Ukraine's military leadership.

His office earlier published a presidential decree to officially remove Mykola Oleshchuk from the post.

The crash of the F-16 was a high-profile setback for Kyiv, which had lobbied the West to send the advanced fighter jet for months.

Ukraine has staged frequent attacks on Belgorod and other Russian border regions in recent months, with the city the focal point of the attacks.

Ukraine and Russia say they do not deliberately target civilians in the war that began when Russia sent thousands of troops into its smaller neighbor in February 2022.

Harris Vows Tougher Approach on Migration, Supports Bloodshed in Gaza



The Gaza Solidarity Encampment which has been set up by a large group of students at Columbia University in protest at the university's connection to the Zionist regime

SAVANNAH (Dispatches) – Kamala Harris vowed a tougher approach to migration along the U.S. southern border and said she would not withhold weapons to the Zionist regime, in her first interview with a major news organization since becoming the Democratic nominee for president.

In the interview with CNN anchor Dana Bash, Harris sought to show she is in command of the issues and give Americans a sense of her policy positions with little more than two months until Election Day on Nov. 5.

Harris said she would renew a push for comprehensive border legislation that would tighten migration into the United States, and vowed to "enforce our laws" against border crossings.

"We have laws that have to be followed and enforced, that address and deal with people who cross our border illegally, and there should be consequence," Harris said.

She also hewed closely to President Joe Biden's strong support of the Zionist regime and rejected calls from some in the Democratic Party that Washington should rethink sending weapons to the Zionist regime because of the heavy Palestinian death toll in Gaza.

She said she supports a strong occupying regime but "we must get a deal done" to get a ceasefire in the Gaza conflict.

"No, we have to get a (cease-

fire and captives) deal done," Harris said when asked if she would withhold weapons to the Zionist regime. She has been Biden's vice president since the start of his administration.

Abbas Alawieh, a co-founder of the Uncommitted National Movement that has protested against Biden's policy, expressed frustration over Harris' response on Gaza.

"If the vice president is interested in a ceasefire, she must support an immediate stop to sending the fire," Alawieh said.

Harris, joined by her vice presidential running mate, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, also said she would like to add a Republican to her cabinet if she wins the election.

Some critics suggested she might be less polished in unscripted settings like a TV interview.

She has toughened her position on migration along the southern U.S. border with Mexico. She also no longer wants a ban on fracking, an energy production method that employs many people in Pennsylvania, one of a handful of swing states that could decide the election.

When asked about her policy shifts, Harris said: "My values have not changed."

Harris dismissed a comment from Trump in which he questioned whether she was a Black American. "Same old tired playbook," she said. "Next question, please."

Indigenous Mothers Fight to Search CIA Experiment Site in Montreal

MONTREAL (AFP) – A group of Indigenous women are hoping to stop the bulldozers at a former Montreal hospital which they believe could hold the truth about children still missing from a grisly half-century-old CIA experiment.

They have spent the last two years trying to delay the construction project by McGill University and the Quebec government.

"They took our children and had all kinds of things done to them. They were experimenting on them," said Kahentinetha, an 85-year-old activist from the Mohawk community of Kahnawake, southwest of Montreal, who goes by just one name.

The activists are relying on archives and testimonies that suggest the site contains unmarked graves of children formerly interned at the Royal Victoria Hospital and Allan Memorial Institute, a neighboring psychiatric hospital.

In the 1950s and 1960s, behind the austere walls of the old psychiatric institute, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency funded a human experiments program called MK Ultra.

During the Cold War, the program aimed to develop procedures and drugs to effectively brainwash people.

Experiments were conducted in Britain, Canada and the United States, subjecting people -- including Indigenous children in Montreal -- to electroshocks, hallucinogenic drugs,

and sensory deprivation.

"They wanted to erase us," said Kahentinetha.

A leading figure in the Indigenous rights movement who has traveled to Britain and the United States to denounce colonialism, she called this fight "the most important of (her) life."

"We want to know why they did this and who's going to take the blame for it," she said.

In the fall of 2022, the mothers obtained an injunction to suspend work on a new university campus and research center at the site -- a project worth Can\$870 million (U.S.\$643 million).

Fellow activist Kwetii, 52, who also uses just one name, said they insisted on arguing the case themselves without lawyers, "because in our ways, no one speaks for us."

Last summer, sniffer dogs and specialized probes were brought in to search the property's expansive and dilapidated buildings. They managed to identify three areas of interest for excavations.

But, according to McGill and the government's Societe Quebecoise des Infrastructures (SQI), "no human remains have been discovered."

Prison Population Hits Record High in England, Wales

LONDON (The Guardian) – The prison population of England and Wales has hit a record high after rising by nearly 1,000 in four weeks.

The sharp increase is believed to have been driven by the number of jail sentences handed to those who took part in recent riots.

A total of 88,350 people were in prison as of August 30, Ministry of Justice figures show. This is up 116 from 88,234 a week ago and an increase of 988 from 87,362 on August 2.

It is the highest end-of-week figure since weekly population data was first published in 2011, according to analysis by the PA news agency. It also surpasses the highest total recorded, which was 88,336 at the end of February 2024, based on separate figures for the end-of-month population size.

The riots, fuelled by the far right after the stabbing of three young girls in Southport, came after the Labour government announced emergency measures to ease overcrowding in its first week in power.

Shabana Mahmood, the lord chancellor, set out legislation last month to reduce the amount of time inmates must spend in jail before they are automatically released, lowering it from 50% of their sentence to 40%, in an attempt to manage overcrowding.



The number of inmates in British prisons is projected to continue increasing.

She warned that jails becoming too full could spark a breakdown in law and order on the streets within days. Police cells would be filled with arrested suspects and convicted prisoners, she claimed, a situation that could be exploited by looters and criminals.

Labour has been keen to blame Conservative-led governments over the last 14 years for locking up increasing numbers of criminals while failing to build more prisons.

The prison population in England and Wales has been rising for much of the past three years, having dropped as low as 77,727 in April 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Before the pandemic, the figure had been above 80,000 since December 2006. In the aftermath of the summer 2011 riots, the number climbed as high as 88,179 on 2 December 2011, before falling back in subsequent months.

Labour has also activated Operation Early Dawn in parts of England and Wales where defendants will be summoned to a magistrates court only when a space in prison is available.

This week Prime Minister Keir Starmer said more prisons would be built to manage overcrowding once the government got its "hands on the planning laws".

Germany Pulls Out Troops From Niger

BERLIN (Dispatches) – Germany has pulled out its troops from Niger in the restive Sahel region of Africa.

At a signing ceremony in Niamey, representatives from both the Nigerian and German Defense Ministries signed an agreement finalizing "the withdrawal of German troops and equipment from Niger."

Nigerien and German officials read out joint statements announcing the completion of the withdrawal.

The Bundeswehr, Germany's army, said it removed the last 60 soldiers and equipment from Niger.

For eight years German soldiers had served in the international MINUSMA (United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali).

the auspices of the United Nations on April 25, 2013 after the Tuareg rebellion of 2012. The UN peacekeeping mission was terminated on June 30, 2023.

Germany's airbase in Niamey, which served as a logistics center for the UN mission, had been staffed by up to 120 men and women at any one time. Since February 2016, some 3,200 German soldiers deployed to the airbase served in the region.

Last year on July 26, the country witnessed a coup d'état widely supported by Malians, resulting in the removal and detention of pro-West president Mohamed Bazoum.

The Bundeswehr initially announced its decision to withdraw German troops in July, noting that it had no cooperative working agreement with the new military govern-

ment.

In May, Germany and Niger reached an interim agreement allowing the German military to continue operating its airbase in the capital Niamey until the end of August.

Negotiations between the two sides to extend that agreement broke down, notably because the German military would no longer benefit from immunity from prosecution.

The withdrawal of German troops from Niger followed the pullout of troops from the United States and France, the former colonial power.

Niger's coup was one of several in the region in the recent past as countries cut their traditional colonial ties linking them to Western imperialism.

In Niger, Russian military trainers have replaced the Western troops in Niamey.

News in Brief

BERLIN (DW) – A woman stabbed and wounded six people in a bus in western Germany on Friday evening, police said. They said five were injured in the incident but later revised the figure. The 32-year-old suspect, a German national, was arrested after the attack in the town of Siegen. At least 40 people were on the bus traveling to a city festival at the time of the incident. Three of the victims are in a life-threatening condition, according to authorities. Police are investigating the motive behind the crime. They said there were no indications that it was a terrorist attack. Police appealed to citizens "not to spread false reports" on social networks or other channels.

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) – A Brazilian Supreme Court justice has ordered the suspension of Elon Musk's social media giant X in Brazil after the tech billionaire refused to name a legal representative in the country, according to a copy of his decision. The move further escalates the months-long feud between the two men over free speech, far-right accounts and misinformation. Justice Alexandre de Moraes had warned Musk on Wednesday night that X could be blocked in Brazil if he failed to comply with his order to name a representative, and established a 24-hour deadline. The company hasn't had a representative in the country since earlier this month. "Elon Musk showed his total disrespect for Brazilian sovereignty and, in particular, for the judiciary, setting himself up as a true supranational entity and immune to the laws of each country," de Moraes wrote in his decision. The justice said the platform will stay suspended until it complies with his orders, and also set a daily fine of 50,000 reais (\$8,900) for people or companies using VPNs to access it.

ATHENS (AFP) – The port city of Volos in central Greece declared a state emergency following an inundation of dead fish that local residents say could threaten their livelihoods, the state news agency announced Saturday. The month-long emergency declaration issued by the climate ministry's secretary general of civil protection, Vassilis Papageorgiou, will inject funding and resources to speed up the cleaning of the Pagasetic Gulf port where tons of dead fish have piled up along the coast and in rivers, according to Athens News Agency. It is the second environmental catastrophe to hit the port of Volos, a three-and-a-half-hour drive north of Athens, after catastrophic floods hit the Thessaly region last year. Those floods re-filled a nearby lake that had been drained in 1962 a bid to fight malaria, swelling it to three times its normal size. "After the storms Daniel and Elias last autumn, around 20,000 hectares (50,000 acres) of plains in Thessaly were flooded, and various freshwater fish were carried by rivers" to the sea, Dimitris Klauddatos, a professor of agriculture and environment at the University of Thessaly had said. Since then the lake waters have receded drastically, forcing the freshwater fish toward the Volos port that empties into the Pagasetic Gulf and the Aegean Sea, where they cannot survive.

TOKYO (AFP) – A powerful typhoon now downgraded to a tropical storm was still disrupting flights and trains in Japan Saturday, with authorities warning of possible landslides caused by heavy rain. Shanshan, which at landfall was one of the fiercest typhoons to hit Japan in decades, pummelled Kyushu island on Thursday, but its speed has eased to 90 kilometers (56 miles) per hour from 252 kph. The typhoon killed at least six people and injured over 120, according to the Fire and Disaster Management Agency. Now downgraded to a tropical storm, Shanshan was located off the western Wakayama region on Saturday and moving east. ANA and Japan Airlines cancelled around 60 domestic flights for Saturday, affecting almost 7,200 passengers. Shinkansen bullet trains in the central city of Nagoya were also suspended. "Please remain vigilant for landslides, flooding and overflowing rivers," the Japan Meteorological Agency warned. A city in central Gifu region issued a top evacuation warning to its 2,000 residents near an overflowing river, while some cities in northern Hokkaido saw heavy rain.

MOSCOW (Dispatches) – A helicopter with 22 people on board, most of them tourists, has gone missing in Russia's Kamchatka peninsula in the far east, authorities say. Kamchatka Governor Vladimir Solodov said they lost communication with an Mi-8 helicopter at 04:15 GMT "which had 22 people on board – 19 passengers and three crew members", in a video posted on Telegram on Saturday. Rescue teams in helicopters were searching into the night for the missing aircraft, focusing on a river valley that the helicopter was due to fly along, Russian authorities said. The Mi-8 is a two-engine helicopter designed in the 1960s. It is widely used in Russia, where crashes have been frequent, as well as in neighboring countries and many other nations. The helicopter had picked up passengers near the Vachkajec ancient volcano in a scenic area of the peninsula known for its wild landscapes and active volcanoes. From there it was travelling to the village of Nikolayevka further east – a distance of about 25km (about 15.5 miles), authorities said.

ABUJA (AP) – Weeks of flooding have killed nearly 200 people in Nigeria and washed away homes and farmlands, the country's disaster management agency said, further threatening food supplies, especially in the hard-hit northern region. The floods blamed on poor infrastructure and badly maintained dams have killed 185 people and displaced 208,000 in 28 of Nigeria's 36 states, the National Emergency Management Agency said in an update Friday, triggering frantic efforts to evacuate hundreds of thousands to makeshift shelters. Nigeria records flooding every year mostly as a result of failure to follow environmental guidelines and inadequate infrastructure. The worst floods the country has seen in a decade were in 2022 when more than 600 people were killed and over 1 million displaced. However, unlike in 2022 when the floods were blamed on heavier rainfall, the Nigerian Meteorological Agency predicted delayed or normal rains in most parts of the country this year and said the current floods were more a result of human activities. "What we are doing is causing this climate change so there is a shift from the normal," said Ibrahim Wasiu Adeniji, head of the central forecasting unit. "We have some who dump refuse indiscriminately, some build houses without approvals along the waterways," he added.