

UN chief says Lebanon must not become next Gaza amid fighting

Guterres also voiced alarm at the wider regional war

● **Named French diplomat Jean Arnault as his special envoy**

AFP | United Nations, United States

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said yesterday that fighting between Israel and Hezbollah must not condemn Lebanon to the same fate as Gaza, the Palestinian territory decimated by years of conflict.

"The Gaza model must not be replicated in Lebanon," Guterres told reporters, also saying the wider war in the Middle East is "out of control," as the United States, Israel and Iran have carried out strikes for more than three weeks.

"Across the region, and far beyond, civilians are enduring



A man walks along a street strewn with building debris at the site of an overnight Israeli airstrike that targeted a neighborhood in Beirut's southern suburbs

serious harm and living under some of these consequences to Lebanon," he said. "There, too, the war must stop.

Hezbollah must stop launching attacks into Israel. And Israel must stop its military operations and strikes in Lebanon, which are hitting civilians the hardest."

In early March, Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich threatened Beirut's southern suburbs -- a stronghold of Iran-backed Hezbollah -- with the same devastation that Israel has inflicted on Gaza in its war against militant group Hamas.

Beyond Lebanon, Guterres voiced alarm at the wider regional war triggered by US-Israeli strikes on Iran in late February that killed the country's supreme leader Ali Khamenei.

"The conflict has broken past the limits even leaders thought imaginable," he said.

"The world is staring down the barrel of a wider war, a rising tide of human suffering, and a deeper global economic shock. This has gone too far."



Lebanon is home to some of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. Cities like Byblos have been inhabited for over 7,000 years, making them among the earliest centres of civilisation.

The UN chief also announced the appointment of French diplomat Jean Arnault as his special envoy to lead UN efforts regarding the conflict and its consequences.

India boosts climate commitments for 2035

To increase share of non-fossil fuels in electricity capacity to 60% by 2035

● **India has committed to reaching net-zero emissions by 2070**

● **The country emitted an estimated 4.4 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2024**

● **India's per-capita emissions and historical contribution to global warming remain far lower than many developed nations**

AFP | New Delhi, India

India announced a long-awaited upgrade to its climate commitments on Wednesday, pledging to increase the share of non-fossil fuels in its electricity capacity to 60% by 2035.

The world's most populous country and third-largest emitter of greenhouse gases has been facing pressure to curb pollution while meeting rising energy demand.

The announcement came after the cabinet approved India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), a roadmap to achieve climate change goals under the Paris Agreement.

The country will "achieve 60% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil



A fisherman returns to shore with his catch at the Hut Bay beach in the Little Andaman island

fuel-based energy resources by 2035", the statement from the federal government read.

It also pledged to reduce emissions intensity, a measurement of emissions generated relative to GDP, by 47 percent by 2035, compared with 2005 levels.

India had previously aimed to bring the share of non-fossil fuels to 50 percent of installed power capacity by 2030, but has already met that target.

It had also aimed to create a carbon sink of up to three billion

tonnes by 2030, compared to 2005 levels. The updated pledges expand that plan to between 3.5 and four billion tonnes by 2035.

"India is capitalising on the extraordinary momentum that saw it smash its previous renewable energy goals years ahead of schedule," said climate activist Harjeet Singh.

Like all signatories to the Paris accord, which aims to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, India is required to submit updated NDCs to the United Nations through 2035.

It has committed to reaching net-zero emissions by 2070, but remains heavily reliant on coal, which accounts for roughly 75 percent of its electricity generation.

The country emitted an estimated 4.4 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2024, according to UN data, trailing only China and the United States.

However, its per-capita emissions and historical contribution to global warming remain far lower than many developed nations.

Skeleton which could be of musketeer d'Artagnan found in Netherlands



A skeleton of what archaeologists say could be that of Charles de Batz de Castelmore has been found

AFP | Amsterdam, Netherlands

Along to d'Artagnan, the French soldier who inspired the novel *The Three Musketeers*, has been discovered in a church in the Dutch city where he died centuries ago, local media reported yesterday.

The skeleton was found in Maastricht, in the nave of a modern church whose origins date back to at least the 13th century, during repairs related to a partial floor collapse in February, explained L1 Nieuws, a media outlet in the province of Limburg.

Charles de Batz de Castelmore, known as d'Artagnan, the famous musketeer of Kings Louis XIII and Louis XIV, spent his life in the service of the French crown.

The Gascon nobleman inspired Alexandre Dumas's hero in *The Three Musketeers* in the 19th century, a character now known worldwide thanks to the novel and numerous film adaptations.

d'Artagnan was killed during the siege of Maastricht in 1673. His final resting place has remained a mystery ever since.

A French coin was found near the skeleton in Maastricht, according to Deacon Jos Valke, who was present during the initial excavation.

"Furthermore, the location of the grave indicates that this was an important person: the skeleton was found where the altar used to be, and only royalty or other important figures were buried under an altar at that time," he told L1 Nieuws.

The skeleton has been removed from the church and is now in an archaeological institute in Deventer in eastern Germany, the outlet reported.

A DNA sample was taken from the skeleton on March 13 and is currently being analysed in a laboratory in Munich.

Archaeologist Wim Dijkman has been searching for d'Artagnan's remains for 28 years.

"I'm always very cautious, I'm a scientist. But I have high expectations," he told L1 Nieuws.