



World news in brief



Asha Bhosle's career encompassed over 12,000 songs in over 20 languages (AFP/Getty)

Legendary Bollywood singer Bhosle dies aged 92

Asha Bhosle, a legendary singer who lent her voice to a generation of Bollywood movies and earned an unrivalled status in the playback industry, has died aged 92.

She died in Mumbai yesterday following multiple organ failure after being admitted to Breach Candy Hospital a day earlier. Bhosle and her elder sister Lata Mangeshkar were the dominant female voices in the Hindi film industry spanning eight decades. Mangeshkar died in 2022, also at the age of 92.

The news has been met with an outpouring of emotion in India, where Bhosle was a household name and cultural icon. Indian prime minister Narendra Modi offered his condolences to the family, calling Bhosle “one of the most iconic and versatile voices India has ever known”.

Bhosle’s career encompassed over 12,000 songs in more than 20 languages, which saw her awarded the Guinness World Record in 2011 as the most recorded artist in music history. Her work spanned genres and included international collaborations with Boy George, Michael Stipe and even Australian cricketer Brett Lee. She continued to work into her nineties, and featured on the track “The Shadowy Light” from the Gorillaz album *The Mountain*, released earlier this year.

Russia and Ukraine accuse each other of violating ceasefire

Russia and Ukraine yesterday accused each other of violating a Kremlin-declared Easter ceasefire, as Orthodox Christians gathered to celebrate the holiday despite Moscow’s four-year war against its neighbour.

Russian president Vladimir Putin on Thursday declared a 32-hour ceasefire over the Easter weekend, ordering Russian forces to halt hostilities from 4pm on Saturday until the end of Sunday. Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky promised to abide by the ceasefire, but warned there would be a swift military response to any violations.

The general staff of Ukraine’s armed forces said in a statement yesterday that it had recorded 2,299 ceasefire violations by 7am, including assaults, shelling and small drone launches. It said that the use of long-range drones, missiles or guided bombs had not been reported.

A Ukrainian military officer told the Associated Press on Saturday that Russian forces had continued to attack their positions. Russia’s Defence Ministry also said yesterday it had recorded 1,971 ceasefire violations by Ukrainian forces, including drone strikes.

Gaza aid flotilla seeks to break Israeli blockade

A second flotilla carrying humanitarian aid to Palestinians in Gaza was due to set sail from Barcelona yesterday to try to break the Israeli blockade.

Around 30 boats planned to leave the Mediterranean port city laden with medical aid and other supplies on the Global Sumud Flotilla, with more vessels expected to join along the route towards Palestine.

The Israeli military halted roughly 40 boats assembled by the same organisation last October as they attempted to reach blockaded Gaza, arresting Swedish activist Greta Thunberg and more than 450 other participants.

Israel, which controls all access to the Gaza Strip, denies withholding supplies for its more than 2 million residents. Palestinians and international aid bodies say supplies reaching the territory are still insufficient, despite a ceasefire reached in October which included guarantees of increased aid.

Hundreds feared dead after Nigerian military airstrike on market

More than 200 people are feared dead after Nigerian military jets struck a village market in the country's northeast, according to a local councillor and residents.

The airstrike occurred on Saturday night as the military pursued Islamist militants. The incident took place in a village in Yobe, bordering Borno state, a region long plagued by an insurgency that has claimed thousands of lives and displaced millions.

Nigeria's air force confirmed it had killed Boko Haram militants in the Jilli axis of Borno state, but its statement to Reuters yesterday made no mention of hitting a market. The air force did not respond to subsequent requests for comment.

Lawan Zanna Nur Geidam, a councillor and traditional head for Fuchimeram ward in Yobe's Geidam district, told Reuters that those injured were being transported to hospitals in Yobe and

Borno. “It’s a very devastating incident at Jilli Market. As I’m speaking to you, over 200 people have lost their lives from the airstrike at the market,” he said.

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