

Hamas risking war

Warns Israel; Egypt seeks to ease tensions amid tit-for-tat attacks

AFP, Jerusalem

Israeli warplanes bombed the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip overnight after Palestinians fired a rocket into southern Israel, the army said.

The latest exchange came as Israel warned Hamas it was risking "war" by failing to stop fire balloons being launched across the border.

Egyptian security officials shuttled between the two sides in a bid to end the flare-up, which has seen more than a week of rocket and fire balloon attacks from Gaza and nightly Israeli reprisals.

There were no reports from Gaza of casualties.

In Gaza City yesterday, demonstrators burned Israeli flags and pictures of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in protest at last week's announcement that the United Arab Emirates was normalising relations with the Jewish state. Many Palestinians saw the move as a betrayal of their cause by the Gulf country.

"Hamas should know that this is not a game. The time will come when they have to decide... If they want war, they will get war," said Israeli President Reuven Rivlin over the balloon attacks which caused dozens of fire inside Israel.

Israel and Hamas have fought three wars since 2008.

A Hamas source told AFP the Islamists had held talks with the Egyptian delegation in Gaza on Monday before it left the territory for meetings with the Israelis. The Egyptian delegation was expected to return to Gaza after those talks were concluded, the source added.

In response to the persistent balloon launches, Israel has banned fishing off Gaza's coast and closed the Kerem Shalom goods crossing, cutting off deliveries of fuel to the territory's sole power plant.



Students use their mobile phones as flashlights to show support for the student-led democracy movement at King Mongkut's Institute of Technology, in the outskirts of Bangkok, Thailand, yesterday. A Thai court yesterday issued arrest warrants for six pro-democracy activists involved in recent rallies that heard calls for an overhaul of the government and even reforms to the monarchy -- a subject usually taboo in the kingdom. They will be charged with sedition, computer crimes act, violating the diseases control act and using loudspeakers, police said.

PHOTO: REUTERS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Muslim man causes Berlin motorway crashes, injuring 6

The suspected perpetrator of a series of car crashes on a Berlin motorway on Tuesday evening has cited Islamist motives but appears to have acted alone, German police and prosecutors said yesterday. There are also indications that the 30-year-old suspect had psychological problems, the statement said, adding that investigators so far had not found any hints that the suspect was a member of any terror group. Police arrested the suspect at the scene after a device in his car which the man said was dangerous turned out to be a tool box. The man is now accused of attempted murder. The apparently deliberate crashes, in which the suspect hit several motorcyclists with his car, left six people wounded, three of them seriously, the fire department said.

Pakistan PM plays down differences with Saudi Arabia

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan has played down differences with longtime ally Saudi Arabia after his army chief visited Riyadh in a bid to ease a dispute over policy towards the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia had no differences, Khan said in a late Tuesday interview, backing away from criticism by his foreign minister this month who suggested Saudi Arabia was indifferent on Kashmir. "The rumours that our relations with Saudi Arabia have soured are totally false," Khan said in the interview with the Dunya News television channel. Saudi Arabia gave Pakistan a \$3bn loan and \$3.2bn oil credit facility to help its balance of payments crisis in late 2018. Pakistan's demands for Saudi Arabia to support it against India over Kashmir led to Saudi Arabia forcing Pakistan to pay back \$1bn early, sources said. Saudi Arabia is also demanding repayment of another \$1bn of the loan, they said.

Indian SC orders CBI probe into Sushant Singh Rajput case



The CBI will take over the investigation into actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death, the Indian Supreme Court ordered yesterday, asking the Mumbai police to hand over all evidence it has collected to the agency. In a win for Bihar in its tussle with Maharashtra, the SC also filed the FIR registered in Patna based on a complaint filed by Sushant Singh's father was correct and Bihar was competent to ask the CBI to probe the case. A "fair, competent and impartial probe" is the need of the hour to stop speculation, it said. Sushant Singh Rajput, 34, was found dead in his Mumbai apartment on June 14. The Mumbai Police said it was suicide and had been investigating whether he was suffering from depression and had felt slighted by film industry insiders and cliques.

SOURCE: REUTERS, AFP

S Asia floods toll nears 1,300

China floods force hundreds of thousands from homes

AFP, New Delhi

Heavy monsoon rains lashed New Delhi yesterday, inundating roads and piling on misery for commuters in the chaotic Indian capital, as the death toll from the annual deluge across South Asia rose to nearly 1,300.

The monsoon is vital to the densely populated region, revitalising land and waterways amid scorching summers. But it also causes widespread death and destruction.

In New Delhi, commuters battled through knee-deep waters and cars and buses were submerged as torrential rains added to traffic woes in the city of 20 million.

At a museum in Jaipur in the mostly desert state of Rajasthan, staff told AFP how they were forced to smash open a glass display case containing a 2,300-year-old Egyptian mummy in order to save it from rainwater flooding the ground floor.

The torrid conditions in recent days also hit India's northern and eastern states. Across India, 847 people have



died this season, the home ministry said.

In India's poorest state Bihar, eight million people have been hit by the floods, with thousands of displaced people sleeping on embankments and highways amid a shortage of relief camps.

This year's rains have also come in the wake of the economic devastation wrought by the coronavirus pandemic, with the loss of crops across flood-affected areas a further blow to farmers and rural communities.

In Bangladesh, 226 people have

died so far with 40 percent of the country underwater after torrential rain caused rivers to burst their banks and inundate villages. More than six million people have had their homes damaged by the floods, and tens of thousands of villagers remain in shelters, an official from Bangladesh's disaster management ministry told AFP.

In Nepal, 218 people have died and 69 are missing from landslides and floods since mid-June when the monsoon began.

In the latest incident early yesterday, six bodies were recovered and 11 people were missing after a flood swept away a remote settlement in a western district, an official said.

In China, floods in mountainous southwest region have washed away roads and forced tens of thousands from their homes, with authorities warning yesterday the giant Three Gorges Dam was facing the largest flood peak in its history.

Belarusian leader orders police to quash protests

EU leaders meet, announce sanctions

REUTERS, Minsk/Brussels

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko ordered his police yesterday to put down protests in the capital Minsk, signalling an escalation after a week and a half of mass demonstrations against his rule.

The European Union held an emergency summit on the crisis, rejecting Lukashenko's re-election in a disputed vote on Aug. 9 and announcing financial sanctions against officials the bloc blames for election fraud and a cracking down on protests.

"Our message is very clear. Stop the violence," said Charles Michel, the EU summit chairman. EU commission head Ursula von der Leyen said the list of those hit by sanctions would be prepared swiftly.

Lukashenko, a gruff former Soviet collective farm boss facing the biggest crisis of his 26 year rule, has blamed foreign countries for stirring the unrest and says the protesters are funded from abroad.

"There should no longer be any disorder in Minsk of any kind," he said in remarks reported by state news agency Belta, announcing the new police crackdown in the capital.

The EU wants to avoid a repeat of violence in neighbouring Ukraine, where a pro-Moscow leader was ousted in a popular uprising six years ago, triggering a Russian military intervention and Europe's deadliest ongoing conflict.

Russia has consistently warned the West against meddling in Belarus, which has the closest economic, cultural and political ties to Moscow of all the former Soviet republics and is central to its European defence strategy.

On Wednesday, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov accused unidentified foreign powers of interfering, which he called unacceptable.



A crowd of people cheer Malian army soldiers at the Independence Square after a mutiny, in Bamako, Mali. Mali awoke yesterday to a new chapter in its troubled history after rebel military leaders forced President Boubacar Keita from office, prompting its West African neighbours to threaten border closures and sanctions against the coup leaders. Photo was taken on Tuesday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

US ELECTION 2020

Biden officially nominated to take on Trump

REUTERS

Democrats formally nominated Joe Biden for president on Tuesday, vowing his election would repair a pandemic-battered America and put an end to the chaos that has defined Republican President Donald Trump's administration.

The second night of the party's four-night national convention, under the theme "Leadership Matters," featured elder statesmen like former presidents Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter, rising stars of the Democratic Party as well as prominent Republicans, who made



the case that Biden would return integrity to the White House and normalcy to American lives.

"At a time like this, the Oval Office should be a command center," Clinton said in a prerecorded video. "Instead, it's a storm center. There's only chaos. Just one thing never changes - his determination to deny responsibility and shift the blame."

With the four-day convention largely virtual due to the coronavirus, delegates from around the country cast votes remotely to confirm Biden as the nominee in a coast-to-coast roll call that drew instant raves on social media.

"Thank you very, very much from the bottom of my heart," said Biden, who will deliver his acceptance speech today. "It means the world to me and my family."

Biden's vice presidential pick, Senator Kamala Harris, will headline Wednesday night's program along with Obama.

A DEADLY LAND FOR RIGHTS ACTIVISTS

INQUIRER/ANN

For the past three years, Zara Alvarez had been monitoring and documenting the killings and arrest of farmers, lawyers and activists on Negros Island. She organized missions to look into cases of suspected human rights violations, coordinated with lawyers and helped families of the victims.

Around 7:00pm on Monday, Alvarez became a victim herself.

A man wearing a face mask and a cap shot her repeatedly as she was walking with two others to her boarding house at Eroteco Subdivision in Barangay Mandalagan here.

Alvarez, 39, a single mother to an 11-year-old girl, died on the spot.

Alvarez, a former political detainee, served as a paralegal for the human rights group Karapatan and as research and advocacy officer of the nongovernmental organization Negros Island Health Integrated Program.

Bishop Gerardo Alminaza of San Carlos, Negros Occidental, was grief-stricken. "I just cannot believe this continuing madness of senseless killings. These systemic killings of human rights defenders and activists must be condemned and must stop," Alminaza said in a statement on Tuesday.

Alvarez was the 89th victim of killings of human rights defenders, lawyers and other activists since January 2017 on Negros Island

based on a list she had helped compile and update.

Karapatan said she was the 13th human rights worker of the group killed since President Duterte took office in 2016.

Alvarez was attacked just hours after slain Anakpawis chair and peace talks consultant Randall Echanis was buried in Marikina City. Echanis was stabbed and shot by unidentified assailants in Quezon City a week earlier.

Activist groups suspect that state agents were responsible for both killings.

Echanis and Alvarez were among 600 people listed as terrorists by the Department of Justice (DOJ) in 2018 in a proscription petition in the regional trial court of Manila. They were removed from the list after the petition was amended last year.

Alvarez, however, continued to receive "relentless threats, vilification and harassment from the military," Karapatan secretary general Cristina Palabay said.

In Manila, Bayan Muna (A leftist political party) Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate said the "attacks against the political opposition and critics of the administration is really getting more intense."

"It seems that the said (DOJ 'terrorist') list has become a hit list of sorts as many of those named are now either arrested or trumped-up charges or worse, ended up being assassinated," he said.



Zara Alvarez

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার	
সহকারী পরিচালকের কার্যালয়	
২৫০ শয্যা বিশিষ্ট জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, পাবনা	
Email: pabna@hospi.dghs.gov.bd	
স্মারক নং-জেনেহা/পাব/দরপত্র/আউটসোর্সিং/২০২০-২১/১৭৩২	তারিখ: ১৮/৮/২০২০ইং
আউটসোর্সিং পদ্ধতিতে জনবল সরবরাহের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি	
২৫০ শয্যা বিশিষ্ট জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, পাবনা ২০২০-২১ অর্থ বছরের জন্য আউটসোর্সিং (Outsourcing) এর মাধ্যমে "সেবা গ্রহণ নীতিমালা, ২০০৮" এর আওতায় গুয়ার্ড বয়, আয়া, নিরাপত্তা গ্রহণী ও মালী (৪র্থ শ্রেণীর জনবল) সন্মূহের নিমিত্তে প্রকৃত জনবল সরবরাহকারী ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হইতে সীলমোহরসহকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে।	
১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ
২	সংস্থ/প্রতিষ্ঠান
৩	জনবল
৪	কর্তৃপক্ষ
৫	কাজের নাম
৬	দরপত্র প্রচারের তারিখ
৭	সম্প্রদায় পদ্ধতি
৮	সম্প্রদায়ের উৎস
৯	প্রতিষ্ঠানের যোগ্যতা ও জনবল সরবরাহের অভিজ্ঞতা
১০	দরপত্র দাখিল করার স্থান, তারিখ এবং সময়
১১	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান ও সময়
১২	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়
১৩	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান
১৪	যুক্তির মেয়াদকাল
১৫	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম ও পদবী
১৬	যোগাযোগ
১৭	আউটসোর্সিং (Outsourcing) এর মাধ্যমে "সেবা গ্রহণ নীতিমালা, ২০০৮" এবং দি পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন-২০০৬ ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা-২০০৮ (সংশোধনীসহ) অনুসারে দরপত্র কার্যক্রম গৃহীত হবে।
১৮	সম্প্রদায়কারী কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা সকল/যে কোন দরপত্র/জনবল সন্মূহ প্রক্রিয়া বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
ডায় মোঃ আবুল হোসেন সহকারী পরিচালক ২৫০ শয্যা বিশিষ্ট জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, পাবনা	
জিডি-১২৮২	