REUETRS, Gaza

INTERNATIONAL

GAZA'S WAR IN NUMBERS

'And who is going to pay?'

Amid rubble of homes, Gazans seek answers after latest round of violence

GAZA

243 Palestinians including 66 children killed in Israeli air strikes in the besieged coastal enclave since May 10.

More than 1,900 people including 560 children wounded in that same period, according to the same source. 91,000 people have been forced to flee their homes.

1,447 homes -- houses or flats -- hit. 205 residential blocks completely destroyed. 75 governmental and public facilities damaged. 454 cars or means of transport destroyed or badly damaged.

14 kilometres of water pipes, 50 water wells, and 17 kilometres of sewage pipes have been affected. 31 electrical substations and 79 kilometres of cables affected, nine main lines cut off.

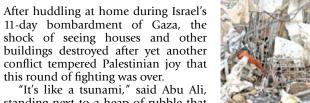
3 mosques completely destroyed. 40 mosques and one church damaged.

ISRAEL 12 killed in Israel, including one Israeli child, one Arab Israeli teenager and her father, one Indian, and two Thai national. 357 people have been wounded by rockets.

Of 4,070 rockets fired by Palestinian armed groups towards Israel, around 90 percent were intercepted by Israel's air defence system. 2,061 claims received for homes hit by rockets and 1,367 more for cars in southern and central Israel.

WEST BANK

25 Palestinians killed by Israeli forces since the outbreak of hostilities in the occupied territory. The Israeli army says at least five of them had attempted to ram or stab Israeli forces at checkpoints.



standing next to a heap of rubble that had been a 14-storey tower in Gaza City. "How can the world call itself

civilised? This is a war crime. We are ruled by laws of the jungle," he said yesterday, hours after a truce was declared

Commercial buildings, residential towers and private houses across the Palestinian enclave that is home to 2 million people were damaged or destroyed by the time Israel and Gaza's Islamist rulers Hamas announced Friday's ceasefire.

Gaza's housing ministry said on Thursday, shortly before hostilities stopped, that 16,800 housing units were damaged, with 1,800 of those unfit for living and 1,000 destroyed.

Palestinian medics said 243 people were killed in Gaza in air strikes that pounded the enclave day and night since May 10.



"We returned to our homes to find destruction," said Samira Abdallah Naseer, whose two-storey house was hit by a blast. "No place to sit, no water, no electricity, no mattresses, nothing."

Gaza now faces the task of rebuilding, after the fourth conflict with Israel since Hamas took control of the enclave in 2007, setting up a rival power centre to the Palestinian Authority in the Israelioccupied West Bank.

"Now we are back to the dilemma Gaza reconstruction. Who will of carry it out, Hamas or the Palestinian

Authority? And who is going to pay?," said Emad Jawdat, a 53-year-old businessman

"Some people have still not been compensated for their losses in 2014," he said, referring to last war with Israel that lasted 50 days.

Gaza's challenge is compounded by an Israeli-led blockade, also supported by Egypt which shares a short border with the enclave. Israel says it imposes a blockade to prevent weapons reaching militants. Palestinians call it collective punishment.

Palestinians have already received some pledges of financial help for reconstruction. Egypt, which mediated the truce, said it would allocate \$500 million for rebuilding. US President Joe Biden said his government would work with the United Nations and others to marshall aid.

Gaza officials said this war caused damage worth \$40 million to industry. \$22 million to the power sector and \$27 million to agricultural facilities.

In the northern Gaza Strip, thousands of Palestinians who lived close to the border and who had fled to UN schools further south for shelter made their way home - piling belongings into cars and onto donkey carts and tractors.

Trudging home along streets littered with potholes and past heaps of broken masonry from damaged buildings, some voiced relief they had survived - and even a sense of victory after a conflict with one of the Middle East's most powerful armies in which militant rockets hit Tel Aviv and other Israeli cities.

Salwa Al-Batrwai and her family were returning home "as victors", the 60-year-old said.

will kiss the ground, because I made it out (alive), with my children. I can't describe the feeling," she said.

COVER-UP ON 'FAKE' DIANA INTERVIEW BBC in a tight spot AFP, London

The British government on Friday warned of potential action against the BBC, after unprecedented criticism from the royal family about its use of deception to secure a 1995 interview with princess Diana, piling pressure on the corporation as it fights attacks on several fronts.

Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden, whose brief includes media, said an independent inquiry into the affair highlighted "damning failings at the heart of the BBC", which is publicly funded.

Ministers would now "consider whether further governance reforms at the BBC are needed", as talks approach for renewal of its royal charter covering its running and regulation, he added.

Diana's interview with journalist Martin Bashir was a global scoop, and saw the princess detail her crumbling marriage to heir-to-the-throne Prince Charles, as well as admitting to adultery.

But a retired senior judge on Thursday concluded Bashir had faked documents to falsely claim Diana was being kept tabs on by her closest aides, which persuaded her to take part.

Diana and Charles' eldest son and second-in-line to the throne, Prince William, was scathing in his criticism on Thursday, accusing the BBC of failing his mother and the public -- and worsening his parents' relationship.

William's younger brother Harry also waded in, adding: "The ripple effect of a culture of exploitation and unethical practices ultimately took her life."

The revelations could not have come at a worse time for the BBC, as its annual licence fee funding model comes under ever closer scrutiny. Newer, subscription-based platforms and streaming services have prompted mounting calls for the charge -- currently set at £159 (\$226) -- to be scrapped

as quit as religion editor of BBC last week citing ill health.

The BBC's own media editor Amol Rajan on Thursday night said blanket criticism from government ministers to the future king and his brother left

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mamata to contest from Bhawanipore in by-polls

Mamata Banerjee, who swept the Bengal election but lost her own contest in Nandigram, is set to return to the seat she gave up in favour of challenging her former aide Suvendu Adhikari in his stronghold. The Trinamool MLA who won from Bhawanipore, Shobhandeb Chattopadhyay, quit from the Bengal assembly yesterday to enable his party boss to contest from the seat. To stay chief minister, Mamata has to contest bypolls within six months and become a member of the state legislative assembly.

Putin to 'knock out the teeth' of foreign aggressors

President Vladimir Putin yesterday said that Moscow would "knock out the teeth" of any power that tried to take a chunk of Russia's territory. The Russian leader, in televised remarks during a virtual meeting with senior

officials, cited what he said were foreign remarks questioning Russia's control of energy-rich Siberia. "Everyone wants to 'bite' us

somewhere or 'bite off' something of ours, but those that would do this should know that we will knock out the teeth of all of them so they aren't able to bite ... And the key to this is the development of our armed forces," he said.

Blast at pro-Palestinian Rally kills 6 in Pakistan

A bomb blast yesterday at a pro-Palestinian rally killed at least six people and injured 14 in a Pakistani city bordering Afghanistan, officials said, in the latest violence to hit the restive area. Senior local police official Ahmad Mohiuddin said explosives were packed into a motorbike parked near the vehicle of a religious leader taking part in the rally in Chaman, Balochistan province. No group has claimed responsibility. Thousands of people rallied across Pakistan Friday in support of

Palestinians.

Noted environmentalist Sunderlal dies at 94



India's best-known environmentalist Sunderlal Bahuguna, who coined the slogan that 'ecology is the permanent economy' long before the issue of climate change issue emerged, succumbed to Covid-19 at a hospital in Rishikesh yesterday at the age of 94. Bahuguna, pioneer of Chipco movement in 1970s, was admitted to the hospital on May 8. Bahuguna spent his entire active life prodding and educating the villagers to protest against

the destruction of forests and Himalayan mountains. It was his efforts that saw the then PM Indira Gandhi banning the cutting of tress. The Chipko movement he started in 1973 was a non-violent agitation aimed at protecting

trees. But it is best remembered for the collective mobilisation of women for the cause of preservation of forests, which also brought about a change in attitude regarding their own status in society.

IMF proposes \$50b plan to end Covid pandemic EU, vaccine firms pledge billions of vaccine doses The IMF yesterday proposed a \$50 billion

plan to end the Covid-19 pandemic, aiming to expand immunisation drives around the world, while vaccine firms pledged to supply billions of doses to poorer nations by the end of next year.

AGENCIES

The pledges came as Spain said it would open its border to all vaccinated travellers next month, offering hope that Europe's tourism season could bounce back after suffering a battering last year.

In Washington, the International Monetary Fund announced a \$50 billion recovery plan to end the pandemic which aims to have at least 60 percent of the world's population vaccinated by the end of 2022.

"Our proposal sets targets, estimates financing requirements, and lays out pragmatic action," IMF head Kristalina Georgieva said at the Global Health Summit held in Rome as part of the G20.

The summit also saw the heads of three leading Covid vaccine makers, Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson, promise

REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

College Education Development Project (CEDP)



around 3.5 billion vaccine doses at cost or discount to middle and low income countries this year and next.

Pfizer will deliver two billion doses, Moderna up to 995 million doses, and Johnson & Johnson up to 500 million doses, representatives of the three pharmaceutical companies said.

Earlier, the EU pledged to donate 100 million vaccine doses to poorer countries.

Vaccines are offering countries hope that they can finally emerge from the pandemic that has ravaged the global economy and killed more than 3.4 million people since it first emerged at the end of 2019.



LIGT

The report's findings dominated British newspapers on Friday. Bashir,

the BBC "severely injured, probably scarred".

"For an organisation that exists on the whim of public affection and respect, that is a dreadful place for the BBC to be," he said.

The Daily Star 📘 5

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