

GAZA'S WAR IN NUMBERS

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.

SOURCE: AFP

'And who is going to pay?'

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

REUTERS, Gaza

After huddling at home during Israel's 11-day bombardment of Gaza, the shock of seeing houses and other buildings destroyed after yet another conflict tempered Palestinian joy that this round of fighting was over.

'It's like a tsunami,' said Abu Ali, 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 Israeli-occupied West Bank.

'Now we are back to the dilemma of Gaza reconstruction. Who will 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.

IMF proposes \$50b plan to end Covid pandemic

EU, vaccine firms pledge billions of vaccine doses

AGENCIES

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.

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



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.

BBC 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.

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

Young Brits want to ditch monarchy: poll

REUTERS, London

Young people in Britain no longer think the country should keep the monarchy, a poll yesterday showed.

According to the survey by YouGov, 41% of those aged 18 to 24 thought there should now be an elected head of state compared to 31% who wanted a king or queen. However, overall the survey had better news for the royals, with 61% favouring the monarchy.

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 Suwendu 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 by-polls 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.

Former top magazine editor acquitted of rape in India

An Indian yesterday court acquitted the former editor of a leading news magazine accused of raping a female colleague seven years ago in a high-profile case that made headlines across the country. Tarun Tejpal was acquitted of charges of rape, sexual harassment and wrongful restraint, public prosecutor Francisco Tavora said in the coastal state of Goa. Tejpal, the 58-year-old founder and former editor of Tehelka magazine, was accused of raping a female journalist in the lift of a five-star hotel in Goa in November 2013. He was granted bail in 2014.

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 Chipko 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 trees. 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.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, College Education Development Project (CEDP), Govt. Suhrawardi College, Pirojpur. Invitation for Tender. Includes details on procurement of furniture and fixtures for classrooms and laboratories.

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Office of the Executive Engineer, Education Engineering Department, Manikganj. e-Tender Notice (Open Tendering Method). Memo No: -23-EED-Manikganj-Non-Govt. Repair/TMED-2020-21.