

ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

Saudi prince, Iran president hold call

Discuss the 'need to end war crimes against Palestine'

AFP, Riyadh
Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler and Iran's president spoke by phone about the war between Israel and Hamas, Saudi state media said yesterday, their first call since a surprise rapprochement in March.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman received a call on Wednesday from the Iranian leader, Ebrahim Raisi, during which they discussed "the current military situation in Gaza and its environs", the official Saudi Press Agency said.

Prince Mohammed told Raisi that Riyadh is "communicating with all international and regional parties to stop the ongoing escalation", SPA said. He also stressed "the kingdom's firm position towards supporting the Palestinian cause", it said.

Iranian news agency IRNA also reported on the call, saying the two men discussed the "need to end war crimes against Palestine".

Hamas launched a surprise attack on Israel on Saturday that Israeli forces say killed more than 1,300 people, most of them civilians. In Gaza, officials have

reported 1,354 people killed in Israel's retaliatory campaign of air and artillery strikes.

As war rages on, fears have mounted over the fate of at least 150 hostages — mostly Israelis but also including foreign and dual nationals — held in Gaza by Hamas.

Analysts say the war has dealt a heavy blow to a possible landmark normalisation deal between Saudi Arabia, home to the holiest sites in Islam, and Israel.

That process has been driven by US President Joe Biden's administration, with Riyadh bargaining hard for benefits from Washington including security guarantees and help developing a civilian nuclear programme.

Saudi Arabia and Iran announced in March they had agreed to restore ties.

Prince Mohammed also spoke by phone on Wednesday with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, during which the prince said he was "exerting unremitting efforts through regional and international communication to achieve coordination that pushes for a halt of the current escalation".



Plumes of smoke billow during Israeli air strikes in Gaza City yesterday as raging battles between Israel and the Hamas movement continue for the sixth consecutive day. PHOTO: AFP

Jailed ex-Pak PM Imran says he is 'stronger than ever'

AFP, Islamabad

Former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan said he is "stronger and fitter than ever" since being jailed two months ago, according to a statement released by his family yesterday.

Khan was convicted of graft in August and jailed for three years, with the election commission subsequently banning him from contesting polls scheduled for January 2024.

"Let it be known that there's a difference of day and night between the Imran Khan of today and Imran Khan who was imprisoned on August 5," he said in the first statement to be released on his behalf since he was jailed.

"Today I am stronger and fitter; spiritually, mentally and physically, than ever before," added the former international cricket superstar. The statement also appeared on Khan's X account.

Khan said he has spent his time in jail reading the holy Quran, adding that he has "adjusted well to prison conditions".

"Do not give up," Khan told his supporters in yesterday's statement. "Keep raising your voice against this unselected predatory group and their facilitators at every forum and keep demanding a fair and transparent election in the country."

Since being ousted last year Khan has been tangled in a slew of legal cases he says are designed to stop him from contesting elections.

Gazans have no hope, no escape

Officials in the Palestinian territory say the collapse of health system has 'truly begun' amid Israel's heavy bombardment

REUTERS

Most of the 2.3 million people in the Gaza Strip have no electricity and no water. And, with hundreds of Israeli strikes raining down on their tiny enclave, they have nowhere to run.

The health ministry in Gaza has just issued its latest update warning that the healthcare system "has begun to truly collapse".

The Palestinian territory, one of the most crowded places on Earth, has been under siege since Saturday in a near-constant bombardment that Gaza health officials say has killed 1,354 people. The blitz is retaliation for a devastating attack on Israel by Gaza's ruling group Hamas which the Israeli military says killed more than 1,300 people.

Gaza's sole power station, which had been working intermittently for days, cut out on Wednesday after running out of fuel. Without power, water can't be pumped into houses. At night there's nearly total darkness punctuated by fireballs and the pin-pricks of light from phones used as flashlights.

"I lived through all the wars and incursions in the past, but I have never

witnessed anything worse than this war," said Yamen Hamad, 35, a father-of-four, whose home had been destroyed by Israeli strikes on the northern Gaza town of Beit Hanoun.

At a hospital in Khan Younis in southern Gaza, relatives and friends lined up outside the overloaded morgue where bodies were laid out on the floor because coolers were full or had no power.

The mourners were desperate to bury their loved ones swiftly before the unseasonable heat took its toll. They spoke briefly over the bodies, praying for the souls to rest in peace, before they carried them to graves nearby, with stretchers if they were available, or otherwise without.

Reuters interviewed more than three dozen people in Gaza, and most echoed Hamad's sentiments. They painted a picture of dread and hopelessness in the face of what they described as the worst violence they'd ever seen.

With the strip's only other border, to Egypt, blocked by Egyptian authorities, the people said they were trapped. They feared the worst was yet to come, including a possible ground invasion, as Israel seeks retribution for the deadliest

Palestinian fighter attack in the country's 75-year history.

That surprise raid, launched on Saturday, saw Hamas fighters burst out of Gaza and kill hundreds of people, leaving corpses strewn around a music festival and a kibbutz community. Scores of Israelis and others have been taken to Gaza as hostages, some paraded through the streets.

The Hamas attack drew strong condemnation by the United States and other Western governments. The fighter group's 1988 founding charter called for Israel's destruction, and the group is branded a terrorist organisation by Israel, the United States, the European Union, Canada, Egypt and Japan.

Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant has pledged intensify the military campaign in Gaza, saying on Wednesday that Israel would wipe Hamas "off the face of the Earth".

Beit Hanoun, near the frontier with Israel, was among the first places hit hard by retaliatory Israeli strikes, with many roads and buildings destroyed and thousands of displaced, according to Hamas and local residents. There was no escape for Ala al-Kafarneh's family.

The 31-year-old said he fled the town on Saturday with his pregnant wife, his father, brothers, cousins and in-laws. They drove to Beach Refugee Camp on the coast, where they hoped they would be safe, but air attacks began targeting that area too so they headed to Sheikh Radwan, another district deeper east.



China ups 'military intimidation' Says Taiwan minister

AFP, Taipei

Taiwan's defence minister said yesterday China has stepped up "military intimidation" this year by flying an increased number of warplanes around the island as well as accelerating the deployment of ballistic missiles. China claims self-ruled Taiwan as part of its territory to be seized one day — by force if necessary — and has ramped up pressure on the island in recent years, staging two rounds of war games. Beijing has "stepped up the intensity of its military intimidation to strengthen control over our surrounding waters and airspace", Defence Minister Chiu Kuo-cheng said.

Israel strikes Damascus, Aleppo airports Says Syrian state TV

AFP, Damascus

Israeli strikes targeted Syria's two main airports yesterday, Syrian state television said, in the first such attack since a Hamas assault on Israel at the weekend triggered fierce fighting. "Israeli aggression targets Damascus and Aleppo airports," the state television reported on the messaging app Telegram, without providing additional details. Israeli strikes have repeatedly caused the grounding of flights at the airports in Aleppo and the capital Damascus, both of which are controlled by the government of war-torn Syria. The latest strikes came as Hamas and Israel traded heavy fire for a sixth day yesterday.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
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“ফেরীঘাট ইজারা কোটেশন আহবান বিজ্ঞপ্তি”

০১	ইজারা কোটেশন নং	০২-পিআরডি/২০২৩-২০২৪
০২	ইজারার বিবরণ	২০২৩-২০২৪ইং অর্থবছরে পিরোজপুর সড়ক বিভাগধীন বরিশাল-ঝালকাঠী-রাঙ্গাপুর-ভাঙ্গারিয়া-পিরোজপুর (আর-৮-৭০) আঞ্চলিক মহাসড়কের ৫৩তম কিমিঃ এ অবস্থিত “কম্বী ফেরীঘাট” এর ৩(তিন) বছর মেয়াদে ইজারা গ্রহণ।
০৩	ইজারা চুক্তির মেয়াদ	৩ (তিন) বছর (১০৯৫ দিন)
০৪	ইজারা কোটেশনের সিডিউল মূল্য	টায় ৫০০০.০০ (পাঁচ হাজার টাকা মাত্র)
০৫	বায়নার টাকার পরিমাণ	মোট উক্ত মূল্যের ১০% (শতকরা দশ ভাগ) ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/চেক-অর্ডার আকারে নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, পিরোজপুর এর পক্ষে
০৬	ইজারা কোটেশন বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	০৬/১১/২০২৩ইং তারিখ বিকাল ৪:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত
০৭	মুখবন্দ অবস্থায় ইজারা কোটেশন গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	০৭/১১/২০২৩ইং তারিখ দুপুর ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত
০৮	ইজারা কোটেশন খোলার তারিখ	০৭/১১/২০২৩ইং তারিখ বিকাল ৩:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত
০৯	ইজারা ডাকে অংশ গ্রহণের যোগ্যতা	ভাট্টা ও আয়কর সন্দনধারী প্রতিষ্ঠান/নির্বাহক, সরকারী/বেসরকারী/স্বতন্ত্র/সিডি সর্বজন প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রতিনিধিত্বকারী
১০	যে সকল কার্যালয়ে ইজারা কোটেশন ক্রয়ের জন্য পাওয়া যাবে	বিভাগীয় কমিশনার, বরিশাল/জেলা প্রশাসক, পিরোজপুর/নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সড়ক বিভাগ, পিরোজপুর/ঝালকাঠী/বরিশাল/ভোলা/রাঙ্গাপুর/ভাঙ্গারিয়া/ভাঙ্গারিয়া/সড়ক বিভাগ, পিরোজপুর/কাউথানী
১১	যে সকল কার্যালয়ে ইজারা কোটেশন মুখবন্দ অবস্থায় গ্রহণ করা হবে	(ক) জেলা প্রশাসক, পিরোজপুর (খ) তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক সার্কেল, বরিশাল (গ) নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সড়ক বিভাগ, পিরোজপুর
১২	ইজারা কোটেশন খোলার স্থান	নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সড়ক ও জননগর অধিদপ্তর, সড়ক বিভাগ, পিরোজপুর

১৩ (ক) ইজারা আহবানকারী যে কোন সময় যে কোন কোটেশন/সরকারী কোটেশন বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন
(খ) যদি কোনো অনিবার্য পরিস্থিতিতে নির্দিষ্ট তারিখে ইজারা কোটেশন গ্রহণ/খোলা না যায়, তাহলে পরবর্তী কার্য নিবন্ধে একই সময়ে এবং একই স্থানে তা গ্রহণ/খোলা হবে
(গ) ইজারা কোটেশনদাতা কথায় ও অঙ্কে দর উদ্ধৃত করবেন
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জিডি-১৫৭৮

ETHNIC VIOLENCE

Manipur govt bans circulation of photos, videos

THE INDIAN EXPRESS ONLINE

Three days after a video of a Kuki-Zomi man being burned began doing the rounds on social media and Whatsapp, the government of India's Manipur state on Wednesday declared it will book and prosecute people found circulating images and videos of violence.

An order by the Governor issued through the state Home Department on Wednesday stated that the state government took circulating images of violent activities "very seriously and with utmost sensitivity."

It stated that images of activities such as inflicting bodily harm and damage to public or private property are likely to facilitate the mobilisation of "mobs of agitators and demonstrators," aggravating the law and order situation in the state.

The order stated that the government has decided to "restrain" the spread of such images as "a positive step towards bringing normalcy in the State."

It went on to say that anyone in possession of such images should approach the nearest Superintendent of Police and submit them for legal action, but if they are found to be circulating such images through social media, they shall be booked and prosecuted "under relevant provision of the law of land."

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