

GAZA RUNNING OUT OF FUEL 120 incubator babies at risk Says UN

AFP, Jerusalem

The lives of at least 120 newborn babies on incubators in war-torn Gaza's hospitals are at risk as fuel runs out in the besieged enclave, the UN children's agency warned yesterday.

Hospitals face a dire lack of medicines, fuel, and water not only for the thousands wounded but also for routine patients.

"We have currently 120 neonates who are in incubators, out of which we have 70 neonates with mechanical ventilation, and of course this is where we are extremely concerned," said Unicef spokesman Jonathan Crickx.

Power is one of the main worries for the seven specialist wards across Gaza treating premature babies to help with breathing and provide critical support.

AMINI PROTESTS Iran sentences 2 women journalists

REUTERS, Dubai

An Iranian Revolutionary Court has handed out long prison sentences to two women journalists over their coverage of the death in custody of Mahsa Amini last year, state media reported yesterday.

Iran's state news agency IRNA said Niloofar Hamedi and Elaheh Mohammadi were sentenced to 13 and 12 years in prison respectively on charges, including collaboration with the US government and acting against national security.

Lawyers for the two journalists have rejected the charges. "They received seven years and six years for collaborating with the hostile US government. Each five years in prison for acting against the national security and each one year in prison for propaganda against the system," IRNA reported.



Members of a medical team transport a boy injured in an Israeli strike at a makeshift emergency ward set up outside the Kuwait hospital, in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Iran's quandary How to stay out of Israel's war on Hamas

REUTERS, Dubai

On October 15, Iran issued a stinging public ultimatum to its arch-enemy Israel: Halt your onslaught on Gaza or we'll be forced to take action, its foreign minister warned.

Only hours later, the country's UN mission softened the hawkish tone, assuring the world that its armed forces wouldn't intervene in the conflict unless Israel attacked Iranian interests or citizens.

Iran, a longtime backer of Gaza's rulers Hamas, finds itself in a quandary as it tries to manage the spiralling crisis, according to nine Iranian officials with direct knowledge of the thinking within the clerical establishment.

Standing on the sidelines in the face of an all-out Israeli invasion of Gaza would significantly set back an Iranian strategy for regional ascendancy pursued for over four decades, according to the people, who asked to remain anonymous due to the sensitivity of the discussions in Tehran.

Yet any major attack against a US-backed Israel could exact a heavy toll on Iran and trigger public anger against the clerical rulers in a nation already mired in an economic crisis, said the officials who outlined the various military, diplomatic and domestic

priorities being weighed by the establishment.

Three security officials said a consensus had been reached among Iran's top decision makers, for now: Give their blessing for limited cross-border raids by its Lebanese proxy group Hezbollah on Israeli military targets, over 200 km away from Gaza, as well



as low-level attacks on US targets by other allied groups in the region. Prevent any major escalation that would draw Iran itself into the conflict.

"We are in contact with our friends Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and Hezbollah," Vahid Jalalzadeh, the head of parliament's National

Security Committee said on Wednesday, according to Iranian state media. "Their stance is that they do not expect us to carry out military operations."

Iran's foreign ministry didn't respond to a request for comment.

It's a high-wire act for Tehran. The loss of the power base established in the Palestinian enclave via Hamas and allied group Islamic Jihad over three decades would puncture those plans, which have seen Iran build up a network of armed proxy groups across the Middle East, from Hezbollah in Lebanon to the Houthis in Yemen, the sources said.

Iranian inaction on the ground could be perceived as a sign of weakness by those proxy forces, which have been Tehran's principal weapon of influence in the region for decades, according to three officials.

"The Iranians are facing this dilemma of whether they are going to send Hezbollah to the fight in order to try to save their arm in the Gaza Strip or maybe they are going to let go of this arm and give it up," said Avi Melamed, a former Israeli intelligence official and a negotiator during the first and second intifadas.

"This is the point where the Iranians are," he added. "Calculating their risks."

SOUTH CHINA SEA VESSEL COLLISION

Manila, Beijing trade blame

AFP, Manila

Beijing and Manila traded blame yesterday for two collisions between Chinese vessels and Philippine boats on a resupply mission to Filipino troops on a remote outpost in the disputed South China Sea.

The incidents happened near Second Thomas Shoal in the Spratly Islands, a hotly contested region where Beijing deploys ships to assert its claims over almost the entire sea.

A Philippine government task force said the "dangerous blocking manoeuvres of China Coast Guard vessel 5203 caused it to collide with the Armed Forces of the Philippines-contracted indigenous resupply boat" about 25 kilometres (15 miles) from Second Thomas Shoal.

China said the "slight collision" happened after the resupply boat ignored "multiple warnings and deliberately passed through law enforcement in an unprofessional and dangerous manner", state broadcaster CCTV reported, citing the foreign ministry.

In another incident, a Philippine coastguard vessel escorting the routine resupply mission was "bumped" by what the Philippine task force described as a "Chinese Maritime Militia vessel".

China, however, accused the Philippine boat of "deliberately" stirring up trouble by reversing in a "premeditated manner" into a Chinese fishing vessel.

Video released by the Philippine military showed the bow of the Chinese coastguard ship and the stern of the smaller resupply vessel briefly touching.

"The National Task Force for the West Philippine Sea condemns in the strongest degree the latest dangerous, irresponsible, and illegal actions of the CCG" the task force said.

S Korea, US, Japan hold first joint air drills

AFP, Seoul

South Korea, the United States and Japan carried out their first joint aerial drills yesterday, Seoul's military said. The exercise, which involved a US nuclear-weapons capable B-52 bomber, comes as Seoul, Washington, and Tokyo beef up their defence cooperation against growing missile and nuclear threats from North Korea. The US bomber landed at a South Korean airbase on Tuesday after a flyover at the country's largest defence exhibition. B-52s, which fly at subsonic speeds, can travel more than 8,800 miles without refuelling, at an altitude reaching 50,000 feet. The trilateral exercise took place south of the Korean peninsula, where Seoul and Tokyo's air defence identification zones overlap, according to the South Korean Air Force. "This marks the first time for the air powers of South Korea, the United States, and Japan to carry out an aerial exercise," it said in a statement. The exercise was "planned to expand the three countries' response capabilities against North Korea's growing nuclear and missile threats," the statement added. Pyongyang views all such exercises as rehearsals for an invasion and has repeatedly warned it would take "overwhelming" action in response.

Tigers feeling the heat in Mumbai

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completing his net session at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai yesterday.

Later, when this reporter asked Shanto how exactly was he feeling in such weather, the left-handed batter jokingly replied, "It's not that hot you know," as he walked away all soaked in sweat while wearing a broad grin.

Chilled water, wet towels, and cool shade were the order of the day for the Tigers during their first training session in Mumbai.

As per the weather report, yesterday the temperature in Mumbai was around 34 degree Celsius during day time,

which is not too different from what the Bangladesh cricketers regularly endure in Dhaka.

However, due to the high levels of humidity in Mumbai, a city that's right on the coast of the Arabian Sea, the temperature felt like 44 degrees or more.

The Bangladesh team will have to endure this weather for a few more days as per the forecast before they take on South Africa on Tuesday in their only scheduled match in Mumbai in this World Cup.

"Look, we are used to such conditions," said a member of the Bangladesh team to The Daily Star during yesterday's training

session.

"We are not thinking about the heat as we are taking measures on how to keep ourselves hydrated in such extreme hot and humid conditions and perform," he added.

The effect of the hot and humid conditions in Mumbai was evident during the last game here between England and South Africa on Saturday.

South Africa's Heinrich Klaasen had to cope with the extreme conditions, fight with cramps, and get hydrated in between overs on his way to scoring a blistering 109 off 67 balls.

Later in the second innings, England players

looked exhausted from fielding under the extreme heat. Chasing 400, they eventually got bundled out for just 170 runs and conceded a record 229-run defeat.

Since the Bangladesh-South Africa match will also be a day-night affair, the toss is likely to play a crucial role.

Bangladesh, who come into this match on the back of three consecutive defeats, are running out of time to turn around their campaign which is seemingly heading towards a disastrous conclusion.

As it stands, the Tigers are feeling the heat, both literally and in the context of the tournament.

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- The test has two components. Written test and Interview. The written test component evaluates applicant's aptitude in English Language & Communication, Mathematics, and Analytical Ability. An applicant must obtain a minimum qualifying score in each of the above areas to pass the written test. After qualifying in the written test, candidate must appear before an interview board.
- An applicant with a foreign nationality and foreign university degree(s) may be exempted from taking the written test if s/he has a GMAT score of minimum 75 percentile. However, s/he is required to appear before an interview board.
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- For further information, please call 01764119001 or 01764119002 between 10:00 am to 06:00 pm on any working day till Wednesday, 15 November 2023.

Director
Institute of Business Administration
University of Dhaka

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