

## Blasts hit two Egyptian Red Sea towns

Israel points to ‘aerial threat’ in the region

REUTERS, Cairo

Projectiles hit two Egyptian Red Sea towns yesterday, sources and officials said, injuring six people and showing the risk of regional spillover from the Israel-Gaza conflict.

Israel’s military blamed an “aerial threat” in the Red Sea region: a possible reference to Yemen’s Iran-backed Houthi movement which is known to use drones.

Egyptian army spokesperson Colonel Gharib Abdel-Hafez said an “unidentified drone” crashed into a building adjacent to a hospital injuring the six in Taba, on the border with Israel, in the early hours.

Later, another projectile fell near an electricity plant in a desert area of the town of Nuweiba about 70 km (43 miles) from the border, two Egyptian security sources told Reuters, adding that they were still gathering more information.

There was no claim of responsibility. Taba and Nuweiba, both in Egypt’s Sinai Peninsula, are popular with tourists.

## UN raises war crimes concerns

AFP, Geneva

The United Nations said yesterday it was concerned that war crimes were being committed on both sides in the conflict between Israel and Hamas.

The UN human rights office cited forcible transfer, collective punishment and the taking of hostages as the war continued into its 21st day.

“We are concerned that war crimes are being committed.

“We are concerned about the collective punishment of Gazans in response to the atrocious attacks by Hamas, which also amounted to war crimes,” spokeswoman Ravina Shamdasani told a press conference in Geneva.

She said that it was for an independent court of law to qualify whether war crimes had been committed.



Palestinians look through the rubble of a building following Israeli bombardment of Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday, amid the ongoing battles between Israel and the Palestinian group Hamas.

PHOTO: AFP

ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

# Global media outlets face singular challenges

AFP, Paris

Global media outlets are facing near-unprecedented challenges in their coverage of the Israel-Hamas war as conflicting propaganda, social media pressure and charged public opinion require them to exercise extreme caution.

Lack of foreign media access to Gaza, with both the Israeli and Egyptian access points closed, is adding to reporting difficulties the likes of which journalists say they have rarely seen before.

“This war is one of the most complex and polarising stories we have ever had to cover,” Deborah Turness, chief executive of BBC News, said in an online

post this week.

Palestinian reporters in Gaza provide global media outlets with images and information, but their work is hampered by the bombing of the territory, power cuts and petrol shortages.

Their union says 22 journalists have been killed in Gaza since October 7, the day members belonging to the Islamist Hamas movement attacked Israel.

“In previous conflicts we were always able to send special envoys, but this time our teams in Gaza are cut off from the rest of the world,” said Phil Chetwynd, Global News Director at AFP.

AFP, whose permanent bureau in Gaza employs around 10 journalists,

has had to move them out of Gaza City to the south of the territory where they are living in precarious conditions, with some sleeping in tents.

A total of 2,050 journalists have come to Israel to cover the war, according to the government.

The biggest contingent, 358, is from US media. British media are second with 281, followed by French outlets with 221.

Media in Ukraine, which is itself fighting a war at home, have sent two journalists to Israel.

Reporters Without Borders (RSF), a nonprofit organisation defending press freedom, has accused Israel of “suffocating journalism in Gaza”.

## ‘In-depth’ dialogue can steady ties China’s Wang tells Blinken

REUTERS, Washington



The US and China have disagreements and need “in-depth” and “comprehensive” dialogue to reduce misunderstandings and stabilize ties, China’s Foreign Minister, Wang Yi, said on Thursday, kicking off a long anticipated visit to Washington. Standing next to US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Wang said the two countries share important common interests and challenges that they need to resolve together.

“Therefore, China and the United States need to have dialogue. Not only should we resume dialogue, the dialogue should be in-depth and comprehensive,” Wang said. Dialogue would help reduce misunderstandings, help stabilize the relationship and “return it to the track of healthy, stable and sustainable development,” he said.

Blinken responded: “I agree with what the foreign minister said.” Before Wang spoke, Blinken said he looked forward to constructive talks with his Chinese counterpart.

## China ex-Premier Keqiang, sidelined by Xi, dies at 68

REUTERS, Beijing

Chinese former Premier Li Keqiang died of a heart attack yesterday, barely seven months after retiring from a decade in office during which his reformist star had dimmed. He was 68. Once viewed as a top Communist Party leadership contender, Li was sidelined in recent years by President Xi Jinping, who tightened his grip on power and steered the world’s second-largest economy in a more statist direction. The elite economist supported a more open market economy, advocating supply-side reforms in an approach dubbed “Likonomics” that was never fully implemented. Ultimately, he had to bend to Xi Jinping’s preference for more state control, and his former power base waned in influence as Xi installed his own acolytes to powerful positions.



Migrants arrive on a boat at La Restinga dock, in the municipality of El Pinar on the Canary Island of El Hierro, on Thursday. El Hierro, the most westerly of Spain’s Canary Islands in the Atlantic, is grappling with an unprecedented surge in migrant arrivals from Africa which have overwhelmed its social services.

PHOTO: AFP

## ‘Bunkers saved our lives’ Say J&K villagers after Pak shelling

NDTV ONLINE

Pakistan’s unprovoked ceasefire violation in Jammu and Kashmir’s Arnia sector, which began Thursday evening and continued till 3:00 am yesterday, forced people to abandon homes in the border village of Bulleh Chak and run for their lives from mortar shells.

A woman called Ekta told news agency ANI, “First there was limited firing. Then a big mortar shell hit our house at 8:00 pm (on Thursday). The kitchen was damaged... all glass windows have broken (but) by God’s grace, we were saved...”

The village leader, Dev Raj Chowdhary, told ANI Ekta and her family had spent night in shelled home, praying no further mortars would land on their heads.

Others, who spoke to ANI after the firing and shelling subsided, said they sought shelter in battle-scarred bunkers - in effect, empty underground rooms with no amenities and riddled with bullet holes - that dot the region. And it is to these bunkers that scared locals run to whenever there is shelling.

## ATTACKS ON US FORCES US jets strike Iran-linked sites in Syria

REUTERS

Two US fighter jets struck weapons and ammunition facilities in Syria yesterday in retaliation for attacks on US forces by Iranian-backed militia as concerns grew that the Israel-Hamas conflict may spread in the Middle East.

US President Joe Biden ordered strikes on the two facilities used by Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Corps and militia groups that it backs, the Pentagon said, warning the US will take additional measures if attacks by Iran’s proxies continue.

US and coalition troops have been attacked at least 19 times in Iraq and in Syria by Iran-backed forces in the past week. Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Lebanon’s Hezbollah are all backed by Tehran.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian said at the United Nations on Thursday that if Israel’s offensive against Hamas did not stop, the United States will “not be spared from this fire”.

The US air strikes took place at roughly 4:30 am yesterday (0130 GMT) near Abu Kamal, a Syrian town on the border with Iraq, and were carried out by two F-16 fighter jets using precision munitions, a US defence official said.

“These precision self-defence strikes are a response to a series of ongoing and mostly unsuccessful attacks against US personnel in Iraq and Syria by Iranian-backed militia groups that began on October 17,” US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said in a statement.

Biden has sent a rare message to Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei warning Tehran against targeting US personnel in the Middle East, the White House said earlier on Thursday.

# অভিনন্দন

মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী

## শেখ হাসিনা

জনমন্ত্রী

যাঁর সাহসী নেতৃত্বে এগিয়ে যাচ্ছে দেশ ও  
দৃশ্যমান হচ্ছে দেশের উন্নয়ন অগ্রযাত্রা।

দীর্ঘ প্রতিষ্ঠার পর আজ ২৮ অক্টোবর উদ্বোধন হচ্ছে

### বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান টানেল

দেশের অবকাঠামো উন্নয়নে অংশীদার হতে পেরে  
মোস্তাফা-হাকিম পরিবার গর্বিত।

#### GOLDEN ISPAT

শক্তি ভিত্তে দৃঢ় ভবিষ্যৎ

#### HM STEEL

দৃঢ় মজবুত শক্তিতে অটুট