

GULF OF ADEN Indian Navy rescues crew after attack on ship

REUTERS, New Delhi

The Indian Navy said yesterday it had rescued the crew of a US-owned vessel in the Gulf of Aden after an attack by Yemen's Houthi movement as tensions in the region's sea lanes disrupted global trade.

Following the attack on US Genco Picardy late on Wednesday, US military said its forces had conducted strikes on 14 Houthi missiles that "presented an imminent threat to merchant vessels and US Navy ships in the region".

India said it diverted a warship deployed in the region to rescue the 22 crew on board the Genco Picardy, including nine Indians.

The crew were all safe and a fire on board the vessel had been extinguished.

The Houthi said its missiles had made a "direct hit" on the bulk carrier.



Children waddle through a puddle to fill bottles with water as displaced Palestinians, who fled their houses due to Israeli strikes, shelter at a tent camp in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Thousands of Indian workers seek jobs in Israel

REUTERS, Rohtak

Thousands of men queued in India's northern state of Haryana during a recruitment drive to send workers to Israel, where the offensive in Gaza, now in its fourth month, has caused a shortage of labour.

Masons, painters, electricians, plumbers and some farmers said they were looking for jobs in Israel with some willing to risk going into a conflict zone because they could make five times more money in a year than they would at home.

"There is unemployment here and its because of it that people want to leave," said Lekharam, a mason who was among the workers gathered at a recruitment camp in Rohtak, 66 km (40 miles) from the capital, New Delhi.

"If it's in our destiny to die, then we can die either here or there. My hope is that we will go and do good work and spend some time and come back."

Officials at Israel's embassy in New Delhi and in the Indian foreign ministry did not respond to questions about the recruitment.

India, now the world's most populous nation with a population of 1.4 billion, has an urban unemployment rate of 6.6 percent, government data shows.

Gaza hospitals in 'rapid deterioration'

WHO coordinator warns patients are 'waiting to die' due to extreme shortages of staff, supplies

AFP, United Nations

A World Health Organization official on Wednesday described dire conditions in the Gaza Strip's remaining hospitals, where patients are "waiting to die" due to extreme shortages of staff and supplies.

Emergency medical team coordinator Sean Casey said that during some five weeks he spent in the Palestinian territory, he saw hospital patients "every day with severe burns, with open fractures waiting hours or days" for treatment.

"They would often ask me for food or water - that demonstrates the level of desperation that we see," Casey told reporters at UN headquarters in New York.

He said he was only able to visit six of Gaza's 16 functioning hospitals, out of 36 that existed before the offensive broke out.

"What I've seen personally is a rapid deterioration of the health system alongside a rapidly increasing level of humanitarian aid and diminishing level of humanitarian access particularly to areas in the north of the Strip."

He described seeing patients in the north who were "basically waiting to die in a hospital that has no fuel, no power, no water."

"We tried every single day for seven days to deliver fuel and supplies to the north to Gaza City," Casey said. "Every day, those requests for coordinated movements were denied."

The hospitals are facing a deluge of patients while operating with minimal staff, many of whom - like the vast majority of Gaza's population - have been displaced from their homes, Casey said.

"Hospital directors were telling me how their surgeons, plastic surgeon, for example, could not do surgery, because he was

Ghebreyesus, Casey said the most critical need in Gaza "is really a ceasefire."

"Everything short of that is simply addressing needs on a day by day basis." In the south, Casey said he visited the Nasser medical complex, where "they had only 30 percent of their staff remaining and about 200 percent of their bed



out collecting sticks to burn his firewood to cook for his family."

Fighting has ravaged Gaza since Israel's unprecedented offensive began on October 7.

At least 24,620 Palestinians, about 70 percent of them women, young children and adolescents, have been killed in Israeli bombardments and ground assaults, according to Gaza health ministry's latest figures.

Echoing similar calls by WHO chief Tedros Adhanom

capacity - so patients everywhere in the corridors on the floor."

"I went to the burn unit where there was one physician caring for 100 patients," he said.

The "humanitarian catastrophe that's unfolding every day is getting worse and worse" Casey said.

Nearly all of Gaza's population has now been penned into two small areas: Rafah just south of Khan Younis, and Deir al-Balah just north of it.

Iraqi PM again demands US- led coalition leave

AFP, Davos

Iraqi Prime Minister Mohamed Shia al-Sudani yesterday repeated his call for the US-led international anti-jihadist coalition to depart his country amid soaring regional tensions over the Israeli offensive in Gaza.

"The end of the international coalition mission is a necessity for the security and stability of Iraq," he said during a televised event at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

"It is also a necessity for preserving constructive bilateral relations between Iraq and the coalition countries."

Sudani, whose government relies on the support of Iran-aligned parties, has repeatedly said in recent weeks he would like to see foreign troops leave Iraq.

His remarks came after the United States carried out strikes on pro-Iran groups in response to attacks since mid-October on American and other coalition forces deployed in Iraq since 2014 in the fight against the Islamic State (IS) group.

At least 130 attacks, including 53 in Iraq and 77 in Syria, were recorded between October 17 and January 11, according to the Pentagon.

11 Chinese military planes cross Taiwan Strait median line

AFP, Taipei

More than 20 Chinese military planes were detected around Taiwan, with 11 crossing a sensitive median line separating the self-ruled island from China, Taipei's defence ministry said yesterday, the first significant show of force since the weekend's presidential election.

The ministry, which releases data daily on the Chinese military presence around Taiwan, said yesterday that 24 warplanes and 5 ships had been detected in the 24 hours leading up to 6:00 am (2200 GMT).

"11 of the detected aircraft had crossed the median line of the Taiwan Strait or entered Taiwan's southwest and north (air defence identification zone)," the ministry said in a statement.

Democratic Taiwan has its own government, military and currency - but China claims it as its territory and has never renounced the use of force to bring it under its control.

Saturday's election was won by the Democratic Progressive Party's Lai Ching-te, who China regards as a "separatist". Beijing warned ahead of voting day that his win would bring "war and decline" to Taiwan.

China - which maintains a near-daily military presence around Taiwan - did not send an outsized number of warplanes and naval vessels in the election's immediate aftermath.

But it drew first blood in the political sphere, with Pacific nation Nauru abruptly announcing Monday it would switch diplomatic recognition from Taiwan to China, leaving Taipei with just 12 countries or states that still do.

India, Maldives seeking 'mutually workable solution'

TOI, New Delhi

India and Maldives recently held a core group meeting on January 14 to address the issue of ensuring "continued operation" of Indian aviation platforms providing humanitarian and medical services, India's ministry of external affairs said yesterday. During the meeting, both nations discussed various aspects of their ties and deliberated on finding a "workable solution".

"We mentioned that both sides held discussions on finding a mutually workable solution to enable continued operation of Indian aviation platforms that provide humanitarian and Medvec services to the people of the Maldives," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. "The next meeting is to be held in India to take discussions forward. So that is where the situation as far as the Maldives is concerned," he added.

Ukrainian drone hits targets in St Petersburg

REUTERS

Ukraine hit targets in Russia during a drone attack on an oil terminal in St Petersburg yesterday as part of a "new phase" in the region, a Ukrainian military source told Reuters. A Russian-appointed official in occupied southeastern Ukraine said earlier that Ukraine had tried and failed to target a Russian Baltic Sea oil terminal with a drone overnight. "There are confirmed hits. This is a new stage of work in this region," the Ukrainian source said. Nearly two years since Moscow launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the attack shows how Kyiv is trying to strike back, including at targets deep inside Russia. St Petersburg is located some 850 km (528 miles) from the nearest section of the Ukrainian border.

JN.1, new Covid subvariant, is here now

FROM PAGE 1

Initiative on Sharing All Influenza Data (GISAID) of Germany, a global database for the genome sequence of coronavirus.

Of the five patients, GISAID published data of four.

According to it, all four are male, with two from Dhaka and two from Gazipur. One of them is 12 years old, one is 18, and the rest are over 55.

With the new surge in cases globally, the National Technical Advisory Committee (NTAC) on Covid-19 on January 2 suggested the authorities concerned take necessary measures, including issuing instructions on mask-wearing, to prevent the spread of the virus.

"As the JN.1 variant has been found in the country, we are still definitely at risk. We haven't seen such a fast growth in the infection rate in such a short period of time before. We can prevent it by following

instructions given by the DGHS [Directorate General of Health Services]," Mushtaq Hossain, public health expert and former advisor of IEDCR, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Meanwhile, the government has decided to administer Covid-19 vaccines again due to the sudden rise in infection rate.

Signed by Mohammad Nizam Uddin, DGHS's director and secretary general of the Covid-19 Vaccine Management Taskforce, a circular issued yesterday said that in view of the increase in infections across the country, it was decided that the first, second and booster doses of Pfizer will be distributed under a fresh vaccine programme.

Frontline health workers; people aged 60 years and above; adults (18 and above) with long-term diseases or low immunity; and pregnant women will be vaccinated under this

initiative, it added.

The Pfizer RTU vaccine will be used for the first and second doses and will initially be provided at the DNCC Dedicated Covid-19 Hospital in Mohakhali for Dhaka North residents, and Dhaka Metropolitan General Hospital in Nayabazar for those in Dhaka South.

For booster doses, Pfizer VCV vaccination will be given initially at eight centres in Dhaka: Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University; Dhaka Medical College Hospital; Kurmitola General Hospital; Sir Saliullah Medical College Midford Hospital; Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital; Mugda Medical College Hospital; Sheikh Russel National Gastroenterology Institute & Hospital, and Government Employee Hospital in Fulbaria.

The DGHS said the vaccine process will be the same as last time.

এসেনসিয়াল ড্রাগস্ কোম্পানী লিমিটেড

৩৯৫-৩৯৭, তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা, ঢাকা-১২০৮।

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ইডিসিএল নিম্নোক্ত আইটেমগুলি প্রকৃত স্থানীয় প্রস্তুতকারী/ সরবরাহকারীদের (সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যবসার সাথে জড়িত) নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহবান করছেঃ-

দরপত্র নং ও তারিখ	বিবরণ	পরিমাণ	আনেষ্ট মানি	দরপত্র শিডিউলের মূল্য (অফেরৎযোগ্য)	দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়
ইডিসিএল/ক্রম/স্থানীয়/দরপত্র/২০২৪/২৬ তারিখঃ ১৮/০১/২০২৪ইং	২১ (একুশ) প্রকার প্রিন্টেড অ্যালুমিনিয়াম বিস্টার ফয়েল {21 (twenty one) kinds of printed Alu blister Foil} (সিডিউল মোতাবেক)	৭,৪০০.০০কেজি	২.৫%	টাকা ১,৫০০.০০ (এক হাজার পাঁচশত) প্রতিসেট	২৯/০১/২০২৪ইং বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা	২৯/০১/২০২৪ইং বেলা ১২-১৫ ঘটিকা
ইডিসিএল/ক্রম/স্থানীয়/দরপত্র/২০২৪/২৭ তারিখঃ ১৮/০১/২০২৪ইং	PVC Film, Width: 284mm (সিডিউল মোতাবেক)	৪,০০০.০০কেজি	২.৫%	টাকা ১,০০০.০০ (এক হাজার) প্রতিসেট	২৯/০১/২০২৪ইং বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা	২৯/০১/২০২৪ইং বেলা ১২-১৫ ঘটিকা
ইডিসিএল/ক্রম/স্থানীয়/দরপত্র/২০২৪/২৮ তারিখঃ ১৮/০১/২০২৪ইং	প্রিন্টেড অ্যালুমিনিয়াম ফয়েল ফর নিরাপদ কনডম (আপার এবং লোয়ার) {Printed Alu. Foil for Nirapad Condom (Upper & Lower)} (সিডিউল মোতাবেক)	৫,৯৬০.০০কেজি	২.৫%	টাকা ১,৫০০.০০ (এক হাজার পাঁচশত) প্রতিসেট	০৪/০২/২০২৪ইং বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা	০৪/০২/২০২৪ইং বেলা ১২-১৫ ঘটিকা

সকল কার্যদিবসে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে উপরোক্ত কার্যালয় হইতে শর্ত ও নিয়মাবলীসহ দরপত্র শিডিউল ক্রয় করা যাইবে। উল্লেখ্য যে, যাহাদের ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন নাই তাহাদের দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণ করার প্রয়োজন নাই।

দরপত্র খোলার দিনে কোন দরপত্র শিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হইবে না।

(৫.৫ ইপি ৫ কলাম)

মহা-ব্যবস্থাপক, প্রকিউরমেন্ট
পক্ষে ঃ ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক।