

SOUTH LEBANON 2 Hezbollah fighters killed by Israeli drone

REUTERS, Beirut
Two Hezbollah fighters were killed yesterday when an Israeli drone hit their vehicle in southern Lebanon, security sources said.

Their ranks were not revealed but a source close to the Iranian-backed group said they were not senior figures.

It was the latest strike in an area where Israel has targeted dozens of Hezbollah fighters. Israel's military said it does not comment on foreign reports.

Earlier, residents and security officials said a drone had killed two people and injured at least four others near the village of Kafra, 8km from the border.

Hezbollah has been trading fire across Lebanon's southern border with Israeli forces in support of the group's Palestinian ally Hamas in the Gaza Strip.



Displaced Palestinian children search a garbage bin at a makeshift tent camp in Rafah near the border with Egypt in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday. The UN agency for Palestinian refugees UNRWA said about 1.7 million people have been displaced in enclave, with about one million crowded into the Rafah area.

PHOTO: AFP

Denial of Palestinian statehood 'unacceptable'

Says UN chief, condemns Israel for 'heartbreaking' killings in Gaza

AGENCIES

The right of the Palestinian people to build their own state "must be recognised by all", UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told the Non-Aligned Movement summit in Uganda.

"The refusal to accept a two-state solution for Israelis and Palestinians, and the denial of the right to statehood for the Palestinian people, are unacceptable," the UN leader insisted in the Ugandan capital Kampala on Saturday evening.

Such a stance "would indefinitely prolong a conflict that has become a major threat to global peace and security; exacerbate polarisation; and embolden extremists everywhere," Guterres warned.

"The right of the Palestinian people to build their own state must be recognised by all."

In its final summit communique, the Non-Aligned Movement on Saturday "strongly condemned the illegal Israeli military aggression against the Gaza Strip", and called for "a lasting humanitarian ceasefire".

The assembled leaders in Kampala also called for "the independence and sovereignty of the State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, in order to achieve a two-state solution".

The Non-Aligned Movement is a forum of 120 countries that aren't formally aligned to any major power bloc. Its members include India, Iran, Iraq and South Africa, reports AFP.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has deplored the "inhuman living conditions" in the small coastal territory of 2.4 million



inhabitants, many of whom have been displaced by the Israeli action.

At the opening of a summit of the G77+China in Kampala yesterday, Guterres denounced Israel for the "heartbreaking" deaths of Palestinian civilians in Gaza, reports Reuters.

"Israel's military operations have spread mass destruction and killed civilians on a scale unprecedented during my time as secretary-general," Guterres said.

"This is heartbreaking and utterly unacceptable. The Middle East is a tinder-box, we must do all we can to prevent conflict from igniting across the region."

Rising tensions and violence across the Middle East have also stoked fears of a wider conflagration involving Iran-backed groups in Lebanon, Iraq, Syria and Yemen.

Saudi Arabia's foreign minister said the kingdom was "very worried"

that tensions in the Red Sea amid attacks by Yemen's Houthis and US strikes on Houthi targets could spiral out of control and escalate the conflict in the region.

"I mean, of course, we are very worried. I mean, you know, we are in a very difficult and dangerous time in the region, and that's why we are calling for de-escalation," Prince Faisal bin Farhan told CNN 'Fareed Zakaria GPS' in an interview that was aired yesterday.

The Saudi foreign minister said the kingdom believed in freedom of navigation and wanted tensions in the region to be de-escalated.

"We of course, believe very much in the freedom of navigation. And that's something that needs to be protected. But we also need to protect the security and stability of the region. So we are very focused on de-escalating the situation as much as possible," he told CNN.

Deadly winter weather keeps icy grip across US Death toll rises to 83

REUTERS

Winter storms and biting cold that have gripped much of the United States in recent days with deadly consequences are expected to persist through this weekend, the National Weather Service (NWS) reported on Saturday.

Even as frigid temperatures were forecast across two-thirds of the country for the days ahead, along with snow, freezing rain and heavy showers, CBS News said it has tallied 83 confirmed weather-related US fatalities over the past week.

Tennessee accounted for 19 lost lives attributed to severe weather, and Oregon 16 more, CBS reported, including three people who died of apparent electrocution from a power line that fell onto the vehicle they were riding in on Wednesday.

The remainder of the fatalities were reported across at least eight other states, including Illinois, Pennsylvania, Mississippi, Washington, Kentucky, New York and New Jersey, according to CBS.

The Pacific Northwest and parts of the South have borne the brunt of extreme winter weather during the past week, as homes and businesses consumed record amounts of natural gas for heating and power generation due to severe cold.

That pattern was continuing through the weekend with hard-freeze warnings posted on Saturday across a large swath of the Gulf Region, extending from eastern Texas and Louisiana through much of Mississippi, Alabama and parts of Florida and Georgia. Wind-chill factors as low as zero degrees Fahrenheit were forecast in Mississippi for Saturday night.

The NWS said a new cold air mass building over the nation's midsection would send temperatures plunging 20 to 30 degrees below average from the High Plains east into the Ohio and Tennessee valleys by this evening.

Snow was forecast downwind of the Great Lakes and over parts of the central Appalachians and the Northeast through yesterday evening.

Meanwhile, winter weather advisories were in effect for much of the Pacific Northwest, expected to be hit with another round of freezing rain and showers.

Australia sweats in heatwave

Lifts bushfire risk amid El Nino weather pattern

REUTERS, Sydney

Large swaths of Australia sweltered again yesterday through a widening heatwave, which the national weather forecaster said raised the bushfire risk in an already high-risk fire season as the country endures an El Nino weather pattern. "Extreme" heatwave alerts, the highest danger rating, were in place for a second day for parts of Western Australia and were extended to South Australia, while areas of Queensland, New South Wales and the Northern Territory were under "severe" warnings, the forecaster said. It cautioned that in Western Australia, the nation's largest state geographically, the remote Pilbara and Gascoyne areas could hit the high forties Celsius (up to 120 degrees Fahrenheit) yesterday. In the Pilbara mining town of Paraburdoo about 1,500 km (930 miles) north of the state capital Perth, a high of 48 C (118 F) was forecast, more than seven degrees above the average January maximum, according to forecaster data. It was 45.7 C (114 F) at 12:30 pm (0430 GMT) Australia's highest recorded temperature, 50.7 C (123 F), was logged at the Pilbara's Onslow Airport on January 13, 2022. In the West Australian town of Meekatharra, Royal Mail Hotel manager Alex McWhirter said the heat could "cook you alive". "You have the sun beating down from above, you've got the hot ground heating you from below and it is quite a challenge," the 29-year-old English national said.

Teen dies after Maldives president refused India's plane services Says media report

NDTV ONLINE

A 14-year-old Maldivian boy died on Saturday amid allegations that President Mohammed Muizzu denied permission for the use of an Indian Dornier aircraft that could have potentially saved his life, local media reported. A Dornier aircraft, produced by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and provided by India, has been used extensively in the island nation for humanitarian purposes. The teen,



batting a combination of a brain tumour and a stroke, saw his family desperately seeking an air ambulance to airlift him from the remote island of Villingili in Gaaf Alif Villingili to Maldives' capital Male, where advanced medical care awaited, the report said. The tragedy began to unfold on Wednesday night when the child suffered a stroke, prompting his family to request an aerial transfer to the capital. However, their distress calls went unanswered until Thursday morning, when the country's aviation authorities finally responded. The delay, reportedly lasting 16 crucial hours, sparked protests near the hospital in Gaaf Alif Villingili as the community voiced their anger over the delay. The grief-stricken father, speaking to local media outlet Adhahu, lamented the lack of a prompt response, stating, "We called Island Aviation to get him to Male immediately after the stroke but they did not answer our calls. They answered the phone at 8:30 am on Thursday. The solution is to have an air ambulance for such cases."

Jalalabad Gas Transmission & Distribution System Ltd.
(A Company of Petrobangla)
(Gas Bhaban, Mendibag, Sylhet-3100)

গ্যাস ব্যবহারের সশ্রুতী হোন এক সময়মত গ্যাস বিল পরিশোধ করুন

স্বচ্ছচার চর্চা করি সমৃদ্ধ সোনার বাংলা গড়ি

বিনা কারণে গ্যাসের চুল্লা জ্বালিয়ে রাখা আর বিপদকে ডাকা একই বিষয়

Ref. No : 28.16.9100.034.86.001.24. Dated: 17-January-2024

e - Tender Notice

This is to notify all concern that the following tender have published through National e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

Sl. No.	Tender ID, Package No. & Date of Publishing	Name of the Work	Tender Last Selling and Closing Date & Time
01	Tender ID : 909755 Package No. : e-GP-SMS-001 Date of Publishing : 17/1/2024	Shifting, Installation and commissioning 04 number of Odorizer units at 04 different DRS at different places under JGTDSL Franchise area & Modification of Sreemangal TBS 6 Inch Diameter Turbine Meter line.	Last Selling : 29-1-2024, 14.00 Closing : 29-1-2024, 15.00 Date & Time Opening : 29-1-2024, 15.00 Date & Time

The interested persons/firms may visit the web site <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd> to get the details of the tender.

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, Registration in the National e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal/e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED
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Local Press Tender Notice

Tender ref.: EDCL (ELPP)/PUR/LT/2024/31

Dated: 21/01/2024

Scaled Tenders are hereby invited from the reputed Construction firms having experience for successful completion of similar works in any single work worth of Govt./Semi Govt./Autonomous bodies/Private Organization during the last 5(five) years.

S.L No.	Name of Item	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender Schedule	Last date of Closing & opening
01.	Construction of Car & Motor Bike Garage Shade. (Details as per Abstract of (Tender, BOQ & Drawing) Work Site: Essential Latex Processing Plant, Pirgacha Rubber Gurden, Modhopur, Tangail.	Tk.5% of quoted amount	Tk. 750.00/set (Non-refundable)	Closing: 05/02/2024 at 12.00 PM Opening: 05/02/2024 at 12.30 PM

Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of Essential Drugs Company Limited (EDCL), Dhaka on payment as stated above during office hours on all working days (except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays). No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender.

The tender will be accompanied by an amount of Earnest Money as mentioned above in the from of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any Schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour of "Essential Drugs Company Limited" without which the tender will be considered as non-responsive.

Essential Drugs Company Limited authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

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For : Managing Director.

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