

## RED SEA CRISIS Houthi rebels fire missiles at Israeli, British ships

REUTERS, Dubai

Houthi forces in Yemen said yesterday they had launched rockets and drones targeting a British ship and two Israeli vessels that were heading to Israeli ports, and also at a number of US frigates in the Red Sea. The operations took place during the last 72 hours, Houthi spokesperson Yahya Saree said.

Earlier, British security firm Ambrey said it had received information indicating that a vessel was attacked yesterday in the Gulf of Aden.

"Vessels in the vicinity were advised to exercise caution and report any suspicious activity," the firm said. It did not say who was responsible for the attack or give further details.

Separately, a missile landed near a vessel in the Gulf of Aden yesterday but there was no damage to the ship or injuries to crew in the incident, 59 nautical miles southwest of Aden.



Palestinians who had taken refuge in Rafah, leave the city to return to Khan Yunis after Israel pulled its ground forces out of the southern Gaza Strip yesterday. United Nations agencies and other aid organisations decried the devastating toll wreaked by six months of offensive in Gaza, warning that the situation was "beyond catastrophic". PHOTO: AFP

## Israeli embassies 'no longer safe' Says Tehran after Iran consulate attack in Syria

AFP, Tehran

An adviser to Iran's supreme leader yesterday warned that Israeli embassies are "no longer safe" after a strike in Syria which Tehran blamed on Israel killed seven Revolutionary Guards members.

"The embassies of the Zionist regime are no longer safe," Yahya Rahim Safavi, senior adviser to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, was quoted as saying by the ISNA news agency.

Tehran has vowed to avenge last Monday's air strike on Damascus that levelled the Iranian embassy's consular annex, killing seven Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) members including two generals.

"The resistance front is ready; how it (the response) will be, we have to wait," Safavi said, noting that "confronting this brutal regime is a legal and legitimate right".

He also noted that multiple Israeli embassies around the region "have been shuttered". There was no immediate comment from Israel.

Monday's attack, which Britain-based war monitor the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said killed 16 people, was the fifth raid on Syria in a week blamed on Israel.

Among the dead were generals Mohammad Reza Zohabi and Mohammad Hadi Haji Rahimi who were senior commanders in the Quds Force, the IRGC's foreign operations arm.

## Gaza's Shifa hospital 'an empty shell with graves'

Says WHO as pungent smell of decomposing bodies engulfs the hospital compound

AFP, Geneva

The World Health Organization said that Gaza's largest hospital had been reduced to ashes by Israel's latest siege, leaving an "empty shell" with many bodies.

WHO staff who gained access on Friday to the devastated facility described horrifying scenes of bodies only partially buried, with their limbs sticking out, and the stench of decomposing corpses.

Israeli forces pulled out of Al-Shifa hospital in Gaza City last Monday after a two-week military operation, during which it said it had battled Palestinian



**Of Gaza's 36 main hospitals, only 10 remain even partially functional: WHO**

"militants" inside what was once the Palestinian territory's most important medical complex.

A WHO-led mission finally accessed the hospital on Friday, after multiple failed attempts since March 25, the United Nations health agency said.

It found massive destruction and heard reports that patients had been "held in abysmal conditions" during the siege and several had died.

"WHO and partners managed to reach Al-Shifa - once the backbone of the health system in Gaza, which is now an empty shell with human graves after the latest siege," WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus wrote on X on Saturday evening.

In a statement, WHO said no patients remained in the hospital, where "numerous shallow graves" had been dug just outside the

emergency department and the administrative and surgical buildings.

"Many dead bodies were partially buried with their limbs visible," it said.

During their visit, WHO staff witnessed "at least five bodies lying partially covered on the ground, exposed to the heat," it said.

"The team reported a pungent smell of decomposing bodies engulfing the hospital compound."

"Safeguarding dignity, even in death, is an indispensable act of humanity," the WHO stressed.

The mission, which was conducted in cooperation with other UN agencies and the acting hospital director, found that "the scale of devastation has left the facility completely non-functional".

"Most of the buildings in the hospital complex are extensively destroyed and the majority of assets damaged or reduced to ashes," Tedros said.

"Even restoring minimal functionality in the short term seems implausible."

WHO said the acting hospital director had described how patients were "held in abysmal conditions during the siege".

"They endured severe lack of food, water, health care, hygiene and sanitation, and were forced to relocate between buildings at gun point," it said.

At least 20 patients reportedly died, it said, "due to the lack of access to care and limited movement authorised for health personnel".

Tedros said efforts by WHO and other aid groups to revive basic services at Al-Shifa after Israel's first devastating raid on the hospital last year "are now lost".

"People are once again deprived of access to life-saving health care services," he continued.

Of Gaza's 36 main hospitals, only 10 remain even partially functional, according to the WHO.

For the past six months, Israel has relentlessly bombarded the besieged, densely populated Palestinian territory, killing at least 33,175 people, according to the Hamas-run health ministry.

Tedros also said urgent action was needed in Gaza as "famine looms, disease outbreaks spread and trauma injuries increase" among the trapped Palestinian population.

## AAP leaders hold fast to protest against Kejriwal arrest

TNN, New Delhi

Top leaders and party workers of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) gathered at Jantar Mantar from 11:00 am yesterday for a day-long mass fasting to protest against the arrest of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

Many senior AAP leaders, including Delhi Assembly speaker Ram Niwas Goel, deputy speaker Rakhi Bala, ministers Atishi, Gopal Rai and Imran Hussain attended the day-long fast in Delhi.

AAP's Delhi unit convener, Gopal Rai, urged people to join the fast against Kejriwal's detention. He claimed that Kejriwal's arrest by the Enforcement Directorate in connection to the Delhi excise policy-related scam was part of a BJP scheme to eliminate AAP.

Chief minister Bhagwant Mann of AAP-ruled Punjab participated in a fast at the village of Khatkar Kalan.

Haryana AAP chief Sushil Gupta, also observed a day-long fast along with party members at the sacred Brahma Sarovar. Gupta accused the ruling BJP of "adopting a dictatorial attitude".

"The BJP is killing democracy.. Honest people are being put in jail," he said, adding that neither Kejriwal nor the AAP workers are afraid of the "tactics" adopted by the ruling party. "The arrest of two chief ministers (Kejriwal and Jharkhand's Hemant Soren) during the ongoing elections is revealing the true face of the BJP," he added.

## China conducts military drills in South China Sea

AFP, Beijing

China yesterday conducted military "combat patrols" in the disputed South China Sea, its army said, the same day as joint drills by the Philippines, the United States, Japan and Australia. The announcement comes one day after defence chiefs from four countries including the Philippines - which has been engaged in several contentious maritime disputes with Beijing recently - said they would conduct joint drills in the area. Beijing's People's Liberation Army (PLA) Southern Theater Command said it was organising "joint naval and air combat patrols in the South China Sea". "All military activities that mess up the situation in the South China Sea and create hotspots are under control," it said in a statement, in an apparent swipe at the other drills being held in the waters. Further details about the Chinese military activities in the waterway yesterday were not announced. The exercises take place days before US President Joe Biden is due to hold the first trilateral summit with the leaders of the Philippines and Japan. Top US officials have repeatedly declared the United States' "ironclad" commitment to defending the Philippines against an armed attack in the South China Sea - to the consternation of Beijing. China claims territorial sovereignty over nearly all of the South China Sea and has been increasingly assertive in the region in recent years. China's Coast Guard said Saturday it had "handled" a situation on Thursday at a disputed reef where several ships from the Philippines were engaged in "illegal" operations.

## Water level in Russia's Orsk 'critical'

Kremlin warns of more floods; more than 4,500 people evacuated

AFP, Moscow

A major flood in the Russian city of Orsk forced thousands of people to evacuate, with Moscow reporting a "critical" situation yesterday and warning of danger water levels in Siberia. Russia has introduced a "federal emergency" situation in the southern Orenburg region, where the Ural river has flooded Orsk and now threatens the main city of Orenburg.

Torrential rain caused a dam near Orsk, in the southern Urals near Kazakhstan, to burst Friday night, with authorities saying more heavy rainfall will cause water levels to continue to rise. Images showed Orsk almost entirely flooded, with only the top of submerged cars visible. Authorities have said more than 4,500 people have been evacuated from Orsk and that more than 6,500 homes were flooded throughout the Orenburg region. The Kremlin has warned of "nature anomalies" and ordered preparations for expected floods in Siberia's Kurgan and Tyumen regions. While Orsk - a city of 200,000 people - is worst affected by the flooding, water levels on the Ural river were also rising fast in the regional hub of Orenburg, home to some 560,000 residents. "A critical situation has developed in Orsk," Russian Emergency Situations Minister Alexander Kurenkov said while visiting the city. Images published by his ministry showed him going through the flooded city on a boat, passing typical Soviet-era housing blocks where water reached the first floor. He also visited evacuees in temporary housing centres. "Nature does not tolerate mistakes," Kurenkov said. "The flood situation can change rapidly," he warned. Orenburg regional authorities said they expected the "peak" of the flood on April 9 and for the "situation to stabilise after April 20". Russia's weather monitor Rosgidromet said that water levels on the Ural river in the main city of Orenburg will reach dangerous levels over the next three days.



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Memo No. 57.03.5585.031.00.00.24-297 Date: 02/04/2024

**Invitation of e-GP Tender**

Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of Goods and related Services under following Tender ID:

Tender ID	Package No.	Package description	Last selling date and time	Closing date and time	Opening date and time
969577	tsc/rang/3103/013	Supply of Engineering and other equipment under Financial code 4112304	22/04/2024 12:00PM	23/04/2024 12:00PM	23/04/2024 12:00PM
969565	tsc/rang/3103/012	Supply of Furniture under Financial code 4112314	22/04/2024 12:00PM	23/04/2024 12:00PM	23/04/2024 12:00PM
969499	tsc/rang/3103/011	Supply of Raw materials and spare parts under Financial code: 3256105	22/04/2024 12:00PM	23/04/2024 12:00PM	23/04/2024 12:00PM

These are online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender please register on e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

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Memo no: 35.01.8549.467.07.000.24-1081 Date: 07-04-2024

**INVITATION FOR e-GP TENDER**

This is to notify all concerned that e-Tender has been invited in the e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of works. Interested person/Firms can see details by visiting the [www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd).

SL. No	Tender ID No	Tender Ref. No	Description of Works	Tender/Proposal Document Last selling Date & Time	Last Date & time for Tender / Proposal Security Submission	Tender/P proposal Opening Date & Time
1	971879	e-GP-13/EE/RHD/RA NG/LTM/2023-2024	Scarify, mix & recompact with Wearing course work at Ch. 7th(P) & 8th(P) km of Shahebgonj-Haragach Road (Z-5612) under Road Division Rangpur during the fiscal year of 2023-2024.	22-April-2024 within 17:00	23-April-2024 within 13:00	23-April-2024 at 14:00
2	971884	e-GP-14/EE/RHD/RA NG/LTM/2023-2024	Single Bituminous Surface Treatment (SBS7) work at Ch.51st, 52nd, 55th & 56th km of Sundargonj (Gaibandha)-Kodomtoli(pirgacha) Road (Z- 5613), under Road Division, Rangpur during the Fiscal Year 2023-2024.	22-April-2024 within 17:00	23-April-2024 within 13:00	23-April-2024 at 14:00

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