INTERNATIONAL

Israeli strikes kill 20 Palestinians across Gaza Strip **Emergency service says** its operations paused

REUTERS, Cairo

A series of Israeli military strikes across the Gaza Strip killed at least 20 people yesterday, medics said.

Eight people were killed in a strike in the Salateen area of Beit Lahiya in the north, close to where the Gaza health ministry said at least 93 were killed or missing in an Israeli airstrike that struck a multi-floor house on Tuesday.

The United States called that attack "horrifying". There was no immediate Israeli comment on either strike.

Gaza's emergency service said its operations had come to a halt because of the more than three-week Israeli assault into northern Gaza. Israel says its campaign is to destroy Palestinian group Hamas, whose fighters had regrouped to the area in the year-long war.

The Israeli army sent tanks into Beit Lahiya, Beit Hanoun and Jabalia, the largest of Gaza's eight historic camps and the focus of the new military offensive.

Indian minister behind plot to target Sikh separatists Alleges Canada govt

REUTERS, Washington

The Canadian government alleged on Tuesday that Indian Minister of Home Affairs Amit Shah, a close ally of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was behind the plots to target Sikh separatists on Canadian soil.

The Indian government did not immediately respond but has dismissed Canada's prior accusations as baseless, denying any involvement.

The Washington Post newspaper first reported that Canadian officials alleged Shah, considered the number two in the Modi government, was behind a campaign of violence and intimidation targeting Sikh separatists in Canada.

Canadian Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister David Morrison said to a parliamentary panel on Tuesday that he told the US-based newspaper that Shah was behind the plots.

"The journalist called me and asked if it (Shah) was that person. I confirmed was that person," Morrison told the committee, without providing further details or evidence. The High Commission of India in Ottawa and the Indian foreign ministry had no immediate comment.



Smoke rises from the site of an Israeli airstrike that targeted an area in the southern Lebanese village of Khiam yesterday. The Israeli army urged residents of several villages in the Nabatieh area of south Lebanon to leave immediately, warning it was poised to attack Hezbollah targets. PHOTO: AFP

US working on truce to end Lebanon war

Say sources; Hezbollah targets Israeli base in Haifa

AGENCIES

US mediators are working on a proposal to wind down hostilities between Israel's military and Lebanese armed group Hezbollah, beginning with a 60-day ceasefire, two sources with knowledge of the talks told Reuters yesterday.

The push for a ceasefire comes days before the US presidential election and in parallel with a similar diplomatic drive on Gaza.

The sources - a person briefed on the talks and a senior diplomat working on Lebanon said the two-month period would be used to finalise full implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701, adopted in 2006 to keep southern Lebanon free of arms that do not belong to the Lebanese state.

The US Embassy in Lebanon did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Resolution 1701 has been the cornerstone of talks to end the last year of fighting between Israel and Hezbollah, which erupted in parallel with the offensive in Gaza and has dramatically escalated over the last five weeks.

US presidential envoy Amos Hochstein, who is working on the new proposal, told reporters in Beirut earlier this month that better mechanisms for enforcement were needed as neither Israel nor Lebanon had fully implemented the resolution.

"Every day, we lose more species. Every

plastic waste into our oceans, rivers and

lakes. Make no mistake. This is what an

warns delegates at a biodiversity summit in Colombia

minute, we dump a garbage truck of

existential crisis looks like."

UN CHIEF ANTONIO GUTERRES

The senior diplomat and the source briefed on the talks told Reuters that the 60-day truce has replaced a proposal last month by the United States and other countries that envisioned a ceasefire for 21 days as a prelude to 1701 coming into full force.

Meanwhile, Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah group said it launched drones at an



One dead in Israel strike on Hezbollah munitions van

Ceasefire push comes days before US polls

Israeli base in the port city of Haifa yesterday. Separately, the Israeli army urged residents of the east Lebanon city of Baalbek and surrounding villages to leave immediately, warning it was preparing attacks on Hezbollah targets.

A Lebanese security official told AFP that an Israeli strike on a Hezbollah van carrying munitions near Beirut killed the driver

US PRESIDENTIAL RACE Harris lead over **Trump dwindles** to a single point Finds Reuters/ipsos poll

REUTERS, Washington

Kamala Harris' lead over Donald Trump dwindled in the final stretch of the US presidential contest, with the Democrat ahead by a single percentage point over the Republican, 44 percent to 43 percent, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll published on Tuesday.

The three-day poll, completed on Sunday, showed the race effectively tied ahead of the November 5 election. The poll had a margin of error of about three percentage points in either direction.

While Harris has led Trump in every Reuters/Ipsos poll of registered voters since she entered the race in July, her lead has steadily shrunk since late September. A prior Reuters/Ipsos poll conducted October 16-21 showed Harris, the current US vice president, with a two-point lead over former President Trump.

The new poll, which surveyed 1,150 US adults nationwide, including 975 registered voters, showed Trump with significant advantages over Harris on several of the issues voters consider most pressing.

Tuberculosis cases hit record high: WHO

AFP, Geneva

A record 8.2 million new tuberculosis cases were diagnosed worldwide last year, the World Health Organization said -- the highest

number since it began global



TB monitoring in 1995. The WHO said its Global Tuberculosis Report 2024, released Tuesday, highlights "mixed progress in the global fight against TB, with persistent challenges such as significant underfunding".

The disease disproportionately affects people in 30 high-burden countries.

And five countries -- India, Indonesia, China, Philippines and Pakistan -- account for more than half of the global TB burden, with more than a quarter of the cases found in India alone.

While the number of TB-related deaths declined from 1.32 million in 2022 to 1.25 million last year, the total number of people contracting the infectious disease increased from 7.5 million to 8.2 million.

However, not all new cases are diagnosed, and WHO estimates that around 10.8 million people actually contracted the disease last year.

BORDER POINTS India, China complete troop pullback

REUTERS, New Delhi

India and China have completed pulling back their troops from two faceoff points on their disputed Himalayan frontier as planned, an Indian defence official said yesterday.

nuclear-armed The neighbours reached a deal last week on patrolling the frontier in the Indian territory of Ladakh to end a four-year military standoff, paving the way for improved bilateral political and business ties.

The disengagement that began last week has been completed and verification of the process is in progress, the Indian official told Reuters.

Soldiers will exchange sweets in a goodwill gesture on Thursday and will begin their patrols of the frontier soon after commanders



The Indian home ministry directed queries to the foreign ministry.

Canada told India about Shah's alleged role in the plots around October 2023, one Indian government source told Reuters in New Delhi yesterday.

But New Delhi thinks the information is very weak, flimsy and does not expect it to cause any trouble for Shah or the government, the source and another government source said.

vesterday.

on the ground finalise the modalities, he added.





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