

Israel attacks Lebanon crossings with Syria
Seven people killed

AFP, Beirut

Israel conducted strikes on the Syrian border with Lebanon that a war monitor said killed seven people, hours ahead of a ceasefire in the war with Hezbollah.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned Syria's President Bashar al-Assad he was "playing with fire" on Tuesday, as he announced the truce with Lebanese group Hezbollah.

Assad is a key ally and backer of Hezbollah, and Syria has served as the main conduit of weapons for the armed group from Iran to Lebanon.

Hezbollah deployed fighters into Syria during its civil war, and played a key role in propping up Assad's regime during the revolt that erupted in 2011.

The nighttime strikes hit border crossings, killing seven people including two Syrian soldiers, a child and a Syrian Red Crescent volunteer, said Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Syria's defence ministry said earlier that six people were killed in the strikes. Israel has conducted hundreds of strikes on Syria in recent years.

Five key points on Israel-Hezbollah ceasefire deal

AFP, Washington

WHEN DID THE TRUCE BEGIN?
The ceasefire went into effect at 4:00 am local time yesterday in Israel and Lebanon (0200 GMT), at which point "all fire stopped from all parties," the US official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told reporters.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?
Israeli forces will hold their positions, but "a 60-day period will start in which the Lebanese military and security forces will begin their deployment towards the south," the official said.

That will give them time to reach the Israeli positions, at which point Israel can begin a phased withdrawal without any vacuum forming that could see Hezbollah or others rush in, the official explained.

The withdrawal should take no longer than 60 days, the official said. Hezbollah must also withdraw from the southern border with Israel and move further north up the Litani River.

WHAT IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG?
Biden said that the United States, with the support of France and other allies, would "provide the necessary assistance to make sure this deal is implemented fully and effectively."

However, that does not mean US boots on the ground, he said. Instead, "if Hezbollah or anyone else breaks the deal and poses a direct threat to Israel, then Israel retains the right to self-defense consistent with international law," Biden said.

WHAT NEXT FOR LEBANON?
Given that "Hezbollah is extremely weak at this moment, both militarily and politically," the ceasefire presents "the opportunity for Lebanon to reestablish its sovereignty over its territory," the US official said.

WHAT DOES DEAL MEAN FOR GAZA?
The ceasefire in Lebanon could become "a stepping stone towards getting a ceasefire deal in Gaza and bringing the hostages home," the US official said.

In large part that will be because the Palestinian group Hamas will realize that "Hezbollah has decided to abandon them and delink the two conflicts," he said.



Palestinians inspect the damage at the site of an Israeli airstrike in the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza yesterday. US President Joe Biden will launch a renewed drive for a Gaza ceasefire and hostage release deal, now that Israel and Hezbollah have agreed to a truce in Lebanon, his national security adviser said. PHOTO: AFP

15 killed in Israeli strikes on Gaza school: medics

Two sons of a former Hamas spokesman among dead

REUTERS, Cairo

Israeli military strikes across the Gaza Strip killed 15 people yesterday, some of them in a school housing displaced people, medics in Gaza said, adding that the fatalities included two sons of a former Hamas spokesman.

Health officials in the Hamas-run enclave said eight Palestinians were killed and dozens of others wounded in an Israeli strike that hit

the Al-Tabaeen School, which was sheltering displaced families in Gaza City. Among those killed were two sons of former Hamas spokesman, Fawzi Barhoum, according to medics and Barhoum himself.

In the Shejaia suburb of Gaza City, another strike killed four people, while three people were killed in an Israeli air strike in Beit Lahiya on the northern edge of the enclave where army forces have been operating since last month.

Israel's 13-month campaign in Gaza has left at least 44,282 people dead and displaced nearly all the enclave's population at least once, according to Gaza health officials.

Months of attempts to negotiate a ceasefire have yielded scant progress and negotiations are now on hold, with mediator Qatar saying it has told the two warring parties it would suspend its efforts until the sides are prepared to make concessions.

ADANI CASE
India's parliament suspended again in row over US action

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's lower house of parliament suspended proceedings for a second day yesterday after disruptions by lawmakers demanding a discussion of the US indictment of billionaire Gautam Adani, while stocks of his group's companies clawed back some losses.

Last week US authorities accused Adani, his nephew and executive director Sagar Adani and managing director of Adani Green, Vneet S Jaain, of being part of a scheme to pay bribes of \$265 million to secure Indian power supply contracts and misleading US investors.

The ports-to-power conglomerate denied the charges as "baseless" and vowed to seek "all possible legal recourse".

India's opposition, especially the Congress party, accuse Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of shielding Adani.

Parliament proceedings were disrupted for the second day since the winter session began this week, with MPs shouting slogans and demanding discussion of the Adani allegations.

Ban ISKCON, give it no quarter

FROM PAGE 1

Saiful Islam Alif, urging the authorities to apprehend the killers within 24 hours.

Speaking at the event, Sarjis Alam, a member of Jatiya Nagorik Committee and general secretary of July Martyrs Memorial Foundation, said, "General Sanatanis in the country are peace-loving, but the agents of the dictator Hasina are trying to create an unstable situation by inciting ISKCON. However, we won't let that happen as long as we are alive."

Earlier in the day, the student leaders attended the second namaz-e-janaza for Saiful Islam at Jamiatul

Falah Mosque in the port city's Wasa intersection.

In the capital, speaking at a rally in the Central Shahid Minar, Abdul Hannan Masud, chief organiser of the students' platform, alleged ISKCON is working to implement Delhi's agenda in Bangladesh at the instructions of the Awami League President Sheikh Hasina.

"But their plan to pit Hindus and Muslims against each other in this country will never succeed."

He said no conspiracy will be silently tolerated anymore.

"Collaborators of the Awami League are still lurking in many places, trying to destabilise the country in various ways. We have decided that wherever they are found, they will be beaten by the public and handed over to the police."

Umama Fatema, spokesperson for the platform, said that after August 5, Sheikh Hasina's last trump card was an attack on minorities.

"She wanted to portray that an Islamic revolution was taking place in Bangladesh, that Muslims were endangering Hindus, and that Hindus were unsafe in the country. The

entire plot was orchestrated by India."

She alleged that since August 5 the Indian media has been aggressively pushing the minority issue in Bangladesh.

Criticising the interim government for its failure to address the propaganda allegedly spread by India, Umama said, "I believe it was the responsibility of the government to inform the world that India is running a propaganda against Bangladesh through its media.... However, we observed that the government was lenient towards India."

She also said that

Bangladesh's peaceful domestic politics is perceived as a threat to India's pro-Hindu agenda.

"We must remain vigilant in our politics to ensure that neither India nor the Awami League can politicise the minority issue."

Central Coordinator Mahin Sarkar reiterated, "ISKCON is a militant organisation. We demand it be banned.... However, we must not fall into any traps laid by the Awami League. Everyone must remain calm and patient."

‘What kind of Bangladesh is this?’

FROM PAGE 1

Expressing regret, Fakhrul said, "It has only been three months, and already our true nature is beginning to reveal. With this behaviour, success can never be achieved."

Stressing the need for unity, the BNP leader said no problem can be fixed if division and conflict persist in the country.

Expressing deep concern over the "madness that erupted in the name of religion" and recent attacks on media offices, he said, "Despite our long battle for a free and independent press, media offices are being torched now. This is not the Bangladesh we envisioned, at least not the one I want to see."

The BNP secretary general condemned the intimidation of newspapers.

"I strongly condemn the attacks on some newspapers, including the Prothom Alo and The Daily Star. I have fought for press freedom all my life. That is my belief, my trust," Fakhrul said.

Stressing the importance of freedom of expression in a democracy, he said, "What is democracy? You express your opinion, and I may disagree. But I will defend your freedom of expression with my life. That is democracy."

Criticising suppression of dissents, the BNP leader said, "You overthrew a fascist because she was choking us, killing us, silencing us, denying us the right to vote, and

committing murders. Now another one....he can't be allowed to speak...eliminate him. Can a society progress like this?"

"I have been fighting for 14-15 years. I have been jailed many times. I am ready to go to jail again anytime, but I do not want to see this kind of Bangladesh."


"What I believe in, what my party believes in, I will speak the truth even if it costs me my life. I believe in liberal democracy. I believe in people's freedom, freedom of speech, and freedom of voting," he said.

Referring to social media posts calling for arson, Fakhrul warned of further conflicts.

"The madness doesn't end there... Calls for burning and destruction are being made. Can you even imagine where they are leading Bangladesh? Do we recognise the assailant standing behind us with a dagger? Clearly, we do not. If we did, we would not have uttered such irresponsible words," he said.

Pointing at popular faces that are pushing the entire nation towards division and inciting an atmosphere of darkness, the BNP leader said, "I won't name anyone, nor do I want to. But reflect on this -- those driving us toward division, are they our enemies or allies?"

Fakhrul warned the interim government of making confusing statements as they "may create confusion among the people".



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1041131	27.21.0000.767.51.009.24.797; Dated: 24.11.2024	Repair & Maintenance work of Control Building, Extension of water Line, Boundary wall & Protection Slope, Flag Stand & Name Plate at Gopalganj 132/33 kV Grid Substation.
1041134	27.21.0000.767.51.009.24.798; Date:24.11.2024	Repair & Maintenance of IP Camera for different Grid Substations under GMD, Power Grid, Faridpur.
1038823	27.21.0000.767.51.009.24.778; Date:18.11.2024	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 5.0 kWp x 2 Nos. on-grid solar panel system for Faridpur 230/132kV Grid Substation with net metering under GMD, Power Grid, Faridpur.
1038836	27.21.0000.767.51.009.24.780; Date:18.11.2024	Purchase of LED light, light post etc for GMD office and different Sub-station under the GMD, Power Grid, Faridpur.
1038828	27.21.0000.767.51.009.24.779; Date:18.11.2024	Refilling of Expired Fire Extinguisher for all Grid Sub Station and GMD office under GMD, Faridpur.
1038847	27.21.0000.767.51.009.24.781; Date:18.11.2024	Tower Leg maintenance & painting work of different Transmission Line under GMD, Power Grid, Faridpur.

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