

Israel squeezes Jenin camp in West Bank

Palestinians fear Gaza-style clearance

REUTERS, JENIN

Israeli bulldozers have demolished large areas of the now virtually empty Jenin refugee camp and appear to be carving wide roadways through its once-crowded warren of alleyways, echoing tactics already employed in Gaza as troops prepare for a long-term stay.

At least 40,000 Palestinians have left their homes in Jenin and the nearby city of Tulkarm in the northern West Bank since Israel began its operation just a day after reaching a ceasefire agreement in Gaza after 15 months of offensive.

“Jenin is a repeat of what happened in Jabalia,” said Basheer Matahen, spokesperson for the Jenin municipality, referring to the refugee camp in northern Gaza that was cleared out by the Israeli army after weeks of bitter fighting. “The camp has become uninhabitable.”

He said at least 12 bulldozers were at work demolishing houses and infrastructure in the camp, once a crowded township that housed descendants of Palestinians who fled their homes or were driven out in the 1948 war in what Palestinians call the ‘Nakba’ or catastrophe at the start of the state of Israel.

He said army engineering teams could be seen making preparations for a long-term stay, bringing water tanks and generators to a special area of almost one acre in size.

No comment was immediately available from the Israeli military but on Sunday, Defence Minister Israel Katz ordered troops to prepare for “a prolonged stay”, saying the camps had been cleared “for the coming year” and residents would not be allowed to return.

The month-long operation in the northern West Bank has been one of the biggest seen since the Second Intifada uprising by Palestinians more than 20 years ago, involving several brigades of Israeli troops backed by drones, helicopters, and, for the first time in decades, heavy battle tanks. “There is a broad and ongoing evacuation of population, mainly in the two refugee camps, Nur Shams, near to Tulkarm and Jenin,” said Michael Milshtein, a former military intelligence official who heads the Palestinian Studies Forum at the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies.



Two Palestinian boys sit atop a broken sculpture of Jerusalem's Dome of the Rock shrine that was destroyed by Israeli forces during a military raid in Qabatiya, in the north of the occupied West Bank, yesterday.

Weak banks

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macroeconomic instability.

The current account balance has shown improvement due to import restrictions, he said.

Prof Main Uddin, former chairman of the Department of Banking and Insurance at Dhaka University, recommended increasing the number of independent directors at banks and prohibiting bank owners from becoming chairpersons.

Syed Mahbubur Rahman, managing director and CEO of Mutual Trust Bank, highlighted governance issues that emerged in 2017 when “an influential family” took control of Islami Bank Bangladesh.

Fahmida Khatun, executive director of CPD and member of the Task Force, presented the keynote paper.

She recommended ensuring proper loan sanctioning, enforcing single borrower exposure limits, halting loan rescheduling, and appointing administrators at the troubled banks.

She also emphasised protecting the independence of Bangladesh Bank, ending bank bailouts through recapitalisation, and stopping the issuance of licences to new banks.

POLITICAL REFORMS

The concluding session titled, Institutional Governance and the Way Forward, outlined specific reform proposals for the interim government as well as recommendations with timeframes for future political governments.

Presiding over the session, renowned economist Prof Rehman Sobhan urged the taskforce to make recommendations that the interim government could begin to implement.

In his keynote presentation, Syed Akhtar Mahmood, a member of the taskforce, recommended that the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority be designated as the core agency to streamline investment promotion functions.

He also proposed modernising the regulatory framework under a regulatory reform commission and improving public service delivery across all sectors.

Dr Ittekkharuzzaman said if a reform is to take place, be it in the political parties.

Reform proposals will only be successfully implemented if political parties are willing to pursue them, he added.

Political scientist Rounaq Jahan noted that reform initiatives often faltered with changes of political power.

“Oftentimes, the designs of our development projects are based on relationships between donors and implementing agencies, rather than on the actual needs of service recipients. This approach must change,” she said.


Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury, chairman of the Public Administration Reform Commission, and Zonaeed Saki, chief coordinator of Ganasamhati Andolon, were among the speakers at the event. The session was moderated by KAS Murshid, chairman of the taskforce.

Russia praises

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cooperation with the United States on developing Russia’s large reserves of strategically important rare and rare earth minerals.

President Vladimir Putin on Monday evening in a televised interview said that Russia is a world leader in terms of reserves and “needs to do more” with them.

He said Russia is ready to work with “foreign partners including Americans” to develop such reserves in Russia and its “new territories”, referring to areas it has occupied in Ukraine through its military offensive.



Shaheed Monsur Ali Medical College

House-26 & 26/A, Road- 10/B, Uttara, Dhaka-1230
Contact No: 01898763979

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	08. Pediatrics	01	
	09. Psychiatry	01	
	10. Medicine	02	
	11. ENT	01	
	12. Urology	01	
	13. Gastroenterology	01	
Associate Professor	01. Biochemistry	01	1. (a) M.B.B.S from a recognized institution or an equivalent academic qualification as recognised by the B.M.D.C. (b) Registration with the B.M.D.C. AND 2. 03 years teaching experience in the relevant subject as Assistant Professor or as Senior Consultant or in any other equivalent post as recognized by BMDC with any of the following Postgraduate Degree or Diploma in the relevant subject from a recognized Institution or with such other equivalent academic qualification as recognized by BMDC. i. MD, MS, FCPS, FRCS, M.Sc, M.Phil, Ph.D. ii. Diploma in relevant subjects (04 years' experience in case of Diploma). 3. 03 publications in medical journals recognized by BMDC. 4. Not exceeding 45 years by direct recruitment / relaxed in case of departmental candidates.
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	09. Ophthalmology	01	
	10. Orthopedics	01	
	11. Cardiology	01	
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	04. Microbiology	02	
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	06. Pharmacology	01	
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	08. General Surgery	04	
	09. Medicine	01	
	10. Pathology	01	
	11. Anesthesiology	01	
	12. Pediatrics	01	
	13. Obs & Gynae	01	
	14. Ophthalmology	01	
	15. Orthopedics	02	
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	07. Urology	01	
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AIDING IRANIAN OIL SALES

US slaps sanctions on four Indian firms

TNN, New Delhi

The United States has imposed sanctions on four Indian companies citing their alleged role in Iran's petroleum and petrochemical industry. The move, announced by the US department of the treasury on Monday, is part of Washington's continued pressure campaign against Tehran's oil trade.

A press release from the treasury's office of foreign assets control (OFAC), revealed that the US had sanctioned Austinship Management Pvt Ltd, BSM Marine LLP, Cosmos Lines Inc, and Flux Maritime LLP.

These companies have been accused of facilitating the transportation of Iranian petroleum-related products, exposing them to severe restrictions under US law. This marks the second wave of sanctions targeting Iran's oil exports since US President Donald Trump issued

a national security memorandum on February 4, instructing authorities to intensify pressure on the middle eastern country.

As part of this crackdown, over 30 individuals and vessels across multiple countries, including the UAE, China, and Hong Kong—have also been sanctioned.

“Iran continues to rely on a shadowy network of vessels, shippers, and brokers to facilitate its oil sales and fund its destabilising activities,” said US treasury secretary Scott Bessent.

“The United States will use all our available tools to target all aspects of Iran's oil supply chain, and anyone who deals in Iranian oil exposes themselves to significant sanctions risk.”

The US state department has additionally designated eight entities based in India, Iran, Malaysia, Seychelles, and the UAE for their alleged involvement in the trade of Iranian oil.

Saving nature can ‘unite world’

Countries told at rebooted UN talks

AFP, Rome

Global talks to protect nature restarted yesterday with a call for humanity to come together to “sustain life on the planet” and overcome the deep divisions that caused a previous meeting last year to end in disarray.

More than two years after a landmark deal on nature – including a pledge to protect 30 percent of the world's land and seas by 2030 – nations continue to haggle over the money needed to reverse destruction that scientists say threatens a million species.

Negotiators meeting at the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization headquarters in Rome this week are tasked with breaking a deadlock on funding between rich and developing countries that saw COP16 talks in Cali, Colombia break up without agreement in November.

The mission to protect nature “has the power to unite the world”, said COP16 president Susana Muhamad.

“And this is not something small in this very polarised, fragmented, divisive and conflicting geopolitical landscape,” the Colombian environment minister added.

She urged countries “to work again together in a collaborative manner for something that probably is the most important purpose of humanity in the 21st century, which is our collective capacity to sustain life in this planet”.



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info@triunebd.com | www.triunebd.com