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HUNGER IN GAZA 14,000 babies may die in 48 hours

Warns UN; 83 more killed as
Israel eyes 'all of strip'

AGENCIES

At least 14,000 babies in Gaza could die within 48 hours if more aid does not reach the starving communities, the UN warned yesterday, as Israel stepped up its military offensive to take control of "all of the Strip".

Gaza's civil defence agency said Israeli strikes killed at least 83 people yesterday across the war-ravaged Palestinian territory. At least 91 people were killed on Monday.

However, in a sign that Israel's friends' patience on the more than 20-month-long military carnage in Gaza is beginning to wear thin, the UK government yesterday paused free trade negotiations with Israel and slapped new sanctions on West Bank settlers.

Foreign Secretary David Lammy also announced his ministry was summoning the Israeli ambassador over Israel's expansion of its military operations in the occupied Palestinian territory.

"There are 14,000 babies that will die in the next 48 hours unless we can reach them," UN humanitarian chief Tom Fletcher said while speaking to the BBC's Radio 4 Today programme.

He said five aid trucks entered Gaza on Monday, a "drop in the ocean" after an 11-week blockade by Israel, and were yet to reach the communities in need.

The aid was allowed to enter Gaza following widespread condemnation of Israel's total blockade.

The World Health Organization said that Gaza's "two million people are starving".

The developments came after Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu on Monday vowed to take control of "all areas of the Strip".

Netanyahu also said it was necessary for Israel to prevent a famine in Gaza for "diplomatic reasons", after his government announced it would allow limited food aid into the territory.

He said aid had resumed because "images of mass starvation" could harm the legitimacy of the war effort.

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- UK pauses trade talks with Israel, summons envoy
- WHO says two million in Gaza starving
- UN says extended Israeli offensive may leave Gaza 'unlivable'
- Netanyahu says 'images of mass starvation' can harm Israel's war



Mourners carry the bodies of Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes from Al-Ahli Arab Baptist hospital for their funeral in Gaza City yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

PUSH FOR MAKING ISHRAQUE MAYER DSCC workers threaten strike

Half of Dhaka faces disruption in
garbage collection, mosquito
control, street lamp services

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nearly half of Dhaka city is likely to see disruptions in garbage collection, mosquito control and even street lamps as five employee unions of Dhaka South City Corporation are set to go on strike unless BNPL leader Ishraque Hossain is pronounced mayor by 10:00am today.

The unions, expressing solidarity with Ishraque supporters, issued the ultimatum at Nagar Bhaban yesterday.

"We tell the government: Make arrangements for Ishraque Hossain to assume the mayoral office immediately. Otherwise, we will bring Dhaka to a standstill. You can't even imagine what we are capable of doing," said Arif Chowdhury, president of the DSCC Workers' Employees Union, at a demonstration.

The other associations expressing solidarity with the strike are DSCC Employees' Union, Scavengers and Workers' Union, Transport Drivers and Workers' Union, Electricity Workers' Social Welfare Committee and 4th Class Workers' Social Welfare Committee.

"If our demand is not fulfilled, we will halt all civic services -- from waste collection and cleaning operations to electricity-related services," Arif said.

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