

Gaza ‘spiralling into irreversible collapse’

Warn aid agencies; 34 Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes, including 17 aid seekers

AGENCIES

Gaza is “spiralling into an irreversible humanitarian collapse”, UN aid agencies warned, as 34 Palestinians were killed in Israeli attacks across Gaza since dawn yesterday, including 17 aid seekers.

Two of the three famine thresholds have already been breached in Gaza, aid agencies reported, as the humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate catastrophically.

Hospitals in the Palestinian enclave recorded six new deaths from famine and malnutrition in the past 24 hours, including one child, according to the Gaza health ministry.

The Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has called on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to “assume its responsibilities” by enforcing an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and conducting an official visit to the territory.

In a statement posted on social media, the ministry urged the council to “halt the crimes of genocide, displacement,

22,000 aid trucks waiting outside the Gaza Strip

Hamas to allow aid for hostages if Israel halts strikes

Palestinian foreign ministry urges UNSC to ‘halt genocide’

and annexation against our people” and to implement the outcomes of a recent UN conference calling for a two-state solution.

Authorities in Gaza said more than 22,000 humanitarian aid trucks are waiting outside the Strip, as an average of 84 trucks have entered the besieged enclave since Israel somewhat eased restrictions on July 27.

Meanwhile, Hamas said on Sunday it was prepared to coordinate with the Red Cross to deliver aid to hostages it holds in Gaza, if Israel meets certain conditions, after a video it released showing an emaciated captive drew sharp criticism from Western powers.

In a separate development, a group of 600 retired Israeli security officials have written to US President Donald Trump to pressure Israel to immediately end the war.



Taliban personnel stand guard as Afghans deported from Iran await food aid in Herat, Afghanistan, yesterday. On Friday, Pakistan issued a renewed call for Afghans living in the southwest to leave the country, prompting thousands to rush to the border, officials said.

PHOTO: AFP

76 migrants die as boat sinks off Yemen

Dozens missing; 32 rescued from the shipwreck

AFP, Dubai

At least 76 people have been killed and dozens are missing after a boat carrying mostly Ethiopian migrants sank off Yemen, in the latest tragedy on the perilous sea route, officials said yesterday.

Yemeni security officials said 76 bodies had been recovered and 32 people rescued from the shipwreck in the Gulf of Aden. The UN’s migration agency said 157 people were on board.

The accident occurred off Abyan governorate in southern Yemen, a frequent destination for boats smuggling African migrants hoping to reach the wealthy Gulf states.

Some of those rescued have been transferred to Yemen’s Aden, near Abyan, a security official said.

UN agency the International Organization for Migration earlier gave a toll of at least 68 dead.

The IOM’s country chief of mission, Abdussator Esoev, told AFP that “the fate of the missing is still unknown.”

Despite the civil war that has ravaged Yemen since 2014, the impoverished country has remained a key transit point for irregular migration, in particular from Ethiopia which itself has been roiled by ethnic conflict.

Saudi Arabia executions soar to 17 in three days

AFP, Dubai

Saudi authorities put two people to death yesterday to reach 17 in three days, state media said, as the conservative kingdom accelerated towards a record number of executions this year.

Two Saudis were executed for “terrorist crimes”, the official Saudi Press Agency said, after 15 people, mostly foreigners, were put to death for drug offences on Saturday and Sunday.

It is the quickest pace of capital punishment since March 2022, when 81 people were executed in a single day for terrorism-related offences, sparking widespread condemnation.

Thirteen of those put to death on Saturday and Sunday were convicted of smuggling hashish, and another for smuggling cocaine.

Saudi Arabia, one of the world’s most prolific users of the death penalty, has carried out 239 executions so far this year.

The conservative country is on course to outstrip last year’s 338 – the highest since public records first documented the cases in the early 1990s.

India financing Russia’s war in Ukraine

Says top Trump aide Miller as Delhi purchases oil from Moscow

REUTERS, Washington

A top aide to President Donald Trump on Sunday accused India of effectively financing Russia’s war in Ukraine by purchasing oil from Moscow, after the US leader escalated pressure on New Delhi to stop buying Russian oil.

“What he (Trump) said very clearly is that it is not acceptable for India to continue financing this war by purchasing the oil from Russia,” said Stephen Miller, deputy chief of staff at the White House and one of Trump’s most influential aides.

Miller’s criticism was some of the strongest yet by the Trump administration about one of the United States’ major partners in the Indo-Pacific.

“People will be shocked to learn that India is basically tied with China in purchasing Russian oil. That’s an astonishing fact,” Miller said on Fox News’ “Sunday Morning Futures.”

The Indian Embassy in Washington did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Indian government sources told Reuters on Saturday that New Delhi will keep purchasing oil from Moscow despite US threats. A 25 percent tariff on Indian products went into effect on Friday as a result of its purchase of military equipment and energy from Russia.



SOUTH CHINA SEA Philippine, Indian navies begin first joint patrols

AFP, Manila

Indian Navy warships have begun patrolling areas of the disputed South China Sea with their Philippine counterparts for the first time, Manila’s military said yesterday, as President Ferdinand Marcos departed for a state visit to New Delhi.

The two-day sail includes three Indian vessels and started Sunday, a day before Marcos left on a trip that will include talks with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Philippines has heightened defence cooperation with a range of allies over the past year after a series of clashes in the South China Sea.

Beijing claims nearly the entirety of the waterway despite an international ruling that its assertion has no legal basis. India’s naval vessels, including the guided missile destroyer INS Delhi, arrived in Manila for a port visit late last week.

The patrol “started yesterday afternoon, then it’s ongoing up to this moment... the activity at the moment is replenishment at sea,” Lieutenant Colonel John Paul Salgado told AFP.

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S Korea removing loudspeakers on border with North

AFP, Seoul

South Korea said yesterday it was removing loudspeakers used to blare K-pop and news reports to the North, as the new administration in Seoul tries to ease tensions with its bellicose neighbour.

The nations, still technically at war, had already halted propaganda broadcasts along the demilitarised zone, Seoul’s military said in June.

It said in June that Pyongyang stopped transmitting bizarre, unsettling noises along the border that had become a major nuisance for South Korean locals, a day after the South’s loudspeakers fell silent.

“Starting today, the military has begun removing the loudspeakers,” Lee Kyung-ho, spokesman of the South’s defence ministry, said yesterday. “It is a practical measure aimed at helping ease tensions with the North, provided that such actions do not compromise the military’s state of readiness,” he said.



Spain breaks up ring smuggling Yemenis to UK, Canada

AFP, Madrid

Spanish police said yesterday they have dismantled a criminal network suspected of smuggling mainly Yemeni migrants into UK and Canada with fake passports.

After obtaining refugee documents in Greece, the migrants went to European airports where gang members would deliver them counterfeit passports to allow them to “irregularly” go to the two countries, police said. The group allegedly facilitated more than 40 irregular migration attempts, charging up to 3,000 (\$3,250) per person. Authorities in Austria, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Switzerland and Britain helped the investigation.

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