Gaza malnutrition gains fragile as supplies halt: UN

Israel cites tax dispute between local merchants and Hamas

REUTERS, *Geneva*

Gains in tackling malnutrition in Gaza remain fragile and could be undermined by disruptions to supplies entering the Palestinian enclave, the UN children's agency Unicef said yesterday, urging that all crossings remain open.

Israel said on Wednesday commercial goods were no longer entering Gaza because of what it described as a dispute over taxes between local merchants and Hamas.

That has cut off a vital source of food and other goods in a territory where most depend on humanitarian assistance after three years of war, repeated displacement and stringent Israeli restrictions on aid deliveries.

Although the ceasefire has improved aid access and reduced large-scale fighting, humanitarian agencies say ongoing strikes, continued displacement and widespread destruction have left civilians highly vulnerable.

Speaking to reporters in Geneva, Unicef spokesperson Ricardo Pires said the flow of both commercial and humanitarian supplies must remain predictable and continuous.

"The impact on children obviously will be felt if this situation is not resolved," he said. "We can't go back to a situation where children and families are not getting all the supplies, goods, and services that they require."

A new Unicef report published yesterday found that while the ceasefire since October has allowed more humanitarian aid and commercial supplies to enter, acute malnutrition remains a risk. The report said progress in pushing back the threat of famine, confirmed by a global food security monitor in August last year, had been achieved through a scaled-up food and nutrition response, the easing of restrictions on the entry of food and nutrition supplies, and the ceasefire.



Firefighters douse a burnt car with water after Israeli settlers attacked Palestinians harvesting olives near Turmus Ayya in the Israeli-occupied West Bank yesterday. About 80 settlers, some carrying gas canisters, descended from a hill overlooking a terraced olive grove where villagers from Abu Falah had gathered to pick ripe olives, a cherished annual tradition in Palestinian life, witnesses said. PHOTO: **REUTERS**

Russia's stance a 'parody' of peace negotiations

Zelensky blasts Trump's diesel deal as EU leaders rally around him at Brussels summit; report says Kyiv running out of interceptor missiles

REUTERS, *Brussels*

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky yesterday took aim at US President Donald Trump's diesel deal with Russia and welcomed the prospect of European allies stepping up their role in talks, calling Moscow's stance a "parody" of peace negotiations.

At a European Union summit in Brussels, Zelensky said Russia did not want peace. He added that Ukraine was still experiencing disruptions to the SpaceX Starshield satellite system used for battlefield operations and to down Russian drones attacking cities far from the frontline.

EU leaders rallied around Zelensky after Trump again criticised Ukraine, calling its strikes on Russian refineries a "disgrace". On arriving at the summit, Zelensky pointedly referred to his counterparts there as "real leaders".

The EU is hosting Zelensky at one of the most difficult moments for Ukraine, with missiles and drones raining down on Ukrainian cities and fears that the US could pull back intelligence sharing and weapons support from Kyiv.

On the eve of Zelensky's appearance at the summit, Russia also moved to place local assets of French, German, Swedish and Dutch companies under temporary management, in retaliation for the EU's support for Ukraine, reports Reuters.



Russian drones kill **3** in Kharkiv, cut power to hundreds of thousands

Ukrainian attacks kill two in Russian-held Luhansk region

Russia moves on local assets of more European firms

Meanwhile, two civilians were killed as a result of Ukrainian attacks on the Russian-controlled Luhansk region in eastern Ukraine in the past 24 hours, the region's Russian-installed governor Leonid Pasechnik said yesterday.

Russian drones killed at least three people across Ukraine early yesterday, hit two shopping centres and knocked out power to around 370,000 in the northwest after strikes on the energy grid, officials said.

Ukraine has run out of missiles for the US-made Patriot air defense system, leaving it more vulnerable to Russian ballistic missile attacks, a source familiar with the situation told CNN on Thursday. The source told CNN that "almost all the ballistic missiles from the last strike were not intercepted due to lack of the (interceptor) missiles."

SCAM HUBS, RARE EARTHS

US holds more secret talks with Myanmar rulers: sources

REUTERS, *Washington*

The US and Myanmar's military-backed government held talks in Tokyo last week, people familiar with the matter said, their second meeting in a month as Washington steps up re-engagement with the generals it shunned after their 2021 coup.

Earlier talks in Myanmar's capital Naypyitaw in mid-September focused on securing the release of an American businessman and shutting down scam centers that target Americans, but could pave the way for broader discussions, including on Myanmar's rare-earth mineral deposits, Reuters previously reported.

It was not immediately clear exactly what the two sides discussed at last week's talks, disclosed to Reuters by three people with knowledge of the engagement. The people, including one US official, all requested anonymity because of the sensitivity of the meeting.

US Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research Michael Vance again led the Tokyo talks, which involved more than a dozen US officials, one of the people said. Reuters could not establish who represented Myanmar.

The State Department did not respond to a request for comment on the latest talks, but says it engages with all □groups in Myanmar on issues affecting US interests. A spokesperson for Myanmar's military-backed government did not respond to a request for comment.

Asked about its role in hosting the talks, Japan's Foreign Ministry said in an emailed statement it had been "communicating as necessary" with both sides but declined to comment on specific diplomatic exchanges.

Last month's meeting in Naypyitaw between Vance and Myanmar's coup leader-turned-president, Min Aung Hlaing, provided an opening for broader discussions, people familiar with those talks previously told Reuters. The quick return to the negotiating table in Tokyo suggests both sides are keen to keep the dialogue going.

A major focus of the US push is securing Myanmar's help in shutting down scam hubs that run romance and other frauds and have swindled Americans out of billions of dollars, the people said.

Researchers say many scam operations are based in areas controlled by army-backed militia, with some proceeds flowing to the military, raising doubts about whether Myanmar's leaders are serious about enforcement.

12 people die as migrant boat sinks off Gambia

AFP, *Banjul*

Rescuers have recovered 12 bodies after a boat transporting migrants sank off the coast of Gambia, with an unknown number still missing, the Red Cross said.

The boat had set sail from the village of Jinack Kajata, which sits on an Atlantic island that residents say has become a frequent departure point for migrants trying to reach Spain's Canary Islands.

The long journey from west Africa is extremely dangerous due to strong currents and the often ramshackle, overloaded vessels used.

"The number of missing remains unclear. Further information is expected as rescue operations continue," the Gambia Red Cross Society said Thursday.

The latest incident follows another deadly sinking off Jinack Kajata in December 2025. The recent implementation of tighter patrols off Morocco, Mauritania and Senegal has forced migrants farther south in their attempts to reach Europe -- lengthening the dangerous journey.

IN BRIEF



Three children, teacher killed in Oregon shooting

AFP, *Los Angeles*

Three children and one teacher were shot dead at an elementary school Thursday in the northwestern US state of Oregon, police said, adding that the assailant was a 16-year-old who was killed by an armed bystander.

Another child and a teacher were being treated for critical injuries after the shooting at Silver Rail Elementary school in Bend.

Mike Krantz, police chief of Bend, told journalists that the department first learned of an active shooter after a call from a person who reported being shot at multiple times by a person carrying a long gun.

Dozens of emergency calls then reported that a shooter had entered the school and all law enforcement in the area were called to the scene, Krantz said.

Stop subsidising production of fossil fuels

UN chief urges govts

AFP, *Paris*

UN chief Antonio Guterres yesterday urged governments to stop subsidising the production of fossil fuels that are "boiling our planet and are the scourge of biodiversity".

"Subsidising fossil fuels is subsidising suicide. They are boiling our planet and are the scourge of biodiversity."

Addressing leaders in Armenia ahead of next week's UN biodiversity summit, Guterres said governments were still "spending money on the wrong things" and singled out incentives for fossil fuels.

"Subsidising fossil fuels is subsidising suicide," Guterres said at an event in Yerevan.

"They are boiling our planet and are the scourge of biodiversity. I urge governments everywhere to end these handouts once and for all, and to use the savings for people and planet instead."

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director
Jamuna Rail Bridge Project
Bangladesh Railway, Railbhaban, Dhaka.

No. 54.01.0000.630.07.398.26-10113 Date: 15 October 2026.

Corrigendum-02 to Invitation for Bid (IFB)

The following corrigendum to invittation for Bid (IFB) against Reference No. 54.01.0000.630.07.398.26-9982 dated 13.08.2026 for Package No. WD5: Construction of Internal Roads, Drains and Related Works near Soydabad Station Area under Jamuna Rail Bridge Project' is hereby issued as under:

Sl No.	Ref. No.	As in IFB	As per Corrigendum Notice
1.	SI. 5	The Bidding Document may be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address above during office hours until 4:00 PM, 04 October 2026 and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of BDT 20,000 (Bangladeshi Taka Twenty Thousand only) by cash	The Bidding Document may be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address above dunng office hours until 4:00 PM, 26 October 2026 and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of BDT 20,000 (Bangladeshi Taka Twenty Thousand only) by cash
2.	SI. 6	Bids must be delivered to the address above on or before 11:00 AM local time on 05 October 2026 and must be accompanied by a Bid Security of BDT 4,000,000 (Bangladeshi Taka Four Million only) in favor of FA&CAO (Project), Bangladesh Railway, Kamalapur, Dhaka.	Bids must be delivered to the address above on or before 11:00 AM local time on 27 October 2026 and must be accompanied by a Bid Security of BDT 4,000,000 (Bangladeshi Taka Four Million only) in favor of FA&CAO (Project), Bangladesh Railway, Kamalapur, Dhaka.

Other terms and conditions of the IFB will remain unchanged. The above corrigendum shall be part and parcel of the Bid Document.

15/10/26
(Al Fattah Md. Masudur Rahaman)
Project Director
Jamuna Rail Bridge Project

GD-2527