

Israel-Hamas war: Latest toll shows 28,176 dead in Gaza Strip

The ministry officials also said a total of 67,784 Palestinians were injured in the Israeli campaign that has now been ongoing for over four months

GAZA: With 112 Palestinians killed in the last 24 hours, the Gaza Strip death toll has now reached 28,176, according to the Hamasrun Health Ministry.

The ministry officials also said a total of 67,784 Palestinians were

injured in the Israeli campaign that has now been ongoing for over four months. Around half of Gaza's 2.3 million inhabitants are minors, and Hamas claims that most of the casualties in the war are women and children.

EU diplomat Borrell speaks out against Israeli operation in Rafah

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell warned that an Israeli offensive on Rafah "would lead to an unspeakable humanitarian catastrophe and grave tensions with Egypt." "Resuming negotiations to free hostages and suspend hostilities is the only way to avert a bloodshed," Borrell posted on X, formerly known as Twitter. British Foreign Secretary David Cameron also said he was "deeply concerned about the prospect of a military offensive in Rafah." "The priority must be an immediate pause in the fighting to get aid in and hostages out," Cameron wrote. - w



TERRORIST ACT

Three Emirati troops, Bahraini officer killed in Somalia attack

MOGADISHU: Three soldiers of the United Arab Emirates and a Bahraini officer were killed in an attack in Somalia while on a mission to train Somali armed forces, UAE's Defence Ministry said in a statement on Saturday.

The soldiers were "exposed to a terrorist act" while "performing their work duties in training and qualifying the Somali Armed Forces," the ministry wrote on social media platform X., formerly

The attack took place at a military base in the Somali capital, Mogadishu, according to reports.

Two other people were injured in the attack, the ministry added, without giving any further information.

The UAE "continues to coordinate and cooperate with the Somali government in investigating the sinful terrorist act," the ministry statement said.

Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud "sent his condolences to the people and Government of the United Arab Emirates" in a statement to Somali state media SONNA. "I condemn to the worst terms the incident that took the lives of the UAE officers who sacrificed their time and lives to liberate and rebuild our country," Mohamud said. - ww

Russian ambassador advocates permanent seat for India at the United Nations Security Council

NEW DELHI: The Russian ambassador to India, Denis Alipov, on Saturday called for urgent reforms of the United Nations and agencies under it while making a strong case for the inclusion of India as a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

'We are of the view that India as a permanent member of the Security Council could make a significant contribution to promoting balance as well as an agenda focused on the interests of the world majority, primarily the countries of the Global South," the Russian envoy said.

In an interview with the RT news agency, the Russian envoy added, "We have repeatedly indicated our support for New Delhi's candidacy. Our Indian partners have proven themselves worthy during their non-permanent membership in the UNSC in 2021-2022 and have successfully led the Council twice. Their G20 presidency was also a clear confirmation of their high professionalism in multilateral diplomacy and the ability to find consensus amid growing geopolitical tensions."

On the alleged polarisation at the UN, the envoy said it significantly complicates the expansion of security council, adding that the West already has an overrepresentation at the world body.

"Polarisation at the UN significantly complicates dialogue on



expanding the Security Council, in which the West is already disproportionately 'overrepresented'. Against this background, we are doubtful of the vigorously promoted applications of new Western candidates," Alipov said.

"At the same time, it is widely recognised that bringing the composition of the UN Security Council in to line with modern realities, bearing in mind the wellfounded aspirations of India and

other reputable contenders from Asia, Africa and Latin America for permanent membership, is long overdue. In this respect we value the broadest possible consensus," the Russian ambassador to India

Calling the growing trade ties and economic and bilateral relations with India as 'unprecedented', the Russian envoy said, "Our trade and economic cooperation has reached an unprecedented

level. Russia is one of India's four main trading partners. We maintain a leading position in the supply of hydrocarbons providing more than a third of Indian imports.

"Supplies of mineral fertilizers and products of the agricultural and diamond sectors are growing. All this creates a favorable atmosphere for our mutually beneficial cooperation to achieve new heights and strengthens the feel-

ing of mutual trust in the business environment," he added.

India and Russia have maintained a robust strategic partnership, rooted in historical ties and shared interests, over decades. Central to this relationship is extensive defence cooperation, with Russia serving as a major supplier of military equipment to India and both nations engaging in joint military exercises, co-development of advanced military platforms, and technology transfers, according to the Russian news agency.

More recently, energy collaboration has become another strong pillar of bilateral ties. The Kudankulam nuclear power plant (KNPP), India's largest, is being built in Tamil Nadu with technical assistance provided by Moscow.

Russia's expertise in nuclear technology has been instrumental in advancing India's capabilities, fostering a mutually beneficial partnership, according to RT. The two countries have pledged to deepen their nuclear cooperation, recognising its strategic importance for energy security and technological advancement.

Over the past 18 months, India has emerged as one of the largest importers of Russian oil--a stand New Delhi has had to defend on many occasions from accusations by Western media, and even some political leaders, of funding 'Russia's war' with Ukraine. - ANI

HEALTH CARE PROBLEM

German women demand better access to fertility treatment

FRANKFURT: "It was one of the most harrowing moments of my life," said Marriette, about the moment she was told that conceiving without medical intervention likely would not happen for her. "I sat on the floor and cried for six hours in my best friends' apartment with them and their baby."

In her early 30s, Marriette had an operation to remove cysts on both her ovaries. Unbeknownst to her at the time, this resulted in a depleted egg reserve. Newly single after a breakup, at the age of 36 Marriette started having hot flashes and was diagnosed with premature ovarian insufficiency and already in perimenopause. What began next has been what

she calls a "shockingly unjust" fight to conceive as a single woman in Germany, where the cost of infertility treatment is only covered for married couples, who get 50% of the costs for a maximum of three rounds of treatment paid for by health insurers.

"My first fertility doctor told me to just go out and sleep with lots of people," explained Marriette. "It just feels very unjust. I can't believe that after paying health insurance and taxes here for 18 years, for my health care problem, the solution depends on whether I'm married or not."

Since beginning fertility treatment two years ago, Marriette has had to pay for everything herself: for every injection and drug, every ultrasound and blood test, even for



letter she received from a fertility

A syringe full of anesthetic

She remembered one incident in particular when she was in a surgical gown waiting for surgery and the anesthesiologist approached her with a syringe full of anesthetic and a credit card machine. "He told me he would also accept cash," Marriette recalled. "I just can't believe that's the

The experience has been grueling. Suffering from burnout after working three jobs and repeated failed attempts to conceive, Mar-

the cost of a postage stamp for a time off work and reevaluate her

"Those last six months basically broke me," she said. "I had nothing to show for all this pain, anguish and hard work. Not only have I got nothing to show for it, I'm in €13,000 (\$14,000) of debt and now on antidepressants."

Most outdated laws

Germany has one of the oldest and most outdated laws on fertility in Europe, according to Fertility Europe, a pan-European NGO representing patients' associations dedicated to infertility.

Under the federalised healthcare system, some states do offer riette was eventually forced to take subsidies for same-sex and un-

married couples, but that is the exception rather than the rule. Egg donation and surrogacy are both forbidden in Germany.

"In Germany, less than 3% of babies are born through [assisted fertility treatments]. In Croatia, that number is 5% and 10% in Denmark," Klaudija Kordic, the chair of Fertility Europe, told DW.

"What you are doing here is stopping potential parents from having children because they can't afford it, or they feel embarrassed because it's not paid for them,

there must be something wrong." Germany scores a "medium" 69%, on a par with Austria, Bulgaria, Italy, Latvia and North Macedonia, on Fertility Europe's atlas ranking of fertility treatment policies on a scale from excellent to exceptionally poor. Only Belgium, France, Israel and the Netherlands

rank as excellent. Many countries in Europe complain about the low birth rates, but there isn't enough long-term planning to support the people who want to have children," said Anita Fincham, head of advocacy at Fertility Europe.

She said the regulations in Germany are discriminatory and that those who can afford it go abroad. Others resort to unsafe practices without medical supervision.

"I'm kind of surprised but also not surprised that people still go to Ukraine where there is a war, but you can still get surrogacy there," Fincham said. - ww

Finland starts final round of presidential election

the Finnish presidential election started on Sunday morning, with voters casting their ballots at 9am local time (0700GMT).

The Finns will choose between the presidential candidate for the National Coalition and former Prime Minister Alexander Stubb,

Date: 07 February 2024

HELSINKI: The final round of and the independent Green candidate, former Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto. Most opinion polls have indicated a slight lead for Stubb. Forty-six percent of Finnish citizens residing in Finland voted in advance. Experts say the total turnout may reach 75 percent. - xinhua

PUBLIC NOTICE - 2 Punj Lloyd Limited - in Liquidation

In continuance to the public notice issued by Punj Lloyd Limited on 23 January 2024, this is to inform the general public that Punj Lloyd Limited, having its registered office at Punj Lloyd House 17-18 Nehru Place, New Delhi, India, and its Muscat branch (CR No. 1747681) office Near Kitna Village, Al-Buraimi, Sultanate of Oman, is the sole and absolute owner of the equipment kept at the aforementioned campsite in Oman ("Assets") majorly comprising of Construction related equipment etc.

It has come to our notice that some unscrupulous persons or companies are trying to sell or transfer Assets by making false and fraudulent claims of ownership or authority over the said Assets. We hereby bring it to the notice of and request the public not to purchase or deal with the above-mentioned assets in any manner from any person or company other than Punj Lloyd Limited, as they have no right or title over the assets. It is clarified for abundant caution that Puni Lloyd Limited is the sole and absolute owner of the Assets and any person or company who purchases or deals with the assets from any person or company other than Punj Lloyd Limited shall do so at their own risk and peril, and shall be liable for legal action, cancellation of contract, forfeiture of payment, and other remedies available under the law

This notice shall remain in force unless revoked or modified by Puni Lloyd Limited. Please feel free to contact Mr. Ashwini Mehra at LQ.PUNJ@in.gt.com or Mehra.ashwini@gmail.com in case any further clarification is required

> Ashwini Mehra Liquidator

(Regn No. IBBI/IPA-001/IP-P00388/2017-18/10706) Punj Lloyd Limited - in Liquidation Authorization for Assignment valid till - 23 March 2024 Correspondence Address: Mr. Ashwini Mehra, Liquidator

Punj Lloyd Limited C/O Mr. Surendra Raj Gang, GT Restructuring Services LLP