

Israel launches major military op in W Bank

Hamas Says 10 Fighters Killed, Calls Raid Part Of War Expansion

Al-Faraa Refugee Camp

(West Bank): Israeli forces launched a large operation in the occupied West Bank overnight and into Wednesday, killing at least 10 Hamas militants, carrying out arrests and sealing off the volatile city of Jenin. The ongoing operation was among the largest in West Bank in months, and a reminder that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict extends far beyond the war in Gaza. Israel says it is rooting out militants to prevent attacks, while Palestinians fear it intends to broaden the war and expel them from territories they want for a future state.

Lt Col Nadav Shoshani, an Israeli military spokesman, said "large forces" had entered Jenin, long a militant stronghold, as well as Tulkarem and Al-Faraa refugee camp dating back to the 1948 Mideast war, all in northern West Bank. He said Israeli forces killed three militants in an airstrike in Tulkarem and four in an airstrike in Al-Faraa. He said another five militants were arrested, and that the raids were the first stage of an even larger operation.

Four Palestinians were killed by Israeli fire in Jenin, said Palestinian officials.

Hamas said 10 of its fighters



A boy raises his hand during a raid in Jenin on Wednesday. Israel said the operation is aimed at rooting out militants to prevent attacks on its citizens

US sanctions Israeli settlers for violence

The US imposed sanctions on an Israeli nonprofit and a Jewish West Bank settlement security official Wednesday in Washington's latest effort to punish Jewish settlers it accuses of extremist violence against Palestinians. The sanctions were announced on the same day Israel launched an attack on West Bank, despite warnings by Prez Biden's admin against expanding the war in Gaza. REUTERS

ters had been killed, including three of the four men killed in Jenin. It was not clear if the fourth was also a fighter.

Governor of Jenin, Kamal Abu al-Rub, said Israeli forces had surrounded the city, blocking exit and entry points and access to hospitals, and ripping up the infrastructure.

Israeli foreign minister Israel Katz drew comparisons

with Gaza, saying, "We must deal with the threat just as we deal with the terrorist infrastructure in Gaza. This is a war in every respect, and we must win it." He said there was no plan to evacuate the civilians.

A spokesman for Palestinian Authority Prez Mahmoud Abbas condemned the raids as a "serious escalation" and called on the US to intervene. AP

At ₹28.6k cr, govt to set up 12 industrial cities

Biggest One In Maha; At Least 8 In NDA States

New Delhi: In a bid to create plug-and-play infrastructure for industry to set up factories, the cabinet committee on economic affairs Wednesday cleared 12 new industrial cities with an investment of Rs 28,600 crore, with the largest one, spread over 6,000 acre, to come up near Dighi port in poll-bound Maharashtra.

At least three of these proposed cities are in states governed by NDA allies: Gaya in Bihar, and Orvakal & Kopparchy in Andhra. Another two are in BJP-governed UP (Agra, Prayagraj), besides in Uttarakhand (Khurpia), and Rajasthan (Jodhpur Pali Marwar). **TNN**

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Have to deliver on guarantees: PM to mantris

Chairing the first meeting of the council of ministers in his third term, PM Modi on Wednesday told his colleagues that “counting on them, he has given a guarantee” to people to continue development work in the next five years with the same speed, sources said. Presentations were made by different groups of secretaries on the roadmap for the next five years and for meeting the 2047 target of making India a developed nation. At the first web-based ‘Pragati’ meeting with secretaries and chief secretaries, he asked them to shed the “sarkari mindset” of moving files at their own pace. **P 16**

In big step towards nuke triad, India set to commission 2nd N-sub today

'Boat Much More Capable, Stealthy Than INS Arihant'

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New Delhi: India will commission its second nuclear-powered submarine with nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles as INS Arighat on Thursday, in a major step towards further strengthening its strategic deterrence capabilities.

The commissioning of the almost 112-metre-long submarine, armed with K-15 missiles that have a strike range of 750-km, will take place at the secretive ship-building centre in Visakhapatnam in the presence of defence minister Rajnath



WATER POWER

Singh and top national security and military officials.

TOI was the first to report on Aug 11 that INS Arighat's commissioning was now imminent after the 6,000-tonne boat became "fully ready" following protracted extensive trials and technological upgrades.

INS Arighat will now join her forerunner INS Arihant, which became fully operational in 2018, to strengthen the country's 'nuclear triad' or the capability to fire nukes from the land, air and sea.

"While INS Arighat is of the same size, length and displacement as INS Arihant, she can carry more K-15 missiles. The new boat is much more capable, efficient and stealthy," a source said.

Both INS Arihant and INS Arighat are powered by 83 MW pressurised light-water reactors at their core. The miniature nuclear reactors fitted in their hulls ensure they can stay submerged for months on end, unlike conventional diesel-electric submarines that must surface or "snorkel" every couple of days to get oxygen to re-

charge their batteries.

The real punch in India's deterrence capabilities will come when the third SSBN (naval parlance for nuclear-propelled submarines with nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles), a slightly larger 7,000-tonne vessel, is commissioned next year. To be called INS Aridhaman, she will carry K-4 missiles that can hit targets 3,500-km away.

A fourth SSBN is also being constructed under the classified Rs 90,000 crore advanced technology vessel (ATV) project to bolster the country's weak sea-based leg of the nuclear triad.

SSBNs are crucial for deterrence because they are difficult to detect and can escape a surprise first strike by an enemy to launch retaliatory strikes.

Bangladesh's interim Govt lifts ban on Jamaat-e-Islami

■ By Anisur Rahman

DHAKA, Aug 28 (PTI)

BANGLADESH'S interim Government on Wednesday revoked a ban on the rightwing Jamaat-e-Islami and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir, less than a month after it was imposed on the Islamist party by former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who was forced to resign following massive protests against her Government.

"It (lifting the ban) will come under effect immediately," the Home Ministry said in a gazette notification, noting that there was no particular evidence against the organisation.

The erstwhile Awami League government led by Hasina had imposed a ban on Jamaat on August 1, 2024, accusing the Islamist party as a "militant and terrorist" organisation. The government blamed Jamaat's student wing for inciting chaos over a quota system for government jobs.

The notification said the ban under the Anti-Terrorism Act 2009 has been lifted as there was no particular evidence against the organisation. The government believed that Jamaat and its associate bod-

ies, including its student front Chhatra Shibir, were not involved in terrorist activities and violence.

The decision, formally published in a gazette notification on Wednesday, represents a significant change from the decision taken by the erstwhile Awami League government earlier this month, just days before its ouster.

The development came a day after Attorney General Mohammad Asaduzzaman urged the High Court to summarily reject a writ petition seeking an order on the government to ban Hasina's Awami League as a political party and scrap its registration.

"The current (interim) government has no intention to ban any political organisation," the government's top law officer told a two-judge High Court bench, which set August 29 for its decision on the writ filed by one Sarda Society as a public interest litigation.

The interim government's law adviser, equivalent to a minister, Asif Nazrul on Wednesday told reporters he was opposed to the call for a ban on Awami League or any other political parties unless there was any strong evidence

of their involvement in terrorist activities.

"Awami League is the party which led Bangladesh's independence movement and contributed to different democratic movements. (But) what they did in the past 15 years does not go with their heritage, the spirit of the Liberation War," Nazrul said.

He said the party had established the "most barbaric fascism" in Bangladesh's history for which someone might have individual or its leaders might have collective responsibility "but I don't think it will be a wise decision to ban it as a political party".

Secretary General of ex-premier Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said that anyone should be able to form an independent political party, that is the main goal of democracy.

"We are not in favour of banning any political party; any party and any individual has the right to form an independent party. But they must be on the side of freedom and sovereignty. Those who do not believe in freedom cannot be supported," he said at a media briefing on Tuesday.