

Israel strikes Gaza's 2nd largest city

■ **By Najib Jobain and
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KHAN YOUNIS, Dec 5 (AP)

ISRAEL intensified its bombardment in and around Gaza's second largest city early Tuesday, as ambulances and private cars came racing into a local hospital carrying people wounded in a bloody new phase of the war in Gaza.

Under US pressure to prevent further mass casualties, Israel says it is being more precise as it widens its offensive into southern Gaza after obliterating much of the north.

Aerial bombardment and the ground offensive have already driven three-fourths of the territory's 2.3 million people from their homes. At the Nasser

Hospital in Khan Younis, ambulances brought dozens of wounded people in throughout the night. At one point, a car pulled up and a man emerged carrying a young boy in a bloody shirt and whose hand had been blown off. "Where is the Red Cross? ... where is the United Nations?" a woman screamed outside the emergency department. "My children, since 10 pm, are still under the rubble."

Satellite photos taken Sunday showed tanks and troops massing outside Khan Younis, the latest target of the offensive, which was home to more than 4,00,000 people before the war.

Israel has ordered people out of nearly two dozen neigh-

bourhoods instead of the entire region, as it did in the north. But with most of Gaza's population already packed into the south, cramming U.N. shelters and family homes, there are few places left to go. Israel has barred people who fled the north earlier in the war from returning.

Palestinians say that as Israel continues to strike across the besieged territory, there are no areas where they feel safe, and many fear that if they leave their homes they will never be allowed to return.

Israel says it must dismantle Hamas' extensive military infrastructure and remove it from power in order to prevent a repeat of the Oct. 7 attack that ignited the war.

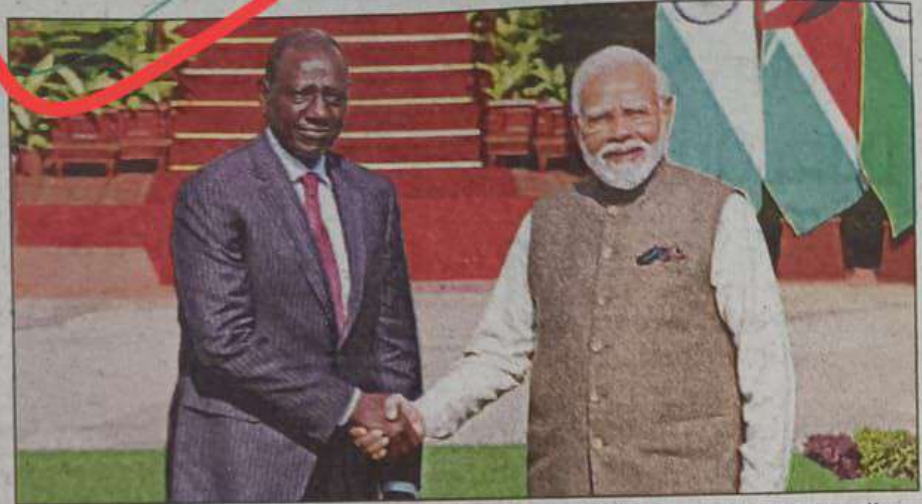
India announces \$250m agri aid to boost ties with Kenya

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India and Kenya looked to boost defence, maritime and connectivity ties as PM Narendra Modi held talks with visiting President William Ruto and announced a new \$250 million line of credit to help the east African country improve its agriculture sector. The two countries also signed five agreements and issued a vision document for maritime cooperation in the Indian Ocean.

The government confirmed that it had also raised the issue concerning two Indian nationals, one of them a well-known media professional, who went missing from Nairobi last year in July. Kenya is yet to officially confirm if the local media reports claiming they were killed for assisting the social media campaign of the president are true. The government said that the Indian high commission continues to monitor developments related to the case and remains in touch with Kenyan authorities.

Significantly, the meeting saw Kenya offering, in line with local laws, to provide land to Indian companies and institutions for cultivation of crops, including millets, in



Kenyan President William Ruto with Prime Minister Narendra Modi before their meeting at the Hyderabad House in New Delhi

the coastal African country.

"The Government of India undertook to encourage Indian companies for investment in the sector, including in equipment and technology on mutually agreed terms. Both sides noted that enhancing bilateral agricultural cooperation would increase bilateral trade and contribute to food security in Kenya," said a joint statement issued after the meeting.

Modi said that India and Kenya were unanimous that terrorism was the most serious challenge to humanity and that they decided to increase mutual cooperation in the field of counter-terrorism. Looking to intensify defence cooperation, the leaders agreed to continue working

towards expanding training exchanges, including deputation of Indian experts, in Kenyan defence institutions. Both sides also called for increasing cooperation between the defence industries, ship visits and periodic exchange of high-level visits from both sides, according to the joint statement.

The government also confirmed that the environment ministry has sought cheetahs from Kenya and that Kenyan authorities are considering the request. "I am glad that Kenya has decided to join the Global Biofuels Alliance, Big Cat Alliance and International Solar Alliance. We will be able to strengthen the global efforts for conservation of big cats," said Modi.

Israel storms main city of south Gaza, killing scores

Troops Encircling Khan Younis, Unicef Says Safe Areas 'Too Small & Too Few'

Israel forces stormed southern Gaza's main city on Tuesday in what they called the most intense day of combat in five weeks of ground operations against Hamas militants, and hospitals struggled to cope with scores of Palestinian dead and wounded. In what appeared to be the biggest ground assault in Gaza since a truce with Hamas unravelled last week, Israel said its troops — who were backed by warplanes — had reached the heart of Khan Younis and were also surrounding the city. "We are in the most intense day since the beginning of the ground operation," the commander of the military's Southern Command, General Yaron Finkelman, said. He said Israeli forces were also fighting in Jabalia, a large urban refugee camp and Hamas hotbed in northern Gaza next to Gaza City, and in Shuja'iyya, east of the city.

Hamas' armed wing, the al Qassam Brigades, said its fighters had destroyed or damaged 24 Israeli military vehicles and snipers had killed or wounded eight Israeli soldiers in ongoing clashes in various areas of Khan Younis. Separately, Gaza health officials said large numbers of people were killed in an Israeli strike on houses in Deir al-Balah, north of Khan Younis. The head of the Shuhada Al-Aqsa Hospital there, told Reuters at least 45 were killed. "There will be no negotiations or exchange of detainees until Israel's aggression against the Gaza strip stops, Hamas official Osama Hamdan said in a press conference on Tuesday. "We hold (Israeli PM) Netanyahu fully responsible for the lives of the Israeli hostages and



A wounded is brought into Nasser hospital in Khan Younis in Gaza Strip

Qatar says pushing to repair Gaza truce, slams int'l inaction

Qatar's ruler hit out at "shameful" international inaction over the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza as he opened a Gulf Cooperation Council meeting in Doha on Tuesday. "It is shameful for the international community to allow this heinous crime to continue for nearly two months, during which the systematic and deliberate killing of innocent civilians continues, including women and children," Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani said. Qatar was a key mediator in negotiations that resulted in a seven-day truce. Qatar's ruler said his country was "constantly working to renew" the truce, but added this was "not an alternative to a permanent ceasefire". He called UN Security Council "to assume its legal responsibility and act to compel Israel to return to credible negotiations to achieve a just solution to the Palestinian issue". AP

US to impose travel bans on extremist West Bank settlers

In a rare punitive move against Israel, the US state department said on Tuesday it will impose travel bans on extremist Jewish settlers implicated in a rash of recent attacks on Palestinians in the occupied West Bank. Secretary of state Antony Blinken announced the step after warning Israel last week that President Joe Biden's administration would be taking action over the attacks. Blinken did not announce individual visa bans, but officials said those would be coming this week. "We have underscored to the Israeli government the need to do more to hold accountable extremist settlers who have committed violent attacks against Palestinians in the West Bank," Blinken said. He said the US would continue to seek accountability for settler violence against Palestinians as well as Palestinian attacks against Israelis in the West Bank and Israel. AP

for obstructing the completion of the exchange deal."

Israel military chief of staff Herzi Halevi said his forces had begun the "third phase of the ground operations", moving in the south after seizing much of the north and "severely damaging Hamas." "Sixty days after the war began, our forces are now encircling the Khan Younis area..." he said, referring to the Oct. 7 Hamas incursion. After days of ordering residents to flee the area, Israeli forces dropped new leaflets on Tuesday with instructions to stay inside shelters during the assault. The leaflets addressed to residents of six districts, amounting to around a quarter of Khan Younis.

Israeli bombardments have driven 80% of Gaza's 2.3 million residents from their homes, most fleeing south. Crowded southern areas are now sheltering triple their usual population. At Khan Younis' main Nasser hospital, the wounded arrived by ambulance, car, flatbed truck and donkey cart after what survivors described as a strike on a school being used as a shelter for the displaced. Gaza health ministry spokesperson Ashra al-Qidra said at least 43 corpses had already reached Nasser hospital that morning. "Hospitals in the southern Gaza Strip are totally collapsing," he said. Unicef said the few small areas designated "safe" by Israel were inadequate for the hundreds of thousands of people in desperate need of shelter. "These are tiny patches of barren land or they're street corners. They're sidewalks. They're half-built buildings. There is no water," spokesman James Elder said. REUTERS

Israel arranging pumps to

Data shows Hamas attack

Contentious COP28 draft moots end to fossil fuel use

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Dubai: Putting all options on the table for negotiation during the next seven days, the UN climate conference (COP28) negotiating team on Tuesday released an ambitious draft text of the global stocktake seeking to not only get countries to agree to triple renewable energy capacity to 11,000 GW by 2030 but also to brainstorm on phasing out fossil fuels.

Though the 24-page draft text will see several rounds of updates incorporating countries' viewpoints in the next few days, the formulation on phasing out of fossil fuels (coal, oil and gas) and fossil fuel subsidies will certainly cause deep divides among participants, in-

CO₂ emissions may hit record level this year

Global carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels are projected to increase by 1.1% from 2022 to reach a record level of 36.8 billion tonnes this year. Emissions in India are estimated to increase by 8.2% and in China by 4%, and may decline by 7.4% in the EU. **P 24**

cluding India, China and the oil-rich nations, on different points until a landing zone arrives in the final text in terms of "an orderly and just phase-out" or "phase out of unabated use" or "phase-down".

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Army deploys double humped camels for logistical support in eastern Ladakh

JAMMU, Dec 5 (PTI)

THE Army on Monday said that it has deployed double humped camels for logistical support to the troops in eastern Ladakh.

Ladakh, a cold desert, is home to the domesticated form of the Bactrian camels, also known as double-humped camels, which are mainly used for carrying goods but are also popular among tourists for safaris in the Nubra valley in the Union Territory.

“Bactrian (double humped) camels are deployed in Eastern Ladakh as an innovative means for last mile delivery of critical load and mounted patrolling in sandy terrain of plateau,” the Army’s Udhampur-based northern command



wrote on X. “The utilisation of camels, generated employment for Awam (public) and also paved way for conservation of fast dwindling population of double humped camels in Ladakh,” the post added.