

This is our 9/11 and Pearl Harbour wrapped into one: Israeli military

JERUSALEM, Oct 9 (IANS)

AS ISRAELI forces are still fighting Hamas gunmen, the Jewish state's military on Monday termed the unprecedented attacks launched by the Palestinian militant group from Gaza as "this is our 9/11, they got us". This was in reference to the September 11, 2001 terror attacks carried out by the Al-Qaeda against the US.

In a statement on Monday, military spokesperson Major Nir Dinar said: "This is our 9/11... They got us," the BBC reported. The spokesperson's comment echoed Israeli Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan Conricus's remark in which he not only compared the Hamas attacks to 9/11 but also to Pearl Harbour -- the surprise military strike by the Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service against the American naval base in Hawaii on December 7, 1941.

"This could be a 9/11 and a Pearl Harbour wrapped into one," he said.

"It is, by far, the worst day in Israeli history. Never before have so many Israelis been killed by one single thing let alone enemy activity on one day."

As airstrikes continued on the Gaza Strip on Monday, the Israeli Air Force (IAF) claimed that more than 500 Hamas and Islamic Jihad targets in the coastal enclave were hit overnight, the BBC reported.



A man looks at destruction made by a rocket fired from the Gaza Strip in Ashkelon on Monday. Israel's military battled to drive Hamas fighters out of southern towns and seal its borders on Monday as it pounded the Gaza Strip from the air. (AP/PTI)

The Air Force said that fighter jets, helicopters, aircraft and artillery struck the targets, adding that seven Hamas command centres and an Islamic Jihad command centre were hit. In its latest update on Monday morning, the Israeli Defence Force (IDF) said they were still fighting Hamas gunmen at seven to eight sites in southern Israel close to the Gaza Strip.

These sites include Be'eri, an

agrarian community, which was infiltrated by Hamas fighters overnight.

Many of the militants have been killed, but others are still hiding in homes in the kibbutz, the BBC quoted the IDF as saying. "The scope of this operation is something completely different... It's taking more time than we expected to get things back to a defensive, security posture," Lt Col Richard Hecht told reporters.

10 NEPALI STUDENTS KILLED, ONE MISSING: TEN Nepali students have been killed, one missing and four others injured in Israel after the Palestinian militant group Hamas launched a wave of rocket attacks in the country's southern region, Nepal's Foreign Ministry said on Monday. In a press statement, the Foreign Ministry said 17 Nepali nationals were working on a farm at Kibbutz Alumim.

Major airlines suspend flights to Israel

NEW YORK, Oct 9 (AP)

MAJOR airlines have suspended flights to Israel after the nation declared war following a massive attack by Hamas.

American Airlines, United Airlines and Delta Air Lines suspended service as the US State Department issued travel advisories for the region citing potential for terrorism and civil unrest.

American suspended service to Tel Aviv through Friday. The airline said that it has issued a travel alert providing additional flexibility for customers whose travel plans are impacted.

United said it allowed two scheduled flights out of Tel Aviv late Saturday and early Sunday and accommodated its customers, crews and employee travelers who were at the airport. The airline said that its Tel Aviv flights will remain suspended until conditions improve. Delta said its Tel Aviv flights have been cancelled into this week. The airline said it's monitoring the situation.

India, Tanzania elevate ties to strategic partnership

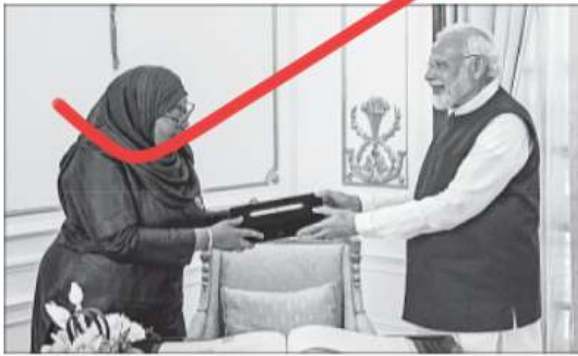
Ink 6 pacts and agree on 5-yr roadmap for defence cooperation

NEW DELHI, Oct 9 (PTI)

INDIA and Tanzania on Monday elevated their ties to the level of strategic partnership, inked six pacts to boost cooperation in several key areas and agreed on a five-year roadmap to significantly expand defence engagement at talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

In his media statement after the talks, Modi said both sides are also working on an agreement to increase trade in local currencies, and described Tanzania as a "valued partner" in the Indo-Pacific.

The Prime Minister said steps are being taken to adopt the success story of UPI in Tanzania and that both sides will continue to explore new opportunities to realise the full potential of the economic cooperation.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a bilateral meeting with Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on Monday.

(ANI)

President Hassan arrived here on Sunday on a four-day visit.

"Today is a historic day in the relations between India and Tanzania. Today we are tying our age-old friendship into a strategic partnership," Modi said in presence of Hassan.

"In today's meeting we identified several new initiatives, laying the foundation for this future strategic partnership. India and Tanzania are important partners of each other for mutual trade and investment," he said.

The six agreements firmed

up at the talks will provide for cooperation in the digital domain, culture, sports, maritime industries and white shipping information sharing.

An India-Tanzania joint statement said both sides noted that the strategic partnership will help the two countries to jointly work on issues like maritime security, defence cooperation, development partnership, trade and investment, among others.

It said the two leaders noted that the RBI has cleared the way for trade using local currencies that is Indian Rupee and Tanzanian Shilling by allowing the authorised banks in India to open Special Rupee Vostro Accounts of correspondent banks of Tanzania and that transactions using this mechanism have already materialised.

"The two sides agreed to continue with the consultations in order to address any concerns

President Hassan to be conferred honorary doctorate by JNU

NEW DELHI, Oct 9 (PTI)

TANZANIAN President Samia Suluhu Hassan will be conferred an honorary doctorate for her pivotal role in fostering stronger India-Tanzania relations, promoting economic diplomacy, and achieving success in regional integration by Jawaharlal Nehru University on Tuesday.

so as to ensure sustainability of this arrangement," the statement said.

Modi said use of space and nuclear technology for public welfare was emphasised and both sides decided to move forward by identifying concrete initiatives in these important areas.

EU suspends all payments to Palestinians

BRUSSELS, Oct 9 (AP)

EUROPEAN Union Commissioner Oliver Varhelyi said on Monday that the bloc is suspending "all payments immediately" to the Palestinians because of what he called the "scale of terror and brutality" during the attacks of Hamas against Israel.

The surprise announcement by Varhelyi came just hours after EU officials stressed that no EU money whatsoever was going to Hamas in the first place

and that contacts had been frozen for 16 years.

The European Union considers Hamas a terror group.

Queries about what the move entailed and whether it would hit all humanitarian aid to Palestinians were not immediately answered.

Varhelyi said that "as the biggest donor of the Palestinians, the European Commission is putting its full development portfolio under review," which he said amounted to 691 million euros. It was not immedi-

ately clear what funds were included and excluded.

Varhelyi said the measures include that "all payments (be) immediately suspended. All projects put under review. All new budget proposals... Postponed until further notice."

EU Foreign Ministers are slated to meet in Muscat, Oman on Tuesday to discuss the situation and see what actions should be taken. Varhelyi's announcement seemed to preempt the discussions. "There can be no business as usual,"

Varhelyi said on X. "The foundations for peace, tolerance and co-existence must now be addressed. Incitement to hatred, violence and glorification of terror have poisoned the minds of too many," the commissioner wrote.

During an earlier briefing on Monday, the European Union Commission sought to draw a clear line between Hamas, which it considers a terrorist organisation, and the Palestinian people, who are in need of humanitarian aid.

Nobel Economics Prize goes to professor Claudia Goldin

STOCKHOLM, Oct 9 (AP)

THE Nobel Economics Prize was awarded Monday to Harvard University professor Claudia Goldin for research that has advanced the understanding of the gender gap in the labour market.

The announcement went a tiny step to closing the Nobel committee's own gender gap: Goldin is just the third woman to win the prize out of 93 economics laureates.

She has studied 200 years of women's participation in the



workplace, showing that despite continued economic growth, women's pay did not continuously catch up to men's

and a divide still exists despite women gaining higher levels of education than men.

"I've always been an optimist. But when I look at the numbers, I think something has happened in America, that we, in the 1990s,

our labour force participation rate for women was the highest in the world, and now it isn't the highest in the world," Goldin told *The Associated Press*.

ISRAEL DECLARES SIEGE OF GAZA

Israel PM Netanyahu vows "tough and terrible" things for Hamas

■ Gaza depends on Israel largely for its basic supplies and such a decision will have far-reaching consequences for 2.3 million people living in the densely populated area

■ By Harinder Mishra
JERUSALEM, Oct 9 (PTI)

ISRAEL'S Defence Minister Yoav Gallant on Monday ordered a "complete siege" of the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip, two days after shock attacks by the militant group killed more than 700 Israelis including soldiers.

Later in the day, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in a strongly worded statement, affirmed that the Israeli retaliation has just begun, and Hamas will go through much "tough and terrible" things.

Prime Minister Netanyahu also told local politicians from southern Israel that Israel will transform the region as it retaliates for a devastating



Palestinians inspect the rubble of the Yassin Mosque destroyed after it was hit by an Israeli airstrike at Shati refugee camp in Gaza City, early on Monday. (AP/PTI)

Hamas attack and works to restore and support traumatised communities.

Defence Minister Yoav Gallant is currently conducting an operational assessment at IDF (Israel Defence Forces) Southern Command, together

with the Head of Southern Command Major-General Yaron Finkelman.

"I have given an order - Gaza will be under complete siege. There will be no electricity, food

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BACK**
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or fuel [delivered to Gaza]. We are fighting barbaric [terrorists] and will respond accordingly," Gallant was quoted in a statement as saying.

Gaza depends on Israel large-



Israelis evacuate a site struck by a rocket fired from the Gaza Strip, in Ashkelon, southern Israel on Monday. Israel witnessed a unprecedented attack by Hamas on Saturday. (AP/PTI)

ly for its basic supplies and such a decision will have far-reaching consequences for 2.3 million people living in the densely populated area.

Israeli media are reporting on Monday that more than 900

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Death toll nears 1,200

JERUSALEM, Oct 9 (AP)

ISRAEL'S military scoured the country's south for Hamas fighters and guarded breaches in its border fence with tanks on Monday, as it pounded the Gaza Strip from the air and mustered for a campaign its Prime Minister said would destroy "the military and governing capabilities" of the militant group.

More than two days after
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Indian injured

JERUSALEM, Oct 9 (PTI)

AN INDIAN woman working as a caregiver, identified as Sheeja Anand from Kerala, in Ashkelon was hurt in rockets fired by Hamas. Her condition is stable.

Nobel Economic Prize goes