

1492

Christopher Columbus notes 1st recorded reference to tobacco



1904

King C. Gillette patents the Gillette razor blade

1948

Mackenzie King retires after 22 years as Prime Minister of Canada

1969

An estimated 2 million people take part in the Vietnam War Moratorium Demonstration across the United States

# g vulnerable Gaza hospital ts 'impossible': WHO

## Gaza's hospital buries patients in mass grave

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Gaza's main hospital has been forced to bury scores of dead patients in a mass grave, its director said Tuesday, as US President Joe Biden pressed Israel to protect the complex trapped in fierce combat.

"There are bodies littered in the hospital complex and there is no longer electricity at the morgues," said Al-Shifa hospital director Mohammad Abu Salmiyah, adding that 179 bodies had been interred so far.

"We were forced to bury them in a mass grave," he said, adding that seven babies and 29 intensive care patients were among those who had died after fuel for the hospital's generator ran out.

A witness said the smell of decomposing bodies was everywhere in the facility, but nighttime fighting and air strikes had been less intense compared to previous nights.

The United Nations believes



People mourn as they stand behind a metal fence near the bodies of victims who were killed in Israeli bombardment before their burial, outside the morgue at Nasser hospital in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip

that thousands, and perhaps more than 10,000 people -- patients, staff and displaced civilians -- may be inside and unable to escape because of fierce fighting nearby.

Biden called on Israel to use "less intrusive action relative to

the hospital", some of his most pointed comments on Israeli operations to date.

"The hospital must be protected," he told reporters, as international outrage builds over the death and suffering the war has inflicted on Gaza civilians.

humanitarian law."

On Tuesday, Israeli forces were at the gates of the sprawling Al-Shifa hospital that they say sits atop an underground Hamas command base, but the militants deny the charge.

Doctors say thousands of people are stranded inside in horrific conditions. The ICRC said on X, formerly Twitter, that under international humanitarian law, "hospitals are protected because of their life-saving function for wounded and sick".

While it is possible for hospitals to lose that protection under certain circumstances, "this is not a free license to attack", it insisted.

Israel says it is not targeting

Al-Shifa hospital. It has called on the whole population of the northern Gaza Strip to move to the south of the territory.

Harris said there was a lack of healthcare capacity in southern Gaza, with most healthcare, especially the most complex, usually provided in the north.

She said many hospitals were unable to admit new patients.

Moving patients from the north "might kill them -- but also, where did they go? Where do you put them?" said Harris.

"There were very clear reasons why that was not something that was in any way feasible."

## Children, families, foreigners among Gaza hostages

AFP | Paris, France

Israel's announcement yesterday of the death of a woman soldier abducted by Hamas when they stormed out of Gaza last month has again highlighted the fate of nearly 240 hostages.

Qatar is mediating talks on a deal to free some of the people snatched when Hamas swarmed into Israel across the fortified border on October 7, killing an estimated 1,200 people, mostly civilians, in the deadliest attack in Israel's history.

Israel has responded with a relentless bombardment of Gaza aimed at destroying Hamas that has killed over 11,240 people, according to Gaza's Hamas-run health ministry.

Of the 239 hostages confirmed by Israel, at least 34 are children and 63 women, according to AFP's tally.

## Israel army says seizes Gaza parliament, other Hamas bodies

Jerusalem, Undefined

The Israeli army said yesterday it had captured Gaza's parliament and other government institutions run by Hamas in Gaza City, as its forces deepened their offensive in the Palestinian territory. Military units "took over the Hamas parliament, the government building, the Hamas police headquarters and an engineering faculty that served as an institute for the production and development of weapons," the army said in a statement.

## Israel must respect 'sanctity of hospitals': UK minister

London, United Kingdom

Israel must respect "the sanctity of hospitals" in Gaza and allow them to be places of safety during its offensive in the Palestinian territory, a UK foreign minister said yesterday.

"All parties to a conflict must afford civilians the protection that is their right under international law," Andrew Mitchell, a minister in Britain's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), told members of parliament.

"That includes respecting the sanctity of hospitals so that doctors can continue to care for the sick and injured," he added.

Mitchell said it was "impossible to comprehend the pain and loss that innocent Palestinians are enduring in Gaza" since Israel launched its offensive. "Hospitals... should be places of safety, able to treat patients with compassion," he added.



Children sit by a woman preparing traditional unleavened bread on an open fire at school run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in Rafah

# pregnant women, nursing mums

deputy health minister Youssef Abu Rish said.

## 'I could lose the baby'

Countless new mothers in Gaza now fear the very worst, among them Kullab who said she feels helpless and unable to protect her children.

She has struggled to find baby formula and nappies, she said as she cradled her tiny son, swaddled in blankets.

Another woman, Najwa Salem, 37, said her newborn has jaundice, marked by yellowish skin and eyes. The condition can be worsened by low milk intake and dehydration and is often treated with daylight exposure.

To minimise the risk of neurological damage, Salem would like to take her infant boy outside, but said she hesitates because of the "rubbish piling up and the bombing".

Inside the UN school classroom Salem now shares with about 70

others, the mother worried because the scar from her Caesarian section had become infected.

Although she gave birth in a hospital, she said she was asked to leave after just one night "because they had too many wounded people to care for".

Outside, the huge amount of dust from the incessant bombing is causing breathing difficulties that spell special dangers for infants.

Another woman, eight-months-pregnant Umm Ibrahim Alayan, complained of coughing fits since she fled her neighbourhood as it was being bombarded.

Her intense coughing may have provoked the early contractions she has suffered, she said, her hands flitting nervously between her rounded belly and her face.

"I'm terrified, all I want to do is hold my baby in my arms," she said, sobbing. "I feel I could lose the baby at any moment."

## 'Utterly hellish conditions'

The UN Population Fund's top official for the Palestinian territories, Dominic Allen, said pregnant women in Gaza "have nowhere to go, there is nowhere safe".

The UN says there are more than 50,000 pregnant women and an average of 180 births a day in Gaza, with a population of 2.4 million.

"We estimate that a minimum of 15 percent of these births will have complications, which will require basic or comprehensive obstetric care," Allen said.

The war is creating "a high-stress environment" likely to foster "complications of birth and may lead to miscarriages", he said.

The UN agency has cited the "nightmarish" case of one woman discharged just three hours after giving birth.

It said there were shortages of blood to treat postpartum haemorrhage and of antiseptic

for stitches and treatment after umbilical cords are cut.

So far, the UN agency has managed to get 8,000 delivery kits into Gaza. They contain umbilical cord cutters, blankets for newborns, disposable sheets and other items. But these only address a fraction of the need, and Gaza's health ministry says some women have been forced to give birth without a midwife in the overcrowded shelters.

"The nightmare in Gaza is much more than a humanitarian crisis, it's a crisis of humanity," said Allen.

One aid group still working in northern Gaza's heavily bombed Jabalia refugee camp is ActionAid, helping women inside the Al-Awda hospital which has been without power for days.

Surgeons there said they performed 16 C-sections on Sunday, without anaesthetic or other crucial supplies.

"Thousands of women in Gaza

are risking their lives to give birth, undergoing Caesareans and emergency operations without sterilisation, anaesthesia or painkillers," said ActionAid's Riham Jafari.

"These women deserve quality healthcare and the right to give birth in a safe place. Instead, they are being forced to bring their babies into the world amid utterly hellish conditions."



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that a ceasefire without the release of the hostages would mean "surrender to Hamas".



01



The world is failing to get a grip on the climate crisis. Global ambition stagnated over the past year & national plans are strikingly misaligned with the science. #COP28 must be the place to urgently close the climate ambition gap. @antonioguterres

02



The United States, in coordination with the UK, is imposing sanctions on individuals and entities that have supported Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorist groups. We continue to coordinate with our partners and allies to disrupt these terrorist financing channels. @SecBlinken

03



If and when there will be something concrete to report - we will do so. @IsraeliPM

04



Our combat medics. Under fire and in extreme conditions, every day they save the lives of our warriors, treat them, and do everything in their power to save them. I thank our combat medics for their vital and selfless work and for every life they saved. @ZelenskyyUA

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