

News in brief

◆ **Negotiations in Jeddah** between Sudan's warring parties will focus on a ceasefire deal and the delivery of humanitarian aid but not on broader political issues, Saudi Arabia said yesterday. The talks, which resumed on Thursday, aim "to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance, establish ceasefires and other confidence building measures, and build toward a permanent cessation of hostilities," a foreign ministry statement said. "The talks will not address broader political issues," it added. Since April, the war in Sudan between regular forces loyal to army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) commanded by his former deputy Mohamed Hamdan Daglo has killed more than 9,000 people and displaced upwards of 5.6 million.



Saudi says Sudan talks to focus on ceasefire and aid

G7 trade ministers hit out at China, Russia

◆ **Group of Seven trade ministers** took veiled swipes at China and Russia yesterday while expressing concerns about the economic effect of the conflict in the Middle East. A joint statement after talks in Japan slammed Russia's "destruction of Ukrainian grain export infrastructure" since it exited in July a deal that had allowed safe grain shipments via the Black Sea. Without naming any country, the G7 statement also hit out at "actions to weaponize economic dependencies" and "noted with concern the recent export control measures on critical minerals". China has been accused of using trade restrictions to pressure other countries politically and recently imposed export restrictions on certain types of graphite, key to making electric vehicle batteries.

◆ **Twelve people including** a baby died Sunday in a small plane crash in the Brazilian Amazon, officials said. The plane, a single engine Cessna Caravan, came down near the airport of Rio Branco shortly after takeoff, the government of the northwestern state of Acre said in a statement. Ten passengers -- nine adults and an infant -- as well as the pilot and co-pilot all died at the scene, it said. According to local press reports, the plane erupted in flames on impact, causing a forest fire in a remote area near Brazil's border with Peru and Bolivia. Many of the passengers were returning to the neighboring Amazonas state after receiving medical care, media said. Fourteen people were killed in September when a plane crashed while trying to land during a storm in the Amazonas town of Barcelos.

12 killed in plane crash in Brazilian Amazon

Indian police say two killed by suspected bomb at Christian prayers



Those injured in the blast are being treated at a hospital Thiruvananthapuram, India

A suspected bomb blast during a Christian prayer meeting in India's southern state of Kerala killed two people and wounded more than 35 others, police said yesterday. More than 2,000 people were attending a three-day Jehovah's Witnesses meeting at a convention centre in Kalamassery near the port city of Kochi when the blast ripped through the crowd. "At about 9:40 am (0410 GMT) approximately there was an explosion in Zamra International Convention Centre in which one person died and 36 are undergoing treatment," Director General of Police of Kerala Darvesh Saheb told reporters. "We will find out who is behind this and take stringent action... preliminary investigation shows it was an IED (improvised explosive device) blast." Local assistant police commissioner PV Baby, speaking to AFP, said one woman died in the initial explosion, and a second woman later died of

her wounds. A man handed himself in to the police after releasing a video message on social media and aired on television channels, in which he claimed to be a former member of the church who now disagreed with its beliefs. Police said they are "examining his claims and the reasons given for carrying out the act", according to The Times of India. The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported at least three "blasts" had occurred inside the convention centre. Around two percent of India's 1.4 billion people are Christian, according to the last census in 2011. There are nearly 60,000 Jehovah's Witnesses in India, according to the church's website. Jehovah's Witnesses are members of a US-based Christian evangelical movement, and are perhaps best known for knocking on doors around the world, bible in hand, trying to convert people to their beliefs.



An injured woman carries a baby in the aftermath of Israeli bombing in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip



A Palestinian man covered with dust carries a child in the aftermath of Israeli bombing in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip

UN warns order 'starting to unravel'

US says Israel must distinguish between Hamas and Gaza civilians as fighting rages

● The Israeli army said it had increased its troops inside Gaza overnight and hit "over 450 terror targets during the past day"

● "Thousands of people" broke into several UN warehouses and distribution centres in Gaza

● Connectivity was gradually returning yesterday

● Huge queues at Gaza bakeries as war shortages bite

● Red Cross voiced shock at the suffering in Gaza

● Israeli military spokesman again urged Palestinian civilians to go south

AFP | Jerusalem

Desperate Palestinians in Gaza burst into aid centres after more than three weeks of siege and bombardment, the UN said yesterday, as Israel escalated ground operations in the Hamas-run territory. Israel's allies France and Brit-

Norway says Israel response to Gaza disproportionate

Oslo, Norway

Norway's prime minister yesterday said that the Israeli army's response to the deadly Hamas attack was disproportionate and denounced a "catastrophic" humanitarian situation in Gaza.

"International law stipulates that it (the reaction) must be proportionate. Civilians must be taken into account, and humanitarian law is very clear on this. I think this limit has been largely exceeded," Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store said on NRK public



Women carry children as others check the damage in the aftermath of Israeli bombing in Rafah

sands of people killed are children," he added.

ain underlined the urgency of delivering aid to Gaza, a day after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu steered his nation for a "long and difficult war".

Despite calls for a humanitarian ceasefire, international outrage and the potential risk to hostages held in Gaza, Israel has intensified the war triggered by Hamas's unprecedented attack.

The Hamas-run health ministry in Gaza says the retaliatory Israeli bombardment has killed more than 8,000 people, mainly civilians and half of them children.

Panic and fear have surged inside the Palestinian territory, where the UN says more than half of its 2.4 million residents are displaced and thousands of buildings destroyed.

UN chief Antonio Guterres said the situation was "growing more desperate by the hour" as casualties increase and essential

supplies of food, water, medicine and shelter dwindle.

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and French President Emmanuel Macron "stressed the importance of getting urgent humanitarian support into Gaza" during a conversation on Sunday, the UK government said.

The UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, said "thousands of people" broke into several of its warehouses and distribution centres in Gaza, grabbing basic survival items like wheat flour and hygiene supplies.

"This is a worrying sign that civil order is starting to break down," it said.

'Catastrophic failing'

Outside a bakery in southern Gaza's Rafah, Etidal al-Masri was queueing but did not know if she would get bread.

Having been displaced from the

northern Strip, Masri lamented that Gazans "must now queue for bread, toilets and even for sleep".

Communications were down for days after Israel cut internet lines, although connectivity was gradually returning on Sunday.

Mirjana Spoljaric, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, voiced shock at the suffering in Gaza and urged all sides to de-escalate.

"This is a catastrophic failing that the world must not tolerate," she said.

A US government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said 40 more aid trucks may enter Gaza on Sunday and that Israel was committed to allowing 100 to arrive daily.

Israel's army said a new "stage" of the war started with ground incursions since late Friday, an escalation from the brief operations earlier in the week.

Iran's Ebrahim Raisi says Israeli actions 'may force everyone to act'

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi yesterday said Israel's

ongoing bombardment of Gaza "may force everyone" to act in the latest warning issued by the Islamic republic since the start

of the Israel-Hamas conflict. "Iran considers it its duty to support the resistance groups, but ... the resistance groups are

independent in their opinion, decision, and action," the Iranian president said in an interview with Al Jazeera on Saturday, ver-