450,000 Gazans forcibly displaced from Rafah: UN



Large parts of the city of Rafah are now turned into a "ghost town", with UN humanitarians reporting on Tuesday that some

450,000 Gazans have been forcibly displaced from the southernmost city by Israeli evacuation orders in the last week.

"Empty streets in Rafah as families continue to flee in search of safety... UNR-WA estimates that nearly 450,000 people have been

forcibly displaced from Rafah since 6 May," said the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, in a post from western Rafah on X.

"Inland in Rafah is now a ghost town. It's hard to believe there were over one million people sheltering here just a week ago," reported UNRWA spokesperson Louise Wateridge. People face constant exhaustion, hunger and fear. Nowhere is safe. An immediate cease-fire is the only hope," according to the UN official website.

The development comes as airstrikes continued to hit northern and southern Gaza, amid reports that the Israeli military said that it had hit 120 targets just in 24 hours.

"Ground incursions and heavy fighting continue to be reported in eastern Rafah, as well Gaza city and the Jabaliya Refugee Camp," the UN aid coordination office, OCHA, said in its latest situation update late Monday.

Many of those forced to

leave eastern Rafah had already been displaced multiple times in the past seven months, the UN of-

fice explained. In the north, evacuation orders were also issued on Saturday "amid ongoing Israeli bombardment there", OCHA said, noting that some 100,000 people have left their homes and shelters so far.

"OCHA remains deeply concerned about the lack of protection for civilians - and the lack of safety for humanitarian operations," the UN agency said, noting that one-fifth of Gaza's population had been displaced in just the last week. "Civilians must be protected and have their basic needs met, whether they move or stay. Those who leave must have enough time to do so, as well as a safe route and a safe place to go."

Iran: Israel symbol of 'organized terrorism'

Iran's Foreign Ministry issued a statement on the anniversary of Nakha Day. describing Israel as an embodiment of "organized terrorism" that is engaged in war crimes and genocide against the Palestinian nation in violation of international law.

"The fake Zionist regime, which is a clear symbol of organized terrorism in the world, is adding a new page to its record of inhumane international crimes. The discovery of mass graves in Nasser and Al-Shifa hospitals in the Gaza Strip displays a horrible image of the brutal regime's crimes against humanity," the Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday. The statement was issued on the 76th anniversary of the illegal creation of the Israeli regime. known as Nakba Day (the Day of Catastrophe), on May 15.1948.

More than 750,000 Palestinians were forcibly removed from their homeland.

Iran's FM: Tehran considers New Delhi as a reliable partner

International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said Tehran considers India as a reliable partner with whom Iran is seeking longterm cooperation.

Amir-Abdollahian made the remarks in a meeting with the Indian Cabinet Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal in Tehran on Monday. He said that Iran has a strategic approach towards relations with India and is ready to further expand cooperation with New Delhi within the framework of BRICS group of major emerging economies and Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

Referring to a long-term deal signed between Iran and India on Monday, the Iranian foreign minister described the agreement as a very important opportunity to expand the volume of trade relations between the two countries and the re-



gion. On Monday, the Indian Ports Global Limited (IPGL) and the Port & Maritime Organization of Iran signed a 10-year deal for the development of the port.

Sarbananda expressed his satisfaction with the conclusion of the agreement and described it as an important and historic day in relations between the two countries and regional ties.

Under the agreement, IPGL will invest about \$120 million with an additional \$250 million in financing, bringing the contract's value to \$370 million, said Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development Mehrdad



with Indian Cahinet Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways meetina in Tehran on May 13, 2024

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein

Amir-Abdollahian (2nd R) talks

India's Foreign Minister S Jaishankar said the deal "will clear the pathway for bigger investments to be

made in the port". India had entered an agreement to develop the Chabahar port in 2016. India took over operations of the port at the end of 2018. The port dian goods and products to Afghanistan and Central Asia.







