

[In first call with Palestinian president Abbas, Biden discusses support for humanitarian aid to Gaza](#)

RIYADH: President Joe Biden on Saturday spoke with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, urging the leaders to allow humanitarian aid to the region and affirmed his support for efforts to protect civilians.

[Israeli attack puts Syrian Aleppo airport out of service; five people injured](#)

BEIRUT: Israeli strikes targeted the airport of Syria's government-held city of Aleppo injuring five people on Saturday, a war monitor said, days after a similar strike hit Aleppo and Damascus airports. Syria's defense ministry also confirmed the strikes after midnight on Sunday, saying the airport has been rendered temporarily out of service.

[How water scarcity is disrupting agriculture, worsening food insecurity in the Middle East](#)

DUBAI: Demand for food is fast outstripping production capacity in many parts of the world, raising the specter of shortage and hunger as overfarming of mineral-rich soils leads to land degradation and exhaustion of finite freshwater sources.

In the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), water is being referred to as the "new blue gold" as rivers and natural aquifers get rapidly depleted amid a warming climate and overexploitation of reserves, depriving farmers of the means to irrigate their crops and hydrate their livestock.

Griffiths: Situation in Gaza Strip 'fast becoming untenable'

NEW YORK: The humanitarian situation in Gaza, already critical, is now "fast becoming untenable," UN aid chief Martin Griffiths said in a statement.

There is no power, water or fuel in Gaza, and food is running dangerously low, Griffiths said, urging all countries with influence to use it to ensure respect for the rules of war, and avoid further escalation.

The actions and rhetoric by Hamas and Israel in the past few days is "extremely alarming, unacceptable," Griffiths said.

Civilians and civilian infrastructure must protected, he said.

Lebanon protests to UN over journalist's death in Israel border clash

BEIRUT: Lebanon on Saturday said it will file a complaint to the UN over the Israeli cross-border fire that killed Reuters journalist Issam Abdullah and wounded six others the previous day.

The Foreign Ministry asked Beirut's mission to the UN to raise concerns over what it described as a "flagrant violation and a crime against freedom of opinion and press."

Abdullah's funeral in his hometown on Saturday was attended by hundreds of people.