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Biden, Xi agree to restore military ties

WOODSIDE, US

US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed to restore military communications at their first summit in a year on Wednesday.

The leaders shook hands and strolled in a garden at a historic California estate during four-hour talks aimed at preventing growing tensions between the world's largest economies from spiralling into conflict.

They also agreed that China would crack down on the production of ingredients for the drug fentanyl, responsible for a deadly epidemic of opioid abuse in the United States.

The two leaders had not met in person since they held talks in Bali in November 2022, and relations nosedived after the United States shot down an alleged Chinese spy balloon in February this year.

Productive discussions

But Biden told a press conference at the Filoli estate in California that his talks with Xi, whom he has known since 2011, were "some of the most constructive and productive discussions we've had."

The United States would compete "vigorously" but "responsibly" with an increasingly assertive China "so it doesn't veer into conflict or accidental conflict," he added.

—AFP

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Ali Al Ameri, owner of Rahal Ranch in Abu Dhabi, says horses are the most 'trusting beings' — he doesn't even like to call them animals | P10-11

Israel offensive now targets southern Gaza

PALESTINIANS ORDERED TO EVACUATE FOUR TOWNS FOR THEIR SAFETY

GAZA/JERUSALEM

Israel ordered civilians to leave four towns in the southern part of the Gaza Strip yesterday, raising fears its war against Hamas could spread to areas it had told people were safe.

In the north of the Hamas-ruled Palestinian enclave, Israel said its forces were still present at Gaza's biggest hospital, Al Shifa, but gave no further details of their operations since the previous day when they entered the facility culminating a days-long siege.

Leaflets dropped overnight from aircraft told civilians to leave the towns of Bani Shuhaila, Khuzaa, Abassan and Qarara, on the eastern edge of Khan Younis, the main southern city. The towns, collectively home to more than 100,000 people in peacetime, are now sheltering tens of thousands more who fled other areas.

Warning leaflets

"The acts of Hamas terrorist group require the defence forces to act against them in the areas of your residence," the leaflets said. "For your safety, you need to evacuate your places of residence immediately and head to known shelters." Residents said the area came under heavy bombardment overnight.

Israel has already ordered the

UAE TO BUILD 3 DESALINATION PLANTS IN GAZA

The Joint Operations Command at the Ministry of Defence announced its intention to build three desalination plants in Rafah, Gaza Strip, as part of the 'Gallant Knight 3' humanitarian operation.

The production capacity of each plant is 200,000 gallons per day with a total of 600,000 gallons, benefiting 300,000 people per day.

Meanwhile, the UAE yesterday welcomed the adoption of UN Security Council resolution 2712, which calls for urgent and extended humanitarian pauses and corridors throughout the Gaza Strip for unhindered delivery of humanitarian aid.

—WAM

evacuation of the entire northern half of Gaza before sending in its ground forces at the end of October. Long processions of people clutching just a few possessions have made their way south each day under the eyes of Israeli soldiers during six-hour "tactical pauses" to allow residents to leave.

—Reuters

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World Cup final: India favourites after Australia's narrow victory

Aussies tame South Africa by three wickets in a thrilling semi-final

DUBAI

BY SHYAM A. KRISHNA
Senior Associate Editor

A thriller at the Eden Gardens, Kolkata: that was the second semi-final of the Cricket World Cup yesterday.

Australia survived a mighty scare from South Africa to meet India in the final on Sunday. India had earlier subdued New Zealand in an enthralling encounter.

When South Africa crashed to 24/4 under overcast skies, there were visions of another



choke. David Miller hauled them out of the coals with a fighting century, and the Proteas fought bitterly to defend 212.

Pulsating start

Australia's pulsating start of 74 in 10 overs gave way to an agonising crawl as they

sneaked home by three wickets.

The wobbly chase does not augur well for Australia in the title clash. India have a far superior attack than South Africa, especially the spinners. But captain Pat Cummins will take heart from the incredible spells of Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood, who will square off against the Indian batting juggernaut led by Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli.

Who will win? India dominated the league games, although they were stretched by the Kiwis. They will take the learnings from that tight match into the final, particularly the need to tighten the fielding.

So it's advantage India in Ahmedabad.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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WORLD

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