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Man in Dubai diagnosed with 5 heart chambers

DUBAI
BY SHARMILA DHAL
UAE Editor

A Dubai-based Indian man, aged 51, has been diagnosed with a rare heart condition that is said to occur in only 0.004 per cent of the general population and 0.1 to 0.4 per cent of all cases of congenital heart anomalies.

Called cor triatriatum sinister, the congenital anomaly results in the heart having five chambers.

As Dr. Sachin Upadhyaya, Cardiology Specialist, Aster Hospital, who detected the anomaly, told *Gulf News*, the man's left atrium has been divided into two chambers by a membrane, resulting in three atria, instead of two.

The doctor said the case highlights the need for adults above 35 years to go in for comprehensive heart checks. Now, what symptoms did this patient have? How was he diagnosed with such an unusual condition?

FULL STORY ON PAGE 2

Aid agencies warn of famine in Gaza as fierce battle rages

COMBAT AND CHAOS STALL SPORADIC AID DELIVERIES FOR DESPERATE CIVILIANS

GAZA STRIP

Heavy fighting rocked besieged Gaza yesterday as aid agencies warned of looming famine, a day after a UN Security Council resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire was blocked by a US veto.

Washington, which argued the resolution would have imperilled ongoing efforts to free hostages, sent top White House official Brett McGurk to Cairo for renewed talks involving mediators and Hamas.

Global concern has spiralled over the high civilian death toll and dire humanitarian crisis in the war sparked by Hamas's October 7 attack against Israel.

Combat and chaos again stalled the sporadic aid deliveries for desperate civilians in Gaza, where the UN has warned the population of 2.4 million is on the brink of famine and could face an "explosion" of child deaths. The UN World Food Programme said it was forced to halt aid deliveries in north Gaza because of "complete chaos and violence" after a truck convoy encountered gunfire and was ransacked by looters.

'We want to live'

"We can't take it anymore," said Ahmad, a resident of Gaza City, where entire blocks are in ruins and cratered streets are



AFP

■ Displaced Palestinian children gather to receive food at a government school in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip amid the ongoing battle between Israel and Hamas militants.

strewn with rubble. "We do not have flour, we don't even know where to go in this cold weather," he said. "We demand a ceasefire. We want to live."

Particular concern has centred on Gaza's far-southern Rafah area, where 1.4 million people now live in crowded shelters.

The flow of aid entering Gaza from Egypt has almost dried up, and a collapse in security has made it increasingly difficult to distribute the food that does get through.

Before the conflict, Gaza relied on 500 trucks with supplies entering daily, and even during

intense fighting in January around 200 aid trucks made it through on most days. But from February 9-20 the daily average fell to just 57 trucks. On seven of those 12 days, 20 or fewer trucks made it through.

—Agencies
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