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AFF

■ A fireball erupts after an Israeli strike over Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday amid ongoing battles between Israel and the Palestinian militant group Hamas.

Israel, Hamas working towards fresh truce and hostage deal

UN Security Council vote on aid further delayed as US works 'intensely'

GAZA STRIP

Hopes rose yesterday that Israel and Hamas may be inching toward another truce and hostage release deal in the Gaza war, following secret talks and as the head of the Palestinian militant group visited Egypt.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu late Tuesday told relatives of some of the remaining 129 captives held in Gaza since the October 7 attacks that his spy chief was working on efforts to "free our hostages".

"I have just sent the head

of Mossad to Europe twice to promote a process to free our hostages," the premier told them. "I will spare no effort on the subject, and our duty is to bring them all back."

Talks were ongoing "with the aim of reaching an agreement around the release of the remaining hostages in Gaza in exchange for a truce and the potential release of Palestinians held in Israeli prisons," said the source.

Meanwhile, a United Na-

tions Security Council vote on a bid to boost aid to the Gaza Strip and ask the UN to monitor humanitarian aid deliveries in the Palestinian enclave has again been delayed at the request of the US, diplomats said yesterday.

"Negotiations are ongoing and need more time," a UN diplomat said.

"We continue to engage extensively and constructively with a number of countries to try to resolve some of the outstanding issues," US Secretary of State Antony Blinken told reporters yesterday.

Blinken said the US had been working "intensely" on the issue and that he had been "on the phones about this for the last the last couple of days."

—Agencies
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20,000

people have been killed in the Palestinian territory since the war began on October 7

First liver transplant in Dubai saves woman

Patient discharged just 10 days after milestone surgery

DUBAI

BY SAJILA SASEENDRAN
Senior Reporter

Dubai's health care system has marked a milestone with the emirate's first liver transplant saving the life of a 38-year-old woman.

The four-hour surgery was conducted on November 29 at King's College Hospital London-Dubai, top officials announced yesterday.

The liver, donated by the family of a brain-dead patient, was transplanted by a team from King's College Hospital, London, and experts from its Dubai branch.

Dr. Marwan Al Mulla, CEO of Health Regulation Sector

at Dubai Health Authority, highlighted this as a significant step in Dubai's organ transplant progress.

Autoimmune hepatitis

Dr. Tashfeen Siddiq Ali, chief medical officer and emergency medicine consultant at King's College Hospital London-Dubai, said the patient had suffered from advanced autoimmune hepatitis and had presented with jaundice and liver failure symptoms. She was discharged just ten days post-surgery and has been doing well.

Dr. Ali Al Obaidi, chairman of the UAE National Transplant Committee said 582 organs have been transplanted under the Hayat national organ and tissue donation and transplantation programme.

SEE ALSO P3

Court jolts Trump's 2024 ballot hopes

FORMER US PRESIDENT BARRED FROM COLORADO PRIMARY ELECTION

DUBAI

BY SADIQ SHABAN
Opinion Editor

Former US President Donald Trump has been barred from inclusion on Colorado's 2024 presidential primary ballot following a landmark ruling by the state Supreme Court. The decision, which cites Trump's alleged involvement in inciting the January 6, 2021, US Capitol riot, marks the first instance of Trump being disqualified in an attempt to block the 2020 electoral victory of President Joe Biden.

In a 4-3 ruling issued on Tuesday, the Colorado Supreme Court determined that there is substantial evidence implicating Trump in an act of insurrection, thus disqualifying him from running for president. The ruling asserts that this disqualification is grounded in a provision of the US Constitution.

The court has, however, opted to delay the enforcement of its decision until January 4, allowing Trump an opportunity to appeal the ruling to the US Supreme Court, a course of action he is likely to opt for. If Trump

pursues a review from the federal Supreme Court, the pause on the Colorado top court's decision will persist until the US Supreme Court either denies Trump's appeal or rules on the matter of his eligibility for the ballot.

This groundbreaking decision is the first instance in which a state court has ruled in favour of disqualifying Trump from a future election due to his alleged promotion of the insurrection aimed at overturning his 2020 election loss to President Joe Biden. The development serves as a remarkable punctuation mark in American politics and a startling possibility where a presidential candidate from a major political party could face disqualification from holding high office.

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