

ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR
5 countries
seek ICC
investigation

AFP, The Hague

Five countries, including South Africa and Bangladesh, on Friday called for an International Criminal Court investigation into the Israel-Hamas war that has left thousands of people dead, its chief prosecutor said.

ICC chief prosecutor Karim Khan said South Africa, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Comoros and Djibouti – all ICC members – had sought an investigation of “the situation in the state of Palestine”.

Khan said in a statement that an investigation into events in the Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank started in March 2021 now “extends to the escalation of hostilities and violence since the attacks that took place on October, 2023”.

Khan said his team had collected a “significant volume” of evidence on “relevant incidents” in the war.



A boy walks among debris at the site of an Israeli strike on the apartment building in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday.

SUDANESE CHILD
REFUGEES
Thousands
malnourished
MSF concerned

AFP, Libreville

Thousands of children whose families fled the conflict in Sudan for neighbouring Chad are suffering from severe malnutrition, Doctors Without Borders (MSF) warned on Friday, appealing for emergency food aid.

Chad hosts the highest number of refugees from Sudan, where a war erupted in April between the army and paramilitaries.

More than 8,000 people fled from Sudan to Chad in the first week of November alone, according to the United Nations refugee agency.

The country already hosts nearly 900,000, and amid escalating fighting in Sudan's western Darfur region the influx has picked up in recent weeks.

In the Metche camp, which hosts 40,000 people, Doctors Without Borders said in a statement that the prevalence of global acute malnutrition is 13.6 percent among the under fives.

Its teams have helped around 14,000 malnourished children since the start of the year, nearly 3,000 of whom had to be taken to hospital in a serious condition, it said.

More than 10,400 people have been killed in the Sudan conflict so far.

APEC SUMMIT

Pacific Rim leaders divided
on Ukraine, Gaza wars

REUTERS, San Francisco

Pacific Rim leaders showed divisions over the wars in Ukraine and Gaza after a two-day summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum on Friday, although they pledged support for reform of the World Trade Organization.

Days of meetings involving Apec ministers and leaders were dominated by a summit on Wednesday between US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping aimed at cooling tensions between the world's two largest economies, which have alarmed the region.

The 21 Apec members, which include Russia and Muslim-majority Indonesia and Malaysia, went into the meetings divided over Russia's war in Ukraine and the Hamas-Israel war in Gaza, and that is how they left them.

A statement issued by this year's Apec chair, the United States, echoed last year's Apec leaders' declaration in saying that “most” Apec members “strongly condemn aggression against Ukraine.”

It said the leaders exchanged views on the Gaza crisis, with some objecting to language of the chair's statement in an accompanying “Golden Gate Declaration” covering economic issues “on the basis that they do not believe that Apec is a forum to discuss geopolitical issues.”

Some Apec leaders shared the united messages of the



November 11 joint Arab-Islamic summit in Riyadh, the chair's statement said.

Brunei, Indonesia, and Malaysia in a joint statement said they were among the Apec leaders who supported the messages of the Riyadh summit, which had called for an immediate end to military operations in Gaza, rejecting Israel's justification of its actions against Palestinians as self defense.

Despite the frictions over the Ukraine and Middle East wars, the Sino-US talks will have brought some relief to Apec members concerned by a worsening trajectory in the rivalry between the superpowers, which are also the world's largest economies.

The Biden-Xi summit brought agreements to resume military-to-military communications and work to curb fentanyl production, showing some tangible progress in the first face-to-face talks in a year between the two, but no major reset in their strategic rivalry.

Xi appeared to achieve his aims, earning US concessions

in exchange for promises of cooperation, an easing of bilateral tensions that will allow more focus on economic growth, and a chance to woo foreign investors who increasingly shun China.

Biden, addressing the other Apec leaders on Friday, urged them to work together to ensure that artificial intelligence brings change for the better, rather than abusing workers or limiting potential.

Biden used the Apec summit to highlight the strong US economy and its ties to other Pacific nations, even as his vision for greater regional cooperation to counter China's influence stumbled on the trade front over his bid to strengthen workers' rights.

The managing director of the International Monetary Fund, Kristalina Georgieva, told Reuters the Biden-Xi meeting was a badly needed signal that the world needs to cooperate more and a positive sign for cooperation on global challenges, especially climate change.

Much US-China tension is linked to democratically governed Taiwan, which China claims at its own, and the issue has raised fears of a conflict between the superpowers.

Taiwan's Apec envoy, semiconductor magnate Morris Chang, told a news conference on Friday he believed the Biden-Xi summit had been a “good meeting.”

BATTLING MYANMAR JUNTA
New clashes in
Rakhine displace
26,000: UN

AFP, Yangon

Renewed fighting this week between Myanmar's military and an ethnic minority armed group has displaced more than 26,000 people in western Rakhine state, the United Nations said on Friday.

Ongoing clashes between the Arakan Army (AA) and the military “have resulted in the displacement of 26,175 people” across Rakhine, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said in an update. AA fighters launched attacks on security forces in Rakhine and neighbouring Chin state on Monday, ending a shaky ceasefire and opening another front as the military battles opponents in the north and east.

Unocha said at least 11 people had been killed in military shelling of AA positions since Monday. On Thursday junta troops shelled the town of Pauktaw, 16 miles (25 kilometers) west of state capital Sittwe, and shot at it from helicopters after AA fighters briefly seized the police station, residents told AFP. The military took control of the town later in the day, and on Friday local media cited residents saying that around 50 people had been detained and an unknown number were feared dead. Unocha said 19,000 people had been displaced from Pauktaw. “Virtually all” roads and waterways connecting Rakhine townships have been blocked, Unocha said, adding most humanitarian activities in affected townships had been suspended.

ANTI-SEMITIC POST
Musk to file
‘thermonuclear
lawsuit’ as
advertisers drop X

REUTERS

X Corp, formerly known as Twitter, will file a lawsuit against Media Matters and those who attacked social media platform X, Elon Musk said yesterday in a post on the platform, soon after major US companies paused their advertisements on the site. “The split second court opens on Monday, X Corp will be filing a thermonuclear lawsuit against Media Matters and all those who colluded in this fraudulent attack on our company,” Musk wrote in a post on X, without naming any other parties. Liberal media watchdog group Media Matters for America earlier this week said it found that corporate advertisements by IBM, Apple, Oracle, and Comcast's Xfinity were being placed alongside antisemitic content. IBM on Thursday said it immediately suspended all advertising on Musk-owned X after the watchdog found its ads were placed next to content promoting Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party. Disney, Warner Bros Discovery and Comcast, Lions Gate Entertainment and Paramount Global said on Friday they were also pausing their ads on X. Axios reported that Apple would do the same. Musk on Wednesday endorsed an antisemitic post on X that falsely claimed members of the Jewish community were stoking hatred against white people. “This week Media Matters for America posted a story that completely misrepresented the real experience on X, in another attempt to undermine freedom of speech and mislead advertisers,” a statement posted by Musk said. Media Matters did not immediately respond to an emailed request seeking comment.



MAJOR DRONE ATTACK BY RUSSIA
400 Ukrainian
villages out of power

REUTERS, Kyiv

Russia carried out a major drone attack on Ukraine overnight, hitting infrastructure facilities and causing power outages in more than 400 towns and villages in the south, southeast, and north of the country, Ukrainian officials said yesterday.

Ukraine air defences shot down 29 out of 38 Iranian-made Shahed drones launched from Russian territory, the air force said.

The air force said in a statement the attack on several Ukrainian regions lasted from 8:00 pm (1800 GMT) on Friday to 4:00 am yesterday.

The energy ministry said 416 settlements in the Odesa region in the south and in the Zaporizhzhia region in the southeast were cut off from electricity after networks were damaged in the strikes.

Last winter, Russia pounded Ukraine with hundreds of missiles and drones, leaving millions without electricity, heating, and water during the coldest months.

This year Ukraine had an unusually warm autumn. But as temperatures start to fall, officials have urged residents and businesses to prepare for renewed Russian attacks.

“We do not have a right to relax,” Volodymyr Kudrytskyi, head of the power grid operator Ukrenergo, told Ukrainian TV.

“Certainly, all of us, energy workers and defence forces, are preparing to repel possible Russian attacks on the energy infrastructure this winter.”

The energy ministry also said an oil refinery was hit in the Odesa region. An administrative building was also damaged and one civilian was wounded in the strike, the south military command said in a statement on the Telegram messaging app.



View of a burnt tree after a fire in Pantanal, the world's largest wetland, in Porto Jofre, Mato Grosso state, Brazil on Friday.

US CAPITOL RIOT
40,000 hours
of video to be
released

AFP, Washington

More than 40,000 hours of security video from the January 6, 2021 attack on the US Capitol is to be released to the public, the new Republican speaker of the House of Representatives said Friday.

“Today, I am keeping my promise to the American people and making all the January 6th tapes available to ALL Americans,” Mike Johnson, a Republican from Louisiana, said on X. “Truth and transparency are critical.”

Johnson, who has endorsed former president Donald Trump's bid to recapture the White House in 2024, said the Capitol Hill security video would be posted in batches on a public website.

“This decision will provide millions of Americans, criminal defendants, public interest organizations, and the media an ability to see for themselves what happened that day,” Johnson said.