INTERNATIONAL

Netanyahu 'will be tried as war criminal'

Says Erdogan

REUTERS, Istanbul

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said yesterday that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would eventually be tried as a war criminal over Israel's ongoing offensive in the Gaza Strip, while slamming Western countries supporting Israel.

In a speech to an Organisation of Islamic (OIC) Cooperation committee meeting in Istanbul, Erdogan Western nations supporting Israel were giving it "unconditional support to kill babies" and were complicit in its crimes.

Turkey, which supports a two-state solution to the decades-old conflict, has sharply criticised Israel over its campaign in Gaza. More than 15,500 people have been killed in the Israeli strikes, according to Gaza's health ministry.



A Palestinian boy carrying a baby stands at a site of Israeli strikes, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, in Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday.

'We respect' climate science

COP28's UAE president hits back at climate denial claims

AFP, Dubai

The Emirati president of the UN's COP28 talks said yesterday he respects climate science, after a leaked video showed him declaring that no science says phasing out fossil fuel will achieve climate goals.

Sultan Al Jaber also repeated his past statements that a phase out of fossil fuels was "inevitable" as he hit out at "repeated attempts to undermine" the work of the COP28 presidency.

"We're here because we very much believe and respect the science," Jaber, who is also the head of UAE national oil company ADNOC, told reporters. "Everything this presidency has been working on is focused on and centred around the science," Jaber said.

He acknowledged that global greenhouse gas emissions must be cut by 43 percent by 2030 as part of efforts to achieve the goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius from pre-industrial levels.

The Guardian newspaper published a video on Sunday showing Jaber having a testy exchange with former Irish president Mary Robinson during an online forum.



"I'm not in any way signing up to a discussion that is alarmist," Jaber told the SHE Changes Climate online conference on November 21.

"I am factual and I respect the science, and there is no science out there, or no scenario out there, that says that the phase-out of fossil fuels is what's going to achieve 1.5

The video sparked an outcry among NGOs, which were already outraged by the appointment of an oil company boss to head the crucial climate negotiations.

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Official inviting tender

400,000 Palestinians lost jobs due to war

Says ILO as Israeli authorities cancelled their work permits, imposed restrictions on crossings

AGENCIES

Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians in the West Bank have lost their jobs or had their salaries frozen after the Israeli authorities cancelled their work permits and imposed severe restrictions on crossings after the October 7 offensive.

Around 182,000 Gaza residents who work in Israel and the settlements had their employment terminated, initial estimates by the International Labour Organization (ILO) suggest, while about 24 percent of employment in the West Bank has also been lost – equivalent to 208,000 jobs - as a result of the Israel-Hamas war.

According to the ILO, a further 50,000 workers from the West Bank either lost their jobs in Israel and the settlements, at least temporarily, or are at risk of losing them "as a result of restrictions imposed on Palestinians' access to the Israeli labour market and the closures of crossings from the West Bank into Israel and the settlements".

Hani Mousa, an assistant political science professor at Birzeit University in the West Bank, said this is part of "Israel's collective punishment of Palestinians, which also extended to employees in the Palestinian Authority (PA), whose salaries were not paid because Israel did not transfer the money needed".

Under interim peace accords, the Israeli finance minister has the final say in monthly money transfers made to the PA from taxes it collects on Palestinians' behalf.

The PA is then typically able to pay its employees, which it was not able to do in October, as Israel refused to make the full transfers, reports The Guardian online.

Unemployment in the Gaza Strip stood at 46.4 percent in the second quarter of 2023, one of the highest rates in the world, reports Al Jazeera online.

More than 80 percent of the population in Gaza lives below poverty line: UN

More than 80 percent of the population lives below the poverty line, according to the UN.

Shortages of food, water and medical supplies have worsened since Israel tightened its blockade and began bombarding the enclave on October 7.

prosecutor of the The International Criminal Court (ICC) on Sunday called on Israel to respect the international rules of war and said he was accelerating his investigation into violence by Israeli settlers against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank.

"In Gaza, there is no justification for doctors to perform operations without light, for children to be operated upon without anaesthetics. Imagine the pain," ICC prosecutor Karim Khan said in a video message posted online after a four-day visit to Israel and the Palestinian Authority in the West

"I was crystal clear, that this is the time to comply with the law. If Israel doesn't comply now, they shouldn't complain later.'

Khan also called on Hamas to respect the rules of war and to not misuse any humanitarian aid that is brought into the besieged Gaza strip, reports Reuters. 'Civilians must have access to

basic food, water and desperately needed medical supplies, without further delay, and at pace and at The Red Cross president arrived

in war-torn Gaza yesterday, calling for the protection of civilians in the Palestinian territory, where she warned that human suffering was "intolerable". The International Committee of

the Red Cross said ICRC president Mirjana Spoljaric's travel to the region would happen in several stages with "a visit to Israel expected over the coming weeks". "I have arrived in Gaza, where

people's suffering is intolerable,' Spoljaric said on X, formerly

"It is unacceptable that civilians have no safe place to go in Gaza, and with a military siege in place there is also no adequate humanitarian response currently possible," she added in an ICRC statement.

Spoljaric, whose organisation has faced criticism from both sides in the conflict for not providing adequate help to Israeli hostages held by Hamas and Palestinian prisoners held by Israel, insisted that "all those deprived of liberty must be treated humanely".

ETHNIC VIOLENCE

13 people killed in gunfight in **India's Manipur**

REUTERS, Guwahati

At least 13 people were killed in a gunfight between two unknown militant groups in India's restive Manipur state yesterday, a police official said, seven months after ethnic clashes in the border state killed at least 180 people. Their bodies, with multiple bullet wounds, were found in a village in Manipur's Tengnoupal district where the official said a "massive" gunfight was reported. The state has witnessed sporadic violence since the peak of ethnic clashes that erupted on May 3 between members of the majority Meitei ethnic group and minority Kuki community over sharing government benefits and quotas. The clashes have marked a rare security failure for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government in a state ruled by his Bharatiya Janata Party. No weapons were found near the bodies, the senior police official told Reuters by phone from state capital Imphal, requesting anonymity. "It could be possible the weapons were looted after they were killed," the official said, adding that they could not immediately identify the dead or the militant groups. It was only on Sunday that authorities lifted the ban on mobile internet services in the violence-hit state. The lifting of suspension came four days after the Centre and Manipur government signed a peace agreement in New Delhi with the UNLF.

India's Modi seen unstoppable after state polls sweep

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's opposition faces a "herculean task" in next year's general elections against Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which wrested control of key states in a surprisingly strong showing in local polls. The

defeat of Congress in all three heartland states, which was announced on Sunday, dashed any notion

that the opposition could pose a serious challenge through newly formed 28-party led by the party that has ruled India for 54 years independence from Britain, analysts and politicians said. It

showcased the organisational strength of the BJP and the appeal of Modi's presidential-style campaigning, even though he was not on the ticket, just five months before national elections in which he will seek a third term in office. "After these results, it looks like there is no stopping Modi," said Yashwant Deshmukh, poll expert with C-Voter agency, adding that stopping Modi would be a "herculean task". The BJP won the regional votes in three of four major states, including central Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh which were ruled by Congress. Modi swept to power in 2014 on a pitch for stability and growth from what he described as the corruption and poor governance of Congress. He remains popular and surveys show he is the favourite to win the 2024 election. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has worked hard to revive the party in recent years. He led a 135-day march across the country, changed the party's leadership and pushed to form the 28-party alliance called INDIA, wooing voters with payouts. "We need to go back to the drawing board and seriously assess

what really went wrong, why we were not able to

get the confidence of people," senior Congress

lawmaker Manish Tewari told Reuters. "You need

a programme which will enthuse people, which

₩BFCC Biman Flight Catering Centre বিমান ফ্রাইট ক্যাটারিং সেকার Invitation for Tender No. 67/2023 01 Agency Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd. Invitation of tender for procurement of Plastic pallet, tote box, crate and PVC

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a. BFCC Main Security Gate, Hazrat Shahjalal Int'l Airport, Kurmitola, Dhaka. Receiving document b. Biman Balaka Bhaban, Security Counter Gate (Ground Floor), Hazrat Shahjalal Int'l Airport, Kurmitola, Dhaka. BDT 1,000.00 (one thousand) only per set (non-refundable).

2) Tender security amount (Tk) 1) Location 3) Contract period BDT 40,000.00 (forty thousand) only BFCC/Hazrat Shahjalal Int'l Airport, Kurmitola, Dhaka (refundable) General Manager, BFCC, HSIA, Kurmitola, Dhaka. BIMAN/BFCCs own fund. Procuring entity & fund

Phone: 8901760-64 Ext-13 Fax: 8901638 Tender schedule and other related information will also be available in Biman website: www.biman-airlines.com- for ready reference

Dy. General Manager, BFCC, Hazrat Shahjalal Int'l Airport, Kurmitola, Dhaka.

Dy. General Manager, BFCC

areas, officials in both states said, with warnings issued for fishermen not to venture out into the sea.

coursed through the streets of Chennai, the capital of Tamil Nadu, as rain pelted down. Several areas of the city were submerged in knee-deep water and there have been power outages since yesterday

Cyclone Michaung nears southern India

Schools shut, thousands of people evacuated

REUTERS, Chennai

Authorities in southern India closed schools and offices, halted flights and evacuated coastal areas yesterday ahead of a severe cyclonic storm expected to make landfall in the next 24 hours, bringing torrential rainfall.

Cyclone Michaung is expected to land on the coast of the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh this morning, the country's weather office said, with sustained winds of 90-100 kph (56-62 mph), gusting to 110 kph.

Authorities in Andhra Pradesh and neighbouring Tamil Nadu were on high alert for damage, evacuating thousands of people living in coastal

Media showed images of cars floating as water morning, a Reuters witness said.



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(Md. Asraful Alam) **Executive Engineer** Khulna O&M Division-2