

D-8 group urges world to up pressure on Israel

AFP, Istanbul

An alliance of mostly Muslim-majority countries including Turkey, Egypt and Iran yesterday demanded full Palestinian membership of the United Nations and greater international pressure on Israel amid the Gaza war.

The D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation, which also includes Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria and Pakistan, called for an immediate ceasefire in the devastated Palestinian territory, where Israel has been battling Hamas militants for more than eight months.

Foreign ministers from the group meeting in Istanbul called on the United States to lift its veto on full Palestinian UN membership and on all countries to "exert diplomatic, political, economic and legal pressure" on Israel.

They also urged states to ensure Israel complies with the International Court of Justice's decisions, withdraws from the southern Rafah governorate and guarantees the safe entry of humanitarian aid to Gaza.

Denouncing an "ongoing genocide and grave violations of international law", the group called on states to contribute to and join legal proceedings against Israel at international courts.

The eight countries also demanded an end to arms and ammunition deliveries to Israel and that all measures be taken to protect Palestinian civilians, rejecting any attempted forced displacement.



Protesters hold placards and wave Palestinian flags as they take part in a "National March for Gaza" in central London yesterday, calling to "end the genocide" and "stop arming Israel". PHOTO: AFP

'INDIA bloc offered PM post to Nitish Kumar'

NDTV ONLINE

Bihar Chief Minister and Janata Dal (United) chief Nitish Kumar was offered the prime ministerial post by the Opposition INDIA bloc after the Lok Sabha election results were announced, party leader KC Tyagi claimed in an exclusive interview with NDTV.

The remarks came amid speculation that the INDIA bloc is trying to get Nitish Kumar back into the alliance in a bid to stop the NDA from forming the government for a record third term.

Tyagi, though, made it clear that the JDU has rejected all the offers from the opposition and plan to work with the NDA for the next five years.

"Nitish Kumar's speech supporting Prime Minister Narendra Modi has put to rest all the rumours doing the rounds. These reports should have stopped when we (JDU) joined the NDA," Tyagi told NDTV.

"We were hurt by the way Congress and its allies treated our leader, and had to choose a different path. Those who thought Nitish Kumar was not worthy of being the alliance's convener are now offering him the prime minister's post. But the JDU has already rejected all such offers," he added.

Buzz of a sensational Nitish Kumar - INDIA bloc reunion surfaced Tuesday evening after it became clear the BJP would not win 272 seats on its own. Senior

INDIA leaders, including former Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, suggested an olive branch might be extended to Nitish Kumar.

On Thursday sources close to Nitish Kumar ruled out this possibility, but left a sting in the tail; with both sides locked in talks over ministerial berth allocation, the BJP brass was reportedly told to remember Nitish Kumar had walked out of the INDIA bloc over delays in naming him as its Convener.

According to sources, JDU will get two key posts in the new cabinet led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which will be sworn in today. The party has proposed the name of two senior leaders - Lalan Singh and Ram Nath Thakur. Lalan Singh was elected to the Lok Sabha from Bihar's Munger, while Ram Nath Thakur is a Rajya Sabha MP. Thakur is the son of Bharat Ratna awardee Karpooori Thakur.



France's President Emmanuel Macron (L) talks with US President Joe Biden during a ceremony at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris yesterday. Biden, after meeting Macron pledged Washington's support for Kyiv in its battle against the Russian invasion, warning that Vladimir Putin would "not stop" at Ukraine. Both Biden and Macron on Friday met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Paris, pledging support for the Ukrainian cause. The US president, 81, has been in France since Wednesday and took part in this week's commemorations marking the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings that changed the course of World War II. PHOTO: AFP

Danish PM attacker gets 12 days in custody

REUTERS, Copenhagen

A 39-year old man who assaulted Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen in Copenhagen on Friday causing her to suffer a neck injury was sentenced yesterday to 12 days in custody, Danish police said.

The assault took place in a square in the city centre on Friday when a man walked up to the prime minister and hit her.

Frederiksen's office said the incident had left the politician "shocked" and suffering a minor whiplash injury.

All programmes of PM have been cancelled.

The assault comes two days before Danes head to the polls in the European Union election.

A month ago, three German politicians suffered assaults ahead of European Parliament and district council elections and more attacks followed earlier this week.

Suspected Islamists kill 38 in DR Congo

REUTERS, Beni

Suspected Islamist rebels killed at least 38 people in an overnight attack on villages in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, two district officials and a civil society leader said yesterday.

Local civil society leader Justin Kavalami blamed members of the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) for the attack. The ADF, alleged to be behind another village assault that killed at least 16 people earlier this week, originates from neighbouring Uganda.

Now based in eastern Congo, it has pledged allegiance to Islamic State and mounts frequent attacks, further destabilising a region where many militant groups are active.

Armed men used guns and machetes to attack residents of villages in Beni territory, in North Kivu province, overnight on Friday, local official Fabien Kakule told Reuters.

District official Leon Kakule Siviwe said the death toll stood at 38 and said the recent surge in violence was due to the attackers taking advantage of a low security presence.

Strikes on Russia-held Ukraine kill 26

AFP, Moscow

Ukrainian strikes on parts of the Russian held Lugansk and Kherson regions killed 26 people and injured dozens more on Friday, occupation authorities said.

Both Ukrainian regions were among four Russia claimed to have annexed in September 2022 despite not fully controlling any of them following the full-scale military campaign launched that February.

A shop in the village of Sadove in the southern Kherson region "with a large number of visitors and employees was destroyed", Vladimir Saldo, head of Russian occupation authorities in Kherson, wrote on Telegram.

A HIMARS missile struck shortly afterwards as residents from neighbouring houses rushed to help the victims, Saldo told Russian media.

Saldo condemned the "vile murder of civilians" made possible by Western arms deliveries to Ukraine.

Earlier on Friday, Russian-appointed officials in Lugansk reported that a Ukrainian missile strike on an apartment block in the eastern region's main city of the same name killed four and wounded more than 40.

The strike tore open the facade of a five-storey Soviet-era block of flats from the roof down and left a deep crater in the ground, images posted by the Russian emergency services showed.

UK foreign minister fooled by hoax call

AFP, London

Britain's foreign minister David Cameron has been the victim of a hoax video call from someone claiming to be the former president of Ukraine, officials said.

Cameron had a short video call with former Ukrainian leader Petro Poroshenko, who was president from 2014 to 2019, but later became concerned. The hoax was being made public to alert others of the risk and ensure the video was not "manipulated and subsequently used", a Foreign Office statement said.

A number of "text messages were exchanged followed by a brief video call between the foreign secretary and someone purporting to be Petro Poroshenko", according to the statement issued on Friday. "Whilst the video call clearly appeared to be with Mr Poroshenko, following the conversation the foreign secretary became suspicious and stopped communication."

The statement did not say when the call took place.

Official notice from Bangladesh government regarding procurement of Non-Consulting Services (PSN). Includes details of tender No. 14/2023-24 and a table of items for procurement.

Engineering Division Khulna University, Khulna. Tender No. KU/ENGG/617/2024. e-Tender Notice Tender No. 14/2023-24. Includes details of tender items and contact information for Engr. S. M. Moniruzzaman.