

GAZA OFFENSIVE

Biden, US
complicit in
alleged war
crimes

Says Erdogan

REUTERS, Ankara

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan has said US President Joe Biden and his administration are complicit in what he called Israeli war crimes and violations of international law in the Gaza conflict, and he called for sanctions against Israel.

In an interview with Newsweek during the Nato summit in Washington, Erdogan said Israel's "brutal murder" of civilians, its strikes on hospitals, aid centres and elsewhere constituted war crimes.

"The US administration, however, disregards these violations and provides Israel with the most support. They do so at the expense of being complicit in these violations," Erdogan was quoted as saying.

Allow Gaza
access
Dozens of int'l
news groups urge
Israel

AFP, New York

More than 60 news organizations, including some of the world's largest, yesterday signed an open letter calling on Israel to immediately end restrictions on international media entering and reporting on Gaza.

CNN, the BBC, Agence France-Presse and the Associated Press were among 64 media groups demanding greater access to the enclave that has faced a withering assault by Israel since Hamas's deadly October 7 assault.

"We, the undersigned, request that Israeli authorities end immediately the restrictions on foreign media entering Gaza and grant independent access to international news organizations seeking to access the territory," states the letter, organised by the Committee to Protect Journalists.

"Nine months into the war, international reporters are still being denied access to Gaza except for rare and escorted trips arranged by the Israeli military," it said.

"This effective ban on foreign reporting has placed an impossible and unreasonable burden on local reporters to document a war through which they are living," it added.



Smoke billows from the site of an Israeli airstrike in the southern Lebanese village of Tairharfa yesterday. Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah, an ally of the Palestinian group Hamas, have exchanged near daily cross-border fire since the Gaza offensive began on October 7, stoking fears of an escalation into all-out war.

PHOTO: AFP

ISRAELI OFFENSIVE IN GAZA

MSF facing 'critical'
medical supply shortage

AFP, Paris

Aid group Doctors Without Borders has warned of "critical" shortages of medical supplies in Gaza, with no resupply for more than two months as fighting between Israel and Hamas wears on.

The group known by its French initials MSF is "facing critical shortages of many things like gauze, gloves... things like that," Amber Alayyan, who works on the Palestinian territories for its French branch, told AFP on Wednesday.

The aid group warned last week in a statement it had been unable to bring any medical supplies into Gaza since the end of April and called on Israel to open more crossing points into the territory.

"We're seeing people who are

MSF staff have shifted to changing wound dressings every four days rather than the usual two to save on supplies

injured in bombings, in shootings, in drone attacks," Alayyan said.

"We're seeing people who are living in such poor conditions that they're cooking on the floor."

MSF staff have shifted to changing wound dressings every four days rather than the usual two to save on supplies, paediatrician Alayyan added.

MSF now risks running out of vital medication such as

anaesthetics needed for surgery.

"If we have to continue going like this... we won't be able to operate. We won't operate without anaesthesia," Alayyan said.

UNRWA, the United Nations body responsible for Palestinian

"Gaza itself needs to be rebuilt. So it's going to have to be rebuilt with wheelchair-accessible ramps all over the place for the thousands of people who are going to be in wheelchairs," she said.

"The offensive needs to



refugees, estimated last month that around 10 children per day were losing one or both legs in Gaza.

Where MSF is involved, "most of the amputations... are being done as life-saving amputations," Alayyan said.

Afterwards, "we don't even have enough wheelchairs in our own hospital... much less prosthetic devices," she added.

With around 88,000 people wounded in Gaza, according to the health ministry, it will be a "proper catastrophe for years to come in terms of post-operative care, wound care, amputations, prosthetics," Alayyan said.

stop... the healthcare system is completely destroyed."

After initially blocking all deliveries into Gaza, Israel reopened Kerem Shalom in December under international pressure.

An average of 250 trucks now cross the checkpoint daily according to COGAT, still well below UN figure of 500 aid and commercial trucks before the offensive.

Independent UN rights experts accused Israel on Tuesday of a "targeted starvation campaign" in the Gaza, where they said 34 Palestinians have died of malnutrition since October.

Taiwan detects
66 Chinese
aircraft
around island

AFP, Taipei

Taiwan's defence ministry said yesterday it had detected 66 Chinese military aircraft around the island in a 24-hour window, a record-high this year, a day after it said Beijing was conducting exercises in nearby waters.

China -- which maintains a near-daily military presence around Taiwan -- claims the self-ruled island as part of its territory and has said it will never renounce the use of force to bring it under its control.

Yesterday's record comes a day after Taipei spotted Chinese aircraft around the island that it said were headed to the western Pacific for exercises with the PLA aircraft carrier Shandong.

"66 PLA aircraft and seven PLAN vessels operating around Taiwan were detected up until 6 am (2200 GMT Wednesday) today," the defence ministry said in yesterday's statement, adding it has "responded accordingly".

Fifty-six of the Chinese aircraft crossed the sensitive median line bisecting the Taiwan Strait -- a narrow 180-kilometre (110-mile) waterway separating the island from China.

POST-POLLS FRANCE

Left-wingers
blast Macron

Demand keys to govt

AFP, Paris

French left-wingers attacked President Emmanuel Macron yesterday after he called for a broad coalition government, demanding that their movement alone should propose a prime minister.

No single force won Sunday's second-round vote outright, though a broad alliance of Socialists, Communists, Greens and the hard-left France Unbowed (LFI) won the most seats, with 193 in the 577-strong National Assembly.

In an open letter to voters, Macron said Wednesday that "nobody won" the ballot. He has left centrist Prime Minister Gabriel Attal in place and called on parties to find common ground for a broad coalition.

Socialist Party chief Olivier Faure accused Macron of failing to "respect the vote of the French people", while LFI figurehead Jean-Luc Melenchon blasted the "return of the royal veto".

Sophie Binet, head of France's biggest trade union federation, the CGT, also enlisted the image of France's long-defunct monarchy to attack the president.

"It's like having Louis XVI locking himself away in Versailles," she said, referring to the king guillotined in 1793 during the French Revolution.

"If (Macron) doesn't respect the result of the polls, he risks plunging the country into chaos once again," she said.

Ukraine seizes
cargo ship in
Black Sea

Detains captain for
exporting 'looted' grain
from occupied Crimea

REUTERS, Kyiv

Ukraine seized a foreign cargo ship in the Black Sea off its Odesa region and detained the captain on suspicion of helping Moscow export Ukrainian grain from Russian-occupied Crimea, the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) said yesterday.

The vessel, which it did not identify, was travelling under the flag of a central African country and repeatedly docked at the Crimean sea port of Sevastopol to pick up "looted" agricultural products in 2023-24, the SBU said.

Russian forces occupied swathes of Ukraine's southern agricultural regions in the first year of its invasion in 2022 and Kyiv has accused Russia of stealing and destroying its grain.

The SBU said the captain and 12 crew members helped Russia export Ukrainian grain taken from the occupied south to the Middle East for sale on behalf of Russia.

"The investigation is ongoing to establish all the circumstances of the crime and identify other persons involved in the illegal activity," the SBU said.

The captain, a citizen of a South Caucasus country, could face up to five years in prison for violating travel restrictions governing Ukraine's Russian-occupied territories, it said.

The Odesa region hub plays a key role in Ukraine's Black Sea exports that it has revived without Russia's assent after Moscow quit a UN-brokered deal last summer that had allowed Kyiv to export food during the war with Russia.



Supporters and activists of the Congress party block a road as they take part in a protest against the recent price hikes of essential commodities, in Kolkata, India yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

ARCTIC CROSSING

Melting ice
no guarantee
of smooth
sailing: study

AFP, Paris

Melting sea ice in the fast-warming Arctic Ocean is not making it easier for sailors to navigate a legendary shortcut between Europe and Asia despite popular belief, scientists said Thursday.

To the contrary, climate change was causing thicker, more hazardous ice to choke the fabled "northwest passage" long-sought by navigators seeking a faster route from the Pacific to the Atlantic Oceans.

Considered virtually impassable a century ago, a growing number of ships have been sailing this remote seaway north of Canada as the thawing of the polar ice promised new opportunities for trade and exploration.

But a new study challenges "the increasingly common belief" that the northwest passage could become a viable alternative shipping route as warming temperatures cause an overall decline in Arctic sea ice.



"Remember -- the biggest cost and the greatest risk will be if Russia wins in Ukraine. We cannot let that happen."

Nato's outgoing Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg tells world leaders at the annual summit

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| E-mail: oicconf.ksy@gmail.com, Web: www.khulnashipyard.com | |
| NAPE (F) - 632/ NAVCOM / 2024-2025 | |
| 11 July 2024 | |
| INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE | |
| 01/ Procuring Entity Name | Khulna Shipyards Limited, Bangladesh Navy, Khulna |
| 02/ Invitation For | Various type of Navigation and Communication Items |
| 03/ Invitation Reference No. | NAPE (F) - 632/ NAVCOM / 2024-2025 DATE: 11 JULY 2024 |
| 04/ Procuring Method | Open Tender (Two Envelope System) |
| 05/ Budget & Source of Funds | Own Finance |
| 06/ Tender Last Selling Date | 30 July 2024 |
| 07/ Tender Closing Date & Time | Date: 31 July 2024 Time: 1:30pm |
| 08/ Tender Opening Date & Time | Date: 31 July 2024 Time: 1:30pm |
| Name & Address of the Office for Selling of Tender Documents:- | |
| 01/ Cash Section, Khulna Shipyards Ltd, Bangladesh Navy, Khulna. | |
| 02/ Naval Store Sub Depot, Khulna Naval Area, Khulna, Dhaka. | |
| Receiving & Opening Tender | |
| Khulna Shipyards Ltd, Bangladesh Navy, Khulna | |
| (Tenderers and their Authorized Representatives are allowed to attend) | |
| 10/ Price of Tender Document | Tender set Tk. 3,000.00 (Tk. Five Thousand) Non-refundable |
| 11/ Contact Details of Official | Mob: +88024950715 Email: oicconf.ksy@gmail.com |
| 12/ Special Instructions | The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all or any tenders prior to acceptance without showing any reason. |
| GD-44 | Manager Admin |