

‘Concerned’ about civilian deaths in Gaza  
Putin tells Abbas

AFP, Moscow

Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday told Palestinian Authority President Mahmud Abbas that Moscow was “concerned” about civilian deaths in Gaza.

“We are concerned above all about civilian losses,” Putin said, according to images shown on Russian state television. “We are doing everything ... to support Palestine and the Palestinian people,” he said.

The only way to create “long-lasting, reliable, stable peace in the region” is implementation of all UN resolutions and the “creation of a fully-fledged Palestinian state,” he added.

Abbas told Putin: “We feel that Russia is one of the dearest friends of the Palestinian people”.



The leaders held talks after a weekend strike on a Gaza school building left at least 93 people dead, including 11 children, according to the Gaza civil defence agency.

Israel’s military said the raid had “eliminated 31 militants”.

Moscow for years tried to balance relations with all major players in the Middle East -- including Israel and the Palestinians.

But since the Israel’s offensive in Gaza and Russia’s own offensive on Ukraine, Putin has moved closer to Israel’s foes, Hamas and Iran.

The Kremlin has repeatedly criticised Israel’s response to the October 7 attacks and called for restraint.

Israel’s military offensive in the Gaza Strip has killed at least 39,929 Palestinians and wounded 92,240 since October 7, the Palestinian enclave’s health ministry said yesterday.

A total of 32 Palestinians have been killed and 88 wounded in the past 24 hours, the ministry said in a statement.

The United States and its European allies also called for a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, with difficult talks set for tomorrow on halting the conflict.



NGO Open Arms rescue boat “Astral” lifeguard Manel Cabanes Carbonell, 22, hands out life jackets to migrants aboard the rubber boat in international waters south of Lampedusa, in the central Mediterranean Sea yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Extreme heat in Gaza poses new challenge  
Say aid groups already hamstrung in their work by Israeli strikes

THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION, Beirut

In Gaza, the sky is full of menace. As well as the missiles that rain down on schools and shelters, the brutal rays of the sun have made the summer unbearable for those struggling to survive in a ravaged landscape of ruins and rubble.

Samaher al-Daour sometimes wishes she had been killed in the early days of the Israel’s offensive rather than have to watch her son, who lost a leg during the conflict, endure the unbearable heat.

“The situation is horrible,” said Daour, 42, as she sat beside her 20-year-old son Haitham in their sweltering tent in the southern city of Khan Younis in June.

“During the day, it is incredibly hot inside and outside the tent,” she said in a telephone interview. “We go to the sea but it is still very difficult.”

Haitham lost his leg in February during an Israeli airstrike on a school run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNWRA) in the Maghazi refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip.

Now the stifling heat is denying him the rest he needs to recover his strength. He sweats all the time and this is irritating his leg and making it swell. “He is suffering because of this,” said Daour.

After 10 months of offensive, almost all of Gaza’s 2.3 million people are displaced. They live in

tents or overcrowded shelters, and there is almost no electricity and little clean water.

Hungry and weak, they cannot shower and struggle to sleep in their boiling shelters. In the heat, food is rotting, drawing insects and flies to crowded camps where people, who have been forced to flee again



and again, now risk heatstroke and other heat-related diseases.

Since April, Gaza has experienced several periods of extreme heat, with temperatures reaching around 40 degrees Celsius during that month. Temperatures throughout August reached an average high of 34 degrees Celcius, according to US private forecaster AccuWeather.

In late June, the World Health Organization said scorching heat could exacerbate health problems

for the millions of displaced, warning that a public health crisis was looming due to the lack of clean water, food and medical supplies.

The heat is also making things more difficult for aid agencies, already hamstrung in their work by the airstrikes, fighting and ravaged infrastructure. “It would be fair to say

that the majority of humanitarian responders, including donors ... have not really considered the threats of heat and extreme heat,” said Paul Knox Clarke, principal at ADAPT, a climate and humanitarian initiative.

“It has been complicating everything,” said Prabu Selvam, medical officer for the AmeriCare relief agency, adding that the transport of medicines that need to be kept cool was proving particularly challenging.

2 explosions reported near vessels off Yemen

AFP, Dubai

Two ships yesterday reported nearby explosions off the coast of Yemen, maritime security agencies said, though neither event resulted in damage or injuries.

The Red Sea and Gulf of Aden off Yemen have become perilous for shipping with the country’s Houthi rebels, who control the capital Sanaa, attacking vessels in strikes they say are in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza.

One ship positioned 63 nautical miles southwest of the Yemeni port city of Hodeida reported two nearby explosions early yesterday.

“A small craft was observed in the vicinity acting suspiciously and flashing lights towards the vessel,” the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) said.

The ship was then “attacked by an uncrewed surface vehicle (USV), which was successfully disabled”, the agency said.

Russia strikes back in Kursk region  
Halts Ukraine’s advance

REUTERS, Moscow

Russian forces yesterday struck back at Ukrainian troops with missiles, drones and airstrikes in actions that one senior commander said had halted Ukraine’s advance after the biggest attack on sovereign Russian territory since the war began.

Ukrainian soldiers smashed through the Russian border a week ago in a surprise attack that Russian President Vladimir Putin said was aimed at improving Kyiv’s negotiating position ahead of possible talks and slowing the advance of Russian forces along the front.

Ukraine carved out a slice of Russian territory, illustrating the weakness of Russia’s border defences and prompting Moscow to evacuate at least 200,000 people while it rushed in reserves and imposed a security lockdown. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said that Russia had to be forced to make peace.

Meanwhile, Ukraine said yesterday it had no interest in occupying territory in Kursk region and that its major cross-border incursion would complicate Russian military logistics and its ability to send more units to fight in Ukraine’s east.

Russian war bloggers reported intense battles across the Kursk front as Ukrainian forces tried to expand their control, though they said Russia was bringing in soldiers and heavy weaponry and had repelled many of the Ukrainian attacks.

Africa’s CDC declares mpox emergency

AFP, Nairobi

The African Union’s health watchdog yesterday declared a public health emergency over the growing mpox outbreak on the continent.

The outbreak has swept through several African countries, particularly the Democratic Republic of Congo.

“With a heavy heart but with an unyielding commitment to our people, to our African citizens, we declare mpox as public health emergency of continental security,” Jean Kaseya, head of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), said during an online media briefing.

“Mpox has now crossed borders, affecting thousands across our continent, families have been torn apart and the pain and suffering have touched every corner of our continent,” he said.

According to CDC data as of August 4, there had been 38,465 cases of mpox and 1,456 deaths in Africa since January 2022.

“This declaration is not merely a formality, it is a clarion call to action. It is a recognition that we can no longer afford to be reactive. We must be proactive and aggressive in our efforts to contain and eliminate this threat,” said Kaseya.

A milder version of the virus spread to over a hundred countries in 2022, largely through sexual contact, prompting the WHO to declare a public health emergency of international concern, its highest level of alert.



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer  
Education Engineering Department  
Mymensingh

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e-Tender Notice No. 04/EED/MYM/2024-2025

e-Tender is invited in National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works, details are given below.

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Description of works	Procurement method
1	1007245	Construction of Boundary Wall at Aulianagar Alim Madrasah, Trishal, Mymensingh.	LTM
2	1007246	Repair & Renovation Works at Halima High School, Trishal, Mymensingh.	LTM
3	1007248	Construction of Shahid Minar Repair & Renovation Works at Sonar Bangla High School, Trishal, Mymensingh.	LTM
4	1007249	Palasiding Work & Repair & Renovation Works at Office of the Regional Director, Sadar, Mymensingh.	LTM
5	1007250	Earth Filling Work & Repair & Renovation Works at Office of the Regional Director, Sadar, Mymensingh.	LTM

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to **one hour before tender last selling time**. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

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GD- 164

Families split by India-Pakistan rivalry lose hope

AFP, Hunderman

The ancient trade route over the Himalayan passes of Hunderman once brought communities together, but the rugged peaks are now used as fortifications by nuclear-armed rivals India and Pakistan.

Indian apricot farmer Ghulam Ahmad, 66, separated from his parents as a teenager in the chaos of war that saw control of his village swap from Pakistan to India, dreams of seeing his mother’s grave.

If the crossing was open, it would be a day’s trek of 50 kilometres (30 miles) to Pakistani territory.

But to visit the site now requires a roundtrip of some 2,500 kilometres (1,550 miles), visa permission that is hard to obtain, and expenses he cannot afford.

“What can we do?” said Ahmad. “Many here have died without meeting, only in hope of meeting.” India and Pakistan have only one tightly restricted border point where people can cross, in Punjab state far to the south, but few do so.

The rivals, who both celebrate their 77th independence day this week, have fought three major wars and countless border conflicts since they were partitioned out of the Indian subcontinent in 1947.

They remain bitterly at odds over control of the restive territory of Kashmir, divided between the two countries and claimed in full by both.

**Khulna Development Authority**  
**Khulna**  
[www.kda.gov.bd](http://www.kda.gov.bd)

Memo No: 25.41.0000.021.0244.24-Date: 11/08/2024

**e-Tender Notice (OTM)**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works, details are given below.

Sl. No	Name of the work	Tender Package No	Tender ID No	Tender Last selling (date & time)	Tender Opening (date & time)
1.	Upward Extension of KDA Multipurpose Building. (Construction of total 09 (nine) storied steel framed building on existing 3 storied building with 9-storied foundation, including semi basement floor. It includes civil, sanitary, water supply and internal electrification, fire protection etc.)	WD-1/multipurpose building/2024-25	1007160	08-Sep-2024 17:00	09-Sep-2024 14:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks. Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP system portal and e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

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GD-159