



Israel kills 100 in Gaza

Preparation for a possible ground invasion

Israeli Energy Minister Israel Katz vowed the total siege of Gaza would remain in force until the hostages are freed.

"Humanitarian aid to Gaza? No electric switch will be turned on, no water tap will be opened and no fuel truck will enter until the Israeli abductees are returned home," he said.

Gaza's hospitals "risk turning into morgues", said the International Committee of the Red Cross Middle East chief Fabrizio Carboni, stressing "the human misery caused by this escalation is abhorrent".

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres voiced concern about the "supercharged cycle of violence and horror", urged the release of all hostages and the lifting of the siege, and stressed that "civilians must be protected at all times".

There have been calls for a humanitarian corridor to allow Palestinians to escape ahead of a possible Israeli ground invasion that would spell brutal urban combat and house-to-house fighting.

If Israel does send ground forces into Gaza, it risks walking into a Hamas "trap", warned a former head of Britain's MI6 intelligence service, Alex Younger, speaking on BBC radio.

**YOU
KNOW WHAT**

Israel has called up 300,000 reservists and rushed forces to the Gaza border in response to Hamas' unprecedented attack

...ity, freedom, justice, opportunity and dignity"

Israeli army spokesman Richard Hecht said the military was readying for a potential order to launch a ground invasion in the war with Hamas: "This has not been decided yet... but we are preparing for a ground manoeuvre if it is decided."

"Right now we are focused on taking out their senior leadership," he said.

Fears have grown for Gaza's 2.4 million people now enduring the fifth war in 15 years in the long-blockaded coastal enclave, which has also seen Israel cut off water, food and power supplies.

US visit Saudi, Hamas war

...my Blinken said yesterday in Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the Jordan and on a tour for a massive attack on

...tional stops at a news conference. The State Department said that he will head to Saudi Arabia where he will meet King Salman and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulaziz in the day.

...ould also visit Egypt, Saudi Arabia, as well as the United Arab Emirates, which are the first steps in an attempt to normalise relations with

...continue pressing counterterrorism efforts to prevent conflict from spreading to other parts of the region, Blinken said. "We will continue to work with our partners to free the hostages," Blinken said.

Blinken says he spoke to Israel about 'humanitarian needs' of Gaza

AFP | Cairo

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said yesterday he raised with Israel the "humanitarian needs" of the Gaza Strip while defending the right to retaliate for the Hamas attack.

"We did discuss ways to address the humanitarian needs of people living in Gaza to protect them from harm, while Israel conducts its legitimate security operations to defend itself from terrorism and to try to ensure that this never happens again," Blinken told reporters after talks with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other top officials in Tel Aviv.

"We also talked about possibilities for safe passage for civilians who want to leave or get out of the way," he said.

US officials are discussing safe passage both with Israel and Egypt, which also borders the Gaza Strip, ahead of an expected Israeli ground operation.

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Tourists visit Half Moon island, Antarctica

Jailed former Pakistan PM Imran Khan says 'stronger than ever'

AFP | Islamabad

Former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan said he is "stronger and fitter than ever" since being jailed two months ago, according to a statement released by his family yesterday.

Khan was convicted of graft in August and jailed for three years, with the election commission subsequently banning him from contesting polls scheduled for January 2024.

"Let it be known that there's a difference of day and night between the Imran Khan of today and Imran Khan who was imprisoned on August 5," he said in the first statement to be released on his behalf since he was jailed.

"Today I am stronger and fitter; spiritually, mentally and physically, than ever before," added the former international cricket superstar.

The statement also appeared on Khan's X account.

Khan said he has spent his time in jail reading the Qur'an, adding that he has "adjusted well to prison conditions."

Since being ousted last year Khan has been tangled in a slew of legal cases he says are designed to stop him from contesting elections.

He was briefly detained in May, sparking nationwide protests that turned violent, with anger directed at the military for allegedly interfering in politics.

The establishment responded with a fierce crackdown - rounding up thousands of



Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan (C) leaves after appearing in the Supreme Court in Islamabad (file photo)

“Today I am stronger and fitter; spiritually, mentally and physically, than ever before”

IMRAN KHAN

supporters and forcing almost the entire central leadership underground. Many have since abandoned the party.

Although Khan's prison term for graft was overturned, he was kept in custody over a fresh arrest for leaking state documents, with his lawyers expecting he will be formally indicted next week.

It is a far more serious entanglement than graft and could see him imprisoned for 14 years.

The case relates to a cable that Khan had touted as proof that he was ousted as part of

a US conspiracy backed by the establishment, according to a report by the government's Federal Investigation Agency.

The United States and the Pakistan military have denied the claim.

Pakistan is currently led by an interim government, with polls already pushed back several months.

Khan's primary opponent, three-time prime minister Nawaz Sharif, is scheduled to return to Pakistan next week to lead his party through elections, ending four years of self-imposed exile in London.

Sharif was barred from contesting the last general elections, in 2018, which Khan won on a wave of popular support, an anti-corruption manifesto, and the backing of the powerful military establishment.

"Do not give up," Khan told his supporters in yesterday's statement.

Australian arrested in Singapore after bomb threat, returned flight: police

AFP | Singapore

An Australian passenger on a Perth-bound flight was arrested in Singapore yesterday for criminal intimidation, police said, after the plane was escorted back to the city-state by fighter jets due to a bomb threat.

Flight TR16, operated by budget carrier Scoot, departed Singapore at 4:11 pm (0811 GMT).

But about one hour into the flight, "a precautionary decision was made to turn the aircraft back to Singapore due to a bomb threat", Scoot, the budget arm of Singapore Airlines, said in a statement.

"The Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) was activated to escort the aircraft back to Changi Airport. Emergency services were also activated," the airline added.

Scoot said the flight landed safely about two hours after takeoff, and security checks



One of two RSAF fighter jets escorting Scoot flight TR16 back to Changi Airport

were carried out.

The airline said it was assisting authorities with investigations, adding that it was unable to provide additional details as "this is a security matter".

Police later said officers completed security checks and arrested a 30-year-old Australian male passenger for criminal intimidation.

"The Police take security

threats seriously and will not hesitate to take action against those who intentionally cause public alarm," police added, without confirming whether the man had made any threats.

A 30-year-old passenger who was not named told local newspaper The Straits Times that police had escorted two individuals off the plane after it landed.

Greta Thunberg protests illegal wind turbines in Norway

AFP | Oslo

Swedish climate campaigner Greta Thunberg yesterday joined indigenous Sami activists protesting in Oslo against wind turbines still operating

on reindeer herding land two years after a court ruled them illegal.

In 2021, Norway's Supreme Court found that two wind farms in the Fosen region of western Norway -- on land used

by Sami reindeer herders -- violated the rights of the indigenous people, guaranteed by the UN, to practise their culture of reindeer husbandry.

Two years later, the 151 turbines are still operating.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



As president, I have no higher priority than the safety of Americans at home and around the world. @VP and I spoke with our national security teams to discuss ongoing steps to protect the homeland, including Jewish, Arab, and Muslim communities, following the attacks in Israel.

@POTUS

02



Inspiring exchange in Shanghai with European companies on economic and business challenges. We must address these challenges because neither we nor China can ignore each other's market.

@JosepBorrellF

03



Today I spoke with media about the urgent need to allow medical supplies, food and humanitarian aid to reach civilians in Gaza.

@DrTedros

04



It's always a pleasure to meet with my @NATO defense counterparts. NATO is the bedrock of enduring trans-Atlantic security. Together we will continue to strengthen deterrence and bolster NATO's defense capabilities.

@SecDef

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