

VOA NEWS

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This is VOA News. I'm Joe Ramsey.

Egypt has threatened to suspend its peace treaty with Israel if Israel's Gaza offensive expands into the densely populated border town of Rafah. That's according to two Egyptian officials and a Western diplomat who spoke to the Associated Press.

The Camp David Accords have been a cornerstone of regional stability for nearly a half century.

The threat to suspend them came as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vows to send troops into Rafah, saying it is necessary to defeat Hamas.

Over half of Gaza's population have fled to Rafah to escape fighting elsewhere.

Israel's war on U.S.-designated terrorist group Hamas hits the West Bank economy. AP correspondent Rica Ann Garcia reports.

In response to the October 7 Hamas attack that triggered the war, Israel severed economic ties with the West Bank, barring thousands of Palestinian workers from entering the country.

In the past four months, many businesses there shut down or scaled back operations, leaving Palestinians struggling to afford food as their savings declined.

Israeli officials said that Gaza workers won't be allowed back into Israel. But there are reports suggesting they might consider allowing West Bank workers who are over 45 to return.

I'm Rica Ann Garcia.

Crowds of Palestinians and Lebanese marched the streets of Beirut on Sunday in a protest in support of Palestinians in Gaza.

Protesters waving Palestinian flags and chanting in support of Gaza and against Israel gathered at the end of the demonstration in front of the United Nations headquarters in central Beirut.

The conflict [b...] (with) Gaza began on October 7, when Hamas gunmen stormed border defenses to attack Israeli towns.

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The death toll from a massive landslide that hit a gold-mining village in the southern Philippines has risen to 54 with 63 people still missing.

The landslide hit a mountain village on Tuesday night after weeks of torrential rains.

The local provincial government said on Sunday that 54 bodies had been retrieved.

Top Western officials criticized former U.S. President Donald Trump on Sunday after he suggested the United States might not protect NATO allies from a potential Russian invasion if those countries hadn't spent enough on defense. Reuters correspondent Lisa Bernhard reports.

Trump's comments came during a weekend rally in South Carolina in which he claimed that the president of a, quote, "big country", whom he did not name, once asked him about potential U.S. protection from Russia if that nation fell short on its defense spending.

Trump said he told the NATO leader that the U.S. in that case would offer no protection, and went as far as to say he would even encourage Russia to, quote, "do whatever the hell they want."

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg responded to Trump's comments by saying, quote, "Any suggestion that allies will not defend each other undermines all of our security, including that of the U.S., and puts American and European soldiers at increased risk."

Reuters correspondent Lisa Bernhard.

Ukraine asks Australia for specialist for burn victims. Experts from Kyiv are urging Australia to share world leading techniques. Doctors say the number of Ukrainians dying from injuries caused by burns during Russia's invasion is rising sharply and warned Ukraine's medical system is struggling to cope. From Sydney, Phil Mercer reports.

Rudi Myhovich of the Christian Medical Association of Ukraine told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation he hopes the government will send doctors to Ukraine.

"We hope to get teams of plastic burns doctor(s) to Ukraine for (the) short term. We respect your time, and we are trying to be careful and maximize all of the help that is in our hands. But also, we plan to send Ukrainian doctors. They can observe and take the knowledge and better skills. So, because (the) amount of cases is unbelievable."

Attacks on health care facilities, a lack of medical staff and power shortages have made it harder for victims to receive care during the conflict.

Phil Mercer, VOA News, Sydney.

Police fired tear gas to disperse supporters of jailed former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan Sunday after his party urged protests outside election offices where they said rigging had taken place in last week's national vote.

Clashes were reported in some spots, while dozens of other protests were held across the country without incident.

I'm Joe Ramsey, VOA ...