

VOA NEWS

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This is VOA News. I'm Joe Ramsey.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Wednesday U.S.-designated terrorist group Hamas presented no new offer for a Gaza hostage deal in talks in Cairo this weekend and Israel would not agree to its current demands.

Netanyahu said I insist that Hamas should abandon its delusional demands, and when it does, we will be able to move forward.

[dapa...] Diplomacy is focused not just on halting the war and securing the hostages' release, but also on preventing the conflict from spreading across the region.

Hamas is a U.S.-designated terrorist group.

The families of Israelis held [in has...] in hostage in Gaza, as well as some former captives, have visited the International Criminal Court in The Hague. AP correspondent Karen Chammas reports.

They're there to urge prosecutors to charge and seek the arrest of leaders of Hamas. It's the latest step in efforts by Israelis to seek justice for victims of the October 7 attack on southern Israel.

Their visit comes a day after officials said that negotiations between Israel and Hamas are making progress towards another cease-fire and hostage release deal.

ICC Prosecutor Karim Khan is already investigating alleged crimes committed by both sides in the conflict.

I'm Karen Chammas.

A former general linked to past human rights abuses has claimed victory in Indonesia's presidential election. The result would raise questions about the commitment to democratic values in the sprawling island nation that is the world's third largest democracy.

Defense Minister Prabowo Subianto presented himself as an heir to immensely popular sitting President Joko Widodo, whose son was his running mate.

There was no declaration by election officials. The two former provincial governors, who also competed in the balloting, did not concede defeat.

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Democratic U.S. President Joe Biden and a bipartisan group of lawmakers, including the top U.S. Senate Republican, on Wednesday urged the Republican-controlled House of Representatives to take up a \$95 billion military aid package for Ukraine and other allies. Reuters correspondent Zachary Goelman report.

The United States and its allies are worried about how long Ukraine can hold off the Russians if the funding is not approved soon.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy thanked the Senate for passing the bill on Tuesday and said he hoped a vote in the House would happen quickly.

Britain's foreign secretary, David Cameron, on Wednesday urged lawmakers to move forward with the bill.

"The whole world is going to be watching what happens in Congress."

Republicans have a thin majority in the House. Both chambers of Congress must approve the legislation before Biden can sign it into law.

Reuters correspondent Zachary Goelman.

The Republican head of the U.S. House Intelligence Committee is urging President Joe Biden's administration to declassify information about what he calls a serious national security threat.

A senior congressional aide says the issue appears to relate to a space-deployed Russian anti-satellite weapon that may or may not have already been launched. The aide spoke on condition of [*amenonity] anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter.

Special Counsel Jack Smith has urged the U.S. Supreme Court to let former President Donald Trump's 2020 election interference case proceed to trial without further delay.

Prosecutors were responding Wednesday to a Trump team request from earlier in the week asking for a continued pause in the case as the court considers whether to take up the question of whether the former president is immune from prosecution for official acts in the White House.

At least one person was killed and more than a dozen injured after gunfire rings out at the Super Bowl victory parade for the Kansas City Chiefs in the U.S. state of Missouri on Wednesday. AP correspondent Jackie Quinn reports.

It was supposed to be a day for celebration and fun, and then there was deadly gunfire.

"I'm angry." :Kansas City, Missouri, Police Chief Stacy Graves. "The people who came to this celebration should expect a safe environment."

The gunfire after the team had left sent terrified fans running for cover.

Parade goers captured video of people giving victims emergency care.

Last year there was a shooting after the Denver Nuggets' championship parade and in Texas for the Rangers' World Series celebration.

I'm Jackie Quinn.

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