

BEIJING (Dispatches) - Online maps prepared by several Chinese companies have omitted the name 'Israel' from the land of historic Palestine, according to a report in the Wall Street Journal (WSJ). The report noted that internet users in China have expressed bewilderment that the name "Israel" doesn't appear on online digital maps from leading Chinese websites such as the country's dominant search engine Baidu and trading platform Alibaba. The newspaper said that it had contacted both companies for comment, but has yet to receive a response. It acknowledged, though, that it is unclear whether it is a new development, although it has garnered a lot of attention online from Chinese social media users since the Zionist regime's bombardment of the Gaza Strip started more than three weeks ago.

If you are greeted then return the greetings more warmly. If you are favoured, then repay the obligation manifold; but he who takes the initiative will always excel in merit.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Putin: U.S. Responsible for West Asia Crisis, Global Instability

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - The United States and its allies are behind the crisis in West Asia and other regional conflicts, and benefit most from global instability, Russian President Vladimir Putin says.

"Those, who are behind the conflict in the Middle East and other regional crises will exploit their devastating consequences to sow hatred, and sow dissent among people worldwide," said the Russian leader at a meeting with top security and law enforcement officials.

It is important to understand who is behind the Middle East conflict and who is responsible for organizing and benefiting from "deadly chaos" in different regions, Putin said.

"It is the current U.S. ruling elites and their satellites that are the main beneficiaries of global instability," he said.

Putin said that attempts have been made to use the dramatic situation in West Asia and other regional conflicts against Russia, with the aim of destabilizing the country and splitting its diverse and multi-religious society.

The United States is becoming weaker and losing its status



Anti-war protesters raise their "bloody" hands behind U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken during a Senate Appropriations Committee hearing on President Biden's \$106 billion national security supplemental funding request to support the Zionist regime and Ukraine.

as the world's sole superpower and hegemon. This world order is slowly becoming a thing of the past, said Putin.

Russia has already declared that it backs an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, and has thrown its weight behind the United Nations Security Council resolutions that mandate that prospect.

The United States, which invariably supplies the Zionist regime with unstinting political and military support, has, however, been vetoing those resolutions that either hold the regime

responsible for its atrocities or call for cessation of its aggression.

Meanwhile, Russia's UN ambassador Vassily Nebenzia has blamed the United States for the ongoing atrocities committed by Israel against Palestinians, as Washington has opposed a UN Security Council resolution calling for an urgent ceasefire in the Gaza Strip.

"This ugly situation was brought about by the fact that, because of the United States position, the Security Council has

been virtually paralyzed and has not yet been able to adopt a resolution demanding an urgent ceasefire," Nebenzia said in a statement at UNSC briefing on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian issue.

He noted that the blocking of such UNSC resolutions shows that Washington and Tel Aviv "have quite different plans: to exterminate the population of Gaza or 'oust' it from the Strip, and assimilate the rest of the Palestinian population into Israel in order to solve the Palestinian problem."

Meanwhile, as two of President Joe Biden's top advisers asked U.S. lawmakers to provide billions more dollars to the Zionist regime on Tuesday at a congressional hearing interrupted repeatedly by protesters denouncing American officials for backing what they called "genocide" against Palestinians in Gaza.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin testified to the Senate Appropriations Committee on Biden's request for \$106 billion to fund ambitious plans for Ukraine, Israel and U.S. border security.

FT: Netanyahu 'Lobbied EU' to Push Egypt to Accept Gaza Refugees



Palestinians search for casualties at the site of Israeli strikes on houses in Jabalia refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip.

CAIRO (Dispatches) - Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu lobbied EU leaders to pressure Egypt into accepting refugees from Gaza, the Financial Times has reported.

The British paper said EU members, including the Czech Republic and Austria, had floated the idea at a meeting of member states last week, although a number of European countries including the UK, Germany and France have said separately that the idea is a non-starter as Egypt has categorically refused to accept Palestinian refugees.

An unnamed diplomat from an unnamed country, however, told the FT that the pressure of the Zionist regime's continued assault on Gaza could shift Cairo's stance.

"Now is the time to put increased pressure on the Egyptians to agree," the official said.

Despite Netanyahu's calls, the leaders ultimately agreed that Egypt's role should be the delivery of humanitarian aid, as the Rafah crossing into the Sinai region is currently the only route for aid to enter the besieged Gaza Strip, but that Egypt is not obligated to accept an influx of refugees.

This comes shortly after an Israeli

intelligence ministry document was leaked to the Israeli news site Calcalist; it detailed purported plans for the forced transfer of Palestinians in Gaza to the Sinai peninsula.

The occupying regime is also reportedly offering a slew of proposals to entice Egypt to open its doors, including writing off a significant chunk of Egypt's international debts through the World Bank, according to the Israeli Ynet website.

Egypt is currently mired in a debt crisis, ranking second only to Ukraine among countries most likely to default in debt payments. The cash-strapped country is hemorrhaging half its revenue in interest payments and is reliant on loans from the IMF and wealthy Persian Gulf states, limiting its ability to contradict U.S. foreign policy.

However, it remains unclear whether the occupying regime wields adequate influence at the World Bank to write off Egypt's international debts.

Debt forgiveness has previously been leveraged by the United States to bring Egypt in line with its foreign policy. In 1991, the U.S. and its allies forgave half of Egypt's debt in exchange for its involvement in the anti-Iraq coalition during the second Persian Gulf War.

Rockets, Drones Target U.S. Bases in Syria, Iraq

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) - Two major U.S. bases in Syria and Iraq have been targeted by drones and a barrage of rockets, amid rising anti-American sentiments over Washington's unconditional support for the Zionist regime's onslaught on the Gaza Strip.

Lebanon's Arabic-language al-Mayadeen television news network, citing informed sources speaking on condition of anonymity, reported that two rockets struck the U.S. military installation at the Conoco gas field in Syria's eastern province of Dayr al-Zawr early on Tuesday morning.

There were no immediate reports about the extent of damage caused and serious casualties.

The sources added that another explosion ripped through the al-Omar oil field in the same Syrian province shortly afterward, as several rockets hit the vicinity of the U.S. base set up in the energy-rich region.

Elsewhere in Iraq's western province of Anbar, two combat drones hit targets inside Ain al-Asad Air Base, located about 160 kilometers (100 miles) west of the capital Baghdad.

Sabereen News, a Telegram

news channel associated with the Iraqi Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), reported that a number of rockets had targeted the base.

Local sources said there were no casualties as a result of the attack.

The Islamic Resistance in Iraq, an umbrella group of anti-terror fighters, later in a statement claimed responsibility for the strike.

Last week, a total of 21 U.S. service members reported "minor injuries" as a result of drone and rocket attacks on American military bases in Iraq and Syria,

according to the Pentagon.

"Between October 17 and 18, 21 U.S. personnel received minor injuries due to drone attacks at al-Asad Airbase, Iraq, and al-Tanf Garrison, Syria," Pentagon spokesman Brigadier General Patrick Ryder said.

Meanwhile, a senior defense official told reporters on Monday that the total number of drone attacks on bases in Iraq and Syria housing US troops has grown to at least 23.

That amounts to at least 14 attacks in Iraq and at least nine attacks in Syria since October 17, according to the official.

Tens of Thousands of Afghans Flee Pakistan as Deadline Looms

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AFP) - More than 10,000 Afghans living in Pakistan rushed to the borders on Tuesday, just hours before a deadline for 1.7 million people to leave Pakistan voluntarily or face arrest and deportation.

The Pakistan government has said it would begin arresting undocumented Afghans and taking them to new holding centers from Wednesday, from where they will be processed and forcibly returned to Afghanistan.

In Afghanistan, the Taliban government has imposed a harsh law since seizing power in August 2021, banning girls from secondary and university education and forcing women to stay out of work.

While hundreds of thousands of Afghans are estimated to have fled to Pakistan since the Taliban's return to power, millions more had already settled there over decades of conflict,

making Pakistan the host of one of the world's largest refugee populations.

Despite a grueling economic crisis in Afghanistan, coupled with the Taliban government's edicts on women and girls' rights, Afghans in Pakistan are being forced to return to their home country.

"Thousands of Afghan refugees are waiting for their turn in vehicles, lorries, and trucks, and the number continues to grow," Irshad Mohmand, a senior government official at the Torkham border in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province told AFP.

"More than 10,000 refugees have gathered since morning."

In Afghanistan, the Taliban government has qualified Pakistan's policy as "harassment".

Thousands more Afghans are waiting at the southern Chaman crossing in Balochistan prov-

ince, officials said -- with numbers at both borders expected to double on Wednesday.

Despite huge pressure at the border, a government official based in Peshawar near the border said the holding centers would still open as planned from November 1.

"This procedure does not require much time as they don't possess passports and visas and don't need to pass through immigration. In simple words, they are passing through a procedure of deportation," he told AFP on condition of anonymity.

But some Afghans are determined to try to find the way to remain in Pakistan, even if it means going under the radar.

A fourteen-year-old Afghan girl, who AFP has not named for security reasons, said she will stay in Pakistan as long as possible, despite not have legal papers.

WHO Warns of 'Imminent Public Health Catastrophe' in Gaza

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - A "public health catastrophe" is imminent in Gaza, the World Health Organisation (WHO) warned Tuesday, amid overcrowding, mass displacement and damage to infrastructure, Reuters reported.

WHO spokesperson Christian Lindmeier warned of the risk of civilian deaths not directly linked to the Zionist regime's bombardment.

"It's an imminent public health catastrophe that looms with the mass displacement, the overcrowding, the damage to water and sanitation infrastructure," Lindmeier told reporters.

Gaza health authorities say more than 8,300 Palestinians have been killed since the occupying regime began air strikes on the enclave in response on 7 October.

The Zionist regime's military began ground operations in Gaza last week.

Asked if people were dying from complications other than those from the bombardment, Lindmeier said: "Indeed they are."

A spokesperson from the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF),

James Elder, warned of the risk of infant deaths due to dehydration, with water output at five per cent of normal levels.

"So child deaths due to dehydration, particularly infant deaths due to dehydration, are a growing threat," he said, adding that children were getting sick from drinking salty water.

About 940 children are reported missing in Gaza, he said, with some thought to be stuck beneath the rubble.

Others are suffering from trauma or severe stress, he said, such as the four-year-old daughter of a UNICEF colleague who has begun harming herself by ripping out her hair and scratching her thighs until they bleed.

The UN humanitarian office in a statement earlier Tuesday said water supplies to southern Gaza came to a halt Monday "for unknown reasons."

Lindmeier called for fuel to be allowed into Gaza to allow a desalination plant to operate. The occupying regime has blockaded the Gaza Strip and refuses to allow in fuel supplies, in a move rights groups have described as collective punishment; a war crime.