

French far-right win a ‘lesson’ for ‘progressives’

Says UK’s Labour leader Starmer

AFP, London

The far-right victory in the first round of France’s general election is a sign for politicians to better respond to disaffected voters, UK Labour leader Keir Starmer said yesterday.

Starmer’s centre-left party is firm favourite to seize power at the UK general election on Thursday, bucking the trend of a rightwards shift in Europe and elsewhere, and making him prime minister.

“The lesson I take from (the National Rally victory) is that we need to address the everyday concerns of so many people,” he said as the UK election campaign entered its final few days.

“We have to take that head on and we have to show both Thursday in the United Kingdom and across Europe and the world that only progressives have the answers to the challenges that are facing us in this country and across Europe,” he said.

“We have to make that progressive cause but we have to, in making that, understand why it is... that people do feel disaffected with politics,” he added.



A man throws a bucket of water to douse a fire in a building that was heavily damaged during an Israeli army raid on the Nur Shams camp for Palestinian refugees, east of Tulkarm in the occupied West Bank yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

US DOJ to criminally charge Boeing
Seek guilty plea, say sources

REUTERS

The US Department of Justice (DOJ) will criminally charge Boeing B.A.N with fraud over two fatal crashes and ask the planemaker to plead guilty or face a trial, two people familiar with the matter said on Sunday.

The Justice Department planned to formally offer a plea agreement to Boeing later in the day, which includes a financial penalty and imposition of an independent monitor to audit the company’s safety and compliance practices for three years, the sources said.

Palestinian prisoners face ‘all kinds of torture’

Says Gaza hospital chief after release from Israeli detention centre

AFP, Deir El Balah

The head of the Gaza Strip’s biggest hospital said yesterday after being freed from more than seven months of detention that he had been “tortured” by Israel.

Al Shifa hospital director Mohammed Abu Salmiya was among more than 50 Palestinians released and returned to Gaza for treatment, according to an Israeli minister and a medical source in the besieged territory.

Salmiya said he was put through “severe torture” during his detention, which left him with a broken thumb.

“Prisoners are subjected to all



kinds of torture,” he told a press conference. “Several inmates died in interrogation centres and were deprived of food and medicine.”

“For two months no prisoner

ate more than a loaf of bread a day,” said Salmiya.

“Detainees were subjected to physical and psychological humiliation.”

The medical chief said no charge had ever been made against him. Israeli forces detained Salmiya during one of a number of raids on Al Shifa.

The hospital has largely been reduced to rubble by successive raids since Israel launched its assault on Gaza.

Salmiya and the other freed detainees crossed back into Gaza from Israel just east of Khan Yunis, a medical source at the Al-Aqsa hospital in Deir al-Balah told AFP.

Spain SC denies amnesty for Catalan separatist

AFP, Madrid

Spain’s top court yesterday refused to grant an amnesty to Catalan separatist leader Carles Puigdemont on a charge of misusing public funds, maintaining arrest warrants over his failed 2017 secession attempt.

Spanish MPs in May passed an amnesty law aimed at drawing a line under years of efforts to prosecute those involved in the botched secession bid.

Blocking the amnesty for Puigdemont could complicate life for Spain’s Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, who relied on Catalan parties to secure a new term in November.

POST-COUP MYANMAR Japanese official among 11 arrested for price gouging

REUTERS

Myanmar arrested four executives of supermarket chains, including an official of a Japanese joint venture, for selling rice at inflated prices, state media said yesterday, as the war-torn country’s ruling junta struggles to stabilise its economy.

The impoverished Southeast Asian country has been in turmoil since its military deposed an elected civilian government in February 2021, sparking widespread protests that have morphed into a nationwide armed resistance.

Authorities said they arrested 11 people, including rice traders and officials of mills and retailers, accusing them of inflating prices by 31 percent to 70 percent from prescribed levels, the Global New Light of Myanmar newspaper said.

In Tokyo, Japan’s chief cabinet secretary, Yoshimasa Hayashi, said police in Yangon were questioning a Japanese national. “The Japanese government intends to continue taking appropriate steps while urging local authorities for his early release,” he told reporters.

UKRAINE DRONE ATTACKS Russia border regions report power cuts

AFP, Moscow



Officials in Russian regions bordering Ukraine reported power cuts and water supply issues yesterday after deadly drone attacks by Kyiv.

The attacks and shelling on the border region of Belgorod over the past day killed a four-year-old girl and wounded seven people, regional governor

Vyacheslav Gladkov said.

Ukraine regularly targets Russian border regions with drones, claiming attacks on energy facilities and ammunition depots.



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