

## LEBANON BLAST Three UN peacekeepers injured

AFP, Beirut

Three United Nations peacekeepers suffered light injuries yesterday, the UN said, after a blast near their vehicle close to Lebanon's southern border, where Hezbollah and Israel have traded near-daily fire.

"Earlier today, three peacekeepers on patrol were lightly injured when an explosion occurred near their clearly marked UN vehicle in the vicinity of Yarine, in south Lebanon," the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) said.

"All peacekeepers in the patrol returned safely to their base. We are looking into the incident," it added.

Earlier yesterday, Lebanon's state-run National News Agency had reported that "Israeli enemy warplanes" struck the village of Dhayra, about one kilometre (0.6 miles) from Yarine, "resulting in injuries".



Palestinians mourn over the bodies of their relatives killed in Israeli strikes, at Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir Al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## DISPUTED POLLS Venezuela's opposition vows to fight 'to the end'

AFP, Caracas

Venezuela's opposition, claiming victory in presidential elections they say were stolen by strongman Nicolas Maduro, gathered in the thousands in Caracas and elsewhere on Saturday, vowing to fight "to the end."

People rallied in several cities in Venezuela and as far afield as Spain, Belgium and Australia in response to a call by opposition leader Maria Corina Machado to join a "Protest for the Truth."

Machado herself came out of hiding to lead a rally in the capital, seeking to intensify pressure on Maduro to concede what she and others say was an overwhelming win for opposition candidate Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia in July 28 polls.

"We won't leave the streets," Machado told thousands of demonstrators, many of whom waved the national flag and copies of election records from their voting stations as proof of an opposition victory.

"Peaceful protest is our right," she said as demonstrators chanted "Liberty! Liberty!" and clamored to get as near as possible to the wildly popular politician.

## Ukraine strikes another bridge in Kursk region

Repels Russian missile attack on capital

AFP, Kyiv

Ukrainian forces have struck another bridge in Russia's Kursk region as they seek to disrupt Moscow's combat operations and supply routes, Ukraine's air force said yesterday.

The strike appeared to target a bridge crossing the river Seym near the village of Zvannoye, about 15 kilometres (nine miles) north of the Ukrainian border.

"Minus one more bridge. The Air Force aviation continues to deprive the enemy of logistical capabilities with precision air strikes," Air Force



### Ukrainian drones attacked an oil storage facility in Russia's southern Rostov region

Commander Mykola Oleshchuk said on Telegram.

He published an aerial video of a blast tearing through the bridge, leaving a large rupture on the road.

It was not clear when the attack took place. Russian military bloggers shared photos of destruction from what appeared to be the same bridge dated Saturday.

Ukraine announced it had destroyed a separate bridge near the town of Glushkovo late on Friday, both of which cross the river Seym.

Ukrainian forces also said they thwarted a Russian missile attack on the capital Kyiv where air raid sirens sounded before dawn yesterday.

"This is the third ballistic missile attack on the capital in August with a clear interval of six days between each attack," the Kyiv City Military Administration posted on Telegram after the early morning barrage.

Simultaneous to the missile attack, drones were spotted heading to Kyiv. "All enemy drones were destroyed far outside the city," it added.

No damage or casualties were reported from the attack, which the administration said had "most likely used North Korean ballistic missiles of the KN-23 type".

The United States and Seoul have accused North Korea of providing ammunition and missiles to Russia

for its war in Ukraine.

Early yesterday morning, Ukrainian drones attacked an oil storage facility in Russia's southern Rostov region, sparking a large fuel fire, the local governor said.

Videos published on social media showed thick black smoke and bursts of flames coming from the site of the blaze, which the governor said was in the town of Proletarsk.

"In the south-east of the Rostov region, air defences repelled a drone attack. As a result of falling debris on the territory of industrial storage facilities in Proletarsk, a diesel fuel fire broke out," Governor Vasily Golubev said on Telegram.

"At 05:35 (0235 GMT), firefighting at the industrial facility in Proletarsk was suspended due to a second drone attack," he added in an update to the post.

## Paetongtarn endorsed as PM by Thai king

REUTERS, Bangkok

Paetongtarn Shinawatra was endorsed as prime minister by Thailand's king yesterday, two days after parliament elected her, paving the way for her to form a cabinet in the coming weeks.

Paetongtarn, 37, becomes Thailand's youngest prime minister just days after ally Srettha Thavisin was dismissed as premier by the Constitutional Court, a judiciary central to Thailand's two decades of political turmoil.

Daughter of divisive former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, Paetongtarn won by nearly two-thirds in a house vote on Friday to become Thailand's second female prime minister and the third Shinawatra to take the office, following Thaksin and her aunt Yingluck Shinawatra.

The approval by King Maha Vajiralongkorn, a formality, was read out by House of Representatives Secretary Apat Sukhanand at a ceremony in Bangkok.

Dressed in official uniform, Paetongtarn knelt in homage to a portrait of king before giving a speech thanking the king and the people's representatives for endorsing her as prime minister.

## Harris easier than Biden to beat: Trump

REUTERS, Wilkes-Barre

US Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump said on Saturday he believed Democrat Kamala Harris will be easier to beat than President Joe Biden even as some polls showed her edging ahead in the race for the November 5 presidential election.

Trump, the former president, spoke at a rally in Wilkes-Barre in northeastern Pennsylvania, a state looming large in the campaign. Vice President Harris was due to conduct a bus tour of western Pennsylvania starting in Pittsburgh yesterday, ahead of the kickoff of the Democratic National Convention in Chicago today.

"I believe she will be easier to beat than him," said Trump, referring to her as "radical" and a "lunatic."

Trump has sought to portray Harris as far left on a number of policies. At the rally, he highlighted her previous call for a ban on fracking, an industry important to the state. Harris' campaign has recently indicated she would not support a ban.

He also continued to attack Harris on personal terms, even as some political analysts say such comments could hurt Trump with moderate voters.

"Have you heard her laugh? That is the laugh of a crazy person," Trump said, adding that he was displeased by the illustration of Harris on the cover of the latest issue of Time magazine. "I'm much better looking than her."

## Pakistan govt denies hand in ongoing internet disruptions

DAWN ONLINE

In the wake of internet disruptions across Pakistan and speculation over firewall installations, State Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja said yesterday that reports suggesting that the internet was being throttled by the government were "completely false."

On Thursday, Khawaja said that the government had ordered the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and other relevant bodies to submit a report after citizens in various cities of Pakistan claimed they had been facing internet connectivity issues.

Her statement came a day after the business community and internet service providers alleged that the government's heightened efforts to monitor internet traffic had resulted in a significant nationwide slowdown of services, leading to losses.

On Saturday, the Lahore High Court summoned representatives from the federal government, the information ministry, and the PTA on August 21 over internet disruptions.

Speaking at a press conference in Islamabad yesterday, Khawaja acknowledged the recent frustration among the public regarding internet issues. "I want to reassure the public that the internet has neither been shut down nor slowed down by the state," she said.

"Reports suggesting that the internet was being throttled are completely false. The issue was limited to a few services on certain apps not downloading, which led a large segment of the population to start using VPNs," she added.



## BENGALURU CITY Fed up with stunt riders, people throw scooters off flyover

NDTV ONLINE

An agitated crowd threw two scooters off a flyover near Bengaluru. The reason? - Some people were caught performing stunts on the busy flyover, disturbing the commuters.

The incident happened on August 15 when some people were performing dangerous stunts on a flyover in Nelamangala town near Bengaluru on their two-wheelers.

The commuters, angry over this, decided to take matters in their own hands and threw two scooters off the flyover onto the road below as several motorists witnessed the scene.

Those performing stunts on the flyover however managed to flee the spot.

After the video of the incident went viral, the Bengaluru police took note of the incident and registered several cases.

Around 34 cases have been filed by the Bengaluru police against 36 people including both - those performing stunts and those who threw the scooters off - for putting public safety at risk.

Bengaluru (also called Bangalore) is the capital of India's southern Karnataka state.

The center of India's high-tech industry, the city is also known for its parks and nightlife.



Relatives of missing Baloch community people take part in a demonstration demanding greater civil rights for citizens in Quetta, Pakistan yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## YEMEN CONFLICT UN warns of surging child malnutrition

AFP, Dubai

A United Nations task force yesterday warned of soaring child malnutrition in Yemen's government-controlled areas, reporting "extremely critical" levels of malnutrition in parts of the country's south for the first time.

"The number of children under the age of five suffering acute malnutrition, or wasting, rose by 34 percent compared to the previous year ... affecting over 600,000 children, including 120,000 children who are severely malnourished," Unicef said of the latest report by Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) initiative.

Yemen has been engulfed in a devastating conflict since 2014 between the internationally recognised government, supported by a Saudi-led military coalition, and the Iran-backed Houthi rebels.