

Domestic, foreign tensions rise up in Israel

However, things are not looking good for Israel on the foreign policy front as well.

The UAE on Monday requested an "immediate" UN Security Council meeting to discuss the worsening violence in the occupied Palestinian territories.

UN diplomats told The National that the meeting would take place at 3pm in New York on Tuesday and would feature Norwegian diplomat Tor Wennesland, the UN special coordinator for the Middle East peace process.

In a statement issued on Monday, Lana Nusseibeh, UAE's Ambassador to the UN, said she is "deeply concerned" about the escalating violence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and called for the UN Security Council meeting to address it "immediately."

"These are not isolated incidents—they're part of a pattern of violence and unilateral actions that are costing lives and hampering the prospects for a two-State solution,"



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she said. Meanwhile, following settler attacks on Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, Israeli opposition leader Yair Lapid slammed the coalition government on Monday and accused Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of "losing control" over Israel's security. "What happened [on Sun-

day] is complete anarchy," Lapid told his party, Yesh Atid, referring to the settler violence at the Palestinian village of Huwara. "This anarchy is created because in this government, everyone has their own policy." This is while some Israeli officials are urging Netanyahu to launch a military operation on Pales-

tinian Authority (PA). The head of the Settlements Council in the occupied West Bank, Yossi Dagan on Monday called on Netanyahu to launch a military operation against the PA. "We demand from our government to uproot all sources of terrorism, and collect all weapons in the West Bank," Dagan was

quoted by Channel 12 as saying. The Israeli official also urged Netanyahu "to restrict the movement of militants and re-establish security checkpoints." Describing the PA as a "terrorist organization", Dagan stressed that the authority was behind the "wave of operations against Israelis."

White House gives 30 days ultimatum to wipe TikTok off of government devices



AP

International Desk

The White House is giving all U.S. federal agencies 30 days to wipe TikTok off all government devices, as the Chinese-owned social media app comes under increasing scrutiny in Washington over security concerns. The Office of Management

and Budget calls the guidance, issued on Monday, a "critical step forward in addressing the risks presented by the app to sensitive government data," as reported by Reuters. Some agencies, including the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security and State, already have restrictions in place; the guidance calls on the rest of the federal government to follow suit within 30 days. The White House already does not allow TikTok on its devices.

"The Biden-Harris administration has invested heavily in defending our nation's digital infrastructure and curbing foreign adversaries' access to Americans' data," said Chris DeRusha, the federal chief information security officer. "This guidance is part of

the administration's ongoing commitment to securing our digital infrastructure and protecting the American people's security and privacy." The guidance was first reported by Reuters. Congress passed the No TikTok on Government Devices Act in December as part of a sweeping government funding package. The legislation does allow for TikTok use in certain cases, including for national security, law enforcement and research purposes.

TikTok spokesperson Brooke Oberwetter said Monday, "The ban of TikTok on federal devices passed in December without any deliberation, and unfortunately that approach has served as a blueprint for other world

governments. These bans are little more than political theatre." China said the United States was overstretching the concept of national security. "We firmly oppose those wrong actions," Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said at a regular news briefing on Tuesday. House Republicans are expected to move forward on Tuesday with a bill that would give President Joe Biden the power to ban TikTok nationwide. The legislation, proposed by House foreign relations committee chairman Mike McCaul, looks to circumvent the challenges the administration would face in court if it moved forward with sanctions against the social media

company.

If passed, the proposal would allow the administration to ban not only TikTok but any software applications that threaten national security.

Bob Menendez, his counterpart in the Senate, did not shut down the idea of the chamber taking up a proposal that would empower Biden to take action against TikTok, saying it was "certainly something to consider."

On Monday, Canada announced it was joining the U.S. in banning TikTok from all government-issued mobile devices.

"I suspect that as government takes the significant step of telling all federal employees that they can no longer use TikTok on their work phones many Canadians from business to private individuals will reflect on the security of their own data and perhaps make choices," Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told reporters after the announcement.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russia slams EU's 10th package of sanctions



ANADOLU AGENCY – Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova on Tuesday called the EU's 10th package of sanctions against Russia, adopted on Feb. 25, "a slow-acting poison" killing the bloc's economic sovereignty.

In a statement, Zakharova said by targeting Russia the EU is imposing sanctions on itself and may do it as long as it wants, because it will only lead to its dependence on "direct competitors."

"It is difficult to disagree with the head of the European diplomacy, Josep Borrell, who said in the European Parliament on Feb. 15 this year that sanctions are 'a slow-acting poison.' But it 'kills,' first of all, the economic sovereignty of the European Union," Zakharova stressed.

Russia closes airspace after alleged drone attack



NEWSWEEK – Russia temporarily closed airspace over St. Petersburg, and the city's Pulkovo Airport temporarily suspended all flights, the city government said on Tuesday.

The announcement was made on the city government's official Telegram channel amid unconfirmed reports that an unidentified object or a drone was spotted above St. Petersburg.

'Smugglers' identified in Italian migrant boat

IRISH EXAMINER – Rescue teams have pulled another body from the sea, bringing the death toll from Italy's latest migration tragedy to 64, as prosecutors identified smugglers who allegedly charged €8,000 each for the "voyage of death" from Turkey.

Premier Giorgia Meloni sent a letter to European leaders demanding quick action to respond to the migration crisis, insisting the only way to deal with it seriously and humanely is to stop migrants from risking their lives on dangerous sea crossings.

Partial results from Nigeria's presidential election show Tinubu leading

Provisional results from Nigeria's disputed presidential election over the weekend showed Bola Tinubu from the ruling party in the lead, a Reuters tally of votes in 25 of the country's 36 states showed on Tuesday.

Electoral commission results from the states showed Tinubu of the All Progressives Congress party (APC) was ahead with

about 36 per cent or 7 million of valid votes counted, with Atiku Abubakar of the main opposition People's Democratic Party (PDP) trailing close behind with 30 per cent or nearly 6 million valid votes.

Peter Obi of the smaller Labour Party got 20 per cent or about 3.8 million votes. More results were expected to show the winner later on Tuesday.

The preliminary results were announced in the states by Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) officers and will still have to be presented at the commission's national collation centre in the federal capital Abuja.

But opposition parties have rejected the results as the product of a flawed process, which suffered



multiple technical difficulties owing to the introduction of new technology by

the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).



Presidential candidate Bola Tinubu, centre, leaves after casting his vote in the presidential elections in Lagos, Nigeria, on Feb. 25.

BEN CURTIS/AP