

# Israel demolishes home of Palestinian killed in Tel Aviv attack

Israeli troops on Tuesday demolished the West Bank home of a Palestinian who was killed after carrying out a deadly shooting in the heart of Tel Aviv in March. Video footage of the attack shows a man the army says was Moataz Khawaja, 23, shooting three men from behind - in one of Tel Aviv's busiest streets - before being shot and killed by Israeli police. Hamas claimed him as a member of its armed wing, AP reported. On Tuesday, the army destroyed Khawaja's home in the town of Naalin, northwest of Ramallah in the occupied West Bank. The army said people burned tires, threw stones and shot fireworks at Israeli forces who were razing the site. Nilin mayor Yusef Khawaja said Israeli troops made all residents of the four-storey apartment block leave their homes before demolishing the shooter's first floor flat at dawn, AFP reported. The army released video of troops setting explosive charges before blow-



ing up the apartment. Large portraits of Khawaja had been draped over the side of the building, commemorating him as a "martyr", an AFP photographer reported. Troops clashed with "rioters" during the operation,

the army said. The mayor said three people were injured. Israel, which has occupied the West Bank since 1967, routinely demolishes the homes of attackers in an attempt to deter others, a tactic critics

say amounts to collective punishment. Human rights activists say the policy amounts to collective punishment, as it can render non-combatants, including children, homeless. Khawaja's father Salah

was defiant after the Israeli operation. "This hateful act will only strengthen our love for the homeland... Jerusalem and the faith (Islam), and, with God's help, our roots will remain anchored here," he told AFP.

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Palestinians inspect the ruins of the home of Mutaz Khawaja that was demolished by Israeli troops in the occupied West Bank village of Naalin, on May 23, 2023.  
● MAJDI MOHAMMED/AP

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Ex-PM gets bail from anti-terrorism court**



AP - Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday pressed his legal battle before a court in Islamabad, which granted him protection from arrest until early next month in several cases including terrorism charges for inciting violence. The development came as authorities have been cracking down on the supporters of Khan, now Pakistan's top opposition leader. Thousands staged violent protests and attacked public property and military installations following Khan's arrest earlier this month. The violence subsided only days later, after Khan was released on the orders of the country's Supreme Court.

**Animal health emergency declared in Brazil**



REUTERS - Brazil on Monday declared a state of animal health emergency for 180 days in response to the country's first ever detection of the highly pathogenic avian influenza virus in wild birds, in a document signed by Agriculture Minister Carlos Favaro. Infection by the H5N1 subtype of avian flu in wild birds does not trigger trade bans, based on guidelines of the World Organization for Animal Health. However, a case of bird flu on a farm usually results in the entire flock being killed and can trigger trade restrictions from importing countries.

**Germany summons Turkish envoy over 'press freedom' row**

AFP - Germany on Tuesday summoned the Turkish ambassador in Berlin and rejected Ankara's complaints of breaching press freedom with the alleged arrest of two pro-government reporters in Frankfurt. Ankara last week had called in Germany's envoy after claiming that two Turkish reporters were detained in the German business capital, ratcheting up diplomatic tensions ahead of Turkey's pivotal runoff election.

## Ceasefire officially starts between Sudan warring generals

A one-week ceasefire between Sudan's army and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces officially went into force at 9:45 pm (1945 GMT) Monday. Multiple truces have been

announced and breached during five weeks of fighting but the United States and Saudi Arabia, which brokered the deal, have said this one was "signed by the parties" and will be

supported by a "ceasefire monitoring mechanism," AFP reported. The two sides on Sunday affirmed that they would respect the ceasefire, which was welcomed by

the United Nations, African Union and East African bloc IGAD. There had been an absence of signals on the ground, however, that fighters intended to honour the

truce as battles continued on Monday. Desperate residents voiced hope that the new agreement would stem the brutal warfare that has shaken the capital Khartoum and

other parts of the impoverished country, particularly the western Darfur region. Fighting erupted on April 15 between the army, led by Sudan's de facto leader Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces commanded by Burhan's former deputy Mohamed Hamdan Daglo.

## Biden, McCarthy meeting ends with no deal on debt ceiling



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U.S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy speaks to reporters outside the West Wing with Rep. Patrick McHenry behind him, following debt limit talks with U.S. President Joe Biden in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, U.S., May 22, 2023.  
● LEAH MILLIS/REUTERS

US President Joe Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy could not reach an agreement Monday on how to raise the U.S. government's \$31.4 trillion debt ceiling with just 10 days before a possible default that could sink the U.S. economy, but vowed to keep talking. The Democratic president and the top congressional Republican have struggled to make a deal, as McCarthy pressures the White House

to agree to spending cuts in the federal budget that Biden considers "extreme," and the president pushes new taxes that Republicans have rejected, Reuters reported.

Both sides stressed the need to avoid default with a bipartisan deal after Monday evening's meeting, however, and signaled that they'd be talking regularly in coming days.

A source familiar with the situation said that White House negotiators were returning to Capitol Hill on Monday night to resume talks.

McCarthy told reporters after an hour of talks with Biden that negotiators are "going to get together, work through the night" to try to find common ground.

federal budget.

Democrats and Republicans have until June 1 to increase the government's self-borrowing limit or trigger an unprecedented debt default that economists warn could bring on a recession.

A failure to lift the debt ceiling would trigger a default that would shake financial markets and drive interest rates higher on everything from car payments to credit cards.

## Russia opens 'terror' probe over border incursion: Official

Russia said Tuesday it had launched a "terror" probe after Moscow's troops had been fighting a "sabotage" group that crossed from Ukraine.

"A criminal case has been opened over an attack on settlements in the Belgorod region," the Investigative Committee, which probes major cases, said in a statement, AFP reported.

Investigators said they opened a probe into a number of crimes including a "terror attack", attempted murder, destruction of or damage to property, and illegal circulation of weapons and explosives.

The statement said that representatives of armed Ukrainian groups attacked the district of Graivoron in the southern region of Belgorod.

"Residential and administrative buildings and civilian infrastructure facilities came under mortar and artillery fire," the Investigative Committee said.

"Several civilians were injured as a result of these criminal acts." Members of the anti-Kremlin Freedom of Russia Legion have claimed responsibility for the incursion into the region of Belgorod. Kyiv has denied involvement.

According to AP, Kyiv portrayed the raid as an uprising against the Kremlin by Russian partisans. It was impossible to reconcile the two versions or to say with any certainty who was behind the attack or what the aims were.

The Belgorod region is a Russian military hub, home to fuel and ammunition depots. Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said the armed attackers were routed by local troops, air strikes and artillery.

"The remnants of the nationalists were driven back to the territory of Ukraine, where they continued to be hit by fire until they were completely eliminated," Konashenkov said. He did not mention any Russian casualties.



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This image taken from a video shows a damaged building in the Belgorod region, Russia, on May 22, 2023.  
● AP