

Palestinian toddler shot by Israeli troops in West Bank dies



A 3-year-old Palestinian boy who was shot by Israeli troops in the occupied West Bank last week died of his wounds, hospital officials said Monday. Mohammed al-Tamimi was shot in the head last Thursday near his village of Nebi Saleh while riding

in a car with his father. He was airlifted to Israel's Sheba Hospital, which announced the boy's death, AP reported. The Israeli military has said it opened fire after gunmen in the area shot at an Israeli guard post at a nearby Jewish settlement.

But the boy's father, Haitham al-Tamimi, said that he had just buckled up his son in the car and they were driving to visit an uncle when the bullet struck. The father was also shot and treated at a Palestinian hospital. The Israeli military has

opened an investigation into the incident. Rights groups, however, say that such investigations rarely lead to prosecution or disciplinary action against soldiers. The shooting was the latest bloodshed in a more than yearlong surge of vio-

lence in the occupied West Bank and East Al-Quds. That fighting has picked up since Israel's new far-right cabinet took office in late December. Nearly 120 Palestinians have been killed in the two areas this year, according to an AP tally.

NEWS IN BRIEF

US, India agree roadmap for defence industry cooperation



REUTERS - India and the United States have concluded a roadmap for defence industry cooperation for the next few years, the two countries said on Monday, a move expected to bolster New Delhi's defence manufacturing ambitions. The roadmap was finalised at a meeting between visiting U.S. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin and Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

Over 16m need aid in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger



AFP - More than 16 million people affected by conflict and climate change in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger need humanitarian aid, according to an NGO report published on Monday.

Court: Poland's justice reform infringes EU law



AP - The European Union stepped up its rule-of-law fight with member state Poland on Monday when the bloc's highest court confirmed that Warsaw had refused to comply with EU rules on judicial independence for which it has already lost more than 500 million euros (\$535 million) in fines. The Court of Justice of the EU ruled that Poland's 2019 justice reform infringed EU law after the European Commission, the bloc's executive branch, said that the Polish Supreme Court lacked the necessary independence and impartiality.

Russia says it thwarts big attack in Ukraine

Moscow said on Monday it had thwarted a major offensive against its forces in eastern Ukraine, but Ukrainian officials dismissed the report and both sides said the Ukrainian military had advanced elsewhere along the front line. Russia's Defense Ministry said Ukraine had attacked on Sunday morning with six mechanized and two tank battalions in southern Donetsk, where Moscow has long suspected Ukraine would seek to drive a wedge

through Russian-controlled territory, Reuters reported. "The enemy's goal was to break through our defenses in the most vulnerable, in its opinion, sector of the front," the Defense Ministry said in a statement said. "The enemy did not achieve its tasks, it had no success." Further north, near the long-contested city of Bakhmut, Ukrainian forces were reported to have been "moving forward". An armed forces video showed Russian positions under fire and Russian

guerrilla commander Yevgeny Prigozhin said Ukrainian forces had retaken part of the settlement of Berkivka, north of Bakhmut in eastern Ukraine, calling it a "disgrace". Prigozhin's private Wagner army captured Bakhmut last month after the longest battle of the war and handed its positions there to regular Russian troops. Russia's Defense Ministry released video of what it said showed several Ukrainian armored vehicles in a field blowing up

after being hit. Reuters geo-located it to near Velyka Novosilka, a village west of Vuhledar in southern Donetsk region, but could not verify the date. The ministry said Russian forces killed 250 Ukrainian soldiers as well as destroying 16 tanks, three infantry fighting vehicles and 21 armored combat vehicles. Russian Chief of the General Staff Valery Gerasimov, who is in charge of Moscow's "special military operation" in Ukraine, was in the area, the ministry said.



Shelling, looting in Sudan's capital as military factions battle for eighth week



Shelling hit western areas of Sudan's capital on Monday morning after rival military factions fought through the night, residents said, with re-

ports of deepening lawlessness in Khartoum and in the western region of Darfur. Fighting between the army and the paramili-

tary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), who have been battling each other for more than seven weeks, intensified after the expiry late on Saturday of a ceasefire deal brokered by Saudi Arabia and the U.S., Reuters reported. The conflict has uprooted more than 1.2 million people within Sudan and sent about 400,000 fleeing into neighbouring countries, inflicting heavy damage on the capital where remaining residents are at the mercy of battles, air strikes and lawlessness. Late on Sunday, residents reported intense

fighting across the three cities that make up the nation's wider capital - Khartoum, Omdurman and Bahri - and smoke could be seen rising from several areas early on Monday. In Khartoum East district, RSF troops who have spread out in neighbourhoods across the capital were in full control and were looting extensively, said Waleed Adam, a resident of the area. The RSF says it has been working to protect civilians by arresting looters. The war has also triggered unrest in Darfur in Sudan's far west, a

region that was already suffering from mass displacement due to earlier conflict and where residents in several cities and towns have reported attacks by militias linked to Arab nomadic tribes. In recent days at least 40 people were killed and dozens more were wounded in Kutum in North Darfur State, according to activists who monitor the region. Residents have also reported widespread looting and insecurity in the area. On Monday, the RSF, which has its powerbase in Darfur and its origins in the Arab-dominated

militias, released a video purporting to show that they had taken over the army headquarters in Kutum, a commercial hub and one of the larger towns in the state. There have been long communication blackouts in parts of Darfur, where aid groups have found it especially complicated to bring in new humanitarian supplies. In El Obeid, a city 360 km (220 miles) southwest of Khartoum and on a key route from the capital to Darfur, residents reported large deployments of RSF forces and the closure of some roads.