



NEWS IN BRIEF

**Kuwait elects
opposition-led
parliament**

AFP – Opposition lawmakers won a majority in Kuwait's parliament in the Persian Gulf state's seventh general election in just over a decade, with only one woman voted into office, according to results announced on Wednesday. The vote on Tuesday came after Kuwait's constitutional court in March annulled the results of last year's election – in which the opposition made significant gains – and reinstated the previous parliament elected in 2020.

**Sudan military
factions battle
over weapons,
fuel depots**

REUTERS – Sudan's army has been battling to defend a military industrial complex believed to contain large stocks of weapons and ammunition in southern Khartoum, close to fuel and gas depots that are at risk of exploding, residents said on Wednesday. The paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), in the eighth week of a power struggle with the army, had attacked the area containing the Yarmouk complex late on Tuesday before retreating after heavy fighting, witnesses said. Clashes could still be heard on Wednesday morning.

**Florida jury
involved in
Trump probe
by Justice Dept.**

AP – Federal prosecutors are using a grand jury in Florida as part of their investigation into the possible mishandling of classified documents at former U.S. president Donald Trump's Palm Beach property, a person familiar with the matter said Tuesday night. The grand jury is in addition to a separate panel that has been meeting in Washington for months to consider charges against Trump over the retention of hundreds of classified documents at Mar-a-Lago and potential obstruction of the government's efforts to reclaim the records.

Ukrainians face homelessness, disease as floodwaters crest from destroyed dam

Ukrainians abandoned their inundated homes as floodwaters crested across a swathe of the south on Wednesday after the destruction of a vast dam on the front line between Russian and Ukrainian forces that each blamed on the other. Residents waded through flooded streets carrying children on their shoulders, dogs in their arms and belongings in plastic bags while rescuers used rubber boats to search areas where the waters reached above head height, Reuters reported. Ukraine said the flood would leave hundreds of thousands of people without access to drink-

ing water, swamp tens of thousands of hectares of agricultural land and turn more into deserts. The disaster at the Nova Kakhovka dam coincides with a looming long-awaited counteroffensive by Ukrainian forces, seen as the next major phase of the war. Each side accused the other of continuing to shell across the floodzone and warned of drifting landmines unearthed by the flooding. Kyiv said on Wednesday its troops in the east had advanced by more than a kilometre around the ruined city of Bakhmut in eastern Ukraine, its most explicit claim of progress since Russia reported the start of

the Ukrainian offensive this week. Russia said it had fought off the attack. Residents in the flood zone in the country's south blamed the bursting of the dam on Russian troops who controlled it from their positions on the opposite bank. Russia imposed a state of emergency in the parts of Kherson Province it controls, where many towns and villages lie in lowlands below the dam. Ukraine expects the floodwaters will stop rising by the end of Wednesday after reaching around five metres overnight, presidential deputy chief Oleksiy Kuleba said. Two thousand people had been evacuated so far from

the Ukrainian-controlled part of the flood zone, and the water level had reached its highest level in 17 settlements with a combined population of 16,000 people. Russia's TASS state news agency said the water level could remain elevated in places for up to 10 days. "The sheer magnitude of the catastrophe will only become fully realised in the coming days," U.N. aid chief Martin Griffiths told the Security Council. Targeting dams in war is explicitly banned by the Geneva Conventions. Neither side has presented public evidence demonstrating who was to blame. In his nightly address,

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy called it "an environmental bomb of mass destruction". Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Tuesday Ukraine had sabotaged the dam to distract attention from a new counteroffensive he said was "faltering". Washington said it was still gathering evidence about who was to blame, but that Ukraine would have had no reason to inflict such devastation on itself. Russia said for its part that a Ukrainian drone had struck a town on the opposite bank during evacuations there and accused the Ukrainian side of continuing shelling despite the flooding.



Rescuers evacuate local residents from a flooded area after the Nova Kakhovka dam breached, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Kherson, Ukraine, on June 7, 2023. **VLADYSLAV MUSIENKO/REUTERS**

Canada wildfires leading to air-quality alerts in U.S.



Millions of people in the eastern United States woke up to another day of poor air quality conditions on Wednesday, as smoke from wildfires in eastern Canada wafted over the country. About 98 million people in parts of 18 states from South Carolina to New Hampshire were under air quality alerts this morning for both wildfire smoke and ozone, nbcnews.com reported.

Intense Canadian wildfires are blanketing the northeastern U.S. in a dystopian haze, turning the air acrid, the sky yellowish gray and prompting warnings for vulnerable populations to stay inside. The effects of hundreds of wildfires burning across the western provinces to Quebec could be felt as far away as New York City and New England, blotting out skylines and irritating throats, AP reported. U.S. authorities issued air quality alerts. Hazy conditions and smoke from the wildfires were reported across the Great Lakes region from Cleveland to Buffalo. A smoky haze that hung over New York City much of the day Tuesday thickened in the late afternoon, obscuring views of New Jersey across the Hudson River and making the setting sun look like a reddish orb. In the Philadelphia area, dusk brought more of a lavender haze. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said hazy skies, reduced visibility and the odor of burning wood are likely, and that the smoke will linger for a few days in northern states. "It's not unusual for us to get fire smoke in our area. It's very typical in terms of northwest Canada," said Darren Austin, a meteorologist and senior air quality specialist with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management. But, usually, the smoke has been aloft and hasn't affected people's health, he said. The Quebec-area fires are big and relatively close, about 500 to 600 miles (roughly 800 to 970 kilometers) away from Rhode Island. And they followed wildfires in Nova Scotia, which resulted in a short-lived air quality alert on May 30, Austin said.

Pakistan's ex-PM named in 'abetting' lawyer's drive-by murder

Pakistani police on Wednesday formally named former prime minister Imran Khan in connection with the murder by unknown gunmen of a lawyer seeking sedition proceedings against him. Police registered an "abetment to murder" case against former cricket hero Khan, 70, who faces dozens of charges since his ouster in a parliamentary vote of confidence in April last year, Reuters reported. Khan, who has not been charged in connection with the lawyer's murder, has dismissed all the cases against him as concocted by his opponents. Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party's information secretary, Rauf Hasan, did not respond to a request for comment. Provincial government spokesman Babar Khan said Khan could face formal charges if and when the murder case goes to trial. Abdur Razaq, the murdered lawyer, had filed a court petition seeking sedition proceedings against Khan for dissolving his government after the no-confidence motion. Razaq was on his way to court on Tuesday when gunmen on a motorcycle shot and killed him, police said. Razaq's son, Siraj Ahmad, also a lawyer, told police that his father had been killed by unknown men with the "abetment of the former prime minister", according to a police report filed by him and seen by Reuters. It was not immediately clear how the link between unknown gunmen and Khan



was made. Last week, Khan was released on bail on terrorism charges of abetting violence against the military by his protesting supporters after he was arrested and detained on May 9 in a corruption case. The embattled Khan is embroiled in a confrontation with the powerful military, which has ruled Pakistan directly or overseen civilian governments throughout its history. His May 9 arrest sparked widespread protests by his supporters who ransacked military facilities, raising new worries about the stability of the nuclear-armed South Asian nation as it struggles with its worst economic crisis in decades. Khan has appealed for talks to end the standoff with the military. The government has rejected his call. Khan has accused the military and its intelligence agency of openly trying to destroy his party, saying he has "no doubt" he will be tried in a military court and thrown into jail.



The sun rises over a hazy New York City skyline as seen from Jersey City, N.J., on June 7, 2023. **SETH WENIG/AP**