



**7** Experts warn Australia becoming 'hermit nation'



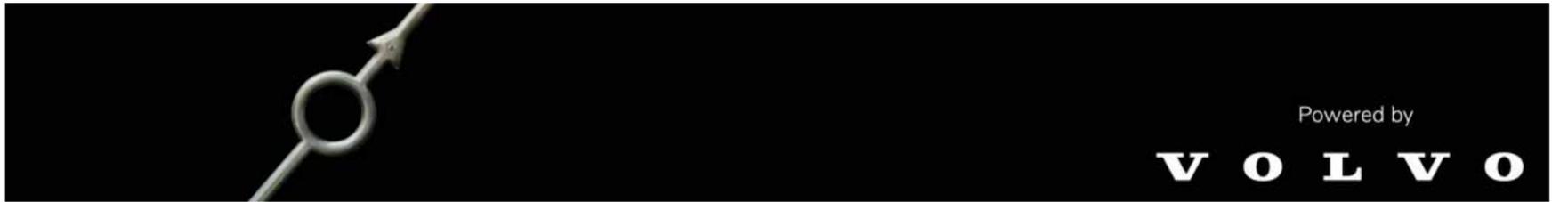
**8** Scrutiny increases of Gates after Microsoft affair surfaces



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**15** Data, tracking technology 'very important' for young coaches



# Death toll climbs in Zionist attacks on 'day of anger'

## France, Egypt, Jordan hold talks amid frantic diplomacy



NABLUS: Palestinian protesters confront Zionist troops at the Hawara checkpoint in the occupied West Bank yesterday during a demonstration in support of those under bombardment in Gaza. — AFP

**GAZA CITY:** Heavy air strikes and rocket fire in the Zionist-Gaza conflict claimed more lives yesterday as tensions flared in Palestinian "day of anger" protests in Jerusalem and the West Bank. The UN Security Council was to hold an emergency meeting amid a diplomatic push to end the fighting, as Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed the Zionist entity would continue its military onslaught on the coastal enclave "as long as necessary".

Zionist forces and protesters meanwhile clashed at multiple flashpoints across the occupied West Bank and in east Jerusalem, hospitalizing scores after Palestinians took to the streets in solidarity with their besieged counterparts in Gaza. The Zionist entity's intense bombing campaign on Gaza has killed 213 Palestinians, including 61 children, and wounded more than 1,400 people in Gaza in more than a week of fighting against Islamist group Hamas, according to the health ministry in Gaza.

The death toll on the Zionist side rose to 12 when a volley of rockets Hamas fired at the southern Eshkol region killed two Thai nationals working in a factory and wounded several others, police said. Zionist strikes that again sent fireballs, debris and black smoke into the sky have levelled homes and multi-storey towers, cratered roads and left two million Palestinians in Gaza desperate for reprieve.

A convoy of international aid trucks that started rolling into Gaza through a border crossing from the

Zionist entity, Kerem Shalom, was halted when the Zionist entity quickly shuttered it again, citing a mortar attack on the area. The UN Security Council session, the fourth since the conflict escalated, was called after the United States, a key Zionist ally, blocked adoption of a joint statement calling for a halt to the violence on Monday for the third time in a week.

US President Joe Biden, having resisted joining other world leaders and much of his own Democratic party in calling for an immediate end to hostilities, told Netanyahu Monday night he backs a ceasefire, but stopped short of demanding a truce. France and Egypt are pushing for a ceasefire deal, while Qatar and Egypt are working through another channel, via the UN.

The conflict risks precipitating a humanitarian disaster, with the UN saying nearly 40,000 Palestinians have been displaced and 2,500 have lost their homes. Fighter jets have hit what the Zionist military dubs the "metro", its term for Hamas's underground tunnels, which the Zionist entity has previously acknowledged run in part through civilian areas.

A strike Monday knocked out Gaza's only COVID-19 testing laboratory, the health ministry said, and the Qatari Red Crescent said a strike damaged one of its offices in the enclave. The rate of positive coronavirus tests in Gaza has been among the highest in the world, at 28 percent. Hospitals in the territory, which has been under Zionist blockade for almost 15 years, have

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### News in brief

#### Saudi furious over Lebanese 'insults'

**RIYADH:** Saudi Arabia yesterday summoned Lebanon's ambassador to the kingdom to protest "insulting" remarks by his country's foreign minister Charbel Wehbe, who appeared to blame Gulf states for the rise of the Islamic State group. He made the comment during a verbal duel with a Saudi guest on the show, who blamed Lebanon's President Michel Aoun for "handing over" his country to Hezbollah. Wehbe apologized yesterday for his remarks, saying he did not mean to offend "brotherly Arab countries". — AFP

#### Tech 'Nobel' for DNA sequencing

**HELSINKI:** Two British chemists who developed a super-fast DNA sequencing technique that paved the way for revolutionary healthcare advances were yesterday awarded Finland's version of the Nobel science prizes. Cambridge University professors Shankar Balasubramanian and David Klenerman took home the A1 million Millennium Technology Prize for their work over 27 years creating ever faster and cheaper ways to sequence the human genome. — AFP

#### Campbell welcomes first child

**NEW YORK:** British supermodel Naomi Campbell has become the mother of a baby girl at the age of 50, she said yesterday in a surprise announcement on Instagram. "A beautiful little blessing has chosen me to be her mother," she wrote with a photograph of her hand cradling a tiny pair of infant feet. — AFP

#### Mammals can breathe through anus

**WASHINGTON:** A team of Japanese scientists has shown it is possible for mammals to absorb oxygen via the anus. Intrigued by how certain sea creatures breathe through their intestines in emergencies, researchers at Tokyo Medical and Dental University were able to prove the same was true under experimental circumstances for mice, rats and pigs. They say the finding might also apply to humans who are in respiratory distress when ventilators are not available or inadequate. — AFP

## Govt allows dine-in amid calls to scrap some health curbs

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** The Cabinet decided yesterday to allow restaurants and cafes to receive people for dine-in services with the implementation of health safety precautions. The decision will go into effect on Sunday, May 23. The Cabinet's decision came after a number of lawmakers called on the government yesterday to abolish or ease health measures imposed to combat the spread of the coronavirus pandemic, with some

describing some of the measures as unconstitutional.

MP Abdulkarim Al-Kandari said the government should differentiate between urging people and forcing them to take the COVID-19 vaccine, adding that the government should not compel people to get vaccinated. Kandari said linking activities and travel to vaccination is illegal and the government should abolish such unconstitutional decisions. MP Hamad Al-Matar called on the government to halt mandatory vaccination for travel, especially for students, stop forcing travelers to pay KD 60 for PCR tests, institutional quarantine at hotels and banning dining at restaurants.

MP Hisham Al-Saleh asked Health Minister Sheikh Dr Basel Al-Sabah about the legal basis for banning unvaccinated citizens from traveling and why the government is charging citizens arriving from abroad KD 60 for two PCR tests. MP Osama Al-Munawer sub-

pm, according to local media reports.

Completed in 2000, the tower is home to a major electronics market as well as various offices in the downtown of one of China's fastest-growing cities. Emergency management officials are investigating what caused the tower in Shenzhen's Futian district to wobble, according to a post on the Twitter-like Weibo platform. "After checking and analyzing the data of various earthquake monitoring stations across the city, there was no earthquake in Shenzhen today," the statement said.

The district said in another statement late yesterday that everyone inside had been safely evacuated and that no further movements of the

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## Panic as China skyscraper wobbles

**BEIJING:** One of China's tallest skyscrapers was evacuated yesterday after it began to shake, sending panicked shoppers scampering to safety in the southern city of Shenzhen. The near 300-m-high SEG Plaza inexplicably began to shake at around 1 pm, prompting an evacuation of people inside while pedestrians looked on open-mouthed from the streets outside. The building was sealed shut as of 2:40

## India cyclone leaves 33 dead, dozens missing

**MAHUVA, India:** At least 33 people died and more than 90 were missing yesterday after a monster cyclone slammed India, compounding the country's woes as it posted a new record number of coronavirus deaths in 24 hours. The swirling system

dubbed Cyclone Tauktae is the latest in what experts say is a growing number of increasingly severe storms in the Arabian Sea as climate change warms its waters.

Hundreds of thousands of people were left without power after the storm hit the Gujarat coast in western India on Monday evening, leaving a trail of death and destruction. Winds up to 130 km per hour smashed seafront windows and knocked over power lines and thousands of trees, blocking roads leading to affected areas, officials said.

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SHENZHEN: The 300-m-high SEG Plaza is seen after it began to shake yesterday. — AFP



DIU, India: A truck is stranded on a highway yesterday after Cyclone Tauktae hit the west coast of India with powerful winds and driving rain. — AFP