



TWO cargo ships collided off the coast of Germany on Tuesday. At least 1 sailor is dead and 4 are missing



Beijing	23	9	SNY	Los Angeles	31	17	LC
Colombo	29	24	LC	Melbourne	24	9	HR
Dhaka	33	24	SNY	Moscow	6	3	HR
Dubai	35	27	SNY	New York	18	11	LC
Houston	28	19	SNY	Singapore	30	26	SNY
Istanbul	18	13	LR	Toronto	14	12	LC
London	17	14	LC	Washington	19	9	LC

WHO says that a total of 46 out of 72 health care services, including 12 out of 35 hospitals have stopped running

Two-thirds of Gaza's health facilities ceased functioning, warns WHO

Israel should not have a free licence to kill: Qatar

Macron calls for int'l union against Hamas

French President Emmanuel Macron called on Tuesday for Gaza militants Hamas to be added to the targets of an international coalition against the Islamic State (IS) group. "We should build a regional and international coalition to battle against terrorist groups that threaten us all," he said.

RAFAH

NEARLY two-thirds of Gaza's health facilities have ceased functioning amid a massive and deadly increase in Israeli airstrikes in the territory, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Tuesday.

A total of 46 out of 72 health care facilities, including 12 out of 35 hospitals, have stopped functioning across Gaza, the WHO said.

Palestinian health officials said that the lack of electricity and fuel to power generators from an Israeli blockade, as well as damage from airstrikes, has forced many of the facilities to close.

The WHO also said it had been unable to distribute any life-saving health supplies from the truck convoys to major hospitals in northern Gaza, because of a lack of security guarantees.

Also, the United Nations on Tuesday called for improved coordination among humanitarian groups in making sure the small amount of aid now moving into the Gaza Strip contained only the most needed items.

UNRWA, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, said that some of the food delivered into Gaza so far, such as rice and lentils, had been impractical, given the dwindling availability



Wounded Palestinians receive treatment at the al-Shifa hospital, following Israeli airstrikes on Gaza City on Monday | AP

ty of fresh water and fuel.

"An additional challenge in a very limited flow of supplies is that we are not really receiving the most needed supplies for Gaza, or the most relevant," UNRWA spokeswoman Tamara Alrifai said. "In one of the shipments over the last couple of days, we received boxes of rice and lentils," she told journalists. "But for people to cook lentils and rice, they need water and gas. And therefore these kinds of supplies—while very generous and well intended—are not very usable right now," she said.

Alrifai added that before October 7, around 500 trucks a day were entering Gaza from Israel and Egypt, with a mixture of commercial goods, food, aid and fuel. But only a few dozen trucks carrying food, medicine and water have entered Gaza via the southern border with Egypt since a deal entered into operation on Saturday.

"We will need to get better as a consortium of humanitarians in sending very explicit lists of what is most needed," Alrifai said. Agencies

DOHA

THE Qatari ruler hit out at Israel's backers on Tuesday, charging they had given it "free licence to kill" in its war with Hamas and questioning what the conflict would achieve.

"We are saying enough is enough," Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani told a meeting of the Shura Council, Qatar's legislative body, according to a translation released by the royal court. "It is untenable for Israel to be given an unconditional green light and free licence to kill, nor is it tenable to continue ignoring the reality of occupation, siege and settlement."

Qatar, a US ally which hosts a large US military base, also hosts an office of Hamas which doubles as the main residence of its self-exiled leader Ismail Haniyeh. The wealthy Gulf monarchy has acted as a communications channel with Hamas and is playing a key role in negotiations to release the hostages, with four freed so far.

"It should not be allowed in our time to use cutting off water and preventing medicine and food as weapons against an entire population," the emir said, referring to Israel's siege of Gaza. "We call for an earnest regional and international stance vis-a-vis this dangerous escalation that we are witnessing, and which threatens the security of the region and the world." AFP

SCRIPTED RELIEF

Court grants Nawaz Sharif bail in three corruption cases

ISLAMABAD/LAHORE

PAKISTAN'S Punjab provincial government on Tuesday suspended Nawaz Sharif's seven-year sentence in the Al-Azizia case while two separate courts confirmed his bail in three different corruption cases, in a major legal relief to the former premier after his return from London following four years of self-exile.

For the first time since his return on Saturday, the 73-year-old three-time former prime minister and supreme of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) on Tuesday appeared before the Islamabad accountability court. Sharif marked his attendance in Accountability Court of Judge Muhammad Bashir, who had suspended his arrest orders in the Toshakhana case last week to facilitate his return to Pakistan.

The attendance was significant to show he had surrendered before the court. He was allowed to leave after judge witnessed his presence in the courtroom. During the hearing, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) prosecutor contended that Sharif had surrendered, therefore, his arrest warrants should be cancelled. "If the warrants are cancelled then the trial can move forward," he said. The judge subsequently confirmed Sharif's bail in the case against surety bonds of Rs 1 million. The hearing of case was adjourned till November 20.

The case is based on allegations that Sharif, former president Asif Ali Zardari and ex-prime minister Yusuf Raza Gilani received luxury vehicles and gifts from Toshakhana.

In another major development, the caretaker government of Pakistan's Punjab province on Tuesday suspended Sharif's seven-year sentence in Al-Azizia graft case.

UNSC deepened crisis in Gaza: Turkish Prez

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday accused UN Security Council (UNSC) of deepening the Gaza crisis by bowing to the "Israeli regime." "The international community is not rising to the challenge in the face of the Israeli regime's unlawful...attacks against civilians," Erdogan said.

Muslim disunity empowered Israel: Iran

Iran's president on Tuesday expressed regret at a "lack of unity" among Muslim countries in response to war. Ebrahim Raisi said, "A united position in the Muslim world could have prevented the aggression of Zionist regime and excesses of its Western supporters in an effective way."

Went through hell, says 85-yr-old woman freed from Hamas

JERUSALEM

AN 85-year-old Israeli freed after more than two weeks of captivity by Hamas militants in war-torn Gaza said on Tuesday "I went through hell" during her abduction.

One of two elderly hostages freed late Monday, Yocheved Lifshitz recounted how the militants "went on a rampage in our kibbutz, kidnapped me, lay me over a motorcycle... and sped off with me through the ploughed fields."

"They beat me on the way—they didn't break my ribs but hurt me very much," said Lifshitz, seated in a wheelchair.

She was freed with Nurit Cooper, 79, by Hamas, which cited "compelling humanitarian" reasons.

During her weeks of captivity, Lifshitz said, "they treated us well," describing her captors as courteous and saying a doctor visited every two to three days. The guards kept conditions clean, she said.

Lifshitz, whose husband remains in Hamas captivity, said the militants appeared to have "prepared for a long time" to take large numbers of hostages. "They had everything that men and women needed in-

cluding shampoo and hostages were given one meal a day," she said. "We ate the same food they did—pitas with cream cheese, melted cheese, and cucumbers."

Once in Gaza, Lifshitz walked several kilometres to a network of tunnels that she described as "looking like a spider web." She reached a large room where 25 people had been taken but was later separated into a smaller group with four others. The people assigned to guard her "told us they are people who believe in Quran and wouldn't hurt us." AFP



Yocheved Lifshitz, one of the two women released from Hamas captivity late Monday, in a wheelchair down the hall at the hospital in Tel Aviv, Israel | AP

WOMEN STRIKE IN ICELAND FOR EQUAL PAY, INCLUDING PREMIER

Iceland's PM and women across the volcanic island nation went on strike Tuesday to push for an end to unequal pay and gender-based violence

SHUTDOWN ACROSS NATION

Icelanders awoke to all-male newscaster teams announcing shutdowns across the island nation: schools closed, public transport delayed, hospitals understaffed, hotel rooms uncleaned

PM Katrin Jakobsdóttir said that she would stay home as part of the women's strike—"kvinnaverkfall" in Icelandic—and expected other women in her Cabinet would do the same

GENDER-EQUAL COUNTRY

Iceland, an island of 3,80,000 people, has been ranked as the world's most gender-equal country 14 years in a row by the World Economic Forum

No country has achieved full equality, and there remains a gender pay gap in Iceland

Biggest since 1975

Tuesday's walkout, which lasts from midnight to midnight, is being billed as the biggest since Iceland's first such event on October 24, 1975,

when 90% of women refused to work, clean or look after children, to voice anger at discrimination in the workplace

In 1976, Iceland passed a law guaranteeing equal rights irrespective of gender

Since then there have been several partial-day strikes, most recently in 2018, with women walking off the job in the early afternoon, symbolising the time of day when women, on average, stop earning compared to men

SCHOOLS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS AFFECTED

Iceland's trade unions, the main organisers of the strike, called on women and nonbinary people to refuse both paid and unpaid work, including household chores, for the day. About 90% of Icelandic workers belong to a union

Schools and health system said they would be heavily affected by the walkout

We have not yet reached our goals of full gender equality and we are still tackling the gender-based wage gap, which is unacceptable in 2023. We are still tackling gender-based violence, which has been a priority for my government to tackle

Katrin Jakobsdóttir, Iceland PM

US STATES SUE META OVER HARM TO CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

SAN FRANCISCO

DOZENS of US states are suing Meta Platforms Inc. for harming young people's mental health by knowingly designing features on Instagram and Facebook that addict children to its platforms.

The lawsuit filed in federal court in California also claims that Meta routinely collects data on children under 13 with-

out their parents' consent, in violation of federal law. "Meta has harnessed powerful and unprecedented technologies to entice, engage, and ultimately ensnare youth and teens. Its motive is profit, and in seeking to maximise its financial gains, Meta has repeatedly misled the public about the substantial dangers of its social media platforms," the complaint says. In addition to the 33 states, nine at-

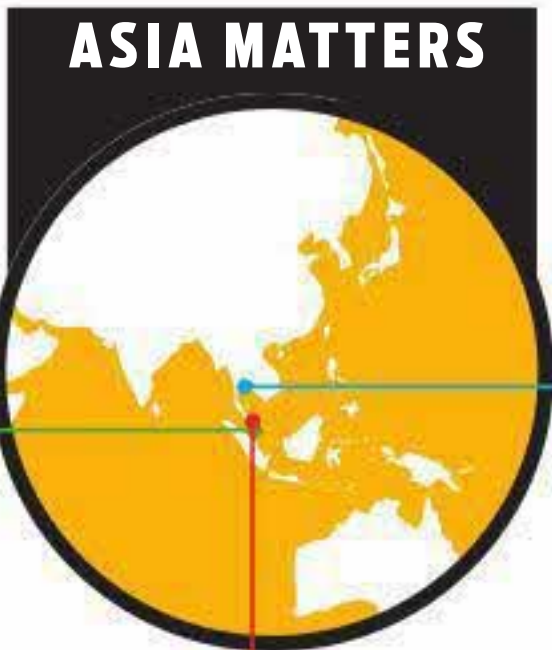
torneys general are filing in their respective states, bringing the total number of states taking action to 42. "Kids and teenagers are suffering from record levels of poor mental health and social media companies like Meta are to blame," said New York Attorney General Letitia James. Meta said it shares "the attorneys general's commitment to providing teens with safe, positive experiences."

ASIA MATTERS

SINGAPORE

PRINCE WILLIAM TO PAY A VISIT FOR EARTHSHOT

Prince William will travel to Singapore next month to name the winners of his Earthshot Prize, a global competition to find solutions to challenges of climate change. William created the prize three years ago to encourage inventors to develop technologies to combat global warming and mitigate its impact on the environment. Singapore was chosen to host the latest annual awards ceremony because of its role as a "hub for innovation" in Southeast Asia, William's office said. Prince will meet with locals to learn how they are working to protect and restore the planet



MALAYSIA

GOVT ALLOWS EXPORT OF RARE EARTHS

Malaysia's government said on Tuesday it will allow import and process rare earths until March 2026, after the Australian miner proposed a new technology to extract radioactive elements from waste it produces. Lynas refinery in Malaysia has been operating in central Pahang state since 2012

THAILAND

EX-PM THAKSIN UNDERGOES 2ND SURGERY

Jailed ex-Thai prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra has undergone orthopaedic surgery, prison officials said—his second operation in the space of a few weeks. 74-year-old billionaire, ousted as PM, returned to Thailand from 15 years of self-exile in August and was jailed on old graft and abuse-of-power charges. He was transferred to a police hospital just hours after being jailed, because of his poor health, and last month his daughter said he had an operation. Department of Corrections said he had undergone five hours of orthopaedic surgery



