

**Birthday boy Sainz fastest in second Monza practice**  
Ferrari's Carlos Sainz shines on his 29th birthday, while Hamilton struggles in practice | P12



Britney Spears is 'focusing on herself' after break-up

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BUSINESS 5 US manufacturing slump continues into 10th month

**Putin, Erdogan to 'restore' grain deal**  
AFP | Moscow

Russian President Vladimir Putin will host his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Monday, the Kremlin said, amid hopes the two can restore a deal ensuring safe passage for grain shipments. Russia pulled out from the UN-backed grain agreement that Turkey helped broker in July, effectively revoking safe navigation for civilian ships sailing through the Black Sea.

**Palestinian killed by Israeli forces**  
AFP | Al Aqaba

Israeli forces yesterday killed a Palestinian in the West Bank, the Palestinian health ministry said, as a surge of deadly violence in the occupied territory shows no signs of abating. The ministry said Abdul Rahim Favez Ghannam, 36, was "shot by live occupation (Israeli) fire in the head" in the village of Al-Aqaba in the northern West Bank.

**Singapore ex-deputy PM elected president**  
AFP | Singapore

Singapore's former deputy prime minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam was elected president yesterday, comfortably securing victory in the city-state's first contested vote for the largely ceremonial position in more than a decade. Singaporeans headed to the polls that were closely watched as an indication of support for the ruling party after a rare spate of scandals, but the longtime stalwart of the party won more than two-thirds of the vote over two rivals.

**Proud Boys leaders jailed for 17 years**  
Washington

Two former Proud Boys leaders who had been convicted of seditious conspiracy for their actions during the Jan. 6 assault on the US Capitol were sentenced to 17 years in prison.

220 fils (includes VAT)



# Ban on 'nuisance'

Parisians bid farewell to rentable electric scooters as prohibition takes effect

● Paris becomes first European capital to outlaw e-scooters

AFP | Paris

Parisians woke up yesterday to a world without free-floating rented electric scooters, loathed as a pedestrian-bothering nuisance by some but mourned by others. The French capital is the first in Europe to completely ban the hire scooters from its streets, after voters overwhelmingly elected to remove them in an April referendum - albeit on a tiny turnout of 7.5 percent. Yesterday puts an end to five years of seeing users zip through crowds of pedestrians or park awkwardly on pavements and at intersections, as well as a string of accidents.

Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo had herself campaigned against scooters, saying removing them would reduce "nuisance". "It makes me sad, because I liked so much to be able to get around like that, go wherever



An employee loads electric scooters in a van in Paris. (AFP)

without the stress of using a car, getting stuck in traffic jams," scooter user Valerie Rinckel said a few days before the ban came into force. But another customer, Anass Eloula, said that "it's safer to stop now and get back to bikes, or for people to take the bus or public transport". David Belliard, deputy Paris mayor in charge of urban mobil-

ity, told reporters on Thursday that the case against the rental scooters was overwhelming despite efforts by operators to address problems. "There was some progress, but the bottom line is still negative," he said. "The anarchy was quite unbearable." Operators Lime, Tier and Dott have been gradually removing their 15,000 machines

from public streets, planning to send them off to other cities in Europe and beyond after repair and maintenance work. Some will even remain in the wider Ile-de-France region around Paris, with Tier offering service in suburbs like Marne-la-Vallee and Saint-Germain-en-Laye. "We've turned the page on scooters" for the whole Paris

region, said Xavier Mirailles, Lime's public affairs director. The Californian firm will send its scooters to Lille in northern France, London, Copenhagen and several German cities, while Dott's will go to Belgium and Tel Aviv. Instead of scooters, the firms hope customers will switch to floating hire bicycles, which all of them already have on offer.



In a referendum in April, the Parisians voted to ban the battery-powered-scooters, confirming that many regarded them as an unbearable nuisance.

# Ukraine offensive makes 'notable progress'

AFP | Washington

Ukraine's forces in recent days have made "notable progress" against Russian troops in their southern offensive, the White House said yesterday. Asked about criticism that Kyiv's southern campaign against

occupying Russian forces has not advanced much in three months, White House national security spokesman John Kirby conceded that the fight has gone slower than Ukraine itself had hoped. "That said, we have noted

over the last 72 hours or so some notable progress by Ukrainian armed forces on that southern line," Kirby told reporters. "They have achieved some success against that second line of Russian defenses," he said. In recent days, Western bat-

tlefield analyses have shown Ukrainian forces penetrating Russian lines for several kilometers (miles) between Robotyne and Verbove in the Zaporizhzhia region. Kyiv's aim is to advance directly south to the Sea of Azov,

cutting off Russian land access to occupied Crimea. But Russian forces have established long and deep barriers across the terrain, including tank traps, minefields and other defenses, to slow Ukraine's advance.

Five Asians die in car-truck collision



Five Asians were killed yesterday evening as a result of a collision between their car and a cleaning company's truck near the Aali area on Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Street. An Asian man driving a Nissan with four passengers collided with the truck from behind.

A brewing debate



A young woman, centre, wears an Abaya as she stands on a street in Nantes, western France. The French government's decision to ban schoolgirls wearing abayas - long, flowing dresses of Middle Eastern origin - has opened a fresh debate about the country's secular laws and the treatment of Muslim minorities. (AFP)