

News in brief

◆ **The Council of Europe yesterday awarded its**

top rights prize to jailed Turkish philanthropist Osman Kavala, who has come under repeated attack from President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Kavala, 66, faced alternating charges that have ranged from espionage and financing the 2013 protests to taking part in a failed 2016 coup against Erdogan. He was arrested in October 2017 and sentenced to life in 2022 for allegedly trying to topple Erdogan's government. "I'm very sad he cannot be with us to receive this prize, this meaningful prize," his wife, Ayse Bugra Kavala, said, accepting the award from Tiny Kox, president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.



Turkey's jailed Osman Kavala wins Vaclav Havel rights prize

◆ **Sudan and Iran agree to restore ties after 7-year rift**

◆ **Sudan and Iran** agreed yesterday to restore their diplomatic ties seven years after they were severed, the Sudanese foreign ministry said. The two countries "have decided to resume diplomatic relations... following high-level contacts in recent months", the ministry said in a statement. They agreed "to take the necessary steps to reopen their embassies in the near future and to exchange official delegations", the statement added. Iran's ISNA news agency also reported the agreement. "The two governments agreed to develop friendly relations... based on mutual respect for sovereignty, equality, common interests and peaceful coexistence," ISNA said.



◆ **An elephant that escaped Virunga National Park in volatile eastern DR Congo was slaughtered and eaten yesterday, the conservation authority and a local resident said. Two elephants escaped on Monday, the ICCN explained, and unidentified armed men killed one.**

Elephant slaughtered and eaten in DR Congo

The conservation authority urged an official investigation. According to a resident of the area, locals shared the slaughtered elephant's meat among themselves. The fate of the second elephant was unclear. Despite its vast mineral wealth, the DRC is one of the poorest countries in the world. About two-thirds of the 100 million population live on under \$2.15 a day, according to the World Bank.



Israel imposes total siege



The aftermath of an attack on the Supernova music Festival

TDT | agencies

Nine US citizens confirmed dead
Washington, United States

The United States confirmed yesterday the deaths of nine US citizens in the war between Israel and Hamas with more unaccounted for, amid fears they were taken captive. "At this time, we can confirm the deaths of nine US citizens," State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said. "We can confirm that there are unaccounted for US citizens, and we are working with our Israeli partners to determine their whereabouts."

More than 123,000 people displaced
UN
Jerusalem, Undefined

More than 123,000 people have been displaced in the Gaza Strip since the outbreak of the conflict between Palestinian militants and Israel, the United Nations said. "Over 123,538 people, have been internally displaced in Gaza, mostly due to fear, protection concerns and destruction of their homes," said the UN's humanitarian agency. More than 73,000 are sheltering in schools, OCHA said, of which have been designated emergency shelters.

Israel imposed a total siege on the Gaza Strip yesterday and cut off the water supply as it kept bombing targets in the crowded Palestinian enclave in response to the Hamas surprise assault it has likened to the 9/11 attacks.

In response, Hamas, in a statement yesterday, said they are on the "verge of a great victory" and is not open to negotiating a prisoner exchange with Israel during hostilities.

"The military operation is still continuing... therefore there is currently no chance for negotiation on the issue of prisoners or anything else," Hossam Badran, a Hamas official, told AFP from Doha.

Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh issued a video message from Qatar on Saturday, broadcast on its Al-Aqsa television channel, saying his group was on the "verge of a great victory" and demanding the release of Palestinian prisoners.

Israel has counted over 700 dead and launched a withering barrage of strikes on Gaza that have raised the death toll there to 560 people.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu threatened that "what Hamas will experience will be difficult and terrible ... We are going to change the Middle East. "This is only the beginning," he vowed. "We will defeat them with force, enormous force."

The skies over Gaza were blackened by plumes of smoke from deafening explosions as Hamas kept launching rockets as far as Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, where missile defence systems fired and air raid sirens blared. Hamas claimed yesterday that Israeli air strikes had killed four of the captives. Israel said it had called up

Claudia Goldin of the US wins Nobel economics prize

Stockholm, Sweden

The Nobel prize in economics was on Monday awarded to American economist Claudia Goldin for her research helping understand the role of women in the labour market.

The Harvard professor, who is the third woman to be awarded the prestigious economics prize, was given the nod "for having advanced our understanding of women's labour market outcomes," the jury said.

"Her research reveals the causes of change, as well as the main sources of the remaining gender gap," it added in a statement.

Globally, about 50 percent of women participate in the labour market compared to 80 percent of men, but women earn less and are less likely to reach the top of the career ladder, the prize committee noted.

Of all the Nobels, the economics prize has the fewest number of women laureates, with just two previous winners since it was first awarded in 1969 -- Elinor Ostrom in 2009 and Esther Duflo in 2019.

The jury highlighted that Goldin's work's "provided the first comprehensive account of women's earnings and labour market participation through the centuries."

Last year, the honour went to US economists Douglas Di-



Claudia Goldin

amond and Philip Dybvig together with former Federal Reserve chief Ben Bernanke for research on banks in times of turmoil.

The economics prize, set up by the Swedish central bank, was the only award absent from the original five created by scientist Alfred Nobel, sometimes earning it the moniker of "false Nobel".

However, just like the other science prizes the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences decides the winner and finding candidates follows the same process.

Just like the other Nobels it comes with a gold medal, a diploma and a prize sum of 11 million Swedish kronor (about \$1 million), and laureates receive their prizes from King Carl XVI Gustaf at a lavish prize ceremony in Stockholm.

Continuous illegal presence of Armenian 1



SHAHEEN ABDULLAYEV

On September 19, 2023 due to a terrorist act committed by the Armenian armed forces, six Azerbaijani citizens - two civilians, became victims of a mine terror. It is not the first time that Armenia has committed a terrorist act against Azerbaijan. Since the end of the Second Karabakh War, more than 300 Azerbaijani citizens have become victims of mine terrorism or have been seriously injured.

Throughout the past three years since the signing of this statement, Armenia kept more than ten thousand-strong armed formations equipped with such heavy weaponry as tanks and other armored vehicles, artillery pieces, multiple rocket launchers, mortars, electromagnetic warfare equipment and other types of offensive arms in the territory of Azerbaijan. These illegal armed forces were sustained through direct military technical, logistical and financial support by Armenia, including by abusing the Lachin road, in an attempt to fuel separatism in the sovereign territory of Azerbaijan for the purposes of its revanchist policy. The counter-terror measures demonstrated the scale of illegal militarization by Armenia despite the commitment it undertook under the Trilateral Statement to

cease all military activities against Azerbaijan and withdraw its forces from Azerbaijan's internationally recognized territory. In just 24 hours more than 90 military outposts of the illegal formations were taken, 20 combat vehicles, 40 artillery pieces, 30 mortars, 6 electromagnetic warfare (EW) systems, and 2 antiaircraft missile systems were neutralized. No sovereign state would tolerate such a heavy illegal military presence on its soil. Nor did Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan acted fully within the rights safeguarded under international law and its Constitution to protect safety and security of all its residents. Thus, systematic attempts by Armenia to create a new status-quo of illegal use of force and to sustain a gray zone based on the "Line of Contact logic" in the sovereign territory of Azerbaijan was defeated.

Anti-terrorist measures

Our servicemen have shown extraordinary heroism, bravery and professionalism during the anti-terrorist measures. In challenging terrain and despite the presence of fortifications created over the years of engineering works by the enemy, given that the enemy's positions are located on hills and in favorable places, our servicemen once again, showed heroism and professionalism and achieved significant military success in all directions in a short time.

Before the operation, Azerbaijani President gave a strict order to all military units that the Armenian population living in the Karabakh region should not

be affected by the anti-terrorist measures and that the civilian population be protected. We have achieved this by using high-precision weapons. At the same time, civilians felt protected entirely thanks to the professionalism of Azerbaijani Armed Forces.

Each and every action by Azerbaijan to restore its territorial integrity and sovereignty, including the latest 24 hours counter-terrorist measures, were in line with norms and principles of international law. Azerbaijan has been always committed to protection of civilians and civilian objects within its conducted actions. After all, immediately after the Second Karabakh War, we repeatedly appealed to the Armenian leadership, their patrons abroad, and other parties, expressing our legitimate concern and saying to them that the continued presence of the Armenian armed forces on the territory of Azerbaijan was illegal and should stop. We were saying that the illegal junta should fold up its so-called flag, worth no more than a piece of cloth, and vacate our lands. It is our sovereign right.

After the surrender of the criminal junta, this source of tension, this den of poison, has already been consigned to history. The Armenian population of Karabakh can finally breathe a sigh of relief. The Armenian population of Karabakh are our citizens. Ar-

menian nationalists, war criminals, and the so-called leaders of Armenia and Karabakh took these people hostage and poisoned their brains.

Armenia itself with its brazen and uncorrected disregard to its international obligations made these measures by Azerbaijan unavoidable. Armenia's attempt to accuse Azerbaijan of violating the Trilateral Statement of 10 November 2020 of the leaders of Azerbaijan, the Russian Federation and Armenia is equally baseless. On the contrary, it is Armenia that blatantly disregarded its commitment under the mentioned document with respect to withdrawal of its forces from the territory of Azerbaijan.

The results of anti-terrorist measures will allow to remove the obstacle for peace negotiations. This will create a new reality in the South Caucasus. We must take sure that Armenia does not live with revanchist ideas and they must make sure that we do not claim their territories. We recognize their territorial integrity and we have declared it. We suggest that the future of South Caucasus countries should be based on peace, stability and prosperity. This region has been a place of quarrels, wars and bloody clashes for centuries. Enough already! That day is not far away when Azerbaijan and Armenia will settle the issues between

The non-fulfillment by Armenia of its obligations on full, immediate withdrawal of its forces from Azerbaijan had been the reason for the failure of all international negotiations.