

News in brief

◆ **King Charles III yesterday** led Britain in a two-minute silence to honour its war dead in his first remembrance service since being crowned, a day after violence marred commemorations. The memorial was at the centre of ugly confrontations on Saturday, Armistice Day, when police scuffled with a group of counter-protestors -- opposed to a huge pro-Palestinian march -- as they attempted to reach the site. Almost 10,000 veterans marched past the Cenotaph memorial in central London, while thousands more members of the public gathered in tribute to British and Commonwealth servicemen and women who have died in battle. The king, along with Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and opposition Labour leader Keir Starmer, laid wreaths on the Cenotaph shortly after the nation fell silent at 11:00 am (1100 GMT).



King Charles III leads silence for British war dead

◆ **Lebanon has seized** more than half a tonne of drugs destined for Kuwait, authorities said yesterday, as Beirut seeks to combat narcotics trafficking, particularly to Gulf countries. Authorities "seized around 800 kilogrammes (1,760 pounds) of drugs" bound for Kuwait via the Netherlands, the office of Interior Minister Bassam Mawlawi said in a statement carried by Lebanon's official National News Agency (NNA). The drugs were "professionally" concealed in wooden figures inside a bulletproof box, the statement said, without specifying the type of narcotics seized. An individual allegedly involved in the trafficking operation was arrested, it added.



◆ **Five American service members** were killed when a military aircraft crashed into the Mediterranean during a training exercise, the US European Command (EUCOM) said yesterday. EUCOM did not specify the type of plane or where it was flying from, but the United States has deployed a carrier strike group to the area as part of efforts to prevent the Israel-Hamas war from spiraling into a regional conflict. "During a routine air refueling mission as part of military training, a US military aircraft carrying five service members suffered a mishap and crashed into the Mediterranean Sea. All five of the service members onboard the aircraft were killed," EUCOM said in a statement on the November 10 accident. President Joe Biden, in a statement from the White House, paid tribute to the victims, who as he noted died on the weekend when Americans annually honor military veterans. "Our service members put their lives on the line for our country every day," Biden said.

Five US service members killed in Mediterranean plane crash



CURIOSER & CURIOSER

At least 40 Indian workers trapped in tunnel collapse



Rescue teams working to remove huge piles of concrete blocking the tunnel

AFP | Dehradun, India

At least 40 construction workers were trapped yesterday after the road tunnel they were building collapsed in northern India, with rescuers scrambling to reach them beneath piles of debris. The collapse occurred early Sunday morning in the Himachal Pradesh state of Uttarakhand when a group of workers were moving out and replacement workers were going in. "About 200 metres (218 yards) of the tunnel have collapsed," Durgesh Rathodi, a state disaster response official, told AFP from the site. "About 40 to 41 workers are trapped inside. Oxygen is being supplied through the debris, but more rubble is coming down as rescuers try to remove the obstruction."

The 4.5-kilometre (2.7-mile) tunnel is being constructed between Silkyara and Dandagaon to connect two of the holiest Hindu shrines of Uttarakhand and Yamnotti. Photographs released by the government rescue teams showed huge piles of concrete blocking the wide tunnel, with twisted metal bars on its broken roof poking down in front of the rubble. "Pray to god that those workers trapped inside the tunnel are brought out safely," Uttarakhand chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami wrote on social media platform X. Rathodi, the disaster response official, said a message was sent to the trapped workers through a tube that is pumping oxygen into the blocked portion of the tunnel, assuring them "all efforts are being made for your safety".

Gaza patients 'in streets'

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Patients are out "in the streets without care" after "forced evacuations" of two paediatric hospitals in Gaza, an official in the Hamas-held territory said Sunday, countering the Israeli army which said it secured safe passage for civilians. "The forced evacuations of Al-Nasr and Rantisi paediatric hospitals have left sick people on the streets without care" in Gaza City, Mohammed Zaqt, director-general of hospitals in the Palestinian territory, told reporters. "We have completely lost contact with the caregivers" at these two hospitals, he added. Earlier yesterday, the Israeli military said it had "enabled the evacuation" of the two hospitals and opened an additional route to



Patients and internally displaced people are pictured at Al-Shifa hospital in Gaza City



Palestinians arrive south of Gaza City

facilitate the safe passage of the civilian population to the south of the Gaza Strip. Zaqt also described a "cata-

strophic" situation inside Gaza's largest hospital, Al-Shifa, saying "no one can enter or leave it" amid heavy fighting. Doctors and aid groups on Saturday said two out of 39 babies died in Al-Shifa's neonatal unit after power to their incubator was cut off.

Netanyahu tells NBC 'there could be' potential deal to free hostages

AFP | Washington, United States

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told US media yesterday a deal could be afoot to free hostages being held in the Gaza Strip, but declined to provide details for fear of scuttling the potential plan. "We heard that there was an impending deal of this kind or of that kind and then we learned that it was all hokum. But the minute we started the ground operation, that began to change," Netanyahu told NBC show "Meet the Press." Asked whether there is a potential deal to free more of the hostages being held by Hamas militants, Netanyahu replied: "There could be." But the leader stopped short of providing specifics about any plan that might be coming together to free some or all of the 239 hostages that Israel says are



Civilians and rescuers look for survivors amid the rubble of a destroyed building

being held captive. "I think the less I say about it, the more I'll increase the chances that it materializes," he said. A source close to Hamas said this week that negotiations have occurred over a possible three-day ceasefire in exchange for the release of a dozen hostages, including six Americans, held by the Islamists, but Netanyahu has flatly rejected calls for a ceasefire in Gaza without the release of the hostages.

500 dual nationals Gaza to Egypt as ev



A man waits with a child at the traveller's Rafah border crossing with Egypt

AFP | Rafah, Palestinian Territories

Around 500 foreigners and dual nationals, as well as several wounded Palestinians, were evacuated from the Israeli-bombed Gaza Strip to Egypt yesterday, reports from both sides of the border said. Some "500 foreign nationals from 15 different countries en-

Displaced Gazans live in d

AFP | Khan Yunis, Palestinian Territories

At first Youssef Mehna thought the war would quickly be over. Then he was wounded, his house was destroyed, and he was forced to survive "25 days without anything". So like thousands of others, Mehna finally fled north Gaza for the south. Perched on trucks, crammed into cars, pulled by donkeys on carts, and on foot, tens of thousands of Palestinians are fleeing Israeli army strikes on the territory squeezed between Israel, Egypt and the Mediterranean. At the Bani Suheila crossroads in Khan Yunis, on the immense Salah Al-Din road that threads Gaza top to bottom, the processions are growing still. People fleeing Gaza City are



Palestinians arrive south of Gaza City after fleeing their homes in Gaza City and the Northern Gaza Strip

joined by those leaving Khan Yunis heading further south, towards Rafah, the last city before Egypt. Mehna left the Jabalia refugee camp at seven in the morning, in the north of Gaza City, also hoping to reach Rafah. But his journey finished in Khan Yunis, after eight hours of travel covering only 25 kilometres (15 miles). "I already paid 500 shekels

(\$130) to come from Jabalia and I have nothing more to carry or Rafah," he said with a drawn face surrounded by his six children. "Not even a morsel of bread" Because his sick wife is in a wheelchair, he had to rent "a car" pulled by donkeys, trucks, cars' transport her. Each trip was short, as fuel shortages prevent drivers from accepting long-distance fares. Sometimes, between cars they were forced to go on foot. "It was me who pushed my wheelchair," he told AFP. Around him, hundreds of families were waiting. Children sleep on the floor while parents wonder how they will live in a territory where more than 1.5 million people are displaced and nearly one house in ten has been destroyed, according