

News in brief

◆ **Israel said it had** summoned the Ukrainian ambassador for a dressing down yesterday, after Kyiv voted in favour of a resolution to open an international probe into Israel's prolonged occupation of the West Bank. The resolution, approved at UN headquarters in New York last week, asks that the International Court of Justice (ICJ) "urgently" weigh in on Israel's "prolonged occupation, settlement and annexation of the Palestinian territory", which it said were violating the Palestinians' right to self-determination. Israel "expressed its dissatisfaction" with Ukraine's decision to vote in favour of the resolution in a conversation with Ambassador Yevgen Korniychuk, according to a statement released by the Israeli foreign ministry on Tuesday. "It was clarified to the ambassador that this behaviour does not embody friendly behaviour," the statement said. In a statement about the meeting on Facebook, the Ukrainian embassy in Israel wrote: "The ambassador expressed disappointment with the position of Israel, whose representative abstained during the vote in the U.N. General Assembly on the issue of Russian reparation payments to Ukraine."



Israel admonishes Ukrainian ambassador over UN vote

◆ **Iraq's Baghdad international airport fire put out- INA**

◆ **Civil defence forces** have put out a fire that broke out in the departure hall of Iraq's Baghdad international airport, state news agency (INA) reported yesterday. The fire broke out in the departure hall cafeteria and did not affect flights schedules, INA added.

◆ **Turkey plans** to pursue targets in northern Syria after it completes a cross-border operation against outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militants in Iraq, a senior official said yesterday, after a deadly weekend bomb in Istanbul. The government has blamed Kurdish militants for the blast on Istanbul's Istiklal Avenue on Sunday that killed six people and injured more than 80. Threats posed by Kurdish militants or Islamic State on Turkey are unacceptable, the official told Reuters, adding that Ankara will clear threats along its southern border "one way or another." "Syria is a national security problem for Turkey. There is work being done on this already," the official said, declining to be named as they were not authorised to speak to the media.



Turkey to pursue targets in Syria, official says after Istanbul blast

◆ **Russian administrators leave second city in Ukraine's Kherson region**

◆ **Civil servants** working for the Russian-installed administration in Nova Kakhovka, the second-largest city in Ukraine's southern Kherson region, have left due to fighting, officials said yesterday. The city lies on the east bank of the Dnipro river, next to the huge Kakhovka dam, which both Ukraine and Russia have accused each other of shelling. It also adjoins the mouth of the North Crimean Canal, a crucial source of fresh water to the arid Crimean peninsula, which Russia seized from Ukraine in 2014.

◆ **British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak** yesterday extended his support for Ukraine at the G20 summit while confirming a long-planned order for warships from BAE Systems (BAES.L). Russian President Vladimir Putin's regime would hear the chorus of global opposition to its actions, Sunak said. "Russia's actions put all of us at risk," he said at the summit in Bali, Indonesia. "As we give the Ukrainian people the support they need, we are also harnessing the breadth and depth of UK expertise to protect ourselves and our allies." Sunak also announced a 4.2 billion pound (\$4.94 billion) contract to BAE Systems (BAES.L) to build five ships for the Royal Navy, a government statement said.



UK's Sunak extends support to Ukraine, awards \$4.9 bln contract to BAE Systems

This contract, in addition to the three ships already under construction, comes as the next phase in the Type 26 frigate programme and all the eight of the Type 26 frigates are expected to be completed by the mid-2030s, the statement said. The British government has planned to build a total of eight Type 26s since 2015, when it cut the programme from 13 ships.

Curioser & Curioser

Meet Tora! Hunchback woman died during the Middle Ages is brought back to life
DailyMail

A Norwegian woman who was hunchback and toothless before she died at the age of 65 during the Middle Ages has been brought back to life using modern-day technology. Researchers used the elderly woman's skeleton to create the silicon model, which they named Tora, that is now display at the NTNU University Museum.

An analysis of the woman's skeleton showed she suffered from osteoarthritis and gout during the last few years of her life and the researchers fashioned the silicon model to represent the ailments.



US Navy intercepts 'massive' shipment of explosive material in Gulf of Oman



Reuters | Dubai

The US Navy's Fifth Fleet said yesterday it had intercepted a fishing vessel smuggling "massive" amounts of explosive material while transiting from Iran along a route in the Gulf of Oman that has been used to traffic weapons to Yemen's Houthi group.

US forces found over 70 tonnes of ammonium perchlorate which is commonly used to make rocket and missile fuel as well as explosives, the Fifth Fleet said in a statement.

"This was a massive amount of explosive material, enough to fuel more than a dozen medium-range ballistic missiles depending on the size," said Vice Admiral Brad Cooper, commander of US Naval Forces Central Command, US 5th Fleet and Combined Maritime Forces.

"The unlawful transfer of lethal aid from Iran does not

go unnoticed. It is irresponsible, dangerous and leads to violence and instability across the Middle East," he added.

There was no immediate Iranian comment on the accusation.

The intercepted vessel had four Yemeni crew members and also carried 100 tonnes of urea fertilizer, which is used in agriculture but also for making explosives, the Fifth Fleet said.

US forces sank the ship on Sunday in the Gulf of Oman as it was a "hazard to navigation for commercial shipping" and its crew were handed over to the Yemen coast guard, it added. Last December, the Fifth Fleet seized a cargo of assault rifles and ammunition from a fishing vessel that it said were believed to have originated in Iran to supply the Houthis.



In pictures, Sailors from guided-missile destroyer USS The Sullivans (DDG 68) inventory a large quantity of urea fertiliser and ammonium perchlorate discovered on a fishing vessel intercepted by US naval forces while transiting international waters in the Gulf of Oman in Arabian Sea

UAE official calls for 'unambivalent' US security commitment

Reuters | Dubai

A senior United Arab Emirates official called yesterday for "codified and unambivalent" commitments from the United States to its security, adding it had no interest in "choosing sides".

Anwar Gargash, diplomatic adviser to the UAE's president, said it needs security partners who can help build defence capabilities as it also works to ease regional tensions, focus on economic growth and collaborate on global challenges.

"Our primary strategic security relationship remains unequivocally with the United States," Gargash said.

"Yet it is vital that we find a way to ensure that we can rely on this relationship for decades to come, through clear, codified and unambivalent



UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash

commitments," he added in a speech delivered to the Abu Dhabi Strategic Debate.

The UAE would continue avoiding dependence on "just one or two countries" for its economic prosperity and security by maintaining balanced and diversified relations, he said.

"The UAE has no interest in choosing sides between great powers," Gargash added, stressing the need for measured approaches during a "turbulent" time in global politics.

Wrangling dominates

● **Draft declaration: 'Most' G20 members condemn Ukraine war**

● **Ukraine's Zelenskiy pushes his plan to end conflict**

● **Indonesia appeals for end to political polarisation**

● **US President Biden skips gala dinner on island of Bali**

Reuters | Nusa Dua, Indonesia

A Western-led push to condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine dominated yesterday's Group of 20 summit on the Indonesian island of Bali where leaders of major economies grappled with a dizzying array of issues from hunger to nuclear threats.

President Vladimir Putin's Feb. 24 invasion of neighbouring Ukraine has pummelled the global economy and revived Cold War-era geopolitical divisions just as the world was emerging from the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As at other recent international forums, the United States and its allies were pursuing a statement from the two-day G20 summit to condemn Moscow's military actions.

But Russia said "politicisation" of the summit was unfair.

"Yes, there is a war going on in Ukraine, a hybrid war that the West has unleashed and been preparing for years," said Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, repeating Putin's line that military alliance NATO's expansion had threatened Russia.

A 16-page draft declaration seen by Reuters, which diplomats said was yet to be adopted by leaders, acknowledged the rift.

"Most members strongly condemned the war in Ukraine and stressed it is causing immense human suffering and exacerbating existing fragilities in the global economy," it said. "There



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi greet Minister Rishi Sunak

Modi meets Biden hands with China

Reuters | New Delhi

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi discussed global and regional developments in a meeting with US President Joe Biden yesterday at the Group of 20 (G20) summit in Indonesia, India's foreign ministry said.

Modi and Biden "expressed satisfaction" about close cooperation between India and the United States in new groupings such as the Quad, which includes Australia and Japan, and the I2U2, which includes Israel and the United Arab Emirates.

"They reviewed the continuing deepening of the India-US strategic partnership," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

Modi also exchanged courtesies with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the end of a G20 dinner, according to government sources.

A video footage of the event aired by Indian news broadcasters showed the two leaders shaking hands and exchanging words in an informal setting, surrounded by other officials.

The Indian premier has also met British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, World Bank president

batting existing fragilities in the global economy," it said. "There

Three Israelis killed during

Reuters | Jerusalem

A man who went on a knife rampage in the West Bank yesterday killed three Israelis near the entrance to an industrial park and tried to flee in a vehicle before Israeli security forces shot him dead, Palestinian and Israeli officials said.

Israeli medical services declared three people dead and said they were treating three others, according to an official statement.

The Palestinian health ministry confirmed that an 18-year-old



Members of an emergency response team at a scene after an attack, at the Ariel Industrial Zone in the West Bank. A Palestinian man had been killed. Last week, a 15-year-old Pal-