

**Verstappen wins Belgian GP despite five-place grid penalty**

Max Verstappen makes light of Spa penalty to secure eighth straight win | P12

**WORLD 6 At least 39 killed in bomb blast at Pakistan political gathering**

**THE DAILY tribune**



**8 CELEBS Brad Pitt, Ines de Ramon's relationship is "going very strong"**

**5 BUSINESS ECB could hike rates or pause at next meeting**

**UAE judicial bodies to crack down on money laundering**

AFP | Dubai

The UAE announced plans yesterday to establish judicial bodies to prosecute money laundering and financial crime following increased monitoring by a global watchdog dedicated to battling illicit cash flows.

The official WAM news agency reported that the UAE has approved a "proposal to establish federal prosecution entities specialised in economic crimes and money laundering".

It said the move "represents a first step towards investigating and cracking down on" shady financial transactions.

**Sudan fighters evict residents**

AFP | Khartoum

Sudan's paramilitaries have ordered civilians to vacate homes in the capital's south, several residents said yesterday, as fighting between the forces of rival generals raged in the western Darfur region.

"Members of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) told me I had 24 hours to leave the area," Khartoum resident Fawzy Radwan said.

He had been guarding his family's home since fighting began in the city more than three months ago between the RSF and the regular army.

**Move to end Quran burning protests**

AFP | Copenhagen, Denmark

The Danish government said yesterday it would explore legal means of stopping protests involving the burning of the holy Quran, citing security concerns following backlash over such incidents.

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# Overnight fighting

Six killed, seven hurt in clashes inside crowded Palestinian refugee camp in south Lebanon

AFP | Sidon, Lebanon

At least six people were killed and seven wounded yesterday in clashes in south Lebanon's restive Ain al-Helweh Palestinian refugee camp, said Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas's Fatah movement and a source at the camp.

The fighting between Fatah and Islamists in the camp, which erupted overnight, killed a Fatah military leader and four of his colleagues, the movement said.

A Palestinian source inside the camp, speaking on condition of anonymity, said an "Islamist from the al-Shabab al-Muslim group" was also killed and six others including the group's leader were wounded.

An AFP journalist said clashes at Ain al-Helweh, the largest of the 12 Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, were still ongoing yesterday afternoon.

Fatah in a statement confirmed the death of commander Ashraf al-Armouchi and four of his "comrades" during a "heinous operation".

The statement denounced an "abominable and cowardly crime" aimed at undermining



Smoke billows during clashes inside the Ain al-Helweh Palestinian refugee camp yesterday. (AFP)

the "security and stability" of the Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

A Lebanese soldier was also wounded, hit by shrapnel from "a mortar shell that fell in one of the military posts", the army said on Twitter, which is being rebranded as X.

His condition was reported as stable.

Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati in a statement called the timing of the clashes "suspicious in the current regional and international context".

Mikati criticised "repeated attempts to use Lebanon" as a battleground for the settling of outside scores "at the expense of Lebanon and the Lebanese".

"We urge the Palestinian

leadership to cooperate with the army to control the security situation and deliver to the Lebanese authorities those who compromise it," his statement added.

A ceasefire was agreed from 6:00 pm (1500 GMT) during a meeting of Palestinian factions including Fatah, also attended by members of the Lebanese

Amal and Hezbollah movements, a joint statement afterwards said.

Fighting between rival groups is common in Ain al-Helweh, which is home to more than 54,000 registered Palestinian refugees who have been joined in recent years by thousands of Palestinians fleeing the conflict in Syria.



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**Ultimatum**

## African leaders give Niger junta a week to cede power

AFP | Abuja, Nigeria

African leaders yesterday gave the junta in Niger one week to cede power or face the possible use of force, and slapped financial sanctions on

the putschists, after the latest coup in the jihadist-plagued Sahel region raised alarm on the continent and in the West.

In the third coup in as many years to fell a leader in the Sahel, Niger's elected president

and Western ally, Mohamed Bazoum, has been held by the military since Wednesday.

General Abdourahamane Tiani, the head of the powerful presidential guard, has declared himself leader.

Bazoum is one of a dwindling group of elected presidents and pro-Western leaders in the Sahel, where since 2020 a jihadist insurgency has triggered coups in Mali and Burkina Faso.

Former colonial ruler France

and the European Union have suspended security cooperation and financial aid to Niger following the coup, while the United States warned that its aid could also be at stake.



**Dress up and cosplay!**

People pose with a dressed cosplayer during the annual Animation-Comic-Game in Hong Kong yesterday. The event is a material-entertainment fair and book fair focusing on animations, manga, and games based in Hong Kong. It is held annually at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre exhibiting and selling comic books and comic-related, animation-related, and game-related products. The categories of products and services at the Animation-Comic-Game have steadily expanded over the years. (AFP)

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