

US vice president Kamala Harris: Israel needs 'independent judiciary'

WASHINGTON: US vice president Kamala Harris said on Tuesday that Israel's democracy requires "an independent judiciary," wading into the controversy over Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's proposed judicial overhaul that has drawn mass protests in Israel.

"America will continue to stand for the values that have been the bedrock of the US-Israel relationship, which includes continuing to strengthen our democracies, which as the (Israeli) ambassador has said, are both built on strong institutions, checks and balances, and I'll add: an independent judiciary," Harris said.

Macron names French ex-minister Lebanon special envoy

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron has named his former foreign minister Jean-Yves Le Drian as his personal envoy for Lebanon, in a new bid to end the country's political crisis, the presidency said on Wednesday.

Le Drian will be charged with helping to find a "consensual and efficient" solution to the crisis which has intensified after the deadly 2020 Beirut port explosion, said a presidential official, asking not to be named.

Lawyer and diplomat Abda Sharif named as UK's new ambassador to Yemen

AL-MUKALLA: British authorities have appointed lawyer and diplomat Abda Sharif as the UK's new ambassador to Yemen.

She will take up her post in September and succeeds Richard Oppenheim, who will move to another diplomatic role, the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office said.

Sharif's most recent position was head of the Iraq and Arabian Peninsula Department in the Middle East and North Africa Directorate at the FCO. Between 2012 and 2016, she served as deputy ambassador to Lebanon. Before that, in 2011, she led the UK Office in Benghazi, Libya.

[Turkiye jails teen who added moustache to Erdogan poster](#)

ISTANBUL: Turkish authorities on Tuesday seized and jailed a 16-year-old youth for drawing a moustache on an election campaign poster showing re-elected President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, media reports said. Several media close to the opposition, including daily newspapers BirGun, Cumhuriyet and private TV station Halk TV, said the youth from the southeastern town of Mersin was accused of defacing the poster near his home with a pen, scribbling "a Hitler moustache and writing insulting comments."

[El-Sisi starts Africa tour in Angola](#)

CAIRO: Abdel Fattah El-Sisi arrived on Wednesday in Angola at the start of a tour that also includes Zambia and Mozambique.

El-Sisi, the first Egyptian president to visit Angola, met his counterpart Joao Lourenco in Luanda and witnessed the signing of a number of agreements between the two countries.

Lourenco said that the relations between the two countries were important.