

[GCC can be a 'latter-day Venice,' says former UK government adviser](#)

Sun, 2023-01-29 23:19

DUBAI: The GCC bloc, with its strategic location and fast-growing economies, can be a latter-day Venice, balancing between East and West, according to Paul McGrade, a former UK government adviser and an expert on UK and European trade policy, who was speaking as the GCC and the UK prepare to launch the third round of their free trade talks.

He predicts that the UK's attempts to forge free-trade agreements with the US and India will meet with failure, in contrast with an FTA deal with the GCC, which could work despite the two sides' policy differences over China and Russia.



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[Tunisians elect weakened parliament on 11% turnout](#)

Sun, 2023-01-29 23:44

TUNIS: Tunisia announced that a mere 11 percent of the electorate had voted

on Sunday in parliamentary runoffs, with critics of President Kais Saied saying the empty polling stations were evidence of public disdain for his agenda and seizure of powers.

The head of the electoral commission, over which Saied assumed ultimate authority last year, gave a provisional turnout of 11.3 percent for Sunday's runoff votes.

During December's first round, the official turnout was only slightly lower, at 11.2 percent.



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[Azerbaijan to evacuate embassy in Iran on Sunday after fatal shooting](#)

Sun, 2023-01-29 23:35

BAKU: Azerbaijan will evacuate embassy staff and family members from Iran on Sunday, the foreign ministry said, two days after a gunman shot dead a security guard and wounded two other people in an attack Baku branded an “act of terrorism.”

Police in Tehran have said they had arrested a suspect and Iranian

authorities condemned Friday's incident, but said the gunman appeared to have had a personal, not a political, motive.



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[Yemen crisis: WFP gives Marib's displaced fewer, lighter food packets](#)

Sun, 2023-01-29 23:25

AL-MUKALLA: The World Food Programme in Yemen has lowered the quantity and weight of humanitarian supplies to thousands of internally displaced Yemenis in the central city of Marib, despite the severe winter and ongoing influx of displaced persons, local authorities and impacted individuals told Arab News on Sunday.



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[Challenge for Tunisian democracy: Getting voters to show up](#)

Sun, 2023-01-29 01:11

TUNIS: Tunisia was once the Arab world's hope for a new era of democracy. Now it's in the midst of an election that's more of an embarrassment than a model.

Barely 11 percent of voters turned out in the first round of parliamentary elections last month, boycotted by opposition groups and ignored by many Tunisians disillusioned with their leaders.

Ten candidates secured seats in the legislature even though not a single voter cast a ballot for them, simply because they ran unopposed. In seven constituencies, not even one candidate bothered to run.



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