

News in brief

◆ **Russia has labelled Yale University** an “undesirable organisation”, authorities said yesterday, part of a the Kremlin’s crackdown on critics that has accelerated during Moscow’s campaign in Ukraine. Being declared “undesirable” effectively bans entities from operating in Russia and makes anyone who works with them liable to prosecution. According to the prosecutor general, Yale’s activities were aimed at “violating territorial integrity of the Russian Federation, imposing an international blockade on the state and undermining its economic foundations.” The prosecutors singled out Yale’s School of Global Affairs, accusing it of preparing opposition activists to organise protests in the country. President Vladimir Putin’s top contender, late opposition activist Alexei Navalny who died in prison in unclear circumstances in February 2024, was among the school’s fellows.



Russia blacklists Yale University in latest crackdown

◆ **Berlin yesterday** said the Chinese military had targeted a laser at a German aircraft participating in an EU-led mission to protect marine traffic in the Red Sea. “Endangering German personnel and disrupting the operation is entirely unacceptable,” the foreign ministry said on X, adding that Beijing’s ambassador to Berlin had been summoned for talks. The German aircraft was targeted “without reason or prior contact... during a routine operation” over the Red Sea while taking part in the European Union’s Aspides mission, a spokesman for the German defence ministry said. The aircraft in question was a “multi-sensor platform” used as a “flying eye” for reconnaissance. The Chinese vessel had “taken the risk of endangering (German) personnel and equipment”, the spokesman added.

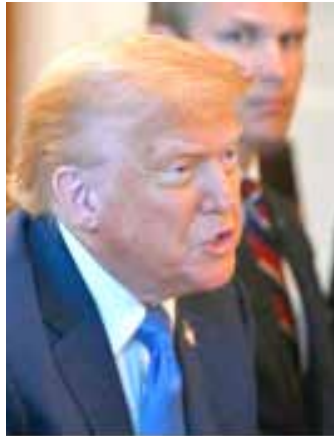
◆ **Thirteen people** caught up in a faulty accounting software scandal at British Post Office branches may have killed themselves and 59 more contemplated doing so, a public inquiry report published Tuesday said. The Post Office wrongfully prosecuted around 1,000 subpostmasters -- self-employed branch managers -- between 1999 and 2015. Errors in tech giant Fujitsu’s Legacy Horizon accounting software incorrectly made it appear that money was missing from their accounts. Many ended up bankrupt after being forced by the Post Office to pay back the missing funds. Some were jailed. Dozens who were later exonerated died without ever seeing their names cleared. Inquiry chair Wyn Williams said that there was a “real possibility” that 13 people killed themselves as a result of their ordeal.

UK post office scandal may have caused 13 suicides: inquiry



SPOTLIGHT

Netanyahu says has nominated Trump for Nobel Peace Prize



AFP | Washington, United States



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Monday he has nominated Donald Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize, presenting the US president with a letter he sent to the prize committee. “He’s forging peace as we speak, in one country, in one region after the other,” Netanyahu said at a dinner with Trump at the White House. Trump has received multiple Nobel Peace Prize nominations from supporters and loyal lawmakers over the years, and has made no secret of his irritation at missing out on the prestigious award.

The Republican has complained that he had been overlooked by the Norwegian Nobel Committee for his mediating role in conflicts between India and Pakistan, as well as Serbia and Kosovo. He has also demanded credit for “keeping peace” between Egypt and Ethiopia and brokering the Abraham Accords, a series of agreements aiming to normalize relations between Israel and several Arab nations. Trump campaigned for office as a “peacemaker” who would use his negotiating skills to quickly end wars in Ukraine and Gaza, although both conflicts are still raging more than five months into his presidency.

Qatar says ‘we will need time’ for ceasefire

Trump voiced optimism about a possible breakthrough



Two girls react after an Israeli strike hit a tent housing displaced Palestinians, in Gaza City

- Indirect talks have failed to end the hostilities
- A two-month halt began in January 2025
- Qatar’s Ansari declined to go into detail about the negotiations

AFP | Doha, Qatar

Negotiations for a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas are continuing but “need time”, host Qatar cautioned yesterday, after US President Donald Trump voiced optimism about a possible breakthrough. A fresh round of indirect talks, after 21 months of fighting in Gaza, began on Sunday, with Qatar’s foreign ministry spokesman Majed al-Ansari confirming discussions had gone into a third day. “I don’t think that I can give any timeline at the moment, but

Gaza civil defence says 29 killed in Israeli strikes

Gaza City, Palestinian Territories

Gaza’s civil defence agency yesterday said that 29 people were killed in Israeli strikes across the Palestinian territory devastated by 21 months of war. Among those were nine people killed in a drone strike on a camp for displaced people near Khan Yunis, in southern Gaza, according to civil defence spokesman Mahmud Bassal. Shaimaa Al-Shaer, 30, a resident of the Al-Sanabel camp, told AFP: “I was in front of my tent preparing breakfast for my four children -- beans and a bit of dry bread. Suddenly, there was an explosion. “Smoke and dust filled the



area. Debris and stones flew in all directions and hit our tent,” she added. “Four children who were playing in front of the neighbouring tent were injured. I saw people carrying martyrs. We don’t know where death comes from, the bombings continue.”

I can say right now that we will need time for this,” Majed Al-An-

sari told reporters at a regular briefing, when asked if a deal was

close. Qatar, along with fellow mediators the United States and Egypt, has brokered back-and-forth talks aimed at a truce since the earliest days of the war, which erupted with Hamas’s October 7, 2023 attack on Israel. With the exception of a week-long truce in November 2023 and a two-month halt that began in January 2025, the indirect talks, principally held in Doha and Cairo, have failed to end the hostilities. Trump, during Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s visit to Washington, earlier said the Doha talks were going “very well” and that Hamas “want to have that ceasefire”. Ansari declined to go into detail about the negotiations, but said they were focused on a framework for talks. “What is happening right now is that both delegations are in Doha, we are speaking with them separately on a framework for the talks,” he said.

Red Cross warns Gaza health system overwhelmed by casualties at aid distributions

Gaza City, Palestinian Territories

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said yesterday that a “sharp surge” in deaths and injuries in incidents around aid distribution sites in Gaza is pushing the territory’s already stretched health system past its capacity. The ICRC said in a statement that its field hospital in south Gaza recorded 200 deaths since the new aid distribution sites were launched in late May. The facility also treated more than 2,200 “weapon-wounded pa-



A Palestinian woman weeps as she bids farewell to a loved one during the funeral of Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes on the southern Gaza Strip the previous day, outside the Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis

tients, most of them across more than 21 separate mass casualty events”, it added. “Over the past month, a sharp surge in mass casualty incidents linked to aid distribution sites has overwhelmed Gaza’s shattered healthcare system,” the ICRC said. “The scale and frequency of these incidents are without precedent,” it said, adding that its field hospital had treated more patients since late May than “in all mass casualty events during the entire previous year.” ICRC said that all its staff were now contributing to the emergency response effort.