

News in brief

**Spanish firefighters struggle to contain blaze at Roman-era site**



to contain a wildfire that damaged a Roman-era mining site and forced hundreds of residents to evacuate. The firefighting effort faced “many difficulties” due to high temperatures and winds of up to 40 kilometres per hour (25 mph), said regional environment minister Juan Carlos Suarez-Quinones. “We will not allow people to return until safety in their communities is absolutely guaranteed,” he told reporters, estimating that about 700 people remained displaced..

**Firefighters in northwestern Spain struggled yesterday**

◆ The captain and two senior officers of a ship believed to belong to Russia's so-called shadow fleet have been charged with sabotage for cutting five Baltic Sea cables in December, Finnish prosecutors said yesterday. The crewmembers of the Cook Islands-registered oil tanker Eagle S were alleged to have dragged the ship's anchor on the seabed for around 90 kilometres (56 miles), according to a statement from the office of Finland's Deputy Prosecutor General said in a statement.

**Finland charges ship captain over Baltic cable sabotage**



◆ A mudslide in northern Pakistan yesterday swept over a group of villagers attempting to fix a water channel damaged in recent monsoon rains, killing seven people, officials said. More than 300 people have been killed across the country since the monsoon season began on June 26, the National Disaster Management Authority said. Volunteers had been working through the night in the northern city of Gilgit-Baltistan, to fix a man-made water channel when part of the group was buried under a mudslide, the region's disaster agency said.

**7 killed by mudslide while fixing water channel in Pakistan**



SPOTLIGHT

Colombia presidential hopeful dies after June rally shooting



A woman holds a national flag during the so-called “Silent March” to show support for the health of Senator Miguel Uribe Turbay (file photo)

AFP | London

Colombian presidential candidate Miguel Uribe has died two months after being shot at a campaign rally, his family said yesterday, as the attack rekindled fears of a return to the nation's violent past. The 39-year-old conservative senator, a grandson of former president Julio Cesar Turbay (1978-1982), was shot in the head and leg on June 7 at a rally in the capital Bogota. Despite signs of progress in recent weeks, his doctors on Saturday announced he had suffered a new brain hemorrhage. “Rest in peace, love of my life,” his wife Maria Claudia Tarazona wrote yesterday morning in a post on Instagram. “Thank you for a life full of love.” Authorities have arrested six suspects linked to the attack, including the alleged shooter, a 15-year-old boy captured at the

scene by Uribe's bodyguards. Following a nationwide manhunt, police announced the arrest of an alleged mastermind behind the attack, Elder Jose Arteaga Hernandez, alias “El Costeno.” Police have also pointed to a dissident group of the defunct FARC guerrilla group as being behind the assassination. The attack on Uribe, a leading candidate ahead of the 2026 presidential election, has reopened old wounds in a country wracked by violence. His own mother, journalist Diana Turbay, was killed in a botched 1991 police operation to free her from cocaine kingpin Pablo Escobar's Medellin cartel. Four presidential candidates were assassinated during the worst phase of violence in the 1980s and 1990s under Escobar, who terrorized citizens of Bogota, Medellin and elsewhere with a campaign of bombings.

Gaza mourns journalists killed in Israeli strike

Gaza buries five Al Jazeera staff and freelancer amid accusations of targeted killings

- Funeral held in Gaza
- Al Jazeera condemns “targeted silencing”
- Nearly 200 journalists killed in war

AFP | Washington

Gazans gathered yesterday for the funeral of five Al Jazeera staff members and a sixth reporter killed in an Israeli strike, with Israel calling one of them a “terrorist” affiliated with Hamas. Dozens stood amid bombed-out buildings in the courtyard of Al-Shifa hospital to pay their respects to Anas al-Sharif, a prominent Al Jazeera correspondent aged 28, and four of his colleagues, killed on Sunday. A sixth journalist, Mohammed Al-Khaldi who worked as a freelance reporter, was also killed in the strike that targeted the Al Jazeera team, according to the director of Al-Shifa Hospital, Dr Mohammed Abu Salmiya. Their bodies, wrapped in white shrouds with their faces exposed, were carried through narrow alleys to their graves by mourners including men wearing blue journalists' flak jackets. Israel confirmed it had targeted Sharif, whom it labelled a “terrorist” affiliated with Hamas, saying he “posed as a journalist”. Al Jazeera said its employees were hit in a tent set up for journalists outside the main gate of a hospital in Gaza City. The four other staff members killed were Mohammed Qreiqeh, also a correspondent, and cameramen Ibrahim Zaher, Mohammed Noufal and Moamen Aliwa. “Anas Al-Sharif served as the head of a terrorist cell in the Hamas terrorist organisation and was responsible for advancing



Mourners sit around the grave of Al Jazeera correspondent Anas al-Sharif

rocket attacks against Israeli civilians and IDF (Israeli) troops,” the military said in a statement. “The IDF had previously disclosed intelligence information and many documents found in the Gaza Strip, confirming his military affiliation to Hamas,” it said. It published a graphic showing what it said was a list of Hamas operatives in northern Gaza, including Sharif's name, as well as an image of him emblazoned with the word: “Eliminated”. It also published a list it said showed Sharif had been paid \$200 by Hamas after an injury, as well as a list it said was a Hamas battalion's phone directory that included Sharif's number. Sharif was one of the channel's most recognisable faces working on the ground in Gaza, providing daily reports on the now 22-month-old war.

‘One of the bravest’

A posthumous message, writ-

YOU  
KNOW WHAT

Anas al-Sharif, one of the slain journalists, had prepared a posthumous message urging the world “not to forget Gaza,” which was published after his death

ten in April in case of his death, was published on his account yesterday morning saying he had been silenced and urging people “not to forget Gaza”. According to local journalists who knew him, Sharif had worked at the start of his career with a Hamas communication

office, where his role was to publicise events organised by the militant group that has exercised total control over Gaza since 2006. Following online posts by Israel's Arabic-language military spokesman Avichay Adraee on Sharif, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) called in July for his protection, accusing Israel of a “pattern” of labelling journalists militants “without providing credible evidence”. It said the Israeli military had levelled similar accusations against other journalists in Gaza earlier in the war, including other Al Jazeera staff. “International law is clear that active combatants are the only justified targets in a war setting, so unless the IDF can demonstrate that Anas al-Sharif was still an active combatant, then there is no justification for his killing,” Jodie Ginsberg, CPJ's chief executive, said.

Western Wall in Jerusalem vandalized with anti-war message

AFP | Jerusalem

The Western Wall in Jerusalem yesterday was vandalized with graffiti condemning Israel's ongoing war in Gaza, triggering widespread condemnation from religious leaders and politicians. “There is a holocaust in Gaza,” was graffitied in Hebrew on the southern portion of the wall, the holiest site where Jews are allowed to pray. A similar message was also scrawled on the wall of the Great Synagogue, elsewhere in the city. Israeli police said a 27-year-old suspect had been arrested and would appear in court later yesterday, with the police requesting that his detention be extended. The incident sparked imme-



People gather at Western Wall Plaza in the old city of Jerusalem (file photo)

diate outrage in Israel, with the Western Wall's Rabbi Shmuel Rabinovitch calling it a “desecration.”

“A holy place is not a place to express protests... The police must investigate this action, track down the criminals

responsible for the desecration and bring them to justice,” Rabinovitch said in a statement. National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir — who oversees the country's law enforcement agencies — said he was shocked and vowed that the police would act “with lightning speed.” Far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich also weighed in, saying the perpetrators “forgot what it means to be Jewish.” Sharp condemnation also came from the opposition. Former defense minister Benny Gantz, now an opposition leader, called it “a crime against the entire Jewish people.” The Western Wall lies in the heart of the Old City of Jerusalem, which Israeli forces captured during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.