

News in brief

◆ **CEO Elon Musk bought** about \$1 billion worth of shares in Tesla, according to a regulatory filing, sending the share price up six percent yesterday. According to the filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission, the billionaire, who also owns social media platform X and space company SpaceX, on Friday acquired 2.57 million shares at prices ranging from \$371 to \$396. The purchase came the same month Tesla unveiled a proposed compensation package for Musk that could top \$1 trillion if he delivers on his vision for stratospheric growth from new technologies. Tesla chair and close Musk associate Robyn Denholm has made several business media appearances in recent days, defending the pay package. "He is a generational leader," Denholm said Friday on Bloomberg TV. "There aren't any other people out there like Elon who can actually lead the company over the next decade or so."



**Elon Musk buys \$1 billion in Tesla shares**

**UK says fighter jets to join NATO missions over Poland**



◆ **UK fighter jets** will join a NATO operation over Poland to help defend the alliance's eastern flank after Russian drones entered Polish airspace last week, the defence ministry said yesterday. "British fighter jets will fly air defence missions over Poland to counter aerial threats from Russia, including drones, as part of NATO's Eastern Sentry mission," the ministry said in a statement, adding the missions by RAF Typhoons will start "in the coming days".

◆ **Sweden's government** said yesterday that it was boosting its defence budget by 26.6 billion kronor (\$2.9 billion) next year, putting defence spending at 2.8 percent of GDP. Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson told a press conference the increase was "the next big step in the rearmament of the Swedish defence". In March, the government announced it would increase defence spending by about 300 billion kronor (\$31 billion) over the next decade, aiming to reach 3.5 percent of GDP by 2030. Kristersson noted that Sweden was "well on our way to make that a reality". Alongside fallout from the Russian invasion of Ukraine, US President Donald Trump has called on European NATO members to take spending to five percent of GDP. Sweden is one of many European countries to have boosted spending.

**Sweden boosts defence budget by \$2.9 bln**



SPOTLIGHT

Trump heads for historic second UK state visit



(FILES) Britain's Prince Charles, Prince of Wales (R), US President Donald Trump (C) and US First Lady Melania Trump (L) talk as they pose for photographs at Clarence House in central London

Washington, United States

President Donald Trump will get the red carpet treatment this week on an unprecedented second UK state visit, as Britain counts on royal pomp and circumstance to woo the unpredictable US leader.

From a flyby and carriage ride with King Charles III to a grand state banquet at historic Windsor Castle, Britain is pulling out all the stops to flatter Trump, who has long been fascinated with the monarchy. The aim is to keep Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Trump's good side when they meet at the British leader's country residence for talks centered on trade, tariffs and the Ukraine war.

Starmer has unapologetically courted Trump since his return to power, even hand-delivering a letter from the king in the Oval Office in February,

inviting him to be the first US president to receive two state visits.

"President Trump is looking forward to his historic second base state visit to the United Kingdom," a senior US official told reporters including AFP on Monday.

The official added that when Starmer visited, "the prime minister called this visit truly historic and unprecedented -- which it is."

US officials said Trump and Starmer would also sign deals on tech worth at least \$10 billion dollars, while Trump's delegation will feature tech leaders reportedly including the CEOs of Nvidia and Open AI.

Trump will meanwhile be kept far away from crowds and protesters, with all the action taking place outside London, where a large demonstration against the 79-year-old Republican is set to take place.

Leaders urge review of Israel ties over Qatar attack in draft

● **Rubio to voice US support for Qatar 'sovereignty' on visit: State Dept**

● **Gulf states say US should 'use their influence' to rein in Israel**

● **US should 'use their influence' to rein in Israel**

● **UN expert says Gaza deadliest conflict ever for journalists**

AFP | Doha, Qatar

A rab and Muslim leaders called yesterday for reviewing diplomatic and economic ties with Israel after its unprecedented attack targeting Hamas leaders in Qatar, according to a draft statement seen by AFP.

The summit in Doha adopted a joint statement that it has yet to make public, but in a draft seen by AFP, it called "upon all States to take all possible legal and effective measures to prevent Israel from continuing its actions against the Palestinian people, including by... reviewing diplomatic and economic relations with it, and initiating legal proceedings against it".

"We also expect our strategic partners in the United States to use their influence on Israel in order for it to stop this behaviour... They have leverage and influence on Israel, and it's about time that this leverage and influence be used," Gulf Cooperation Council Secretary General Jassem Mohamed Al-Budaiwi said in a press conference following a summit in Doha.

UN rights expert says complicity with Gaza 'genocide' 'shame of our time'

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

A UN rights expert reiterated yesterday that Israel was committing "genocide" in Gaza, slamming what she said was the "complicity" of other countries as "the shame of our time".

"Far too many states continue to look away, normalise the suffering and even profit from it," Francesca Albanese, the United Nations special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories, told reporters in Geneva. "Arms trade and diplomatic

engagement with Israel continue unabated," she said.

"This is not just morally wrong, this is unlawful," she insisted, demanding "accountability (for) the very people who have been giving orders to continue trade and arms transfers toward Israel".

UN special rapporteurs are independent experts

who are mandated by the UN Human Rights Council but do not speak on behalf of the UN.

The Italian expert has faced harsh criticism by Israel and some of its allies over her relentless criticism and long-standing accusations that Israel is committing "genocide" in Gaza.



Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas (L) received by Qatar's Deputy Prime Minister Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani upon arrival in Doha

Crime scene DNA in Kirk murder matches suspect: FBI

Washington, United States

DNA found at the scene of the murder of US conservative influencer Charlie Kirk has been matched to suspect Tyler Robinson, FBI Director Kash Patel said yesterday.

Robinson, 22, was arrested Thursday after a 33-hour manhunt and is expected to be formally charged in the murder later this week.

Kirk, a close ally of US President Donald Trump, was shot Wednesday during a speaking event on a Utah university campus. He was the founder of the hugely influential conservative youth political group Turning Point USA.

Authorities said the suspect used a sniper rifle to shoot Kirk with a single bullet to the neck from a rooftop.

"I can report today that the DNA hits from the towel that was wrapped around the firearm and the DNA on the



booking photos of Tyler Robinson

screwdriver are positively processed for the suspect in custody," Patel said on Fox News Monday morning, referring to a screwdriver recovered from the scene.

Patel also discussed a note that Robinson is believed to have written before the crime.

The note is "basically saying... 'I have the opportunity to take out Charlie Kirk, and I'm going to take it. That note was written before the shooting,'" Patel said.

He added that note was left at

the suspect's family home.

"Even though it has been destroyed, we have found forensic evidence of the note," the FBI director said.

Kirk, a father of two, used his audiences on TikTok, Instagram and YouTube to build support for conservative talking points, including strong criticism of the transgender rights movement.

He often posted carefully edited clips of his interactions during debates at his many college events.

Spain cancels major Israel arms deal amid Gaza backlash

Madrid, Spain

The Spanish government has cancelled a contract worth nearly 700 million euros (\$825 million) for Israeli-designed rocket launchers, according to an official document seen Monday by AFP. The move comes after Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez announced last week that his government would "consolidate in law" a ban on military equipment sales or purchases with Israel over its offensive in Gaza. The contract, awarded to a consortium of Spanish companies, involved the purchase of 12 SILAM rocket launcher systems derived from the PULS platform made by Israeli firm Elbit Systems, according to the International Institute for Strategic Studies' Military Balance.