

News in brief

◆ **Roger Allers, a film-maker** and animation wizard who co-directed “The Lion King” and other huge Disney hits, has died at the age of 76, Disney said. Besides “The Lion King”, which came out in 1994, Allers worked on films such as “Tron,” “The Little Mermaid” and “Beauty and the Beast.” Allers died suddenly at his home in California on Saturday after a short illness, The Hollywood Reporter said. Disney CEO Robert Iger paid tribute to Allers in a post on Instagram on Sunday evening. “Roger Allers was a creative visionary whose many contributions to Disney will live on for generations to come,” Iger said. “He understood the power of great storytelling -- how unforgettable characters, emotion and music can come together to create something timeless,” Iger added.



Roger Allers, co-director of “The Lion King”, dead at 76

◆ **Iran’s national police chief** said yesterday that people who were “deceived” into joining demonstrations the authorities have deemed “riots” would receive lighter punishment if they turned themselves in within three days.

Iran police chief issues surrender ultimatum over ‘riots’

“Young people who became unwittingly involved in the riots are considered to be deceived individuals, not enemy soldiers”, and “will be treated with leniency by the Islamic republic system”, Ahmad-Reza Radan told state television, adding they had “a maximum of three days” to surrender. Demonstrations sparked in late December by anger over economic hardship exploded

into protests widely seen as the biggest challenge to the Iranian leadership in years. The protests subsided after a violent crackdown rights groups said left thousands dead.

◆ **People in northern Germany** flocked to the Elbe river yesterday to marvel at giant Arctic-style ice floes that have clogged up a stretch of the waterway, creating a headache for shipping but delighting visitors. The ice formed upstream in recent weeks during a cold snap that saw temperatures plummet

to minus 15 degrees Celsius. Icebreakers have since smashed through the ice, sending the floes downstream where they accumulated at a barrage at Geesthacht, near the river-port of Hamburg, said Tilman Treber from the federal navigation authority (WSV). Over the past few days, they have piled up and formed jagged piles up to 10 metres (more than 30 feet) high -- creating ice formations on a scale unseen for about 10 years, Treber told AFP. The Elbe flows for more than 1,000 kilometres (about 680 miles) from mountains in the Czech Republic through Germany and enters the North Sea at Cuxhaven, downstream from Hamburg, Germany’s biggest port.

Spectacular ice blocks clog up Germany’s Elbe river



SPOTLIGHT

French TV broadcasts Louvre robbery images



AFP | Paris, France

Footage of the spectacular robbery at the Louvre Museum has been broadcast for the first time on French television, showing the brazen jewel thieves breaking into display cases.

The images, filmed by surveillance cameras, were shown by the TF1 and public France Televisions channels on Sunday evening, three months after the hugely embarrassing break-in in October.

They show the two burglars, one wearing a black balaclava and a yellow high-visibility jacket, the other dressed in black with a motorcycle helmet, as they force their way into the Apollo Gallery.

After breaking in through a reinforced window with high-powered disk cutters, they begin slicing into display

cases under the eyes of several staff members who do not intervene.

Managers at the Louvre have stressed that staff are not trained to confront thieves and are asked to prioritise the evacuation of visitors.

During the roughly four minutes that the two men were inside the gallery, one staff member can be seen holding a bollard used to orient visitors through the gallery, according to France Televisions.

The images, as well as multiple DNA samples found at the scene, form a key part of the ongoing criminal investigation into the robbery.

Details of the footage have been reported in French newspapers, including Le Parisien.

Metal bars have been installed over the windows of the Apollo Gallery since the break-in.



India, UAE set **\$200bn** trade target, deepen defence ties

Sheikh Mohamed makes brief New Delhi visit

● **Prime Minister Modi personally received the UAE leader at the airport**

● **According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the UAE President’s visit to the national capital was scheduled to last less than two hours**

● **Modi gifted a royal wooden carved swing (jhula) and a pashmina shawl**

Agencies

India and the United Arab Emirates have agreed to double bilateral trade to \$200 billion within six years and deepen defence cooperation following talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan in New Delhi yesterday.

Prime Minister Modi personally received the UAE leader at the airport, describing him as his “brother” in a post on X.

“Went to the airport to welcome my brother, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE. His visit illustrates the importance he attaches to a strong India-UAE friendship. Looking forward to our discussions,” Modi wrote.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the UAE President’s visit to the national



Today I was pleased to meet with Indian Prime Minister @narendramodi in New Delhi to discuss opportunities to further strengthen the deep-rooted and historical ties of cooperation between our countries. Committed to fostering sustainable development and economic growth, the UAE and India will continue working together to drive progress in future-focused sectors while achieving mutual benefit for our nations and peoples

@MOHAMEDBINZAYED

capital was scheduled to last less than two hours.

This was the third official trip of Al Nahyan to India after becoming President of the UAE and the fifth time he has visited the country in the past decade.

The visit saw the finalisation of a 10-year agreement under which Abu Dhabi state oil firm ADNOC will supply 0.5 million metric tonnes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) annually to Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, according to India’s

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri.

Earlier, following his arrival, Al Nahyan went to 7, Lok Kalyan Marg (LKM), the official residence of PM Modi, where the two leaders held widespread discussions.

On the occasion, Modi gifted a royal wooden carved swing (jhula) and a pashmina shawl to United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

In a release, the government said that the swing was from

Gujarat and it was hand-carved with detailed floral and traditional designs. The swing, which represents togetherness, conversation and bonding across generations in the Gujarati culture, resonates with UAE declaring 2026 as ‘Year of Family’, the release said.

The prime minister also gifted a pashmina shawl from Kashmir to Nahyan. The shawl is handmade using very fine wool, which made it soft and warm, the government said, adding that it was placed in a decorative silver box that was made in Telangana. This represented India’s rich heritage of handloom and handicraft.

“Pashmina Shawl in an ornate silver box was also gifted to H.H. Sheikh Fatima bint Mubarak Al Ketbi. She was also gifted Kashmiri Saffron in an ornate silver box. Grown in the Kashmir Valley, saffron is revered for its deep crimson strands and intense aroma,” the government said.



India and the United Arab Emirates share one of India’s strongest economic partnerships in the Gulf region, with the UAE consistently ranking among India’s top three trading partners and serving as a key hub for Indian trade, investment and energy security.