

France seeks removal of Lebanese ambassador's immunity after rape accusation

PARIS: French authorities will on Monday ask Lebanon to lift the immunity of Beirut's ambassador to Paris after an investigation was opened into alleged rape and intentional violence by the envoy, a source said.

"Steps in this direction will be taken during the day," a French diplomatic source, who asked not to be named, told AFP.

The ambassador, Rami Adwan, is being investigated in France following complaints by two former embassy employees. He has diplomatic immunity but could face trial if Lebanon agrees to France's request.

Egypt reopens historic mosque after long restoration

CAIRO: A 13th century mosque that fell into disrepair after being used over the years as a soap factory, a slaughterhouse and a fort reopened in Cairo on Monday after undergoing a long restoration.

The mosque of Al-Zhahir Baybars, built under Mamluk rule in 1268, spans an area of three acres just north of central Cairo, making it Egypt's third-largest mosque.

The mosque underwent mechanical and chemical restoration to bring it back to its original condition, said Tarek Mohamed El-Behairy, who supervised the restoration.

UAE-Japan Committee for Women Career Development hosts 16th forum

DUBAI: The UAE-Japan Friendship Committee for Women Career Development held its 16th forum in Abu Dhabi with the aim of empowering women in the energy industry, Emirates News Agency reported on Monday.

Erdogan has eye on local, global challenges with new Cabinet

ANKARA: Turkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan unveiled his new Cabinet on Saturday night during his inauguration ceremony, with the appointments providing some indication on the direction the new government is heading on the economy and foreign policy.

The fact that the new vice-president, Cevdet Yilmaz, has a background in economic governance may be an indication that the economy will be a priority as Erdogan embarks on his third decade at the helm of the nation.

Israel prepares funerals for soldiers killed near Egyptian border

JERUSALEM: Israel said Sunday it would investigate the shooting deaths of three soldiers at its border with Egypt, as it prepared to hold funerals for the slain trio.

On Saturday, three Israeli soldiers were killed by an "Egyptian policeman" who had entered the country and was shot dead in a rare cross-border incident, the army said.

Israel had sent Egypt a "clear message," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday at the opening of a cabinet meeting.