

Egyptians hope to bag bargains at book fair as crisis bites

Fri, 2023-02-03 23:53

CAIRO: Thousands of Egyptian bibliophiles weave through a labyrinthine display of books, reviving an annual tradition at the Arab world's largest book fair, but this year it comes at a steep cost.

The 54th Cairo International Book Fair was overshadowed by a punishing economic crisis that has seen Egypt's currency, the pound, halve in value and prices skyrocket in the past year.



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[Middle-East](#)

UN urges end to 'illogic of escalation' between Israel, Palestinians

ID:

1675451394892162000

Fri, 2023-02-03 22:13

GENEVA: UN rights chief Volker Turk on Friday called for an end to the

“illogic of escalation” between Israel and the Palestinians, amid a spike in deadly violence between the two.

Turk criticized Israel for measures that “can only lead to further violence and bloodshed,” following a surge in attacks and fighting that have drawn calls from the international community for calm and restraint.



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[UN experts slam slow progress in Lebanese activist murder probe](#)

ID:

1675369670008682500

Thu, 2023-02-02 16:29

GENEVA:UN rights experts voiced deep concern Thursday at the slow pace of an investigation into the killing of Lebanese intellectual Lokman Slim two years ago, demanding that Beirut ensure accountability.

“It is incumbent on the Lebanese authorities to fully investigate and bring to justice the perpetrators of this heinous crime,” the four independent experts said.

“Failing to carry out a prompt and effective investigation may in itself constitute a violation of the right to life.”



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[Biden underlines support for Jordan in meeting with king](#)

ID:

1675369654258681400

Thu, 2023-02-02 20:12

WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden on Thursday underlined his support for the legal “status quo” of Jerusalem’s Al-Aqsa mosque compound in a meeting at the White House with Jordanian King Abdullah II.

Biden, the king and Crown Prince Hussein had a private lunch in which the US president “reaffirmed the close, enduring nature of the friendship between the United States and Jordan,” the White House said.



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[Some UN Afghan aid delivered by men only, donors voice alarm](#)

ID:

1675368552808619200

Thu, 2023-02-02 19:16

UNITED NATIONS: Under pressure from Afghanistan's Taliban administration, the United Nations is delivering some food aid using men only, prompting warnings from donors and humanitarian groups that it could be seen as giving in to an internationally condemned ban on most female aid workers.

UN aid chief Martin Griffiths acknowledged to reporters this week that women are not involved in some food aid activities, which the World Food Programme described as "operational adjustments" to allow it to continue its work, and he said the situation was inadequate.



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