



T-storms 80/76 • Tomorrow: T-storms, wind 81/71 B6

Democracy Dies in Darkness

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Many rush to get out of Lebanon as war looms

Dwindling flights hamper exodus sparked by recent assassinations, threats

BY SUSANNAH GEORGE AND SUZAN HAIDAMOUS

BEIRUT — Vacations cut short, hurried goodbyes and last-minute flights at exorbitant fares — residents and tourists, heeding warnings of an impending war, are scrambling to leave summertime Lebanon as tensions build between Israel and Hezbollah, Iran's Lebanese ally.

Britain has ordered its citizens to "leave Lebanon now," while Paris is urging French nationals to depart "as soon as possible." The U.S. Embassy in Beirut, in an alert over the weekend, instructed Americans who wish to leave to "book any ticket available to them."

At the Beirut airport, passengers waited for delayed flights or for seats to open up, tired children resting against luggage carts piled high with suitcases, their parents sipping coffee out of paper cups. As airlines such as Lufthansa, Air France and Royal Jordanian cancel flights to and from the country, ticket prices have skyrocketed, putting them out of reach for many Lebanese grappling with the effects of an economic crisis, including soaring inflation and a currency that has lost much of its value.

"The options are few and it's very expensive, but for now, people are getting out," said Samer Shamass, 55, the owner of a small travel agency in Beirut.

Passengers described having to make tough decisions about whether to leave, and then rushing to find flights, or having family members outside Lebanon pay for their tickets.

Mireille Malaket, 31, said by SEE **LEBANON** ON A13

West Bank: Punishing Israeli raids drive more locals to militancy. **A12**



CARL COURT/GETTY IMAGES

People assemble in east London on Wednesday to oppose anti-immigration riots that have swept Britain in the past week. Crowds gathered across the country to push back against racism and to protect sites on an online "target list" connected to the far-right protests.

After violent week, new voices arise

Thousands take to the streets of Britain to condemn anti-immigration riots and quell violence

BY WILLIAM BOOTH AND KARLA ADAM

LONDON — Faced with a week-long wave of widespread violence and rioting by people authorities describe as far-right "thugs," British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and the police have been struggling to end some of the worst civil unrest here in more than a decade.

On Wednesday night, something unexpected happened.

Thousands of counterdemonstrators poured into the streets of a dozen English cities to denounce racism and to protect refugee centers, law offices and other sites that had appeared on an online "target list" for anti-

immigrant protests.

Video of a gathering in west London's Brentford neighborhood showed a large crowd chanting "This is what community looks like," as police looked on from a distance. People shouted "No to racism" in Harrow. In Southampton, a dozen anti-immigration protesters showed up, to be confronted by hundreds of counterprotesters who belted "Racists go home."

There were reports of scattered arrests. But for the most part, the counterdemonstrators appeared to outnumber the agitators. And, for one night at least, they helped stop the violence.

In its first big test, Starmer's new government has been trying

to put down the riots with a strategy of more cops, more arrests, more prosecutions. On Wednesday, officials highlighted the first sentences: stiff prison terms of 20 months, 30 months and three years. "If you provoke violent disorder on our streets or online, you will face the full force of the law," the prime minister said.

Police in Britain have a free hand to arrest those who attack officers, set cars on fire and loot stores. They can also charge people for online incitement of violence, racial hatred and terrorism.

But experts say that stopping these sorts of riots with a law-and-order approach is harder

than it looks. They note, too, that Britain's police, courts and prisons are overstretched — partly as a result of a decade of funding cuts by previous governments.

One thing is clear: The British public is revolted by the violence.

A YouGov survey found that 85 percent of Britons oppose what the pollsters called "the recent protests and unrest." Among the public, there is broad agreement with Starmer's characterization of the demonstrators as "thugs."

"Even if you think that migration needs to be controlled and it's fine to send people to Rwanda, you can still draw a line at smoking people out of a hotel," SEE **BRITAIN** ON A14

PARIS OLYMPICS

At these Games, it's revenge of the nerds

Elite athletes prove the importance of pursuing your passion with intelligence and diligence



Sally Jenkins

COLUMN

There have never been so many glorious geeks gathered in one place as there are at the 2024 Olympics, unless you want to count heads at a soil dynamics convention. What sweetness comes from total absorption in an eccentric pursuit — and what surprising athletic confidence, judging by the performances of the Gabby Thomas, Grant Fishers and Stephen Nedorosciks, not to mention all the throwers, fencers, shooters and archers. If there's a main lesson of these Paris Games, it's this: Make fun of the eyeglassed kids who draw strange schematics in their high school notebooks if you wish, but what they do as adolescents is likely to be the least of what they accomplish, while the mockers peak in 11th grade.

Thomas, the commanding gold medalist in the women's 200 meters, is Harvard-educated in neurobiology with a master's degree in public health and a special interest in the SEE **OLYMPICS** ON A2



JOE SCARNIC/GETTY IMAGES

Pommel horse bronze medalist Stephen Nedoroscik rests his mind with a Rubik's Cube, while discus gold medalist Valarie Allman got her Stanford degree in product design. Both found success in Paris.

'The will to win': Ukraine's athletes aim to lift their country. **A11**

Walking the walk: This grueling, hip sport is no laughing matter. **C1**



KRISTY SPAROW/GETTY IMAGES

A 400 stunner: American Quincy Hall rallies from fourth to gold. **D1**

Afghan exit points to limits of Harris's counsel to Biden

BY MICHAEL KRANISH AND DAN LAMOTHE

When Joe Biden's presidency began in 2021, Afghan official Nader Nadery knew that the new commander in chief was determined to pull U.S. troops from his country.

But Nadery, like other Afghans who feared the return of a repressive Taliban regime that had been overthrown in 2001, hoped he had an ally who could persuade Biden to leave some forces behind until the Taliban agreed

to a peace deal: Vice President Kamala Harris.

While Harris had backed Biden's pledge to end the bloody and costly 20-year military operation, she had also been outspoken about protecting women and children after the United States pulled out. "I want to ensure that the country is on a path to stability, that we protect the gains that have been made for Afghan women and others," Harris said in 2019 while running for president.

SEE **HARRIS** ON A20

Trump took private flight with Project 2025 leader in 2022

BY ISAAC ARNSDORF, JOSH DAWSEY AND HANNAH KNOWLES

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump has repeatedly denied knowing about the Project 2025 policy blueprint or the people behind it. "Have no idea who is in charge of it," he wrote in a social media post in July.

But in April 2022, Trump shared a 45-minute private flight with Heritage Foundation Presi-

dent Kevin Roberts, according to people familiar with the trip, plane-tracking data and a photograph from on board the plane, which has not been previously reported. They flew together to a Heritage conference where Trump delivered a keynote address that gestured to Heritage's forthcoming policy proposals.

"They're going to lay the groundwork and detail plans for exactly what our movement will SEE **FLIGHT** ON A8

IN THE NEWS

A summer surge Coronavirus cases are increasing in at least 84 countries — including at the Paris Olympics — amid a decline in testing and reporting, the WHO said. **A9**

Metro concerns The transit agency's safety commission has raised questions about worker fatigue after recent close calls. **B1**

THE NATION **Boeing's Starliner** crew may be in space for months as NASA weighs involving SpaceX. **A2** **Meltwater from** a glacier flooded homes in Juneau, Alaska, for a second year in a row. **A3**

THE WORLD **Vladimir Putin** confirmed that Ukrainian forces staged an attack in western Russia. **A13** **Taylor Swift** canceled concerts in Vienna after two arrests related to an alleged attack plot. **A13**

THE ECONOMY **Americans claimed** more than \$8 billion in tax credits on their 2023 returns for making climate-friendly home upgrades. **A15** **Pro-Harris groups** on social media accused X of political bias after their accounts were labeled as spam. **A16**

THE REGION **The trial opened** for a D.C. man accused of killing a 13-year-old boy who he alleged was breaking into cars. **B1** **Recall efforts** against D.C. Council members Charles Allen (D-Ward 6) and Brianne K. Na-deau (D-Ward 1) face looming deadlines. **B1**

STYLE **The viral** Kamala Harris-Tim Walz camo hat made almost \$1 million in a day. It's giving MAGA a run for its money. **C1**

LOCAL LIVING **A lawyer** who used to enforce weed ordinances now helps native plant enthusiasts fight them.

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