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# Qatar Amir blames Zionist entity for Al Jazeera journalist's death

## Qatar, EU push stalled nuclear talks as Sheikh Tamim visits Iran

### Amir heads to Italy on private visit



KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah headed on Thursday to Italy on a private visit. HH the Amir was seen off at the airport by HH the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Speaker of the National Assembly Marzuq Al-Ghanem, HH Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and senior state officials. — KUNA

TEHRAN: The Amir of Qatar on Thursday accused the Zionist entity over the death of Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh during a Zionist army raid in the occupied West Bank. Abu Akleh was "killed by the (Zionist) occupation forces", Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani said at a joint news conference in Tehran with Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi. "We must hold the perpetrators of this heinous crime accountable," the Qatari leader added.

Abu Akleh, a 51-year-old Palestinian-American, was shot dead on Wednesday as she covered the Zionist military operation in the Jenin refugee camp. The Qatar-based pan-Arab television channel charged that Zionist forces had killed her deliberately "in cold blood". Zionist Prime Minister Naftali Bennett had said Wednesday it was "likely" Abu Akleh was killed by stray Palestinian gunfire, but Defense Minister Benny Gantz later conceded it could have been "the Palestinians who shot her" or fire from "our side".

Calls have mounted around the world for an independent investigation into the shooting. But the Palestinians have turned down a Zionist offer to carry out a joint probe, saying they would investigate alone and share their findings. The Iranian president also implicated the Zionist entity, the sworn enemy of the Islamic republic. "We are certain that these crimes cannot bring security to the Zionist regime. To the contrary, they will only increase popular anger" towards the Zionist entity, Raisi said.

Sheikh Tamim met Raisi in Tehran as an EU envoy held a second day of meetings with Iran's chief negotiator Ali Bagheri in the Iranian capital. The meetings come as talks between world powers and Iran on

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TEHRAN: Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi welcomes Qatari Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani at the presidential palace on May 12, 2022. — AFP

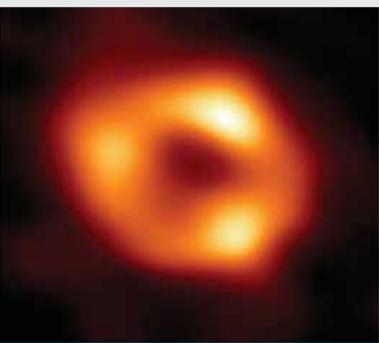
## First image of Milky Way black hole unveiled

PARIS: An international team of astronomers on Thursday unveiled the first image of a supermassive black hole at the center of our own Milky Way galaxy - a cosmic body known as Sagittarius A\*.

The image - produced by a global team of scientists known as the Event Horizon Telescope (EHT) Collaboration - is the first, direct visual confirmation of the presence of this invisible object, and comes three years after the very first image of a black hole from a distant galaxy.

"For decades, we have known about a compact object that is at the heart of our galaxy that is four million times more massive than our Sun," Harvard University astronomer Sara Issaoun told a press conference in Garching, Germany, held simultaneously with other media events around the world. "Today, right this moment, we have direct evidence that this object is a black hole."

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This handout image released by the European Southern Observatory on May 12, 2022 shows the first image of Sagittarius A\*, the supermassive black hole at the center of our Milky Way galaxy. — AFP

## Palestinians honor slain journalist, reject joint probe

RAMALLAH: Thousands of Palestinians on Thursday honored Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh across the occupied West Bank and annexed east Jerusalem, a day after she was shot dead during a Zionist army raid. The Zionist entity and the Palestinians have traded blame over the killing of Palestinian-American Abu Akleh, 51, a veteran of the Qatar-based network's Arabic service, during clashes in the Jenin refugee camp.

The United States, European Union and United Nations have backed calls for a full investigation into what Al Jazeera labelled a deliberate killing "in cold blood", but the Palestinian Authority (PA) has rejected holding a joint probe with the Zionist entity.

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## US mourns million COVID dead; 2m deaths in Europe

NEW YORK: The United States has crossed the threshold of one million deaths from COVID-19, the White House said on Thursday, as the nation seeks to turn the page on the pandemic despite threats of another surge. "Today, we mark a tragic milestone," President Joe Biden said in a statement that acknowledged the "unrelenting" pain of bereaved families, and urged Americans to remain vigilant as cases tick back up.

"One million empty chairs around the dinner table," Biden said. "Each an irreplaceable loss. Each leaving behind a family, a community, and a nation forever changed." Biden's announcement came as he chaired a global virtual COVID summit, taking place as Europe also passed two million Covid deaths, focused on efforts to bring the pandemic under control worldwide and prepare for future health emergencies.

The US leader came to the summit hobbled by Congress' failure to approve \$22.5 billion in continued emergency COVID funding, including for the interna-



RAMALLAH: Palestinian honor guard carry the coffin of veteran Al-Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh following a state funeral at the presidential headquarters on May 12, 2022. — AFP

tional supply of vaccines, and he warned it was "critical" for lawmakers to keep financing testing, vaccines and treatments.

Meanwhile, the number of people who have died from COVID-19 in Europe, the long-time epicenter of the pandemic, has passed two million, the World Health Organization (WHO) said Thursday. "A devastating milestone has passed as reported confirmed COVID-19 deaths from countries in the WHO European Region

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APPLE VALLEY, California: In this file photo taken on Jan 11, 2021, a nurse tends to a COVID-19 patient in the ICU at Providence St Mary Medical Center. — AFP

## US parents in panic over baby formula shortage

WASHINGTON: It's a nightmare for parents. The United States is in the grip of a severe shortage of baby formula - with a mass product recall aggravating pandemic supply chain woes - sending families on sometimes desperate hunts for the vital supplies. And it has been going on for months, according to Sara Khan, the mother of three children aged 10, seven and six months. "I've known about this issue for almost seven months," she told AFP. "This did not happen overnight."

Khan described the struggle to find just a few bottles of formula, and the distress at being faced with empty shelves at pharmacy chains CVS and Walgreens or supermarket Target, whether in Washington or the surrounding area. She has

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