

1863

Abraham Lincoln issues his Amnesty Proclamation and plan for Reconstruction of the South



1941

US and Britain declare war on Japan, US enters World War II

1941

US President Franklin D. Roosevelt delivers "Day of Infamy" speech to US Congress a day after the bombing of Pearl Harbor

1966

US and USSR sign treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons in outer space

Bank ies

Gaza Strip, patients were arriving in hospitals with severe injuries due to Israel's bombardment and dehydration.

"Something quite under-reported is the level of psychological trauma that we see," he added, notably among children arriving in Gaza hospitals with no surviving relatives.

"Even if they are intact and they are OK, there is a huge psychological trauma there that will take, I don't think only years, it will take generations to be healed."

The latest toll from the Hamas-run government media office said 16,248 people in Gaza, most of them women and children, had been killed.

Israel has vowed to destroy Hamas and free 138 hostages still held after scores were released during a short-lived truce.

'minimal' fuel a: PM office



was "necessary to avoid a humanitarian collapse and the outbreak of epidemics in the south of the Gaza Strip", which is controlled by Hamas.

"The minimal amount will be determined from time to time by the War Cabinet according to the morbidity situation and humanitarian situation in the Strip," it added.

New settlement in GO



Israel occupied east Jerusalem in 1967 and later annexed it in a move never recognised by the United Nations.

Green Line.

"However, its strategic location between the neighbourhoods of Givat Hamatos and Har Homa makes it particularly problematic from a political standpoint."

The Green Line refers to the 1949 Armistice Line established at the end of the war that accompanied Israel's founding a year earlier. It divided the city between Israeli-governed west Jerusalem and east Jerusalem, which was administered by Jordan until the 1967 Six-Day War.

Prince Harry says UK not safe for him and family without security



Prince Harry

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Prince Harry believes he was forced to leave the UK and that he and his family can never feel safe during visits home without adequate security, a court was told yesterday.

The youngest son of King Charles III quit the British royal family with his wife Meghan in early 2020, and moved to north America, eventually settling in California. He has brought a case against the British government at the High Court in London after his UK taxpayer-funded protection was removed.

A hearing has been taking place since Tuesday, with only the opening and closing session open to the media and public for security reasons. On Thursday, his lawyer Shaheed Fatima said Harry did not accept that he chose to stop being a "full-time working member of the royal family".

US military grounds fleet of Osprey after crash off Japan

Washington, United States

The US military announced Wednesday it was grounding its fleet of V-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft following a deadly crash last week off the coast of Japan.

The Air Force Special Operations Command said in a statement the move was to "mitigate risk while the investigation continues" on the November 29 crash which killed eight US airmen.

The Naval Air Systems Command said later Wednesday it was following suit.

The hybrid V-22 Osprey aircraft, which can take off and land vertically like a helicopter and rotate its propellers forward to fly like an airplane, has been involved in three fatal accidents in just over a year.

The air force is probing what caused the fatal accident off southwest Japan.

"Preliminary investigation information indicates a potential materiel failure caused the mishap, but the underlying cause of the failure is unknown at this time," it added.



Putin, Saudi leader urge oil cooperation as prices flag

AFP | Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

The leaders of Saudi Arabia and Russia used a rare face-to-face meeting to urge oil producers to stick to pledged supply cuts, a joint statement said yesterday.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's trip to the Saudi capital a day earlier came as oil prices continued to slide, with US oil finishing below \$70 per barrel for the first time since July.

Analysts have begun to consider the possibility that Saudi Arabia could abruptly decide to open the spigots, recalling a move by the kingdom in 2014 to counter rising US production.

Meeting in Riyadh, Putin and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman highlighted the work of the 23-member OPEC+ group of



Russian state agency Sputnik shows Russia's President Vladimir Putin and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman attending a welcoming ceremony ahead of their talks in Riyadh

oil producers "in enhancing the stability of global oil markets."

"They stressed... the need for all participating countries to adhere to the OPEC+ agreement, in a way that serves the interests of producers and consumers and supports the growth of the global economy," said a statement from the official Saudi Press Agency.

The OPEC+ bloc unveiled fresh supply cuts after a virtual meeting last week, with Russia saying it would slash oil exports by 500,000 barrels a day between January and March, having already introduced a cut of 300,000 barrels a day earlier this year.

Putin hails ties with Iran

Russian President Vladimir Putin praised his country's re-

lations with Iran at a meeting with his Iranian counterpart Ebrahim Raisi, as the two discussed the Israel-Hamas war.

Since launching its assault on Ukraine in February 2022, Moscow has sought to deepen its economic and political ties with Tehran, both of which have been sanctioned by the West. "Our relations are developing very well. Please convey my best wishes to leader (Ayatollah Ali) Khamenei," Putin told Raisi, referring to Iran's head of state. "Thanks to his support, we have gained good momentum over the past year," Putin said.

"It is very important for us to exchange views on the situation in the region, especially with regard to the situation in Palestine," Putin said.

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Putin's trip on Wednesday, which also included a stop in the United Arab Emirates, was only his third outside the former Soviet Union since he invaded Ukraine in February 2022.

UNESCO recognises Lebanese flatbread manoushe

AFP | Beirut, Lebanon

The UN cultural agency on Wednesday said it was adding Lebanon's iconic flatbread, manoushe, to its list of intangible cultural heritage.

The Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, convening in Botswana since Monday, approved the inscription of the renowned bread "topped with a mixture of thyme, sumac, toasted sesame seeds, salt and olive oil".

"The quintessential Lebanese breakfast, manoushe is a flatbread prepared in homes and specialised bakeries, and enjoyed by people of all backgrounds," UNESCO said.

The flatbread is often topped with a soft cheese called labneh, as well as tomatoes, cucumbers, olives and mint leaves.

"While preparing the dough, the practitioners pray that it



A baker tops traditional Lebanese manoushe flatbreads with mint, tomatoes and olives

will rise, with Muslims reciting the beginning of Fatiha and Christians reciting several prayers and making the sign of the cross before letting the dough rest," the UN agency added.

"The manoushe is eaten across communities, reflecting the symbolic idea of living together among the Lebanese," said Bahjat Rizk, Lebanon's cultural attaché at UNESCO.

"The bakeries that prepare this dish are spread throughout

the country," he told AFP.

Manoushe remains one of the least expensive food options in a country struggling from a severe economic crisis since 2019.

"The preparation of manoushe for sale in small bakeries also contributes to local economic development," UNESCO said.

A popular street food, manoushe can also be found in bakeries around the world thanks to the Lebanese diaspora.

Russian girl, 14, shoots and kills classmate, commits suicide

AFP | Moscow, Russia

A 14-year-old girl shot a classmate dead and injured five people before killing herself at a secondary school in the Russian city of Bryansk near the Ukraine border yesterday.

Fatal attacks at educational facilities -- previously a rarity -- have become more common in Russia in recent years.

Moscow has taken steps to tighten already strict gun laws after a series of school attacks. After the Bryansk attack, the Kremlin said it would look into "why the measures did not work". Moscow has voiced



Emergency vehicles are seen on the grounds of Gymnasium Number Five following a shooting, in Bryansk

concern after previous attacks, with President Vladimir Putin calling the incidents a US import. "A 14-year-old girl brought a pump-action shotgun to school, which she used to

shoot her classmates," Russia's Investigative Committee said in a statement. "As a result, two people died -- one of them the shooter -- and there are five wounded," it added.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



I've just invoked Art.99 of the UN Charter - for the 1st time in my tenure as Secretary-General. Facing a severe risk of collapse of the humanitarian system in Gaza, I urge the Council to help avert a humanitarian catastrophe & appeal for a humanitarian ceasefire to be declared.

@antonioguterres

02



My thanks to Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, Prime Minister of #Qatar, for a constructive dialogue on the health situation in #Gaza. I thanked him for Qatar's diplomatic efforts.

@DrTedros

03



Hanukkah Sameach! I extend my warmest greetings to our Jewish friends in India and around the world on the occasion of Hanukkah. May this festival bring peace, hope and brightness in everybody's lives.

@netanyahu

04



We're determined to help Israel ensure that October 7th never happens again. We have to back that up with resources. We also must do everything possible to help the many innocent civilians in Gaza who desperately need humanitarian assistance.

@SecBlinken

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stance)