

Uthman ibn Affan, companion of Muhammad, appointed 3rd Caliph of Islam

During St. Lucia's Flood in Northwest Netherlands the Zuiderzee seawall collapses with loss of over 50,000 lives. Fifth largest recorded flood in history



Princess Mary Stuart succeeds her father James V and becomes Queen Mary I of Scotland at 6 days old

First incident of American Revolution - 400 New Hampshire militiamen successfully attack Fort William and Mary

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023

THE DAILY **tribune**

QUOTE
OF THE
DAY

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, BY
THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE
ABRAHAM LINCOLN

News in brief

◆ **US President Joe Biden** warned Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Tuesday that the country risked losing global support for its war against Hamas because of its "indiscriminate" bombing of Gaza. In his most blunt remarks since the October 7 attack on Israel by Hamas, which provoked the current conflict, Biden told donors that Netanyahu needed to "change" his stance on a two-state solution for the Palestinians. Netanyahu meanwhile said there was "disagreement" with Biden over how a post-conflict Gaza would be governed, reflecting a rare rift after weeks in which the US leader has strongly backed Israel. Biden told a campaign event in Washington that Israel had "most of the world supporting it" after the Hamas attacks, in which Israel tallied 1,200 deaths, mostly civilians. Hundreds were also taken hostage. "But they're starting to lose that support by the indiscriminate bombing that takes place," Biden said.



Biden warns Netanyahu risks losing support for Hamas war

◆ **Axel Springer said** yesterday it was partnering up with the maker of ChatGPT, OpenAI, which will pay the German media group to include its journalism in responses generated by the chatbot. "ChatGPT users around the world will receive summaries of selected global news content from Axel Springer's media brands," which include news site Politico and German

OpenAI to pay Axel Springer to use journalism in ChatGPT



tabloid Bild, the two companies said in a statement. The chatbot's answers would include material otherwise kept behind a pay-wall and offer "links to the full articles for transparency and further information," they said.

◆ **The health ministry** in Hamas-run Gaza said yesterday that Israeli forces have opened fire at hospital rooms, raising fears for the safety of 12 children in paediatric care. "The occupation (Israeli) forces have tightened the siege and the targeting of Kamal Adwan hospital, firing at patient rooms and courtyards," ministry spokesman Ashraf al-Qudra said in a statement. "We fear the death of 12 children in paediatric care who are already deprived of milk and are without life support equipment." On Tuesday Qudra said that Israeli forces had stormed the Kamal Adwan hospital in the north of the Palestinian territory and were rounding up men in the courtyard.



Israeli army opens fire at hospital wards: Gaza health ministry

Spotlight

Smoke attack disrupts Indian parliament, four arrested

New Delhi, India

India's parliament was halted Wednesday after a major security breach that saw two people disrupt proceedings by setting off a smoke canister inside the legislature.



The pair were arrested by security, along with two others detained outside the building, after one man jumped onto the floor of the lower house of parliament from an overhead visitors' gallery.

Official footage from the session showed one man shouting slogans and vaulting over tables between stunned lawmakers before a device was set off that caused yellow smoke to billow into the chamber.

The motives of the pair and how they managed to evade security checks were unclear, with police in New Delhi yet to release any details on the incident.

Parliament resumed after a brief adjournment, with speaker Om Birla telling lawmakers that four people had been arrested for the disruption. "Both persons have been arrested and two others outside have also been arrested," he said.

Birla said that the parliament was "carrying out a

thorough probe and the Delhi police too had been given necessary directions".

He added that "there was nothing to worry about" and assured lawmakers that the smoke was not hazardous to human health.

Lawmaker Hanuman Beniwal said the "very serious episode" raised questions about the security of India's new parliament, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier this year.

Beniwal said around 150 lawmakers were in the chamber at the time of the incident, and demanded a thorough inquiry into what happened.

The disruption came on the 22nd anniversary of an attack on the parliament's previous home in New Delhi.

Five gunmen shot dead at least eight security personnel and a gardener in that assault, which also took place on the day of a parliamentary session.

EU chief urges sanctions on 'extremist' Israeli settlers

AFP | Strasbourg, France

EU chief Ursula von der Leyen yesterday backed imposing sanctions on "extremist" Israeli settlers responsible for attacks on Palestinians in the West Bank.

"The rise in violence by extremist settlers is inflicting immense suffering on the Palestinians. It undermines the prospects for a lasting peace and could further exacerbate regional instability," the European Commission president told EU lawmakers.

"I am in favour of sanctioning those involved in the attacks in the West Bank. They must be held accountable. This violence has nothing to do with the fight against Hamas and must stop."

Von der Leyen's comments come after European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said on Monday that he would put forward a proposal to sanction the West Bank settlers.

The measures would require the unanimous backing of the EU's 27 member states, but there are divisions within the bloc.

The EU move comes after the United States said last week it would refuse visas to settlers behind a wave of violence in the West Bank, in a rare rebuke to its close ally Israel.

The EU has failed to have a united stance on the violence roiling the Middle East since



Spain's Prime minister Pedro Sanchez (R) listens to European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen

UN General Assembly overwhelmingly demands Gaza ceasefire

United Nations, United States

The UN General Assembly overwhelmingly passed a non-binding resolution Tuesday demanding a ceasefire in Gaza -- taking the lead from the paralyzed Security Council, and piling pressure on Israel and Washington.

The body, which includes

all 193 UN member nations, voted 153 in favor of the resolution -- exceeding the 140 or so countries that have routinely backed resolutions condemning Russia for its invasion of Ukraine.

Ten countries including the United States and Israel voted against, while 23 abstained.

The October 7 attack by Hamas sparked a devastating military campaign by Israel in Gaza.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, one of those leading the calls for restraint from Israel, demanded an immediate ceasefire.

"We must say enough is enough, enough to the killing of innocent civilians in Gaza," Sanchez, whose country holds the EU's rotating presidency, told the European Parliament. "The bombing must stop immediately."

People of Gaza 'running out of time and options': UNRWA chief

Geneva, Switzerland

The head of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees warned Wednesday that the people of Gaza were "running out of time and options" as Israel's war against Hamas grinds on.

"They face bombardment, deprivation and disease in an ever-shrinking space," UNRWA chief Philippe Lazzarini told the Global Refugee Forum in Geneva.

Lazzarini described the situation in Gaza as "hell on earth". People in the Palestinian territory were "facing the darkest chapter of their history since 1948, and it has been a painful history", he said.

The UN estimates 1.9 million of Gaza's 2.4 million people have been displaced and are receiving goods from only around 100 aid trucks per day.

"We are very far from an adequate humanitarian response," Lazzarini said.

When aid was delivered, it was often not more than a can of tuna or beans and one bottle

Gaza health ministry says out of children's vaccines

Gaza City, Palestinian Territories

Gaza's Hamas-run health ministry said Wednesday it had exhausted its supply of children's vaccines and warned of "catastrophic health repercussions".

The ministry did not specify which vaccinations had run out, and its claim could not be independently verified.

The UN Humanitarian Coordinator for the Palestinian territories, Lynn Hastings, said that UNICEF was looking into the issue.

He described seeing people halting an aid truck and in desperation and swallowing down the food found inside where they stood in the street.

"The people of Gaza are now crammed into less than one-third of the original territory near the Egyptian border, he added, hinting that the dire situation might soon spark an exodus.

"It is unrealistic to think that people will remain resilient in the face of unlivable conditions of such magnitude, especially when the border is so close," he said.

Egyptian border, the only crossing where aid is entering Gaza, has seen its population explode from 280,000 to more than a million, Lazzarini said.

And while most aid delivery in Gaza depends on UNRWA, he warned the agency's capacities were "on the verge of collapse". Addressing journalists at the same event, UN refugee chief Filippo Grandi also warned of the danger of large population movements out of Gaza.

Any such exodus "would be extremely destabilising for Egypt, for the Sinai region, and it would make a problematic Palestinian problem more difficult", he said.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



To those who opposed a clear reference to phase out of fossil fuels during the #COP28 Climate Conference, I want to say: Whether you like it or not, fossil fuel phase out is inevitable. Let's hope it doesn't come too late.

@antonioGuterres

02



I'm extremely worried about reports of a raid at Kamal Adwan Hospital in #Gaza after several days of siege. According to the Ministry of Health, there are 65 patients including several needing intensive care, and 45 medical staff in the hospital.

@DrTedros

03



Today, we remember and pay heartfelt tributes to the brave security personnel martyred in the Parliament attack in 2001. Their courage and sacrifice in the face of danger will forever be etched in our nation's memory.

@narendramodi

04



Today, the United States is announcing a new package of weapons and equipment under previous drawdowns to support the people of Ukraine as they defend their country and their freedom against Russia's aggression.

@SecBlinken

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