

1800

Alessandro Volta reports his discovery of the electric battery in a letter to Joseph Banks, president of the Royal Society of London

1815

Napoleon enters Paris after escape from Elba, begins 100-day rule



Dachau the first Nazi concentration camp, is completed

1933

2016

Barack Obama becomes the first US President to visit Cuba since 1928, arriving for a 3 day tour

# Post-quake Gulf visit

dential palace. "We held constructive talks aimed at developing relations between our two countries," the Emirati president said in a statement.

"Our discussions also explored ways of enhancing cooperation to accelerate stability and progress in Syria and the region," Sheikh Mohamed added.

"The UAE's approach and efforts towards Syria are part of a deeper vision and a broader approach aimed at strengthening Arab and regional stability," said senior Emirati presidential adviser Anwar Gargash.

"The UAE's position is clear regarding the need for Syria to return to" its place in the Arab world and regain legitimacy in the

**100**  
The UAE had pledged more than \$100 million in assistance to quake-hit Syria, by far the largest sum from any single nation

region, Gargash said on Twitter. "This was confirmed by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed during his meeting today" with Assad, the adviser added.

During Sunday's meeting, Assad praised the UAE's role in strengthening relations between Arab countries, according to a statement by the Syrian presiden-

cy. The Syrian president criticised the policy of severing of ties between Arab states as an "incorrect principle in politics," arguing that relations should be "fraternal," the statement said.

The UAE had pledged more than \$100 million in assistance to quake-hit Syria, by far the largest sum from any single nation.

It had also dispatched a search and rescue team, provided thousands of tonnes in emergency relief items and provided medical treatment for Syrian quake victims in Emirati hospitals.

And the UAE's foreign minister, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, last month became the first senior Arab official to visit Syria since the quake.

## Iran's Raisi 'welcomes' invitation by Saudi king: official

Tehran, Iran

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi has "welcomed" an invitation from Saudi Arabia's King Salman to visit the kingdom following the reconciliation deal between the two countries, an Iranian official said yesterday.

"In a letter to President Raisi... the King of Saudi Arabia welcomed the deal between the two brotherly countries (and) invited him to Riyadh," tweeted Mohammad Jamshidi, the Iranian president's deputy chief of staff for political affairs, adding that "Raisi welcomed the invitation".

Saudi and Iran announced on March 11 a Chinese-brokered deal to restore ties nearly seven years after they were severed. Iranian Foreign Min-



Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi

ister Hossein Amir-Abdollahi-told reporters Sunday that the two countries had agreed to hold a meeting between their top diplomats.

He added that three locations for the talks had been suggested, without specifying which.

# Putin visits Mariupol in first occupied territory



Russia's President Vladimir Putin (L) speaking with apartment block residents as he visits the Ukrainian city of Mariupol

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters the visit was "spontaneous", adding that Putin's movements around the city and his meeting with locals were not planned.

He added that the visit took place "very late" on Saturday and in the early hours yesterday.

It was Putin's first trip to the eastern Donbas region since he launched the invasion in February 2022, and comes almost a year after Moscow announced the capture of Mariupol after a campaign that saw the destruction of the Azovstal steel works, the last holdout of Ukrainian forces in the strategic port city.

Beijing, a strategic ally of Moscow, has touted the trip as a "visit for peace" as it seeks to play mediator in the Ukraine conflict.

Putin also met army chiefs including the chief of the general staff, Valery Gerasimov, in the southern Russian city of Rostov-on-Don near the border with Ukraine, the Kremlin said.

He also made a surprise visit to Crimea on Saturday, with Russian state TV showing him visiting the city as "a little piece of paradise", according to images broadcast by Russian state TV, showing the visit took place at night.

The visit triggered an angry reaction from Ukraine, with a presidential aide blasting its "cynicism" and "lack of remorse".

The Russian leader took a tour of the city and was seen driving a car. The Kremlin said he visited a rebuilt musical theatre and followed the presentation of a report on reconstruction work.

"We're praying for you," a resident told Putin, referring to the city as "a little piece of paradise", according to images broadcast by Russian state TV, showing the visit took place at night.

## Israeli-Palestinian talks in Egypt aim to 'restore calm'



Palestinians ride camels during an event marking the 47th anniversary of Land Day in Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip

Cairo, Egypt

Israeli and Palestinian officials were holding talks in Egypt yesterday "to restore calm" after a surge in deadly violence in the occupied West Bank, Egypt's foreign ministry said.

The meeting, which follows similar talks last month in Jordan where both sides pledged to prevent more violence, comes amid concerns of a feared escalation during the holy month of Ramadan starting in the coming week.

The meeting is aimed at "supporting dialogue between the Palestinian and Israeli sides to put a stop to unilateral actions and escalation and break the cycle of violence", Egypt's foreign ministry added.

Officials from Egypt, Jordan and the United States were at-

tending the meeting in the Red Sea resort of Sharm al-Sheikh, it added.

Hussein al-Sheikh, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) secretary general, said Saturday on Twitter that the Palestinian delegation would participate "to demand an end to the continuous Israeli aggression against us".

Few details have emerged from the talks, but the efforts were already rejected by militant Palestinian factions.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has claimed the lives of 86 Palestinian adults and children this year.

Thirteen Israeli adults and children, including members of the security forces and civilians, and one Ukrainian civilian have been killed over the same period, according to an AFP tally based on official sources from both sides.

**YOU KNOW WHAT**  
Russia annexed Crimea in 2014 following a referendum that was not recognised by Kyiv and the international community.

## Whap

scribed the ICBM launch as a response to the ongoing, "frantic" US-South Korea drills.

Just hours after the ICBM was fired Thursday, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol arrived in Japan to thaw long-frozen ties and boost cooperation in the face of an increasingly aggressive Pyongyang.

Last year, North Korea declared itself an "irreversible" nuclear power, and leader Kim Jong Un recently called for an "exponential" increase in weapons production, including tactical nukes.

## Former Qatar finance minister charged with bribery, corruption

● Al-Emadi, 54, was arrested in May 2021

Doha, Qatar

Qatari prosecutors have charged former finance minister Ali Sharif Al-Emadi with bribery, money laundering and a range of corruption charges, the state news agency said yesterday.

Al-Emadi, 54, was arrested in May 2021 when he was one of the most influential business



Ali Sharif Al-Emadi

executives in the Middle East. He will face trial with other defendants, Qatar News Agency reported.

The former minister has been charged with "bribery, appropriation of public money, abuse of office, abuse of power, damage to public money and money laundering," prosecutors were quoted as saying.

Al-Emadi, who became finance minister and chairman of Qatar National Bank in 2013, has not been held in detention.

Prosecutors said the investigation had been completed "by interrogating the accused, hearing witnesses, and examining the technical reports" but gave no details on the charges, the

sums involved or the identity of the other accused.

Al-Emadi rose through the ranks after joining QNB in 2005 as it became one of the most influential banking groups in the Middle East.

Diplomats with knowledge of the investigation said that scores of business people and government officials have been questioned in the case.

Just ahead of Al-Emadi's arrest, Qatar's emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, revised the law to end immunity from prosecution for ministers.



TOP 4 TWEETS

01



India is increasingly becoming aspirational. We are leaving no stone unturned to empower our citizens. Promise as well as performance... here is why it is India's Moment.

@narendramodi

02



A latte is really just an excuse for adults to order warm milk without sounding like a baby

@elonmusk

03



The climate crisis is also a water crisis - but all of us can be part of the solution.

@antoniogeterres

04



All those who produce weapons for terror against Ukraine, who help Russia incite aggression, in particular by supplying Shahed drones, who support Russia's destruction of international law, can only be marginals for the world.

@ZelenskyyUa

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