

1260

Qutuz, Mamluk Sultans of Egypt (1259-60), is assassinated by Baibars, a fellow Mamluk leader, who seizes power for himself

1648

Treaty of Westphalia ends The Thirty Years' War in the Holy Roman Empire; Switzerland's independence recognized



1962

Cuban Missile Crisis: Soviet ships approach but stop short of the US blockade of Cuba

2008

"Bloody Friday" saw many of the world's stock exchanges experienced the worst declines in their history, with drops of around 10% in most indices.

Erdogan submits Sweden's NATO bid to Turkish parliament

AFP | Istanbul, Turkey

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey officially submitted Sweden's NATO membership application to parliament yesterday, his office said, bringing closer the possible end of a 17-month diplomatic standoff.

Turkey and Hungary are the only NATO members yet to ratify Sweden's membership request, which came after Stockholm dropped its long-standing policy of non-alignment last year after Russia launched its war on Ukraine.

Erdogan agreed at a NATO summit in Vilnius in July to put the ratification of Sweden's membership before the Turkish parliament as pressure grew on Ankara from partners.

"Sweden's NATO membership protocol was signed on October



Erdogan

23, 2023, by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and sent to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey," the presidency posted on X, formerly Twitter.

Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson called the announcement "encouraging news".

"Now it remains for the par-

liament to deal with the issue," Kristersson said, also in a post on X.

"We look forward to becoming a NATO member," he added.

Sweden's Nordic neighbour Finland, which applied to join NATO at the same time, was granted membership in April.

Fifteen killed, over 100 injured in Bangladesh train crash



The crash in the eastern city of Bhairab saw a freight train smash into a passenger train travelling in the opposite direction

AFP | Dhaka, Bangladesh

At least 15 people have been killed and 100 others injured in Bangladesh after two trains collided yesterday, with officials saying they fear the death toll will rise.

The crash in the eastern city of Bhairab saw a freight train smash into a passenger train travelling in the opposite direction, derailing two passenger carriages, officials said.

"We have recovered 15 bodies, many are injured," Sadiqur Rahman, a government administrator in Bhairab told AFP, which lies around 60 kilo-

metres (38 miles) northeast of the capital Dhaka.

"The death toll will rise," Rahman said, with rescuers reporting they could still see bodies crushed and trapped under overturned coaches.

At least 100 people were injured, he added.

The accident, which took place at around 4:00 pm (1000 GMT), occurred when one train entered the same line as the other, Rahman said.

Train accidents are common in Bangladesh and are often caused by poor signalling, negligence, old tracks or other rundown infrastructure.

Israel calls Gaza truce call, as diplomat urges more aid



Palestinian children covered in dust from an Israeli air strike sit in the grounds of a hospital in Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip



A convoy of Israeli army trucks carrying mortar shells advances on a road near the southern city of Sderot



A young Palestinian girl has her hand held by a relative as a medic treats her wounds at a hospital following an Israeli air strike in Rafah, in the southern Gaza

The 27-nation EU bloc has long been split over its policy on Israel and the Palestinians.

It has struggled with conflicting messaging since the surge in violence following the October 7 attack by Hamas and Israel's reprisals against Gaza.

Israel, and key ally United States, have so far opposed any calls for a halt in the military campaign against Hamas.

Ireland's foreign minister, Micheal Martin, said his country understood "Israel's need to deal with Hamas because this was an appalling attack".

"But the degree of suffering -- innocent civilians in Gaza are suffering -- it's not acceptable at all and in our view that's why we believe a humanitarian pause is required to at a minimum get aid and supplies in."

Czech foreign minister Jan Lipavsky, however, cast doubt on the feasibility of achieving a temporary ceasefire with the group in charge of Gaza.

Italian minister Antonio Tajani echoed that, saying: "We can't tell Israel to stop defending itself when Hamas is firing missiles at its cities."

'Squaring the circle'

Latvian counterpart Krisjanis Karins insisted: "It's not at all an easy situation. I think there is no black and white solution."

And Germany's Annalena Baerbock said the "fight against terrorism, which has brought so much suffering to the people of Gaza, is essential".

"At the same time, everything must be done to alleviate the unbelievable suffering of the two million people in Gaza," she said.

"This is squaring the circle. But we must face this squaring of the circle together."

Officials said the central town of Deir al-Balah had been particularly badly hit overnight Saturday to Sunday.

Pakistan ex-PM Khan indicted in leaked documents case

AFP | Rawalpindi, Pakistan

Jailed former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan was indicted yesterday for allegedly leaking classified documents, a charge set to keep him in custody in the countdown to national elections due early next year.

Since being ousted in 2022, Khan has been tangled in a slew of legal cases he says are designed to stop him from contesting polls in January, while his party has faced a massive crackdown.

A spokesman for Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party said he was charged under the colonial-era Official Secrets Act in a trial "conducted within the court premises with no access to public or media".

The case relates to a diplomatic cable the 71-year-old



Imran Khan

allegedly touted as proof of a "conspiracy" behind the no-confidence vote which turfed him out of office last April. "We are going to challenge it," Khan's lawyer Umar Khan Niazi told reporters outside the jail where the special court was convened.

Khan's lawyers say the crime he has been charged with carries a possible 14-year prison term, and in the most extreme circumstances, the death penalty.

Hamas says new Israel strikes kill at least 70 in Gaza

AFP | Ramallah

Israeli strikes on Gaza overnight and early Monday have killed at least 70 people, Hamas officials said, as the military said it had struck some 320 targets in the Palestinian enclave in 24 hours.

The Hamas-controlled government media office in the blockaded Gaza Strip said in a statement that "more than 60 were martyred in the (Israeli) raids" during the night including 17 who were killed in a single strike that hit a house in Jabaliya, in northern Gaza.

At least 10 other people were killed in new strikes on Monday morning, the media office



Israeli soldiers patrol an area near the northern border of Lebanon

said in a separate statement, bringing to overall toll since Sunday night to at least 70 deaths.

The Israeli military said Monday it had hit "over 320 military targets in the Gaza Strip" over the past 24 hours.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Spoke with His Majesty @KingAbdullahII of Jordan. Exchanged views on the developments in the West Asia region. We share concerns regarding terrorism, violence and loss of civilian lives. Concerted efforts needed for early resolution of the security and humanitarian situation.

@narendramodi

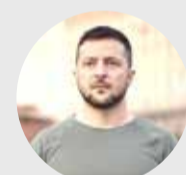
02



Over the last two years, we've revitalized the partnership between the EU and the U.S. Together, we'll continue to address our most pressing global challenges -- including strengthening our economic security and standing with Ukraine against tyranny and Israel against terrorism.

@POTUS

03



I had a call with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on ways to further develop Ukraine's ties with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf.

@ZelenskyyUa

04



This is not a time for hyperbole. We need quiet and dogged diplomacy that recognises the hard realities on the ground and delivers help now. Today I can announce we are extending our humanitarian aid to civilians in Gaza with an additional £20 million package.

@RishiSunak

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