

1517

Martin Luther sends his Ninety-five Theses to Albert of Brandenburg, Archbishop of Mainz, precipitating The Protestant Reformation



1541

Michelangelo Buonarroti finishes painting "The Last Judgement" in the Sistine Chapel, Vatican City

1876

Great Backerganj Cyclone of 1876 ravages British India (Modern-day Bangladesh), over 200,000 killed

2011

The world population reaches 7 billion inhabitants according to the United Nations

# Journalists was 'targeted'



A journalist receives treatment after being wounded during clashes between Palestinians and Israeli soldiers along the Israel-Gaza border

interviewed by the watchdog, an Israeli helicopter had flown over the scene a few seconds before the strikes. RSF said it was continuing its investigation.

Lebanese authorities have accused Israel of being behind the strikes. The Israeli army said it was looking into the circumstance of the fatal strike.

AFP is conducting its own investigation into the strike and has demanded that Israel and Lebanon conduct an in-depth probe.

Reuters has also called on Israel to conduct a quick and comprehensive investigation.



According to two journalists interviewed by the watchdog, an Israeli helicopter had flown over the scene a few seconds before the strikes.

border. The RSF probe established that two strikes 37 to 38 seconds apart hit a spot where a group of seven journalists had been for more than an hour.

The first strike killed Abdallah, the second, more powerful, ignited the vehicle used by Al-Jazeera, and injured several journalists.

"Two strikes in the same place in such a short space of time (just over 30 seconds), from the same

direction, clearly indicate precise targeting," the report said.

"It is unlikely that the journalists were mistaken for combatants, especially as they were not hiding: in order to have a clear field of vision, they had been in the open for more than an hour, on the top of a hill."

The journalists' bullet-proof vests and the nearby vehicle were marked 'press'.

According to two journalists

# Gaza as concern grows for hospitals



the Najjar hospital



A Palestinian man sits with an injured girl at Nasser hospital following Israeli strikes in Khan Yuni

that the army said had struck more than 600 targets within 24 hours, up sharply from 450 a day earlier.

Hamas said it had fired anti-tank missiles at two Israeli armoured vehicles.

It also charged Israel was trying to present a "false image that its soldiers are present in the Gaza Strip interior, even though blows delivered by the resistance have prevented them".

Hamas also released a video

of what it said were three women hostages, seated against a tile wall, although the time and place of the recording could not be verified. One woman was heard calling in an agitated tone for Netanyahu to agree to Hamas' proposed exchange of the hostages for Palestinian prisoners.

Netanyahu decried the clip as "cruel psychological propaganda", in a statement issued shortly afterwards. He named them as Yelena Trupanob, Daniel Aloni

and Rimon Kirsht, and vowed "to bring all the abducted and missing people home".

Fear and desperation have spiralled in Gaza, under weeks of siege that have cut off water, food, fuel and other essentials to the long-blockaded territory.

Donkey carts were lining up to load water, as safe drinking water has become scarce, in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip.

According to the UN, all 10 hospitals in northern Gaza have received evacuation orders -- despite sheltering thousands of patients and about 117,000 of the displaced.

The head of the World Health Organization said calls to evacuate Al-Quds hospital in Gaza City were "deeply concerning".

"We reiterate -- it's impossible to evacuate hospitals full of patients without endangering their lives," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus wrote on X.

Mohamed al-Talmas, who has taken shelter in Gaza's biggest hospital Al-Shifa, said "the ground shook" there with intense Israeli raids.

Israel describes Al-Shifa hospital as a de facto Hamas "command centre" and headquarters.

# Mild past in peace plea

"In this critical moment, let us rise above the divisions and embrace the path of peace. The truest display of courage lies in choosing peace. I call on world leaders to unite and lead the world towards peace."

Israel has heavily bombarded Gaza since Hamas stormed across the border on October 7, killing 1,400 people and kidnapping more than 220 others.

The health ministry in the Hamas-run Gaza Strip said

the strikes have killed more than 8,000 people, mainly civilians and many of them children. Tedros has condemned the "unjustified and horrific" Hamas attack, and has said "children are paying the price" in the bombardment of targets in Gaza.

When re-elected for his second WHO term in May last year, Tedros, 58, recalled his humble upbringing as "a child of war... from a poor family".

With a trembling voice, he re-

called experiencing conflict at a very young age, as he described how the strong emotions came rushing back during a recent visit to Ukraine.

"When I saw the kids, it was the image from more than 50 years ago that came to my mind; so visible, so haunting; the smell of war, the sound of war, the image of war," he said, in tears.

"That's what I don't want to happen to anyone. So I hope peace will come."



Palestinians search a damaged building following Israeli strikes in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip

# German-Israeli woman captured by Hamas confirmed dead

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Shani Louk, a 23-year-old German-Israeli woman captured by Hamas fighters when they stormed a music festival in the Israeli desert, is dead, Israel's foreign ministry said yesterday.

"Our hearts are broken," the ministry wrote in a message on X, formerly Twitter, as it confirmed Louk's death.

"Shani, who was kidnapped from a music festival and tortured and paraded around Gaza by Hamas terrorists, experienced unfathomable horrors," it said.

"May her memory be a blessing."

Louk had been missing since Hamas fighters stormed the Supernova rave near the Gaza border as they carried out the worst attack in Israel's history. Around 270 festivalgoers were killed.

Shortly after the attack, images began circulating online of a young woman lying face down and nearly naked in the back of a pick-up truck in Gaza filled with armed men.

Louk's family said they recognised Shani in the footage because of her dreadlocks and distinctive tattoos.

The family initially held out hope she had been badly injured and was receiving hospital treatment in Gaza.

# Lebanon PM tells AFP working to avoid 'war' with Israel

AFP | Beirut, Lebanon

Lebanon's caretaker prime minister said yesterday he was working to ensure his country does not enter the Hamas-Israel war, even as Hezbollah and Israel have been exchanging cross-border fire.

Najib Mikati said he feared an escalation, with the border skirmishes stoking concerns that Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah could launch its own war with Israel.

"I am doing my duty to prevent Lebanon from entering the war" raging further south, Mikati said in an interview.

Cash-strapped Lebanon is facing the possibility of war essentially leaderless, as political divisions have left the country without a president for almost a year, while Mikati has headed a caretaker cabinet for about a year and a half.

"Lebanon is in the eye of the storm," Mikati said.



Lebanon's caretaker prime minister Najib Mikati

"I cannot rule out an escalation because there is a race to reach a ceasefire before escalation spreads in the entire region."

Hezbollah and allied Palestinian factions in Lebanon have exchanged fire with Israel almost daily since Hamas's October 7 assault on Israel.

Iran-backed or affiliated groups have also launched attacks on Israel from Syria, and targeted US forces stationed in Syria and Iraq.

# UN warns of Syria danger and Israel-Hamas 'spillover'

United Nations, United States

The United Nations yesterday warned that Syria was at its "most dangerous" point in a long time as violence surges and as "spillover" from the Israel-Hamas war starts to have an impact.

Syria has "seen growing instability and violence, exacerbated by the lack of a meaningful political process," Geir Pedersen, UN special envoy

for Syria, told the Security Council.

"Today, I am sounding an alarm that the situation is now at its most dangerous for a long time."

Israel said Monday it carried out air strikes on military infrastructure inside Syria as fears grow that its war against Iran-backed Hamas could spur a broader regional conflict.

"Spillover into Syria is not just a risk; it has already begun."



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



Today from the base of Mt. Everest, I saw for myself the terrible impact of the climate crisis on the Himalayas. As temperatures rise, glacier melt increases - threatening the lives and livelihoods of entire communities.

@antoniogeturres

02



@TheGPMB told us today that not enough has changed on pandemic preparedness, despite the catastrophic consequences of the #COVID19 pandemic.

@DrTedros

03



Making a slight change to creator monetization: Any posts that are corrected by @CommunityNotes become ineligible for revenue share. The idea is to maximize the incentive for accuracy over sensationalism.

@elonmusk

04



Let me be clear: America will lead the way during this period of technological change. But we're going to do it in a way that puts safety first. Today at 2:30 PM, I'll sign a historic Executive Order on Artificial Intelligence that will do just that.

@POTUS

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