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Air pollution is a preventable global emergency. We can rein in the pollutants by investing in renewable energy improving waste management halting deforestation & promoting eco-friendly agriculture. Let's take urgent steps for clean, breathable air for all.

@antonioguterres

02



On the birth anniversary of Sree Narayana Guru, we recall his vision and impact on our social as well as spiritual landscape. His teachings of equality, compassion and universal brotherhood resonate widely. His call for social reform and furthering education continues to inspire generations.

@narendramodi

03



If you are feeling depressed, you're not alone. Reach out for help, support may be closer than you think. Take care of your #MentalHealth today!

@DrTedros

04



Last night, Russia launched one of the largest drone and missile strikes on Ukraine, targeting government buildings and civilian homes alike. Once again, the Kremlin is mocking diplomacy, trampling international law and killing indiscriminately.

@vonderleyen

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

Russia hits seat of Ukraine govt in war's biggest air attack

President Volodymyr Zelensky warned would prolong the war

● Drone strikes also damaged several high-rise buildings

● Russia said it had struck a plant and a logistics hub in Kyiv

● Fired at least 810 drones and 13 missiles between late Saturday and early Sunday

AFP | Kyiv, Ukraine

Russia fired its biggest-ever aerial barrage at Ukraine early yesterday, killing four people and setting the seat of the Ukrainian government in Kyiv ablaze in an attack President Volodymyr Zelensky warned would prolong the war.

Yesterday's attack was the first to hit Ukraine's cabinet of ministers, a sprawling government complex at the heart of Kyiv.

An AFP reporter saw the roof of the building in flames and smoke billowing over the capital.

Drone strikes also damaged several high-rise buildings in Kyiv, according to emergency services.



Russia has shown no sign of halting its three-and-a-half-year invasion of Ukraine, pushing hardline demands for ending the war despite efforts by the United States to broker a peace deal.

Residents in Kyiv spoke of their frustration following the strikes.

"This is already routine for us, unfortunately," Olga, a 30-year-old resident of a damaged building told AFP.

The Russians first "grab the

Shaheds (Iranian-designed drones), then the rockets come," she said.

An AFP reporter saw helicopters dropping buckets of water over the government building's roof, as emergency services rushed to the scene.

European condemnation

Russia, which denies targeting civilians in Ukraine, said it had struck a plant and a logistics hub in Kyiv.

Its defence ministry said "no



A firefighter works at a heavily damaged residential building following Russian drone and missile strikes in Kyiv

strikes were carried out on other targets within the boundaries of Kyiv", explicitly denying responsibility for the government building strike.

Police cordoned off the area surrounding the building, the roof and upper floors of which sustained damage.

"We will restore the buildings. But we cannot bring back lost lives. The enemy terrorises and kills our people every day throughout the country," Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko said.

She later posted a video from inside the damaged floor showing shattered offices and burned walls.

Russia fired at least 810 drones and 13 missiles at Ukraine between late Saturday and early Sunday, in a new record, according to the Ukrainian air force.

"Such killings now, when real diplomacy could have already begun long ago, are a deliberate crime and a prolongation of the war," Zelensky said.

Jordanian king rejects any Israeli move to annex West Bank

AFP | Amman, Jordan

King Abdullah II of Jordan on Sunday reaffirmed his "absolute refusal" towards any efforts by Israel to annex the occupied West Bank during a visit to the UAE, the royal palace said.

The message came after several Israeli officials suggested that the country could proceed with the annexation of large tracts of the territory in response to moves by Western governments to recognise Palestinian statehood this month.

According to a palace statement, Abdullah reiterated "Jordan's absolute refusal of any Israeli measures aimed at annexing the West Bank and forcing Palestinians to leave".

He also rejected any plans to displace Palestinians from Gaza or to separate the two Palestinian territories.

He was joined by Emirati President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan in expressing opposition to Israeli plans to expand settlements in the West Bank, occupied by Israel since 1967.

They also rejected "Israeli plans aimed at perpetuating the occupation of Gaza and expanding military control".



The United Arab Emirates warned this week that annexation would be a "red line".

The issue was a key point during the US-led negotiations for Abu Dhabi to normalise relations with Israel in the Abraham Accords of 2020.

The Jordanian king has on multiple occasions said that Jordan would never be a "substitute country" for Palestinians, amid suggestions from the United States and Israel that third countries could take in displaced Gazans.

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar on Sunday warned that Western nations recognising a Palestinian state could trigger "unilateral" measures by Israel.

Far-right finance minister Bezalel Smotrich called this week for the West Bank's annexation in response.

Giorgio Armani to be buried Monday in private ceremony



Armani's security staff members applaud as the hearse carrying the coffin of late Italian fashion designer Giorgio Armani leaves the Armani Theatre, in Milan

AFP | Rome, Italy

Italian fashion designer Giorgio Armani, who died aged 91, will be buried today in a private family ceremony in a village near Milan, local officials said.

Thousands filed past his coffin over the weekend, on display next to the headquarters of his multi-billion-euro lifestyle

company in Milan.

Armani, who died on Thursday, will be buried in the medieval village of Rivalta south of Milan, where his mother is also interred, the local association for the castles in the region said on Sunday.

Security will be deployed to "ensure the privacy of the funeral", scheduled for mid-afternoon, the association said on

social media.

Milan mayor Giuseppe Sala also announced a day of mourning in his city on Monday.

The Armani company told AFP that its shops in Italy would close on Monday afternoon as a sign of respect.

Hollywood stars, politicians and sports figures have been paying tribute to the fashion legend since his death.