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Byzantine General Belisarius defeats the Vandals, under King Gelimer, at the Battle of Ticameron

1488

Bartolomeu Dias returns to Portugal after becoming 1st known European to sail round the Cape of Good Hope



Gallipoli: Guts, Glory and Defeat

1612

German astronomer Simon Marius is the first to observe the Andromeda Galaxy through a telescope

1915

ANZAC forces begin their withdrawal from the Gallipoli Peninsula after Ottoman forces successfully defend access to Constantinople

Iran condemns deadly attack on Jewish celebration in Australia

Tehran, Iran

The Iranian foreign ministry yesterday denounced a "violent attack" in Sydney that targeted a Jewish celebration and killed 11 people.

"We condemn the violent attack in Sydney, Australia. Terror and killing of human beings, wherever committed, is rejected and condemned," foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said on X.

Relations between Iran and Australia have significantly deteriorated this year.

Israel accuses Canberra of allowing antisemitism



AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Israeli leaders condemned a shooting in Sydney targeting a Hanukkah celebration that killed 11 people on Sunday, with various government officials suggesting Australia had failed to combat hatred of Jews.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accused Canberra of having fuelled antisemitism in the period leading up to the shooting.

"A few months ago I wrote to the Australian prime minister that your policy is pouring oil on the fire of antisemitism," he said, referring to a letter he sent to Anthony Albanese in August following Canberra's announcement that it would recognise Palestinian statehood.

"Antisemitism is a cancer that spreads when leaders are silent," Netanyahu added during a televised public address at an event in southern Israel.

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar urged Canberra to act against the "surge" in antisemitism during a phone call with his Australian counterpart Penny Wong.

In a post on X, Saar said he told Wong "that since Oct 7 there has been a surge in antisemitism in Australia, including violent incitement against Israel and Jews".

"The Australian government must take strong action against the use of these antisemitic calls," he added, referring to slogans sometimes heard at pro-Palestinian protests, such as "Globalise the Intifada", "From the River to the Sea, Palestine Will be Free", and "Death to the IDF (Israeli army)

US police detain 'person of interest' in deadly university shooting: mayor

Of the nine wounded one is in critical condition

● Police released 10-second footage of the suspect

AFP | Providence, United States

Police in the United States on Sunday detained a "person of interest" in relation to a shooting at Brown University that left two people dead and nine others wounded, Providence Mayor Brett Smiley said.

Speaking alongside the mayor at a news conference, Police Colonel Oscar Perez said the person was detained "earlier this morning" and law enforcement officers are "not at this



the suspect in the Brown University shooting walking along a road near the campus in Providence

point" looking for anyone else in relation to the attack.

A gunman opened fire at the Ivy League school just after 4 pm (2100 GMT) on Saturday,

with the school sending out an alert of "an active shooter near Barus and Holley Engineering."

Two exams had been scheduled at the time.

Of the nine wounded one is in critical condition, seven are in stable condition and one has been discharged, Smiley said.

Police released 10-second footage of the suspect, seen from behind, walking briskly down a deserted street after opening fire inside a first-floor classroom.

The violence is the latest in a long line of school attacks in the United States, where attempts to restrict access to firearms face political deadlock.

The deadliest school shooting in US history took place at Virginia Tech on April 16, 2007, when South Korean student Seung-Hui Cho killed 32 people and wounded 17 others before taking his own life.

Hamas says weapons are 'legitimate right', open to proposals that preserve it

AFP | Doha, Qatar

Hamas's Gaza chief Khalil Hal-Hayya said on Sunday that the militant group had a "legitimate right" to hold weapons and that any proposal for the next phases of the Gaza ceasefire must uphold that right.

"Resistance and its weapons are a legitimate right guaranteed by international law and are linked to the establishment of a Palestinian state," Hayya said in a televised address on Hamas-run Al-Aqsa TV.

"We are open to studying any proposals that preserve this right while guaranteeing the establishment of a Palestinian state."

The US-sponsored ceasefire, in effect since October 10, halted the war that began after Hamas's deadly attack on Israel on October 7, 2023. But it remains fragile as Israel and Hamas accuse each other almost daily of violations.

The agreement is composed of three phases. In the first phase of the deal, Palestinian militants committed to releasing the remaining 48 living and dead captives held in the territory.

So far they have released all



Palestinian Ahmed Al-Mabhuh (R) prepares mud to cover a wall made of breeze blocks salvaged from the rubble of his destroyed home as he builds a shelter for his family ahead of winter in the Bureij refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip

of the hostages except for one body.

Under the second phase Israeli troops would further withdraw from their positions in Gaza and be replaced by an international stabilisation force, while Hamas would lay down its weapons.

Israel has repeatedly insisted Hamas "will be disarmed".

The third phase includes the reconstruction of the vast areas of Gaza levelled by Israel's retaliatory military campaign.

Hayya also confirmed the head of the group's weapons production was killed in an Israeli strike in the Gaza Strip the day before.

"The Palestinian people are currently going through diffi-

cult times and suffering greatly... with the martyrdom of more than 70,000 people, the latest of whom was the mujahid commander Raed Saad and his companions."

Israel announced on Saturday that it had killed Saad, describing him as "one of the architects" of the October 2023 attack.

Trump vows revenge after troops in Syria killed in alleged IS ambush

AFP | Damascus, Syria

Two American troops and a civilian interpreter were killed in central Syria on Saturday after an alleged member of the Islamic State (IS) group opened fire on a joint US-Syrian patrol, officials said.

"We mourn the loss of three Great American Patriots in Syria," US President Donald Trump

said on his Truth Social platform, vowing "very serious retaliation."

Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell said the attack took place in Palmyra, home to UNESCO-listed ancient ruins and once controlled by the IS group -- also known as ISIS -- during the height of its territorial expansion in Syria.

The deadly attack had been "an ambush by a lone ISIS gunman," who was "engaged and killed," US Central Command said on X.

Trump called it "an ISIS attack against the US, and Syria, in a very dangerous part of Syria, that is not fully controlled by them."

Three other wounded US

troops were "doing well," Trump said.

The soldiers "were conducting a key leader engagement" in support of counterterrorism operations when the attack occurred, Parnell said, while US envoy to Syria Tom Barrack said the ambush targeted "a joint US-Syrian government patrol".



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TWEETS

01



I am horrified and condemn today's heinous deadly attack on Jewish families gathered in Sydney to celebrate Hannukah. My heart is with the Jewish community worldwide on this first day of Hannukah, a festival celebrating the miracle of peace and light vanquishing darkness.

@antonioguterres

02



Strongly condemn the ghastly terrorist attack carried out today at Bondi Beach, Australia, targeting people celebrating the first day of the Jewish festival of Hanukkah. On behalf of the people of India, I extend my sincere condolences to the families who lost their loved ones.

@narendramodi

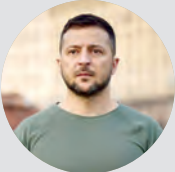
03



Shocked by the tragic attack at Bondi Beach. I send my heartfelt condolences to the families and loved ones of the victims. Europe stands with Australia and Jewish communities everywhere. We are united against violence, antisemitism and hatred.

@vonderleyen

04



I am already in Germany. Today's agenda includes a meeting with the American negotiating team. We are focusing on how to reliably guarantee Ukraine's security so that the experience of the Budapest Memorandum and Russia's invasion are never repeated. We are counting on constructive talks.

@ZelenskyyUa

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