

1123

First Council of the Lateran (9th ecumenical council) opens in Rome, agreements of the Concordat of Worms are ratified

1314

Jacques de Molay, the 23rd and last Grand Master of the Knights Templar, is burned at the stake by King Philip IV of France



1890

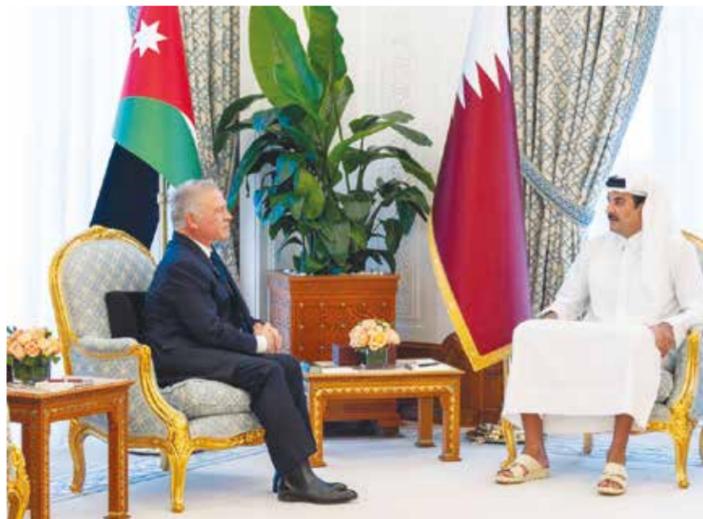
German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck resigns after 19 years after a disagreement with German Emperor Wilhelm II

1922

British magistrates in India sentence Mahatma Gandhi to six years imprisonment for disobedience



Firefighters work at the site of an Israeli air strike near the airport in Beirut



Qatar's Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani (R) meeting with Jordan's King Abdullah II, at the Diwan in Doha.

Iran has fired more than 1,900 missiles and drones at the UAE, more than any others targeted

# Trump admits Iran shocked him

Trump on Monday admitted he was "shocked" at Iran's response to the US-Israel attacks, saying: "They weren't supposed to go after all these other countries in the Middle East. Those missiles were set to go after them. "So, they hit Qatar, Saudi

So, they hit Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait. Nobody expected that. We were shocked

TRUMP

Arabia, UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait. Nobody expected that. We

were shocked." Lebanon was drawn into the war when Tehran-backed Hezbollah militants struck Israel over Khamenei's killing.

The war is also spreading to Iraq, which has long been a proxy battleground between the United States and Iran, but

has sought to avoid taking sides.

A drone and

rocket attack targeted the US embassy in Baghdad early yesterday, while a strike killed four people at a house reportedly hosting Iranian advisors, security officials said.



## Resignation of US intel official over Iran 'good thing': Trump

Washington, United States

A senior US counterterrorism official who resigned to protest the Iran war was "very weak on security" and it's a "good thing" that he stepped down, President Donald Trump said Tuesday.

Joseph Kent, the director of the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC), resigned on Tuesday saying he "cannot in good conscience support the ongoing war in Iran." "I always thought he was weak on security, very weak on security," the president told reporters in the Oval Office. He said that when he saw Kent's resignation statement "I realized that it's a good thing that he's out."

Falling debris from missile interceptions killed one person on Tuesday in the Emirati capital of Abu Dhabi and injured two medical staff in Kuwait, authorities said, as Iran pressed its attacks against Gulf countries.

In the UAE capital, debris fell in the Bani Yas area "following the interception of a ballistic missile by air defences", the Abu Dhabi Media Office said on X.

Pakistan's embassy there later identified the victim as a Pakistani national, saying it was "saddened by the tragic loss".

The day before, a Palestinian was killed on the edge of the city when a missile hit his car.

As well as hitting ports, airports, residential buildings, hotels and military sites around the region, Iran has also struck energy facilities across the hydrocarbon-rich Gulf.

On the east coast of the UAE, the oil industrial zone of Fujairah was hit on Tuesday morning, sparking a fire but causing no injuries, local authorities said.

It was the second day in a row that the site was hit, with a source telling AFP on Mon-



A handout satellite image from Landsat-8/9, made available by the US Geological Survey, shows smoke billowing from the Mina Petroleum facility at Salalah Port in Oman

day that oil storage loading had been shut down by an attack.

In Kuwait, two medical staff were injured when shrapnel fell on an emergency medical centre where they were working, the health ministry said.

Two barrages of missiles were also launched at Qatar on Tuesday, with the Gulf state's defence ministry saying it had intercepted the projectiles in two separate statements.

After the first salvo, the tiny, gas-rich country's civil defence said it was dealing with a minor fire in an industrial area following the interception, with no injuries reported.

In nearby Dubai, an AFP journalist heard three explosions after a mobile phone alert warned residents of the Emirates' most populous city to "immediately seek a safe place" due to "potential missile threats".

## China offers help

China said it will provide humanitarian assistance to Middle Eastern countries, including Iran and Lebanon.

"China has decided to provide emergency humanitarian assistance to Iran, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq. It is hoped this will help alleviate the humanitarian plight faced by the local populations," foreign ministry spokesman Lin Jian told a press conference.

## US embassy attacked

A drone and rocket attack targeted the US embassy in Baghdad early Tuesday, while a strike killed four people at a house reportedly hosting Iranian advisors, security officials said. Black smoke was seen rising from the embassy compound after the attack.

## British Airways halts some Middle East routes until June

London, United Kingdom

British Airways said it has cancelled flights to and from several destinations in the Middle East until June as war in the region disrupts the global aviation industry.

The airline has cancelled

flights to Amman, Bahrain, Dubai, and Tel Aviv through 31 May, it said in a statement shared with AFP on Tuesday.

Flights to Doha have also been suspended until 30 April, with the airline operating a "limited schedule" until 31 May. "Due to the continuing un-

certainty of the situation in the Middle East and airspace instability... we've extended the temporary reduction in our flying schedule in the region," the airline said in a statement.

Routes to Riyadh and Jeddah in Saudi Arabia will continue to operate, while its flights to Abu

Dhabi will resume on October 25, as previously announced.

Global airlines have been hit by the effects of the war in the Middle East, as fuel prices soar and customers reassess their travel plans.

While the region's

airlines like Qatar Airways, Emirates and Etihad have been hit the hardest, most major international carriers have also been affected, as they operate flights both to and through the Gulf region.



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



Such a pleasure to see UN Messenger of Peace @Malala again last week. During these troubled times, I'm especially grateful for her tireless advocacy for women and girls around the world — including in Afghanistan, where girls are banned from secondary school and women and girls have been systematically erased from public life. At a moment of growing setbacks in gender equality, her voice and determination are needed more than ever.

@antoniouterres

02



Good meeting with @DrJaishankar today. At the EU-India Summit in January, we concluded our Free Trade Agreement — the mother of all deals — and signed a Security and Defence Partnership. Now we are focused on efficient implementation, to deliver for the people of Europe and India as soon as possible. We also discussed developments in the Middle East and in Ukraine. De-escalation, stability and energy security are our shared objectives.

@vonderleyen

03



An upsurge in hostilities between #Afghanistan and #Pakistan has resulted in at least 6 health facilities reportedly being impacted in Afghanistan since late February. In addition, a reported overnight strike on the Omid Drug Rehabilitation Facility in Kabul, managed by the Ministry of Interior, killed more than 400 people, and injured at least 250, who were being treated for substance use disorders.

@DrTedros

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