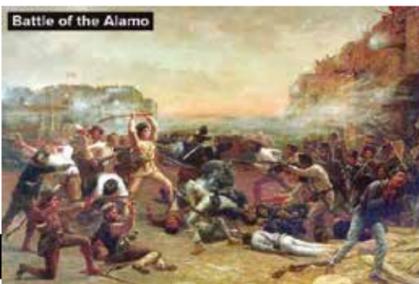


1455

Johannes Gutenberg prints his first Bible [estimated date]

1540

Francisco Vázquez de Coronado's expedition sets off from Mexico in search of the Seven Cities of Gold (Cibola)



1836 1904

The Alamo is besieged for 13 days until March 6 by the Mexican army under General Santa Anna; the entire garrison is eventually killed

US acquires control of the Panama Canal Zone for \$10 million



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



I enjoyed meeting these inspiring young women in STEM at the AI Summit in India. With AI on the rise, we must ensure women are not just included – but leading – in developing artificial intelligence that serves everyone & advances gender equality.

@antonioguterres

02



It really is the case that you just needed a new President. It's not that hard to enforce the immigration laws. It just takes a little bit of political power.

@VP

03



India pays homage to Alin Sherin Abraham from Kerala. The decision of her parents, Mr. Arun Abraham and Mrs. Sherin Ann John, to donate her organs will inspire generations to come.

@narendramodi

04



I held a coordination call on the situation in the regions following Russia's overnight missile and drone attack. There were nearly 50 missiles, including 22 ballistic ones, as well as 297 drones of various types.

@ZelenskyyUa

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

Hamas official says group in final stage of choosing new chief

AFP | Cairo, Egypt

A senior Hamas official told yesterday that the group's Palestinian Islamist movement was in the final phase of selecting a new leader, with two prominent figures competing for the position.

Hamas recently completed the formation of a new Shura Council of more than 80 members, a consultative body largely composed of religious scholars, as well as a new 18-member political bureau, the official said.

Since the war in Gaza began after Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack on Israel, Israeli forces have killed several of the movement's leaders, including two former chiefs.

"The movement has completed its internal elections in the three regions and has reached the final stage of selecting the head of the political bureau," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity as he was not authorised to speak



The displaced Palestinian al-Ghafir family, sits together to break the dawn-to-dusk Ramadan fast during Iftar next to their tent, which is erected amid the ruins of the al-Hasayna Mosque in western Gaza City

publicly.

He added that the race for the group's leadership was now between Khaled Meshaal and Khalil al-Hayya.

A second Hamas source confirmed the development.

Members of the council are elected every four years by representatives from Hamas's

three branches: the Gaza Strip, the occupied West Bank and the movement's external leadership.

Hamas prisoners in Israeli jails are also eligible to vote.

The council subsequently elects the political bureau, which in turn selects the head of the movement.

An artist performs as people celebrate Maslenitsa (Shrovetide), a traditional Slavic farewell ceremony to winter, in Pavlovsk, Leningrad region. Shrovetide precedes the beginning of Lent, with each day of the week holding its own meaning. Shrove Sunday, also known as the Sunday of Forgiveness, is a day for asking forgiveness for the harm caused to other people intentionally or unintentionally.



Russian missile barrage hits energy, railways across Ukraine

AFP | Kyiv, Ukraine

Russia fired scores of missiles and drones at targets across Ukraine on Sunday, crashing into energy and rail infrastructure and residential buildings, just two days before the fourth anniversary of Moscow's all-out invasion.

The capital Kyiv, regularly targeted by Russian missile and drone attacks since the start of the full-scale invasion, has faced waves of overnight strikes in recent weeks as Moscow has intensified assaults amid freezing winter temperatures.

"Moscow continues to invest in strikes more than in diplomacy," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said of the attack on social media, adding that Russia launched about 50 missiles and 300 drones overnight.

"The main target of the attack was the energy sector. Ordinary residential buildings were also damaged, and there is damage to the railway."

The intense barrage came the same day Hungary said it would block the EU's latest package of sanctions against Russia, unless Ukraine re-opens a key oil pipeline that supplies the country.

Ukraine says the Druzhba pipeline that crosses its territory to deliver Russian oil to Slovakia and Hungary was damaged late January by Russian strikes.

In Kyiv and its region, the Sunday overnight strikes killed one man and wounded a dozen more, among them four children, Ukraine's national police said.

"I felt the building shaking. It was clearly a hit, and the force (of the explosion) was strong. I

jumped up because my dog got scared too," Olga, a 48-year-old woman who lives in the settlement, told AFP.

Anton, also from the area, said there were no military installations in Sofiivska Borschagivka.



Ukraine will on Tuesday mark four years since the start of Russia's assault on February 24, 2022. The war that has shattered towns, uprooted millions and killed large numbers on both sides.

Netanyahu says Modi to visit Israel Wednesday



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivers a speech at the AI Impact Summit in New Delhi

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Israel on Wednesday, his counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu said.

"The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, will arrive here; he will deliver a speech in the Knesset, and I'm sure you will all be there," Netanyahu said Sunday at the opening of a cabinet meeting, referring

to Israel's parliament.

Netanyahu hailed growing ties between the two countries.

"The fabric of relations has grown tighter, and (Modi) is coming here so that we can tighten it even more," he said, mentioning cooperation in the economic, diplomatic and security spheres.

Modi previously visited Israel as prime minister in 2017, before Netanyahu made a reciprocal visit to India the following year.

US can access minerals, military bases in Somaliland, minister says

AFP | Hargeisa, Somalia

Somaliland is willing to give the United States access to its minerals and military bases, a minister has told AFP, as the breakaway region of Somalia seeks international recognition.

Israel became the only country in the world to recognise Somaliland's independence in December -- something the territory has been seeking since declaring its autonomy from Somalia in 1991.

The government in Mogadishu still considers Somaliland an integral part of Somalia even though the territory has run its own affairs since 1991, with its own passports, currency, army and police force.

"We are willing to give exclusive (access to our minerals) to the United States. Also, we are open to offer military bases to the United States," Khadar Hussein Abdi, minister of the presidency, told AFP in an interview on Saturday.

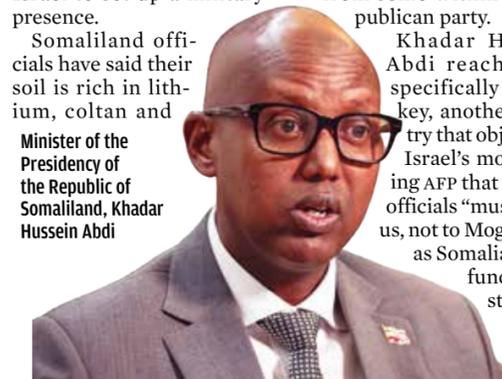
"We believe that we will agree on something with the United States."

Somaliland president Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi already suggested in recent weeks granting Israel privileged access to its mineral resources.

And Khadar Hussein Abdi said he could not rule out the possibility of also allowing Israel to set up a military presence.

Somaliland officials have said their soil is rich in lithium, coltan and

Minister of the Presidency of the Republic of Somaliland, Khadar Hussein Abdi



Somaliland lies across the Gulf of Aden from Yemen, where Houthi rebels have often attacked Israeli assets to show solidarity with Palestinians

other sought-after resources, though independent studies are lacking.

Turkey plea

Shortly after Israel's recognition at the end of December, social media was flooded with photos of men and women displaying the Israeli flag -- one of them even using it as a hijab.

Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, on the other hand, denounced it as "the greatest violation of Somalia's sovereignty" and a "threat to the security and stability of the world and the region".

The African Union and most Arab countries threw their support behind Somalia and condemned the move.

The US, however, defended what it said was Israel's right to recognise Somaliland, although President Donald Trump said he was unlikely to follow suit, despite pressure from some within his Republican party.

Khadar Hussein Abdi reached out specifically to Turkey, another country that objected to Israel's move, telling AFP that Turkish officials "must talk to us, not to Mogadishu" as Somalia had no functioning state.