

1260

Qutuz, Mamluk Sultan of Egypt (1259-60), is assassinated by Baibars, a fellow Mamluk leader, who seizes power for himself

1648

Treaty of Westphalia ends the Thirty Years' War in the Holy Roman Empire; Switzerland's independence is recognized



1962

Soviet ships approach but stop short of the US blockade of Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis

2008

On "Bloody Friday," many of the world's stock exchanges experience the worst decline in their history, with drops of around 10% in most indices

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TWEETS

01



Early-warning systems for extreme weather allow farmers to protect their crops & livestock, enable families to evacuate safely & protect communities from devastation. With sustained investment & global collaboration, we can ensure everyone, everywhere is protected.

@antonioguterres

02



Arrived in Israel to reaffirm America's unwavering commitment to Israel's security and engage with partners to implement President Trump's historic peace plan and build on the momentum towards durable peace and integration in the Middle East.

@SecRubio

03



WHO led today medical evacuation of 41 critical patients and 145 companions out of #Gaza - first since the ceasefire. Around 15 000 patients are still waiting for approval to receive medical care outside Gaza. We continue to call on countries to show their solidarity and for all routes to be opened to expedite the medical evacuation

@DrTedros

04



Had a warm conversation with my dear friend, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim of Malaysia. Congratulated him on Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship and conveyed best wishes for the success of upcoming Summits.

@narendramodi

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

'No basic means to live'

Exhausted Gazans struggle to rebuild

AFP | Gaza City, Palestinian Territories

A fragile ceasefire has brought respite to Gazans exhausted by two years of fighting, but even without the daily bombing they are struggling to live amid the catastrophic destruction wrought by the war.

The reconstruction task ahead is enormous, given that vast swathes of the Palestinian territory were flattened during Israel's military campaign and most of the population were displaced at least once.

Many in the southern city of Khan Yunis have now been told by Israeli forces to move again to avoid the so-called Yellow Line, behind which Israeli troops are stationed under the ceasefire deal with Hamas.

"I am tired of displacement, very tired. I prefer to die, just like my son. It is better for the dead," Riyad Abu Anza said.

AFP footage showed Palestinians carrying buckets, brooms and backpacks through a sandy neighbourhood of rubble and tents.

Umm Mohammed Muhareb, who was displaced to the coastal area of Al-Mawasi, said that fear



Displaced Palestinians gather to receive food portions outside the damaged Imam al Shafi'i Mosque, where families have taken shelter, in the Zeitoun neighbourhood of Gaza City

lingered despite the fighting largely halting.

"The situation now is calmer than before," the 45-year-old told AFP.

"We don't hear the sounds of bombing like we used to, but the fear is still in our hearts, because we never know when things might get worse again".

The truce faced its toughest test on Sunday, when Israeli forces unleashed a wave of strikes in Gaza after two soldiers were killed.

The strikes killed at least 45 Palestinians, according to the health ministry in the Hamas-run territory.

There have also been violent

incidents since, with Nasser Hospital reporting one person killed in an Israeli drone strike in the Khan Yunis area on Thursday.

The Israeli military told AFP that it conducted a strike that killed a "terrorist who was approaching troops" after crossing the yellow line.

Zelensky hopes for 'positive decision' on EU use of Russian assets

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky expressed hope yesterday that the European Union would move forward with plans to help Ukraine with a mammoth new "reparations loan" funded by frozen Russian assets.

Zelensky was in Brussels for talks with EU leaders, who dis-

cussed plans to hand 140 billion euros (\$162 billion) to Kyiv over the next few years, to keep it afloat as the war with Russia drags on.

"I hope that they will make a political decision, positive decision in one or another way to help Ukraine with funds," Zelensky told a press conference after the meeting.

The European Commission,

the EU's executive, has floated a complex scheme that would see Ukraine pay back the money only once Russia coughs up for the damages it has caused.

The move is fraught with legal and political perils. Belgium, where the bulk of the money is held, has demanded guarantees that the rest of the bloc will share any liabilities if Russia

takes the matter to court.

EU officials are hoping that the EU's 27 leaders will give a preliminary go-ahead on Thursday for the commission to draw up a formal legal proposal for the loan.

"I think that the dialogue was really, maybe not simple, but it was very good," Zelensky said of the talks. "Really we count on decisions on this topic."

Oil prices surge as Trump hits Russian crude with sanctions

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Oil prices jumped more than 5% yesterday after US President Donald Trump targeted Russia's key oil industry with new sanctions in a bid to end the war in Ukraine.

The international benchmark contract, Brent North Sea crude, jumped 5.4% while West Texas Intermediate was up 5.7%.

Trump on Wednesday announced new sanctions against Russia's two largest oil companies, Rosneft and Lukoil, saying his peace talks with President Vladimir Putin were not going "anywhere".

The move was joined by another round of punishments by the European Union as part of attempts to pressure Moscow

Russia says immune to new US oil sanctions

Moscow, Russia

Russia said yesterday that new US sanctions on its oil industry risked hurting diplomatic efforts to end the Ukraine war, and that it had developed a "strong immunity" to them.

"We view this step as being entirely counterproductive, including in terms of signal-

ling the need to achieve meaningful negotiated solutions to the Ukrainian conflict," Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told a weekly briefing.

"Our country has developed a strong immunity to Western restrictions and will continue to confidently develop its economic potential, including its energy potential," she added.

Arne Lohmann Rasmussen, an analyst at Global Risk Management.

Russia's foreign ministry

warned that the sanctions risked jeopardising diplomatic efforts to end the Ukraine war, and that it had developed a "strong immunity" to them.

Trump had resisted imposing new restrictions against Moscow for months, but his patience snapped after plans for a new summit with Putin in Budapest collapsed.

He had already claimed that India agreed to cut its Russian oil purchases as part of a US trade deal, something New Delhi has not confirmed.

Bloomberg on Thursday cited unnamed Indian refinery sources as saying flows of Russian crude were expected to plunge almost to zero as a result of the US sanctions.

"As Rosneft and Lukoil pro-

duce around four million barrels per day between them, if India were to reduce its purchases, that would severely hamper Russia's ability to fund its war," said Trade Nation analyst David Morrison.

Trump in August raised tariffs on Indian exports to the United States to 50%, with Trump's aides accusing India of fuelling Russia's war in Ukraine.

Elsewhere Thursday, major stock markets diverged as traders assessed US-China trade prospects and another batch of mixed company earnings.

Beijing said it would hold tariff talks with Washington from Friday, tempering trade fears over reports of potential US curbs on software exports to China.

No reduction in Gaza hunger since truce: WHO

Geneva, Switzerland

The World Health Organization said yesterday there had been little improvement in the amount of aid going into Gaza since a ceasefire took hold -- and no observable reduction in hunger.

"The situation still remains catastrophic because what's entering is not enough," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told an online press briefing from the UN health agency's Geneva headquarters.

Since the US-brokered ceasefire between Israel and Hamas came into effect on October 10, there has been "no dent in hunger, because there is not enough food", he warned.

Israel repeatedly cut off aid to the Gaza Strip during the war, exacerbating dire humanitarian conditions. The United Nations said that caused a famine in parts of the Palestinian territory.

Since the start of 2025, 411 people are known to have died from the effects of malnutrition in Gaza, including 109 children, Richard Peeperkorn, the WHO's representative in the Palestinian territories, told reporters.

"All of these deaths were preventable," stressed Teresa Zakaria, WHO's unit head for humanitarian and disaster action. More than 600,000 people in Gaza were currently facing "catastrophic levels of food insecurity", she added.

But while the agreement brokered by US President Donald Trump provides for the entry of 600 trucks per day, Tedros said currently only between 200 and 300 trucks were getting in daily.

And "a good number of the trucks are commercial", he said, when many people in the territory have no resources to buy goods.

"That reduces the beneficiary size," he said.