

1896

Dow Jones Industrial Average begins with an average of 12 industrial stocks, the daily closing value is 40.9

1927

Henry Ford and the Ford Motor Company produce the last (and 15 millionth) Model T Ford / Tin Lizzie



1948

South Africa elects a nationalist government under D. F. Malan with an apartheid policy

2004

US Army veteran Terry Nichols is found guilty of 161 state murder charges for helping carry out the Oklahoma City bombing

## Lebanon president says Israeli withdrawal 'non-negotiable'

AFP | Beirut, Lebanon

Lebanese President Joseph Aoun yesterday said Israel's withdrawal from the country's south was a "non-negotiable" demand that authorities would pursue through negotiations, days ahead of a new round of talks in Washington.

In a statement commemorating Israel's previous withdrawal from south Lebanon in 2000 after some two decades of occupation, Mr. Aoun said that "this year, the anniversary of the liberation comes as Lebanon is weighed down by a painful reality." "Israeli attacks have not stopped and our dear southern villages are still suffering under a renewed occupation," he said.

Israeli troops who invaded Lebanon during the latest war with Hezbollah began on March 2 are operating inside a self-declared "yellow line" running around 10 kilometres (six miles) deep inside Lebanese territory.

## Heat dome over Europe scorches UK, France, Spain

AFP | London

Temperatures hit record highs for May in the United Kingdom and France on Monday, as forecasters warned of a prolonged period of extreme heat across Europe throughout the week.

A so-called "heat dome" of warm air from northern Africa trapped under a high-pressure system over western Europe is behind the high temperatures not usually seen until high summer.

Temperatures in Spain were expected to peak later this week at 38C, while parts of Italy imposed restrictions on working outdoors.

"The weather here, it's like a mini version of hell. It's boiling. It's like really hot," said 10-year-old Liza Nizari on a visit to London, where temperatures normally average about 17C or 18C at this time of year.

Lindy Brand-Daloze, a 66-year-old Australian administrator who has been living in London for 12 years, said: "It's warm, but it's climate change, isn't it? So, you know, (we have) probably got to get used to this."

The Met Office weather agency said Monday was the hottest May day on record, with the mercury rising to 33.5C at Heathrow, west of the capital, at 1:00 pm (1200 GMT) -- 1.3C more than the previous benchmark



People relax in the sunshine on Durdle Door beach, east of Weymouth on the south coast of England



A "heat dome" forms when a strong high-pressure system traps hot air beneath it, like a lid on a pot. In Europe, heat domes are often fuelled by scorching air masses moving north from the Sahara and northern Africa, pushing temperatures far above seasonal averages.

recorded in 1922 and 1944.

"Records are usually only broken by tenths of a degree -- making this heatwave unprecedented for the time of year," the agency said in a social media

post.

Scientists say human-induced climate change is making extreme weather events like heatwaves, droughts and floods more intense, resulting in tem-

perature records being broken more frequently.

Met Office meteorologist Greg Dewhurst told AFP the increase in extreme temperatures was "a good indication of climate change in action" and more likely to become "the new norm".

Climate advisers last week warned the UK government that the country was "built for a climate that no longer exists" and urged it to adapt infrastructure like schools and hospitals for a warming planet.

The white-robed pilgrims on buses or on foot arrived at the sprawling encampment in Mina after performing the "tawaf" -- walking seven times around the Kaaba

# Pilgrims kick off hajj as peace deal hangs in the balance

AFP | Mecca, Saudi Arabia

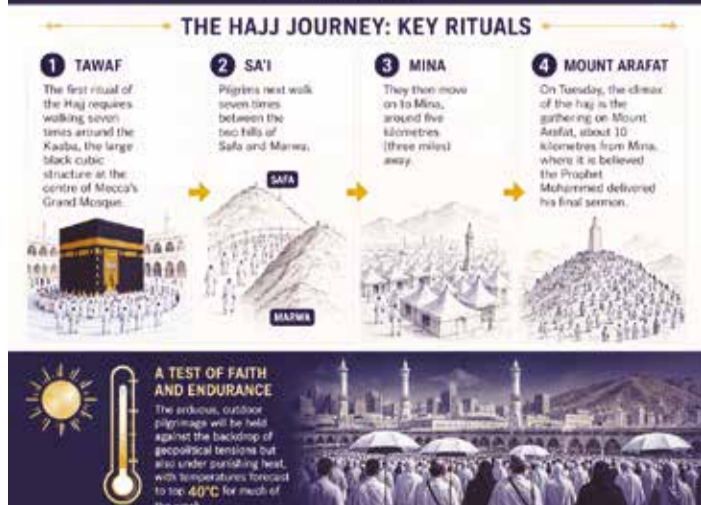
Over 1.5 million Muslims began filling a vast tent city in the holy city of Mecca yesterday for an annual hajj pilgrimage carried out against the backdrop of hopes for an end to the war in the Middle East.

The white-robed pilgrims on buses or on foot arrived at the sprawling encampment in Mina after performing the "tawaf" -- walking seven times around the Kaaba, the giant black cube at Mecca's Grand Mosque.

As pilgrims arrived in Mina in waves, temperatures hit 45C in the area as Saudi health authorities called on hajj participants to use umbrellas and reduce sun exposure to prevent heat exhaustion.

The start of the hajj came as US President Donald Trump continued to send mixed signals over a possible agreement to extend an uneasy ceasefire with Iran and a deal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

This year's rites, drawing worshippers from across the world, including Iran, follow waves of Iranian attacks on targets in Saudi Arabia and its Gulf neigh-



Worshippers walk along the Grand Mosque complex under the water-mist fans installed in the holy city of Mecca, ahead of the annual Hajj pilgrimage

bours. Despite the uncertainty triggered by the conflict, Saudi officials noted over the weekend that more pilgrims had travelled from abroad to participate in this year's hajj than in 2025.

A video posted on social media by the Saudi defence ministry showed advanced air defence batteries positioned on the outskirts of Mecca.

"The air defence forces are responsible for protecting the skies over the holy sites and

dealing with all aerial threats, ensuring the safety and peace of mind of the guests," read the post.

Many pilgrims who spoke to AFP expressed their hope that peace would prevail soon.

"The war in Iran has affected the entire world. Nobody wants wars or harm to countries and peoples," said Mohammed Chahada, an Egyptian in his 50s, as he walked through a crowd exiting the Grand Mosque.



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TWEETS

01



On #AfricaDay, we celebrate the continent's abundant strengths, resilience, potential & growing influence on the world stage. The people of Africa have overcome the destructive consequences of slavery & colonialism & forged unity & purpose out of adversity. The @UN is proud to work with African countries to build a peaceful, prosperous & sustainable future all Africans & our world.

@antonioguterres

02



#EbolaBundibugyo virus update:

- So far, 101 cases have been confirmed in the #DRC, including 10 confirmed deaths. But we know the epidemic in the DRC is much larger. There are now more than 900 suspected cases and 220 suspected deaths.- #Uganda has reported two additional confirmed cases among health-care workers, bringing the total number of confirmed cases to seven, including one confirmed death. We are continuing to scale up the response with our partners, and we expect more cases to be identified in the coming days and weeks. The sooner we can trace people with infections and identify their contacts, the sooner we can provide the care they need and bring this outbreak under control.

@DrTedros

03



In the era of #ArtificialIntelligence, when human dignity is threatened by new forms of dehumanization, ours is the pressing duty to remain profoundly human. We must lovingly safeguard the grandeur of humanity bestowed upon us and revealed in its fullness in Christ, the splendor of which no machine can ever replace

@Pontifex

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