

**Thought of the Day**  
And, when you want something, all the universe conspires in helping you to achieve it.  
- Paulo Coelho



PM dismisses rumours of imminent cabinet reshuffle



German Foreign Minister: Israel Has Shown Can Protect Itself, Iran Isolated



Jordan PM Says Escalation in Region Would Lead to 'Dangerous Paths'



Cyprus Suspends Syrian Asylum Applications as It Struggles With Arrivals Spike



## Iran and Israel's

# Open Warfare After Decades of Shadow War

• **Tel Aviv (Israel)**

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed his country would achieve victory after the military said it shot down almost all of the more than 300 drones and missiles launched by

Iran in a sharp escalation of the Middle East conflict.

The first direct Iranian attack on its arch-foe after a suspected air strike on Tehran's embassy compound in Damascus on April 1 is part of a wider escalation since the war in Gaza began

last year, but their enmity stretches back decades.

Iran and Israel -- the Middle East's most implacable foes -- have a long history of shadow wars and clandestine attacks by land, sea, air and cyberspace.

1979 - Iran's pro-Western leader

Mohammed Reza Shah, who regarded Israel as an ally, is swept from power in an Islamic Revolution that installs a new theocratic regime with its opposition to Israel an ideological imperative.

1982 - As Israel invades Lebanon, Iran's Revolutionary Guards

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## U.S.: Support for Israel 'Ironclad' as Iran Launches Airborne Attack

• **Washington (U.S.A.)**

Iran on Saturday launched a barrage of drones and missiles toward Israel in a retaliatory attack that was widely anticipated yet unprecedented.

"Our defensive and offensive capabilities are at the highest level of readiness ahead of this large-scale attack from Iran," Israeli military spokesman Daniel Hagari said.

The U.S. confirmed that Iran had initiated "an airborne attack" against Israel, with National Security Council spokeswoman Adrienne Watson saying in a statement Saturday the attack was likely to unfold "over a number of hours." More than 100 drones were deployed, the Israeli military said, while ballistic and cruise missiles also were launched as part of the attack, which marked the first direct military assault by Iran on Israel. "President Biden has been clear: Our support for Israel's security is ironclad," Watson said. "The United States will stand with the people of Israel and support



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## Ukraine's Zelenskiy Condemns Iranian Attack on Israel

• **Kyiv (Ukraine)**

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskiy on Sunday condemned Iran's drone and missile attack on Israel, calling for efforts to prevent a further escalation in Middle East conflict.

"Iran's actions threaten the entire region and the world, just as Russia's actions threaten a larger conflict, and the obvious collaboration between the two regimes in spreading terror must face a resolute and united response from the world," he wrote on social media platform X.

Iran has supplied thousands of Shahed kamikaze drones to Russia throughout its full-scale invasion of Ukraine. These have been used to exhaust Ukrainian air defences and hit infrastructure far from the front lines.

Zelenskiy repeated his call for the U.S. Congress to pass a stalled bill which would provide billions of dollars of military aid to Ukraine and



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# Uzbek star of Justice-Khadicha Sulaymanova



Juraboyeva  
Mahbuba

Our compatriots who have made a huge contribution to the development of the legal system of the Republic of Uzbekistan will not be exaggerated. One of them will be a prominent scientist, Doctor of Legal Sciences, a real member of the Academy of Sciences of the Uzbek SSR Sulaymanova Khadicha Sulaymanovna. She is the first jurist woman and judge in the history of Uzbekistan. Khadija Sulaymanova was distinguished among her peers from a young age by her talent, hard work and fairness. Although her youth was marked by many difficulties, namely the occurrence of the October Revolution in the

Turkestan region, the early death of her father, as well as the murder of many women by their fathers, brothers and spouses as a result of the "Attack" movement of 1926, she was trying to see in practice the goals aimed at raising society. His scientific and cultural heritage left for the development of our motherland, his contribution to the development of Science and his efforts to establish a legal state show their results today. His personal and professional life, his work on justice and human rights, his critical role at home and internationally, demonstrate his strong value for the development of the legal system of our country. Due to his interest in science during his student days, Khadija Sulaymanova joined the Department of Soviet criminal law at the Moscow Law Institute in 1938 as a graduate student. It is from this year that he begins his scientific career. On July 20, 1945, in Moscow, he returned to

Tashkent as a candidate of law studies after favoring his first dissertation on "Criminal laws of the Uzbek SSR during military intervention and civil war". That being said, Khadicha Sulaymanova was the first woman to be awarded a degree in law. In 1948, however, he was sent to the Institute of Law of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR for doctoral studies, and at short intervals two of his articles were published: "the emergence of Soviet criminal law in Uzbekistan" and "the history of the establishment of Soviet courts in the Uzbek SSR". In 1950, H.S. Sulaymanova defended her doctoral dissertation and was awarded the scientific title of professor. Finally, in 1956, H.S. Sulaymanova was appointed to the post of Minister of Justice of the Uzbek SSR. It is from this period that he becomes the initiator of a huge number of legal reforms and one by one

eliminates the shortcomings of the state's legal system. X.S. Sulaymanova was appointed to the position of chairman of the Supreme Court of the Republic in 1964 for carrying out legal reforms during her tenure as Minister of Justice of the OSSR. As cases in such a responsible position, he set about improving the judicial system. After studying the local conditions, he made a proposal to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Uzbek SSR, to codify and systematize legislation within the Supreme Court, to generalize judicial practice, and to establish complaint-seeing departments. Khadija Sulaymanova opposed the use of cruel punishments did not justify herself, and believed that only the use of fair punishments would bring prosperity to society. In addition, he established the procedure for reviewing citizens' appeals. In order to set an example for everyone, he himself would

consider the complaints of citizens and solve their problems. To ensure that decisions are made fairly in the judicial system, X.S. Sulaymanova paid special attention to the observance of the principle of humanism. Khadija Sulaymanova died prematurely on November 26, 1965, as a result of a severe and long illness. Despite his short life, he managed to do a huge number of noble deeds and earn the respect of his people. Khadicha Sulaymanova, as the first Uzbek woman of law, is very important in her role and role in the development of the field of legal knowledge. His legal experience than our country and internationally, his great determination and prospects aimed at strengthening the justice system, talking about his achievements in this area, is one of the topics that is also mentioned a lot in the literature of humanity and law.

## I want to write you letters

I want to write you letters  
From the pain of filling out the papers.  
My thoughts do not give me peace  
It's like I'm a piece of happiness.

Will you read my letters?  
Or you burn it in pieces.  
My dream love  
You throw stones at my head.

There will be a statement in my letters  
He is the one who created work in my heart.  
I will go to "Golden Lake" and write  
This is what unites us.

I will not leave it in my letter  
Heartbroken ruins.  
It's a two-way street  
The wanderers who wandered in the name of "love".

I told the postman (God) about this  
He will deliver my letter to you.  
I received a letter from the post office  
I found my happiness by reading (prayer).

**- Maftuna Yusupbayeva**

## "New Uzbekistan"

Every corner of my country  
It is blooming  
Changes are in full swing  
The eyes are happy  
The head of our country is the head  
Support us  
Change at every step  
It will surprise you.  
My country is rich in history  
Every corner is sacred,  
To such a great country  
Many people like it.  
Of great scholars  
We are young people,  
First at every step  
Shakhdam takes steps.  
This is my country in the world  
There is no comparison, there is no equal,  
Everywhere is rich in history  
There are many holy places.  
Sometimes this language is weak  
One look is not enough  
I will describe it again  
I won't run out of words.



**- Mamadaliyeva Aziza**

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## जीवन को मंगलमय बनाने के लिए करें मां कालरात्रि की पूजा

दुर्गा जी का सातवां स्वरूप मां कालरात्रि है। इनका रंग काला होने के कारण ही इन्हें कालरात्रि कहा गया और असुरों के राजा रक्तबीज का वध करने के लिए देवी दुर्गा ने अपने तेज से इन्हें उत्पन्न किया था। इनकी पूजा शुभ फलदायी होने के कारण इन्हें 'शुभकारी' भी कहते हैं। मान्यता है कि माता कालरात्रि की पूजा करने से मनुष्य समस्त सिद्धियों को प्राप्त कर लेता है। माता कालरात्रि पराशक्तियों (काला जादू) की साधना करने वाले जातकों के बीच बेहद प्रसिद्ध हैं। मां की भक्ति से दुष्टों का नाश होता है और ग्रह बाधाएं दूर हो जाती हैं। देवी कालरात्रि का शरीर रात के अंधकार की तरह काला है इनके बाल बिखरे हुए हैं और इनके गले में विधुत की माला है। इनके चार हाथ हैं जिसमें इन्होंने एक हाथ में कटार और एक हाथ में लोहे का कांटा धारण किया हुआ है। इसके अलावा इनके दो हाथ वरमुद्रा और अभय मुद्रा में हैं। इनके तीन नेत्र हैं तथा इनके श्वास से अग्नि निकलती है। कालरात्रि का



वाहन गर्दभ (गधा) है।

**मां को गुड़ का भोग प्रिय है**

सप्तमी तिथि के दिन भगवती की पूजा में गुड़ का नैवेद्य अर्पित करके ब्राह्मण को देना चाहिए। ऐसा करने से पुरुष शोकमुक्त हो सकता है।

**शुभकामना को पूरा करेगा मां कालरात्रि का चंद्रमंडल**

नवरात्र के सातवें दिन मां कालरात्रि की उपासना इस मंत्र से करनी चाहिए एक वेणी जपाकर्णपूरा नग्ना खरास्थिता, लम्बोष्ठी कर्णिकाकर्णी तैलाभ्यक्तशरीरिणी।

वामपादोल्लसल्लोहलताकण्टकभूषणा, वर्धनमूर्धध्वजा कृष्णा कालरात्रिर्भयङ्करी॥

**मां कालरात्रि की पूजा विधि**

मां कालरात्रि की पूजा करने के लिए श्वेत या लाल वस्त्र धारण करें। देवी कालरात्रि पूजा ब्रह्ममुहूर्त में ही की जाती है। वहीं तंत्र साधना के लिए त्रात्रिक मां की पूजा आधी रात में करते हैं, इसलिए सूर्योदय से पहले ही उठकर स्नान आदि से निवृत्त हो जाएं। पूजा करने के लिए सबसे पहले आप एक चौकी पर मां कालरात्रि की चित्र या मूर्ति स्थापित करें। इसके बाद मां को कुमकुम, लाल पुष्प, रोली आदि चढ़ाएं। माला के रूप में मां को नींबूओं की माला पहनाएं और उनके आगे तेल का दीपक जलाकर उनका पूजन करें। मां कालरात्रि को लाल फूल अर्पित करें। मां के मंत्रों का जाप करें या सप्तशती का पाठ करें। मां की कथा सुनें और धूप व दीप से आरती उतारने के बाद उन्हें प्रसाद का भोग लगाएं। अब मां से जाने अनजाने में हुई भूल के लिए माफ़ी मांगें।

## Iran and Israel's Open Warfare ...

work with fellow Shi'ite Muslims there to set up Hezbollah. Israel will eventually see the armed group as the most dangerous adversary on its borders.

1983 - Iran-backed Hezbollah uses suicide bombings to expel Western and Israeli forces from Lebanon. In November a car packed with explosives drives into the headquarters of the Israeli military. Israel later withdraws from much of Lebanon.

1992-94 - Argentina and Israel accuse Iran and Hezbollah of being behind suicide bombings on Israel's embassy in Buenos Aires in 1992 and a Jewish centre in the city in 1994, each of which killed dozens of people. Iran and Hezbollah deny responsibility.

2002 - Revelation that Iran has a secret uranium enrichment programme prompts concern that it is trying to build a nuclear weapon, which it denies. Israel urges tough action against Tehran.

2006 - Israel fights Hezbollah in a month-long war in Lebanon but is unable to crush the heavily armed group.

2009 - Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei delivers a speech calling Israel "a dangerous and fatal cancer".

2010 - Stuxnet, a malicious computer virus widely believed

to have been developed by the United States and Israel, was used to attack a uranium enrichment facility at Iran's Natanz nuclear site. It was the first publicly known cyberattack on industrial machinery.

2012 - Iranian nuclear scientist Mostafa Ahmadi-Roshan was killed by a bomb placed on his car by a motorcyclist in Tehran. A city official blamed Israel for the attack.

2018 - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hails U.S. President Donald Trump's withdrawal from Iran's nuclear deal with world powers after years of lobbying against the agreement, calling Trump's decision "a historic move".

In May Israel says it had struck Iranian military infrastructure in Syria - where Tehran was backing President Bashar al-Assad in the civil war - after Iranian forces there fired rockets at Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

2020 - Israel welcomes the assassination of General Qassem Soleimani, commander of the overseas arm of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, in an American drone strike in Baghdad. Iran strikes back with missile attacks on Iraqi bases housing American troops. About 100 U.S. military personnel were injured.

2021 - Iran blames Israel for the assassination of Mohsen

Fakhriyadeh, who was seen by Western intelligence services as the mastermind of a covert Iranian programme to develop nuclear weapons capability. Tehran has long-denied any such ambition.

2022 - U.S. President Joe Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid sign a joint pledge to deny Iran nuclear arms in a show of unity by allies long divided over diplomacy with Tehran.

The undertaking, part of a "Jerusalem Declaration" crowning Biden's first visit to Israel as president, was made a day after he told a local TV station that he was open to "last resort" use of force against Iran - an apparent move toward accommodating Israel's calls for a "credible military threat" by world powers.

2024 - A suspected Israeli air strike on the Iranian embassy compound in Damascus kills seven officers of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard, including two senior commanders. Israel neither confirmed or denied responsibility.

Iran responds with the April 13 barrage of drones and missiles in an unprecedented direct attack on Israeli territory.

## U.S.: Support for Israel ...

their defense against these threats from Iran."

President Joe Biden on

Saturday cut his weekend trip to his Delaware beach house short to return to the White House for a meeting with his national security team. In a statement Saturday night in the U.S., he said the U.S. military had moved missile defense destroyers and aircraft in recent days to support Israel's defense.

"Thanks to these deployments and the extraordinary skill of our servicemembers, we helped Israel take down nearly all of the incoming drones and missiles," Biden said.

Hagari said 99% of the "more than 300 threats" launched by Iran were intercepted, calling the response to the attack "a success."

Biden said he also spoke with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "to reaffirm America's ironclad commitment to the security of Israel," and that he would convene leaders of the Group of Seven industrialized nations on Sunday "to coordinate a united diplomatic response to Iran's brazen attack."

Iran had threatened retaliation after the suspected Israeli bombing of an Iranian consulate building in Syria killed senior Iranian commanders.

The attack and Israel's potential response are poised to skyrocket already high regional tensions during the ongoing war between Israel

and Hamas. Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant recently said a "direct Iranian attack will require an appropriate Israeli response against Iran."

For its part, the U.S. has repeatedly said it is committed to helping Israel with its self-defense. White House national security spokesman John Kirby also has noted the U.S. "will do what we have to do to protect our own people in our own facilities as appropriate."

"We're also clearly - it would be imprudent if we didn't - taking a look at our own posture in the region, to make sure that we're properly prepared as well," Kirby said on Friday.

In his Saturday statement, Biden said the U.S. would "stay in close touch with Israel's leaders."

"And while we have not seen attacks on our forces or facilities today, we will remain vigilant to all threats and will not hesitate to take all necessary action to protect our people," he said.

## Ukraine's Zelenskiy Condemns ...

Israel.

"The world cannot wait for discussions to go on. Words do not stop drones and do not intercept missiles. Only tangible assistance does," he wrote.

# Chiang Mai Celebrates Songkran Amidst Scorching Heat

Page 3 News

• Chiang Mai / 14 April

Chiang Mai province is bustling with excitement as locals and tourists alike engage in spirited water fights to celebrate Songkran amid scorching temperatures reaching 40 °C. The streets of Chiang Mai Old Town, especially around the Sripum, Katam, Ku Heuang, and Hua Lin intersections, have been experiencing sporadic traffic congestion since Friday (Apr 11) due to the lively festivities.

In preparation for the official "Songkran Chiang Mai Water Fest 2024," which began on Saturday (Apr 12) at Tha Phae Gate, revelers have set up various water stations along the road leading to this prominent tourism



landmark, a welcome relief for passersby and motorists from the intense heat.

The festival kicked off early Saturday morning with a religious ceremony that included almsgiving, followed by a special procession. The highlight of the procession was the Phra Buddha Sihing statue, which was taken from its shrine at Wat Phra Singh Woramahawihan. Adorned with flowers, the statue was paraded around the city, allowing attendees to pay respects and seek blessings.

Chiang Mai will continue to host numerous Songkran activities and religious ceremonies at various public places and temples throughout the province until April 16, offering rich cultural experiences to both residents and visitors.

## Thai Government Prepares as Iran-Israel Tensions Escalate

Page 3 News

• Bangkok / 14 April

The government has confirmed that it is closely monitoring the escalating tensions between Iran and Israel, with contingency plans to ensure the safety of Thai nationals in Israel. Approximately 8,000 Thai workers were previously evacuated from Israel following an attack by Hamas on October 7, though many have since returned. The situation remains volatile, nota-

bly after recent threats from Iran and a retaliatory stance from Israel. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) said it is prepared to implement emergency security measures to protect Thai citizens if the situation deteriorates further. Thai nationals in Israel are advised to remain vigilant, avoid conflict zones, and stay in contact with the embassy for assistance. In the broader international context, the U.S. is also taking precautions, with US President Joe

Biden stressing America's commitment to defend Israel against potential Iranian attacks. The U.S. has deployed warships to the region, anticipating an imminent threat, as global concerns about a direct confrontation grow. This development follows a suspected Israeli airstrike on an Iranian embassy compound in Damascus, which Iran vowed to retaliate against, describing it as an attack on its sovereignty.

## Flights to Israel Return to Bangkok Amid Airspace Closure

Page 3 News

• Bangkok / 14 April

Immigration authorities at Suvarnabhumi Airport responded to an unexpected turn of events when two Israel-bound flights were forced to return to Thailand early Sunday morning (Apr 14). The closures of airspace over Iraq, Israel, and Jordan, triggered by escalating military actions in the region, led to the diversion of the flights. El Al Israel Airlines flight LY82 from

Suvarnabhumi to Tel Aviv and flight LY88 from Phuket to Tel Aviv, carrying 275 and 290 passengers, landed back in Bangkok at 5.20 a.m. and 5.50 a.m., respectively. Pol Maj Gen Choengron Rimpadee, the airport's immigration police commander, said under normal circumstances, passengers would be required to remain within the airport premises due to their passports already being stamped for departure. However, in light of

the circumstances and considering the needs of the elderly and small children, the Immigration Bureau has decided to allow these individuals to stay at nearby accommodations arranged and supervised by the airlines. Passengers have also been given the option to remain at the airport if they prefer to keep their passports and avoid the hassle of undergoing the immigration process again once new flights are scheduled.

## 48 killed and 411 injured in road accidents on Songkran Day

Page 3 News

• Bangkok / 14 April

Forty-eight people were killed and 411 others were injured in road accidents on Saturday, bringing the total dead and injured for three days of Songkran to 116 and 968 respectively in 936 road accidents.

40.05% of the accidents were caused by speeding, 27.81% involved drunk driving and 16.84% were caused by cutting in. 85.50% of the accidents involved motorcycles and



81.63% occurred on straight routes. Nakhon Si Thammarat and Songkhla provinces recorded the highest

number of road accidents in three days, at 19 each. Bangkok had the highest death toll in the three days, with eight,

while Songkhla had 45 injured.

Chaiwat Chuntirapong, director-general of the Public Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Department, said today that officials had adjusted preventive measures, to correspond with the realities on the ground, by focusing on secondary roads and communities, where motorcyclists tend to engage in speeding, without wearing crash helmets and after drinking alcohol.

## PM Srettha Thavisin toured the Hua Hin market



Page 3 News  
• Songkhla / 14 April

Accompanied by his wife and a few ministers, Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin toured the Hua Hin market this morning, greeting vendors and morning shoppers. The prime minister and his group, including Transport Minister Suriya Juangroongruangkit, also presented alms to nine monks on Thailand's Family Day, which falls on April 14th annually. Greeting a grilled pork skewer vendor and ask-

ing him about his business, the prime minister was told that business is good this year because there are more tourists. Srettha promised the vendors that their businesses would be even better next year, as his government will introduce more activities to the resort town to attract more tourists. During the tour on foot, he was approached by a woman who asked him when she will get the 10,000 baht from the "digital wallet" scheme. He quickly responded "in the fourth quarter madam".

## Army officer on holiday in Pattani shot dead by insurgents

Page 3 News

• Bangkok / 14 April

An army officer, on his Songkran break visiting his family in the southern province of Pattani, was shot dead by insurgents in front of his family home in Panare district on Saturday. The 4th special force regiment, based in

Phitsanuloke province, expressed condolences to the family of the victim, Sgt-Maj (first class) Ruslan Doloh, a member of the regiment, yesterday in a Facebook post. According to the Internal Security Operations Command (ISOC) of the Fourth Region's Forward Command, 37-yearold Ruslan



refereed at a soccer match in Panare's municipal area yesterday afternoon. After the match, Ruslan rode back to the house on a motorcycle. As he arrived at the door, insurgents emerged from their hiding place in the compound and opened fire, killing him at the scene.

## PM dismisses rumours of imminent cabinet reshuffle

Page 3 News

• Bangkok / 14 April

Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin has refuted yesterday's rumour of a cabinet shakeup after the Songkran break, claiming that it was pure speculation.

At least two mainstream print media reported, without citing credible sources, that the prime minister would reshuffle Pheu Thai party cabinet portfolios, to

the effect that both Defence Minister Sutin Klungsang and Public Health Minister Cholnan Srikaew would be removed, with the prime minister taking over as defence minister. Asked by reporters today about a cabinet reshuffle on April 17, the prime minister retorted asking the media whether they were now speaking on behalf of the prime minister and whether their speculation is correct. He said that the rumour had



caused some ministers, whose names were mentioned in the reporting, discomfort and to call him, adding that he told them that there was to be no cabinet reshuffle as speculated.

He said that a cabinet reshuffle depends on numerous factors, one of which is whether the incumbent ministers are the right people in the right jobs after about seven months in their offices. The prime minister also said that

there is still a vacant cabinet post, which belongs to the Palang Pracharath party, adding that it is a decision for the party as to whom they nominate to fill the post.

Regarding speculation that he may take the defence portfolio, in place of Sutin Klungsang, the prime minister said that he is still the finance minister and he is not interested in taking on the defence portfolio.

# Viksit Bharat@2047: Role of Libraries, liberating India's future

Page3News

• Kolkata / 14 April

Viksit Bharat@2047, Role of Libraries panel discussion was organized at Gandhi Bhawan University of Delhi in collaboration with Bennett University, Greater Noida on 14 April 2024. As the Chief Guest, Ambassador Shri C Rajasekhar, IFS, Heads the Portfolio of States in the Ministry of External Affairs, Delhi, Government of India, blessed the momentous occasion.

The lamp lighting ceremony and honouring the presence of the dignitaries in attendance, including special guest Shri IR Kumar, Sr. Vice Chairman, Malwa Chamber of Commerce & Industries, Indore, Chief Guest Shri C Rajasekhar and others like Prof. KP Singh, Director, Gandhi Bhawan, University of Delhi; Prof. Sanjay Kataria, University Librarian, Bennett University.



Highlighting the significance of libraries for Viksit Bharat@2047 to promote creativity, literacy, and information access. The goal of this conference was to create an India that can use libraries to their fullest potential and become a developed country by 2047.

The audience gleamed with inspiration as Shri IR Kumar

was facilitated as the special guest along with the inaugural of I R Kumar memorial 'Sangharsh', celebrating his contribution to the cause and success.

'We are already lagging behind, we've already lost a place in National Education Policy (NEP), it is high time that we should reevaluate and advance

the pre-existing structures and focus on building the new ones,' Shri IR Kumar stated.

"It is the need of the hour for advanced libraries that embodies the spirit of innovation, accessibility, and inclusivity. To leverage technology to expand their reach beyond physical boundaries, offering a exclusive experience to all,"

Ambassador Shri C Rajasekhar stated in his address.

The dignified panelists Prof. RK Bhatt, Prof. MP Singh, Shri RK Shukla, Prof. Shri Ramt, Shri I R Kumar, Prof Sanjay Kataria, and Prof. KP Singh sparked off this nationwide gathering of scholars and librarians with the motive of better infrastructure.

Discussion touched various aspects including poor condition of public libraries, building better libraries in Remote areas and collecting and preserving of the languages and literature of tribal communities.

This panel of scholars, librarians, public speakers, and government officials served as a ray of light and inspiration for librarians across the country, reinforcing their shared dedication to the age-old pursuit of information and the indispensable role of libraries in shaping a better future for all.

## Felicitates district icons , launches theme song, unveils mascot VIDYA & flags off awareness vehicle in silchar.

Page3News / Yusuf Ali

• Cachar / 14 April

According to the guidelines of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, in view of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, under the able leadership of Bibi Santosh Kataria Constituency MLA, Balachaur, the candidate announced from Sri Anandpur Sahib constituency of Aam Aadmi Party, Malwinder Singh Kang, all volunteers and workers at Balachor. met with Before addressing the meeting, he paid obeisance and took blessings at Baba Balraj Temple in Balachore, where he was specially honored by the organizing committee. Addressing on this occasion, Malwinder Singh Kang said that under the able leadership of Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Maan, Punjab is digging high bridges for health facilities, education and employment, power generation and canal water for irrigation. . More than 90 percent of the people of



Punjab have zero electricity bills, due to which the leaders of other traditional parties are not happy with these pro-people plans of the Aam Aadmi Party because for 75 years, the leaders of these traditional parties have prioritized familyism. have given and people have been cheated by them always. Malwinder Singh Kang said that during the tenure of the Aam Aadmi Party led by Bhagwant Maan, many big gangsters have been arrested to stop the hooliganism in the state and the law breakers have tightened the ban on the peace of Punjab. He said that today's meeting of volunteers has taken the form of a rally from which it appears that all the vol-

unteers of Aam Aadmi Party are united and I have full hope that I will win from Lok Sabha constituency Sri Anandpur Sahib with a huge majority. Will strengthen the arms of Supremo Arvind Kejriwal. On this occasion, Bibi Santosh Kataria said in her address that the people of the constituency have blessed Malwinder Singh Kang by joining the workers' meeting in large numbers today and they also give full assurance that he will win in the parliament with a large majority. will be sent He thanked the collective gathering of workers who attended the meeting. On this occasion, senior party leader Ashok Kataria, Satnam Jalalpur District Presi-

dent and Chairman District Planning Board, Manjit Singh Ghuman President X Service Men Wing Punjab, Baljit Singh Bharapur, Youth Leader Karanveer Kataria, Shivkaran Chechi President BC Wing Punjab, Ranveer Singh Dhaliwal Block President, Sethi Udhanwal District President BC Wing, Ranveer Chechi, Praveen Puri Block President, Sudesh Kumar Kataria, Honey Dub, Chandra Mohan JD, Muhammad Sarfaraj, Manjit Bedi, Gurchen Singh Block President, Paramjit Singh Constituency Coordinator, Jaswinder Bachhua, Balveer Majra Jatta, Jasveer Ghuman, Balveer Meelu, Jamal Johar, Surinder Bhatti, Baldev Raj, Naresh Kumar Neeta, Pawan Kumar Rithu, Karampal Karawar, Jolly Bains, Honey Jogewal, Naresh Pandit, Parveen Vashisht, Pammi Thopia, Ravi Inder Bhatia and Keshav Meelu including all volunteers were present.

## Birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar celebrated by All India Krishak Sabha



Page3News / Yusuf Ali  
• Cachar / 14 April

On April 14, 2024, the birth anniversary of Dr. BR Ambedkar, the founder of the Constitution was celebrated by All India Krishak Sabha Shalchakra Tapang Block Regional Committee and Assam Scheduled Jati Parishad Silchar branch on April 14, 2024 in the morning at Srikona ITI Point with the standing statue of Dr. BR Ambedkar. Rakhal Das Manoranjan Bhadra Devjit Gupta Deepak Das Subhash Deb Jeebu Roy Ranu Das Bijan Kumar Debnath Pramod Chowdhury Nipendra Das Shankar Ghosh Satendra Das and many others present gave a speech on the life of Dr. BR Ambedkar All Bharat

Krishak Sabha Cachar District Secretary Subhash Deb and Manoranjan Bhadra Devjit Gupta I Speakers said the struggling life of Constitution writer Dr. BR Ambedkar should be conveyed to the new generation I He fought to remove caste from the society and to get the rights of Dalits and exploited people I Present The BJP government is plotting to destroy the constitution. Various fundamental rights, including the right to speak and express opinions, are being undermined and denied. The common people are being exploited by bringing forward the issue of caste. They are trying to establish a one-party system. We have to protect ourselves

## Bharatiya Janata Party Nawanshahr presented flower garland on the statue of Baba Saheb

Page3News /

Jatinderpal Singh Kaler  
• Nawanshahr / 14 April

On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Constitution maker Bharat Ratna Babasaheb Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar ji, Bharatiya Janata Party district Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar organized a district level program under the chairmanship of BJP district president Rajwinder Singh Lucky at Nawanshahr with great fanfare. Hundreds of BJP activists were present on this occasion, including Dinesh Bhardwaj, Advocate Aman Rana, Advocate Vishal Sharma, Advocate Bikram Sharma, Kamaldeep Sharma, Ajay Kataria, Madam Namrata



Khanna, Karan Dewan, Rajkumar Atwal, Dr. Ashwani Dhir, Surinder Bagania, Rajkumar Saroa, Nand Kishore Sharma, Sukhdev Lal Bunt, Shiv Kumar Sharma, Bahadur Rana, Ramanand Bhanot, Pankaj Kumar, Gurjit Singh, Naresh Verma, Gitika Parmar, Mrs.

Santosh Sharma, Yograj Jogi Nimana, Dr. Arjan Sehgal, Bahadur Chand Arora, Charanjit Rana, Aman Sandhu, Rajan Bhuchar, Amarjit Murgai, Surinder Verma, Varinder Rajwara and hundreds of BJP workers presented floral garlands to Babasaheb Ambedkar.

## I condemn the strongest terms the rude comment made by Minister Laljit Singh Bhullar - Ajay Mangupur

Page3News

Jatinderpal Singh Kaler  
• Balachaur / 14 April

Aam Aadmi Party has dared to cross its boundaries in the Lok Sabha elections, these things were expressed by Congress Party District Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar President Ajay Mangupur during a conversation with the journalist community. He said that yesterday Aam Aadmi Party's candidate from Khadur Sahib Laljit Singh Bhullar, who is also the Panchayati Raj Minister of AAP, used vulgar language about goldsmith and carpenter society



which is condemnable. Ajay Mangupur said that on the one hand, the Chief Minister talks about refraining from making personal comments during elections, but this may not apply to his minister Laljit Singh Bhullar. That is why

they did not ignore the instructions of the Chief Minister. District President Ajay Mangupur appealed to the Election Commission to take action against Laljit Singh Bhullar and also urged Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to give priority to his candidates and leaders to follow the orders, if not then the Congress Party and the intelligentsia of Punjab. Aam Aadmi Party will be strongly opposed by the voters in villages and cities everywhere and Aam Aadmi Party will have to bear the consequences during the Lok Sabha elections.











# Ukraine Races to Fix and Shield Its Power Plants After Russian Drone Assault

Page3News

• Cairo / 14 April

Iran's attack on Israel drew applause from many Palestinians in Gaza on Sunday as rare payback for the Israeli offensive on their enclave, although some said they suspected Tehran had staged the assault more for show than to inflict real damage.

"For the first time, we saw some rockets that didn't land in our areas. These rockets were going into the occupied Palestine," said Abu Abdallah, referring to land that became Israel in 1948 rather the occupied West Bank and Gaza. "We are hopeful that if Iran or any other country enters the war a solution for Gaza might be nearer than ever. The Americans may have to resolve Gaza to end the roots of the problem," said Abu Abdallah, 32, using a nickname rather than his full name.

Many in Gaza have felt abandoned by Middle East neighbours since Israel began an offensive that has killed more than 33,000 people in response to attacks on Israeli soil by Hamas, who killed 1,200 people and took 253 hostage on Oct. 7. However support has come from Iran and its regional proxies, particularly Tehran's ally



Hezbollah in Lebanon, who are allies of Gaza's Hamas Islamist rulers. Footage circulated from the enclave showed many residents, including inside displacement tents, whistling and others chanting Allah Akbar (God is the Greatest) in joy as the skies were lit up by Iranian rockets and Israeli interceptions.

"Whoever decides to attack Israel, dares to attack Israel at a

time when the whole world acts in its service, is a hero in the eyes of Palestinians regardless of whether we share their (Iran) ideology or not," said Majed Abu Hamza, 52, a father of seven, from Gaza City.

"We have been slaughtered for over six months and no one dared to do anything. Now Iran, after its consulate was hit, is hitting back at Israel and this

brings joy into our hearts," said Abu Hamza.

Iran launched the attack over a suspected Israeli strike on its consulate in Syria on April 1 that killed top Revolutionary Guards commanders and followed months of clashes between Israel and Iran's regional allies, triggered by the war in Gaza.

Hamas, which has been locked in a war with Israel in Gaza since

Oct. 7, defended Iran's attack, saying in a statement the assault was "a natural right and a deserved response" to the strike on the Iranian consulate.

The Palestinian Popular Resistance Committee PRC, an armed group that fights Israel alongside Hamas in Gaza, said the Iranian engagement could boost the Palestinian cause, saying that for Israel it was "the final nail in its coffin."

Not everyone was supportive. Some Palestinians saw the attack as an attempt by Iran merely to preserve its dignity.

"Curtains down on the face-saving piece of theatre ... The Palestinian people are the only ones who pay the price with their flesh and blood," Munir al-Ghaghoub, an official of President Mahmoud Abbas Fatah's faction, wrote on his Facebook page.

Some others on social media said they believed the assault was agreed with the U.S. in order to cause no harm, pointing to the hours it took for Iranian drones to get close to Israel, and saying this gave Israel plenty of time to shoot them down.

Meanwhile, Israel kept up its military strikes across the Gaza Strip, killing 43 Palestinians and wounding 62 others in the past 24 hours, according to the territory's health ministry.

## Landslides Kill 14 on Indonesia's Sulawesi Island

Page3News

• Jakarta / 14 April

At least 14 people have been killed in landslides on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, the country's disaster mitigation agency said on Sunday, with rescue efforts ongoing for those reported missing. Landslides triggered by high-intensity rains affected two villages in the region of Tana Toraja, in South Sulawesi, killing 14 people and destroying four homes, Abdul Muhari, the spokesperson for the agency said in a statement.

Search and rescue efforts for missing residents are continuing, he said,



without providing details about how many were unaccounted for. Local media has reported that at least two people are missing. Photos of affected villages provided by the agency showed rescuers trawling through the rubble for survivors, with homes flattened and reduced to planks of wood and concrete.

Emergency response efforts have been complicated by poor weather conditions and damage to roads into the affected areas, making it difficult for vehicles, including ambulances to evacuate victims, the agency's spokesperson said.

Located in the centre of Sulawesi island, the mountainous region of Tana Toraja is about 300 kilometres (186 miles) from the provincial capital, Makassar.

Floods and landslides killed at least 26 people on Indonesia's Sumatra island last month, with torrential rains destroying hundreds of homes, and displacing thousands.

## Russia's Kurgan Governor Calls on Residents to Evacuate Flooded Areas as Waters Rise

Page3News

• Moscow / 14 April

The governor of Russia's Kurgan region on Sunday urged people to evacuate flooded areas immediately, saying rain was exacerbating the already tough situation there and the coming night would be difficult.

The water level in the Tobol river has risen by 25 cm over the past two hours to 5.32 m (17.45 feet), governor Vadim Shumkov wrote on the Telegram messaging app. "You need to leave while the sun is up," he appealed to local people. "Gather your families, documents, and valuables and leave beforehand. The situation can worsen sharply at night and you



might have not enough time to react."

The Interfax news agency also cited the government of the Tyumen region to the northeast of Kurgan as saying that two villages there were being evacuated as the authorities feared the area could be threatened by the Ishim river.

The TASS news agency

cited Russia's emergencies ministry as saying more than 14,000 houses across Russia have been flooded.

In Kazakhstan, also hit by floods, more than 1,000 houses in the city of Petropavlovsk have been flooded, the authorities said on Sunday, with more than 4,500 people evacuated.

## German Foreign Minister: Israel Has Shown Can Protect Itself, Iran Isolated

Page3News

• Berlin / 14 April

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said on Sunday Israel has shown it was strong and could defend itself by repelling an Iranian attack overnight together with strong allies.

"Iran is isolated with its aggressive behaviour with which it wants to destabilize an entire region," she said. "And Israel's capacities have shown Israel is strong, Israel can protect itself." Baerbock called on Iran to



forgo further attacks including via proxies as a regional escalation would have incalculable consequences.

## Iranian Airports Cancel Flights Until Monday Morning

Page3News

• Dubai / 14 April

Several Iranian airports including Tehran's Imam Khomeini International have cancelled flights until Monday, Iranian state media reported on Sunday, as tensions flared in the Middle East with Iran's attack on Israel overnight. Iran launched dozens of drones and missiles at Israel through Saturday night into Sunday as a response to Israel's bombing of its consulate in Syria on April 1, raising fears of a possible Israeli retaliation against Tehran. "All flights from Tehran's



Imam Khomeini International Airport have been cancelled until 6 a.m. (0230 GMT) following an announcement by Iran's Civil Aviation Organisation," the airport's executive told the Iranian Student News Agency.

Domestic flights from Tehran's Mehrabad Airport and airports in Shiraz, Isfahan, Bushehr, Kerman, Ilam, and Sanandaj have also been cancelled until Monday morning, according to Iran's Airports and Air

Navigation Company, as the country's western airspace remains off limits to flights. Major airlines across the Middle East have announced the cancellation of some of their flights, while having to reroute others.

# Iran's Attack on Israel Raises Fears of a Wider War, but All Sides Have Also Scored Gains

Page3News

• Tel Aviv / 14 April

The unprecedented attack by Iran on Israel early Sunday ratcheted up regional tensions, confirming long-held fears about the Israel-Hamas war spiraling into a broader conflagration. But Iran, Israel, the United States and Hamas also walked away with some gains.

Here's a look at the fallout.

## Israel's Response Could Restore Faith In Its Military

As the more than 300 drones and missiles headed toward Israel in the early hours of Sunday, the country was able to successfully put to the test its aerial defense array, which, along with help from allies, blocked 99% of the projectiles and prevented any major damage.

By contrast, Israel's military had suffered a bruising defeat at the hands of a far less equipped enemy when Hamas stormed from Gaza into Israel on Oct. 7. That was a major blow to Israel's image as a regional military powerhouse and shattered any sense of invincibility. The response to Iran's attack could be what restores faith in the country's military, even as its



forces are bogged down in Gaza, more than six months after Israel declared war on Hamas there.

Israel has also boasted about the coalition of forces that helped it repel the Iranian assault. It's a much-needed show of support at a time when Israel is at its most isolated because of concerns surrounding its conduct during the war against Hamas, including a worsening humanitarian crisis and a staggering death toll in Gaza.

## Ran Shows Off Its Might

Iran vowed repeatedly that it would respond to an apparent Israeli strike on an Iranian diplomatic compound in Damascus on April 1 that killed two generals. Sunday's assault allowed Iran to show to its citizens that it won't stand by when its assets are attacked and that it was serious when it threatened revenge.

With its strike, Iran was able to exhibit its fierce firepower, instill fear in some Israelis and disrupt the lives of many through school

cancellations. But with little damage actually caused in Israel, Iran might hope that any response will be measured. Several hours after it launched the drones and missiles, Iran said the operation was over.

## The United States Stood By Israel

The U.S. was a key player in repelling the assault, demonstrating to its allies around the world the power and reliability of American support.

Now, as Israel mulls how and

whether to respond, that alliance will be put to the test, with the Biden administration seeking to exert its leverage on Israel and prevent it from carrying out a response that might worsen the conflict.

## Hamas May Benefit From Iran's Direct Involvement

Hamas, which is backed by Iran, welcomed the strike on Israel. Since launching its Oct. 7 attack, Hamas had hoped that regional partners might come to its assistance and drag Israel into a broader war. While some have done — including the Iranian-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon and Yemen's Houthis — Iran had not directly entered the fray until Sunday.

Hamas could hope that the attack is the first salvo in deeper Iranian engagement in the war in Gaza. It also could hope that violence in the West Bank, where an Israeli teen was killed and settlers rampaged in Palestinian towns, continues to heat up. At the very least, Iran's attack may have emboldened Hamas to dig in its heels in current negotiations over a cease-fire, hoping the increased military pressure on Israel might lead it to accept the militant group's harder-line terms for a deal.

## Iran Summons British, French and German Ambassadors Over 'Double Standards'

Page3News

• Dubai / 14 April

Iran's foreign ministry summoned on Sunday the ambassadors of Britain, France, and Germany to question what it referred to as their "irresponsible stance" regarding Tehran's retaliatory strikes on Israel, the semi-official Iranian Labour News Agency reported.

The three European countries have condemned Iran's drone and missile attack against Israel, which went through Saturday night into Sunday and were in retaliation for Israel's bombing of its consulate in Syria on April 1. The director for Western Europe at Iran's foreign ministry accused the three countries of "double standards" as they op-



posed earlier this month a Russian-drafted U.N. Security Council statement that would have condemned Israel's attack on Iran's embassy compound in Syria.

"Iran's military action against the Zionist regime's (Israel) bases is well within the framework of the right to legitimate defence stipulated in Article

51 of the United Nations Charter and it is in response to a series of crimes, including the recent attack on the embassy compound in Syria," the official added. The G7, which includes France, Germany and the United Kingdom, is expected to hold a video call later on Sunday to discuss Iran's recent attack.

## G7 Leaders to Discuss Iranian Attack in Sunday Video Call

Page3News

• Rome / 14 April

Italy, which holds the rotating presidency of the G7, has called a video meeting of G7 leaders on Sunday to discuss Iran's attack on Israel late on Saturday.

The Iranian attack in response to a suspected Israeli air strike on Iran's embassy compound in Damascus on April 1 has raised the threat of a wider regional conflict.

"We express our deep concern about a further destabilisation of the situation in the region and continue to work to avoid that," Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said on social media platform X.

The G7 call will be held in the early afternoon European time, an Italian gov-



ernment statement said.

U.S. President Joe Biden has pledged a coordinated G7 diplomatic response to the drone and missile attack, which he condemned, and Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani said he hoped that the Israeli government shows restraint in its response.

"I hope that the Israeli gov-

ernment will adopt a cautious line. I hope that there will be no counterattack to the counterattack," Tajani told radio station RTL 102.5. The G7 groups the United States, Canada, Italy, Britain, France, Germany and Japan. Its foreign ministers are scheduled to meet over April 17-19 on the Italian island of Capri.

## Israel Reopens Airspace as Airlines Cancel Flights Due to Iran Attacks

Page3News

• Jerusalem / 14 April

Israeli airlines said operations were returning to normal on Sunday after an overnight attack by Iranian missiles and drones closed the airspace and led to flight cancellations. Israel reopened its airspace as of 7:30 a.m. (0430 GMT) on Sunday, adding that flight schedules from Tel Aviv were expected to be affected and travellers should check flight times before going to Ben Gurion International Airport.

Flag carrier El Al said it had resumed operations and was "working to stabilise the flight schedule as

soon as possible". "El Al will continue to operate as much as possible to preserve the air bridge to and from Israel," it said.

The airline had cancelled 15 flights to Europe, Dubai and Moscow scheduled for Sunday while flights that had taken off from Bangkok and Phuket were forced to return. Smaller Israeli carrier Arkia said it was in the process of making adjustments to its flight schedule after initially postponing flights to Athens, Milan and Geneva.

According to the airports authority, most flights of foreign carriers have been delayed, including

Sunday flights to London by Wizz Air, to New Delhi by Air India, to Madrid by Iberia and to Marseille by Air France.

El Al's flights to London, Frankfurt, Berlin, Bucharest, Athens, Paris and Rome and Ethiopian Airline's flight to Addis Ababa were able to take off. Flights into Israel were also disrupted.

Abu Dhabi-based Etihad Airways cancelled flights to Jordan and Israel on Sunday, the airline said in a statement.

Swiss International Air Lines has suspended flights to and from Tel Aviv until further notice, the airline said in a post on social media platform X on

Sunday.

Swiss, which is owned by German carrier Lufthansa, said all of its planes were avoiding the airspaces of Iran, Iraq and Israel, causing delays to flights from India and Singapore.

Jordan, Iraq and Lebanon reopened their airspaces on Sunday after closing them late on Saturday.

United Airlines cancelled Saturday's planned flight from Newark to Tel Aviv due to restrictions on Israeli airspace, the airline said in a statement.

United is the only major U.S. airline to have resumed flights to Israel since the attacks by Hamas on Israel in October last year.

## Jordan Says It Intercepted Flying Objects That Entered Its Airspace

Page3News

• Cairo / 14 April

Jordan intercepted some flying objects that entered its airspace on Saturday night to ensure the safety of its citizens, a cabinet statement said on Sunday. Iran launched explosive drones and fired missiles at Israel late on Saturday - its first direct attack on Israeli territory in a retaliatory strike that raises the threat of wider regional conflict.

Jordan, which lies between Iran and Israel, had readied air defences to intercept any drones or missiles that violated its territory, two regional secu-



rity sources said.

"Some shrapnel fell in multiple places during that time without causing any significant damage or any injuries to citizens," the Jordan cabinet statement added.

U.S. and British warplanes were involved in shooting down some of the Israel-bound drones over the Iraq-Syria border area, Israel's Channel 12 reported.

# Most of the Iranian Drones Over Syria Were Downed by Israel, US, Intelligence Sources Say

Page3News

• Amman / 14 April

Most of the Iranian drones flying over Syria's airspace during Tehran's strikes overnight were downed by Israeli and U.S. jets before reaching their targets in Israel, two Western intelligence sources said on Sunday.

They told Reuters the aerial interceptions shot down dozens of missiles and drones fired by Iran that flew above southern Syria in the Deraa province, the Syrian Golan Heights and several locations in eastern Syria along the border with Iraq.

U.S. air defences operated from the U.S. base in al-Tanf, as well as along the Jordanian border and in eastern Syria, where Washington maintains hundreds of troops in several air bases, one source said.

He could not confirm whether



U.S. military aircraft and defence destroyers deployed in the Middle East were used in

what he described as a "highly prepared" response based on accurate intelligence on both

the timing of Iran's retaliation and its scope, using a swarm of drones and missiles.

Iran launched its attack in response to a suspected Israeli airstrike on its embassy compound in Damascus on April 1 that killed officers of the elite Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corp. Israel has neither confirmed nor denied responsibility for the attack. The Pantsir air defence systems that Iran operates from several air bases inside Syria were ineffective in downing any Israeli aircraft, both sources added, without giving further details. A regional intelligence source said U.S. air defences also helped Jordan to down at least a dozen drones and missiles that were flying over the country towards Jerusalem. Iranian drones that came from the direction of Iraq and flew over southern Jordan and the city of Aqaba that were heading to Israel's Eilat port were also intercepted, he added.

## Somali Pirates Say Hijacked Ship MV Abdullah Released After \$5 Million Ransom Paid

Page3News

• Somalia / 14 April

Somali pirates released a hijacked ship, MV Abdullah, and its crew of 23 early on Sunday after a \$5 million ransom was paid, according to two pirates.

"The money was brought to us two nights ago as usual... we checked whether the money was fake or not. Then we divided the money into groups and left, avoiding the government forces," Abdirashiid Yusuf, one of the pirates, told Reuters. He added the ship had been released with all its crew. Somalia government officials did not respond to a request for comment. The MV Abdullah, a Bangladesh-flagged bulk carrier - a type of merchant ship

used to transport large amounts of cargo - was hijacked in March as it was heading from Mozambique to the United Arab Emirates. The hijacking happened about 600 nautical miles east of Somalia's capital Mogadishu. Somali pirates caused chaos in the waters off the country's long coastline from about 2008 to 2018. They had been dormant until late last year when pirate activity started to pick up again. Maritime sources say pirates may be encouraged by a relaxation of security or may be taking advantage of the chaos caused by attacks on shipping by Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi group while war rages in Gaza between Israel and the Palestinian militant group Hamas.

# Israel Hails 'Success' in Blocking Iran's Unprecedented Attack

Page3News

• Tel Aviv / 14 April

Israel on Sunday hailed its successful air defenses in the face of an unprecedented attack by Iran, saying it and its allies thwarted 99% of the more than 300 drones and missiles launched toward its territory. But regional tensions remain high, amid fears of further escalation in the event of a possible Israeli counter-strike. U.S. President Joe Biden said he would convene a meeting of the Group of Seven advanced democracies on Sunday "to coordinate a united diplomatic response to Iran's brazen attack." The language indicated that the Biden administration does not want to spiral into a broader military conflict. A top U.S. official

said the U.S. had informed Israel it does not plan on striking Iran itself. Iran launched the attack in response to a strike widely blamed on Israel on an Iranian consular building in Syria earlier this month which killed two Iranian generals. Israel said Iran launched 170 drones, more than 30 cruise missiles and more than 120 ballistic missiles. By Sunday morning, Iran said the attack was over and Israel reopened its air space. The two foes have for years been engaged in a shadow war marked by incidents like the Damascus strike. But Sunday's assault, which set off air raid sirens across Israel, was the first time Iran has launched a direct military assault on Israel, despite decades of enmity dating back to the coun-

try's 1979 Islamic Revolution. Israel has over the years established - often with the help of the United States - a multilayered air-defense network that includes systems capable of intercepting a variety of threats including long-range missiles, cruise missiles, drones and short-range rockets. That system, along with collaboration with the U.S. and others, helped thwart what could have been a far more devastating assault at a time when Israel is already bogged down in its war against Hamas in Gaza and engaged in low-level fighting on its northern border with Lebanon's Hezbollah militia. Both Hamas and Hezbollah are backed by Iran. Israeli and U.S. officials lauded the response to the aerial assault. "Iran

launched more than 300 threats and 99% were intercepted," said Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, the Israeli military spokesman. "That is a success." Asked if Israel would respond, Hagari said the country would do what was needed to protect its citizens. Hagari said that none of the drones and cruise missiles reached Israel and that only a few of the ballistic missiles got through. He said that of the cruise missiles, 25 were shot down by the Israeli air force.

Hagari said minor damage was caused to an Israeli airbase, but he said it was still functioning. Rescuers said a 7-year-old girl was seriously wounded in southern Israel, apparently in a missile strike, though they said police were still investigating the circumstances of her injuries.

## More Civilians Die in Ukraine as a Think Tank Warns Delays in US Aid Will Hamper Kyiv's Forces

Page3News

• Kyiv / 14 April

More civilians died across Ukraine Sunday as analysts warned that delays in U.S. military assistance would see Kyiv struggle to fight off Russian offensives. One man was Sunday killed after a Russian drone hit the truck he was driving in the Sumy region, the local prosecutor's office said. Officials in the Kharkiv region also said Sunday that they had retrieved the bodies of a 61-year-old woman and a 68-year-old man killed by a Russian strike the previous day. Ten Russian Shahed-type drones were shot down over the Kharkiv region overnight, the Ukrainian Air Force said Sunday. Meanwhile, shelling in the Russian-occupied Kherson region killed two civilians Sunday,

said Moscow-installed leader Vladimir Saldo. Ukrainian drones were also reported in Russia's Krasnodar and Belgorod regions and over the Black Sea, the Russian Defense Ministry said. The news came as Washington-based think tank the Institute for the Study of War warned that delays in Western military assistance would increasingly hamper Ukraine's ability to fight back Russian advances. With the war in Ukraine entering its third year and a vital U.S. aid package for Kyiv stuck in Congress, Russia has used its edge in firepower and personnel to step up attacks across eastern Ukraine. It has increasingly used satellite-guided gliding bombs - dropped from planes from a safe distance - to pummel Ukrainian forces beset by a shortage of troops and am-

munition. In its report, the ISW said that Russian forces were prioritizing grinding, tactical gains with operational-level efforts focusing on the cities of Lyman, Chasiv Yar, and Pokrovsk. "The Russian military command likely assesses that Ukrainian forces will be unable to defend against current and future Russian offensive operations due to delays in or the permanent end of U.S. military assistance," the think tank said. Ukraine's military chief, Gen. Oleksandr Syrskiy, said Saturday that Ukraine's battlefield situation in the industrial east had "significantly worsened in recent days," as warming weather allowed Russian forces to launch a fresh push along several stretches of the more than 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) -long front line.

## Officer, Bystanders Hailed for Confronting and Stopping a Man Who Killed 6 at a Sydney Shopping Mall

Page3News

• Sydney / 14 April

A police officer and several bystanders are being hailed for running "towards danger" to confront the attacker who stabbed and killed six people at a suburban Sydney shopping center.

The shopping mall, one of the country's busiest and near the world-famous Bondi Beach, was a hub of activity on Saturday afternoon when 40-year-old Joel Cauchi used a knife to kill five women and one man. He also injured at least a dozen others, including a 9-month-old baby whose mother died during the attack, before a police officer shot him dead. New South Wales Police confirmed Sunday Cauchi had

a history of mental illness and investigators weren't treating the attack as terrorism-related. The number would have been far higher, according to NSW Premier Chris Minns who on Sunday praised "the ordinary members of the public that cornered and confronted a murderer in the Westfield Shopping Centre, showing what I would call instinctive bravery under terrible circumstances." Talking to reporters while standing outside the shopping mall, Minns underscored the role played by Inspector Amy Scott - the first emergency responder on the scene - who shot and killed Cauchi and has since been widely lauded as a hero. "(Scott)... ran towards danger and showed professionalism and brav-

ery and without a shadow of a doubt, saved many, many lives in the last 24 hours," he said. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese also praised Scott in a press conference in Canberra: "The wonderful inspector who ran into danger by herself and removed the threat that was there to others, without thinking about the risks to herself," he said. He commended "ordinary Australians putting themselves in harm's way in order to help their fellow citizens. That bravery was quite extraordinary that we saw yesterday." Video footage shared online showed many people fleeing, some carrying their children as they escaped while a knife-wielding Cauchi ran erratically through the shopping center, lunging at people.

# Israel Vows Victory and Iran Warns Against Retaliation After Attack

Page3News

• Jerusalem / 14 April

Iran warned Israel and the United States on Sunday of a "much larger response" if there is any retaliation for its mass drone and missile attack on Israeli territory overnight, as Israel said "the campaign is not over yet".

The threat of open warfare erupting between the arch Middle East foes and dragging in the United States has put the region on edge as Washington said America did not seek conflict with Iran but would not hesitate to protect its forces and Israel.

Iran launched the attack over a suspected Israeli strike on its consulate in Syria on April 1 that killed top Revolutionary Guards commanders and followed months of clashes between Israel and Iran's regional allies, triggered by the war in Gaza.

However, the attack from hundreds of missiles and drones, mostly launched from inside Iran, caused only modest damage in Israel as most were shot down with the help of the U.S., Britain and Jordan.

An Air Force base in southern Is-



rael was hit, but continued to operate as normal and a 7-year old child was seriously hurt by shrapnel. There were no other reports of serious damage.

"We intercepted, we repelled, together we shall win," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on social media

ahead of a planned 1230 GMT meeting of the war cabinet to discuss a response to the attack.

Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said despite thwarting the attack, the military campaign was not over and "we must be prepared for every scenario".

Israel's Channel 12 TV cited an unnamed Israeli official overnight as saying there would be a "significant response" to the attack.

Global powers Russia, China and France, as well as Arab states Egypt, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates urged re-

straint.

The Islamic Republic's mission to the United Nations said its actions were aimed at punishing "Israeli crimes", but that it now "deemed the matter concluded". Iranian army chief of staff Major General Mohammad Bagheri warned on television that "our response will be much larger than tonight's military action if Israel retaliates against Iran" and told Washington its bases could also be attacked if it helped Israel retaliate.

U.S. President Joe Biden said he would convene a meeting of leaders of the Group of Seven major economies on Sunday to coordinate a diplomatic response to what he called Iran's brazen attack.

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said America did not seek conflict with Iran but would not hesitate to act to protect U.S. forces and support the defence of Israel.

The U.N. Security Council was set to meet at 4 p.m. ET (2000 GMT) on Sunday after Israel requested it condemn Iran's attack and designate the Revolutionary Guards a terrorist organisation.

## Jordan PM Says Escalation in Region Would Lead to 'Dangerous Paths'



Page3News

• Amman / 14 April

AMMAN (Reuters) - Jordan's Prime Minister Bisher Khasawneh said on Sunday any escalation in the region would lead to "dangerous paths" and said that there was a need to reduce escalation by all parties. In remarks to the cabinet, Khasawneh said the

country's armed forces would confront any attempt by any party that sought to endanger the kingdom's security. The staunch U.S. ally's air defences intercepted and downed dozens of Iranian drones and missiles that flew over the country's airspace in the direction of Israeli targets, security sources said.

## Sudan's Uprooted Millions Pay Price for Year-Long War

Page3News

• Cairo / 14 April

After fleeing from the war in Sudan to Egypt, Mohamed Ismail says his ambitions are limited to putting food in the mouths of his five children from a meagre monthly salary of about \$100 earned at a paper factory in Giza.

One seven-year-old son sleeps in his arms because of the trauma of hearing explosions before they fled from the outskirts of the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, in January.

A year of war between Sudan's army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has driven more than 8.5 million people from their homes, creating the world's largest displace-



ment crisis and uprooting families multiple times as people struggle to escape to neighbouring countries with economic and security problems of their own.

Financial challenges have led some to return to the war-stricken capital.

"Being safe somewhere is

the most important thing," said Ismail, 42. "We're not even thinking about education because the economic situation doesn't allow that. As a parent that really impacts you, but we are helpless." Sudan's war erupted on April 15, 2023, over a planned political transition

under which the army, led by Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and the RSF, led by Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, known as Hemedti, were competing to protect their interests.

Fighting tore through the capital and unleashed waves of ethnically-driven violence in the western region of Darfur, before spreading to other areas including Gezira state, an important farming region that became an aid hub where many had sought refuge.

When the RSF entered the state's main city Wad Madani in December, looting and occupying neighbourhoods as they had done in the capital, many were uprooted for a second time.

## US to Announce Additional \$100 Million in Aid to Respond to Sudan Conflict

Page3News

• Washington / 14 April

The United States on Sunday will announce an additional \$100 million in aid to respond to the conflict in Sudan, according to a statement seen by Reuters, as Washington seeks to spur international response ahead of Monday's anniversary of the war.

U.S. Agency for International Development Administrator Samantha Power in the statement said the additional funding, first reported by Reuters, would go toward emergency food assistance, nutrition support and other life-saving aid. Power is also set to call on the warring parties to stop hindering humanitarian

access and participate in "good faith negotiations to reach a ceasefire" in order to prevent famine and further suffering, according to the statement.

"A year ago tomorrow, the people of Sudan awoke to a nightmare," Power said. "The warring sides turned bustling neighborhoods into battle zones, killing thousands, leaving bodies in the streets, and trapping civilians in their homes without adequate food, water, and medicines."

War erupted in Sudan on April 15, 2023, between the Sudanese army and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), devastating the country's infrastructure.

Thousands of civilians

have been killed, although death toll estimates are highly uncertain, and both sides have been accused of committing war crimes.

The war has pushed millions into extreme hunger, created the world's largest displacement crisis, and triggered waves of ethnically driven killings and sexual violence in the Darfur region of western Sudan. Washington's announcement of further assistance comes ahead of a humanitarian conference in France on April 15. The U.S. has urged partners around the world to put greater priority on the conflict in Sudan and step up with further funding at the conference.

## Cyprus Suspends Syrian Asylum Applications as It Struggles With Arrivals Spike

Page3News

• Nicosia / 14 April

Cyprus has suspended the processing of asylum applications from Syrians following a sharp increase in irregular arrivals this month, authorities said on Sunday.

More than 1,000 people have arrived in Cyprus on boats from Lebanon since the start of April amid deepening tensions in the Middle East. It has triggered calls from Nicosia to its European Union partners to do more to assist Lebanon, as well as reconsider the status of war-torn Syria, which is at present considered unsafe to repatriate asylum seekers.

"This is an emergency measure, it's a difficult



decision to protect the interests of Cyprus," Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides told reporters.

Cyprus, the EU's easternmost state and the closest to the Middle East, lies about 160 km (100 miles) west of the shores of Lebanon or Syria. It recorded more than 2,000

arrivals by sea in the first three months this year, compared to just 78 over the same period in 2023.

In practice, the measure means asylum seekers will be confined to two reception camps offering food and shelter, with no other benefit. Those who choose to leave those facilities will automatically forfeit any kind of benefit, and will not be allowed to work, government sources said.

Christodoulides visited Lebanon last week, and is liaising with the European Commission on how Brussels could assist Beirut in halting the flows. Lebanon, in the throes of a deep financial crisis, hosts hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees.