World News

IRAN

Iranians show their support for the attack

Iran fires missiles at Israel

Tensions have risen in the Middle East following Iran's first ever official attack on Israeli territory. On the night of Saturday 13 April, 300 drones and missiles were fired towards Israel from Iran, Iraq, Syria and Yemen. Nearly all of them were shot down before they reached Israel, with the help of forces from the UK, USA, France and Jordan. Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said his country's attack was launched in "self-defence". He blames Israel for an air strike on an Iranian government building in Syria on 1 April that killed 13 people. Israel's chief of staff says Iran's attack won't go unanswered, but Mr Raisi said any action against Iran will be met with a "severe, extensive and painful response". The UK, USA and countries across Europe have appealed for cool heads. UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak called Iran's attack "reckless" and said: "We'll be working with our allies to de-escalate [calm] the situation."
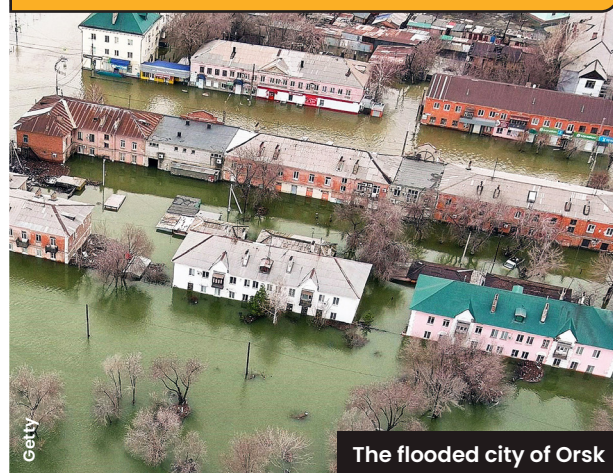
GERMANY

Gallery employee fired for hanging own art

A man in Germany has been fired from the art gallery he worked at, after owners discovered he'd hung his own artwork in an exhibition. The 51-year-old budding artist decided to drill two holes in a wall at Munich's Pinakothek der Moderne and hang up his painting for all to see. Supervisors quickly spotted the unusual piece and took it down. The man has been banned from the gallery now.

Pinakothek der Moderne

RUSSIA

The flooded city of Orsk

Highest ever levels of flooding recorded

Thousands of people in the region of Orenburg have been evacuated from their homes, as officials say flooding has reached the highest level ever recorded. More than 10,000 homes are believed to be underwater, as levels rise to more than nine metres high. Local authorities have said it's an emergency. The area has experienced particularly bad flooding due to melting snow from the Ural Mountains, with water levels in the Ural River reaching a historical peak of 10.87 metres. Floods have also hit neighbouring country Kazakhstan.

BAHRAIN

Prisoners are reunited with their family and friends

King releases political prisoners

Bahrain's king has released more than 1,500 prisoners, including many who were jailed for political reasons. King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa surprised campaigners when he announced the move, with the US embassy particularly happy that some of its citizens may be able to return home to their families. Amnesty Bahrain said: "This is a welcome step. Many of [the prisoners] should not have been imprisoned in the first place." Lots of the prisoners have been held in Jau prison and can get medical help they need now.

MYANMAR

More people living in poverty

The amount of people in Myanmar who are living in poverty is rising, with the middle class "disappearing", says a new report by the UN Development Programme. Three-quarters of the country's population is either living in poverty or "perilously close" to the national poverty line. The report polled more than 12,000 households and many said they're struggling to get basic healthcare. Families are also having to pull their children out of school because they can't afford it. Conflict has caused many problems in the country – a rebellion in 2021 saw power seized from the government and handed to the military.

People queue to buy cheap vegetable oil

AUSTRALIA

Flowers are laid for the victims

Sydney's tribute to mall victims

A black ribbon was beamed onto the Sydney Opera House and the flags atop the city's Harbour Bridge were lowered to half mast in tribute to one man and five women who were killed by a knifeman at the Westfield shopping centre in the seaside suburb of Bondi. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese was among those who laid flowers at the centre. The attacker, Joel Cauchi, was shot and killed by police. Authorities say Cauchi had mental health issues, and suspect he was targeting women.