

1791

Long-distance communication speeds up with the unveiling of a semaphore machine in Paris

1796

Napoléon Bonaparte is appointed Commander-in-Chief of the French Army in Italy



1888

The Convention of Constantinople signed, guaranteeing free maritime passage through the Suez Canal during war and peace

1946

Ho Chi Minh elected President of North Vietnam

1970

White government of Rhodesia declares itself a republic

Train crash kills dozens in Greece

Transport minister resigns after train crash kills at least 36 near central city of Larissa



Police and emergency crews search the debris of a crushed wagon after a train accident in the Tempi Valley near Larissa, Greece

"It was the train of terror," Pavlos Aslanidis, whose son is missing along with a friend, told reporters.

Greece's transport minister submitted his resignation just hours after the accident.

"When something so tragic happens, we cannot continue as if nothing had happened," Kostas Karamanlis said in a public statement.

Years of safety concerns

The passenger train, carrying over 350 people, had been travelling from the capital Athens to the northern city of Thessaloniki.

The 59-year-old station master of Larissa was arrested several hours after the accident and charged with negligent homicide.

Government spokesman Yiannis Economou said the two trains were left running on the same track for "several kilometres."

But train unionists said the station master was likely a scapegoat as the safety shortcomings of the Athens-Thessaloniki railway line had been known for years.

In an open letter in February, train staff said track safety systems were incomplete and poorly maintained.

A safety supervisor had re-



When something so tragic happens, we cannot continue as if nothing had happened

KOSTAS KARAMANLIS, MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT

signed last year, warning that infrastructure upgrades pending since 2016 were incomplete and that train speeds of up to 200 kilometres an hour were unsafe.

"We will do whatever we can so that nothing like this ever happens again," Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, who was expected to announce an early election date next week, said at the scene.

'Complete panic'

Health Minister Thanos Plevris said most passengers were "young people", with the train carrying many students returning to Thessaloniki after a long holiday weekend.

"It was a nightmare... I'm still shaking," 22-year-old passenger Angelos said.

"Fortunately we were in the penultimate car and we got out alive. There was a fire in the first cars and complete panic."

"The collision was like a huge earthquake."

"I was stained with blood from

YOU KNOW WHAT

train unionists said the station master was likely a scapegoat as the safety shortcomings of the Athens-Thessaloniki railway line had been known for years. In an open letter in February, train staff said track safety systems were incomplete and poorly maintained

other people who were injured near me," a passenger named Lazos told the newspaper Proto Thema.

Some 150 firefighters and 40 ambulances were mobilised for the response, according to Greek emergency services.

Crews were still struggling to lift one of the smashed carriages, lying on its side, to enable a search inside, Iliopoulos said.

"My thoughts are with the people in Greece this morning," tweeted the head of the European

Council, Charles Michel.

"Shocked by the news and images of the collision of the two trains," he added.

Neighbouring Albania, Italy, Serbia and Turkey were among states to send condolences, as did France, Russia, Ukraine, Germany, and the Vatican.

Nicosia said two Cypriots were among the missing.

'Windows exploded'

On the local media site Onlarissa, a young woman said that the train "was stopped for a few minutes when we heard a deafening noise".

Another passenger told Skai TV that "the windows suddenly exploded. People were screaming."

"Fortunately, we were able to open the doors and escape fairly quickly. In other wagons, they did not manage to get out, and one wagon even caught fire," he added.

The president of the train drivers' union Kostas Genidounias told AFP from the scene that the accident "would have been avoided if the safety systems were working".

An emergency government meeting was organised after the crash and military hospitals in Thessaloniki and Athens have been put on standby.

Authorities have declared three days of national mourning.

Rescue operations to be held in Turkey after earthquake



Rescue workers with rescue workers as he visits the site (file photo)

There were shortcomings, disruptions and delays but we... rushed to help earthquake survivors with all our might. We are not hiding behind excuses

RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN

do what is necessary on May 14." A delegation from Turkey's Higher Election Board started a mission on Monday to the quake zone to report on the voters' situation and election security.

Erdogan's government has come under fire for failing to deploy sufficient humanitarian aid and relief teams in several locations in the days following the earthquake.

Survivors in several provinces told AFP they had to pull out people with their bare hands, and complained of the absence of help in initial days.

Nigeria ruling party candidate Tinubu wins presidency in disputed election

AFP | Lagos

Ruling party candidate Bola Tinubu won Nigeria's highly disputed weekend election yesterday, securing the former Lagos governor his lifelong ambition of the presidency of Africa's most populous democracy.

With President Muhammadu Buhari stepping down after two terms, many Nigerians hoped Saturday's vote would usher in a leader capable of tackling the country's widening insecurity, economic malaise and growing poverty.

Tinubu, candidate for All Pro-



All Progressives Congress presidential candidate Bola Tinubu (C-L) and his wife Oluremi Tinubu (C-R) arrive to vote at a polling station in Lagos (file photo)

gressives Congress (APC) party, Democratic Party (PDP) candidate Atiku Abubakar and 6.1 million for opposition Peoples

million for Labour Party's Peter



This is a serious mandate -- I hereby accept it. To serve you... To work with you and make Nigeria great

BOLA TINUBU

Obi, according to final results.

The Independent National Electoral Commission, or INEC, confirmed Tinubu as president-elect after he also secured the required 25 percent of votes in two-thirds of Nigeria's 36 states and capital.

Britain's Prince Harry loses home on royal estate: reports

AFP | London

Prince Harry and his wife Meghan are being evicted from their home on the British royal family's Windsor estate, leaving them without a UK base, reports said yesterday.

Frogmore Cottage, which they refurbished at a reported cost of £2.4 million (\$2.9 million), had been a wedding present from the late Queen Elizabeth II in 2018.

It has now been offered to Prince Andrew, King Charles III's disgraced brother, reports in The Sun and Daily Telegraph said.

Harry and Meghan, also known as the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, were reportedly told to vacate the property in January just days after the pub-



Britain's Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex arrive to attend a roundtable discussion at Windsor Castle (file photo)

lication of the prince's tell-all memoir "Spare".

Charles, who has long favoured a slimmed down monarchy, is currently undertaking an overhaul of funding.

A possible axing of Andrew's £250,000-a-year grant could see

him forced out of his current residence, the 30-room Royal Lodge, also on the Windsor estate, due to its massive upkeep costs.

Harry and Meghan moved to California in 2020 after dramatically quitting royal life.



Harry and Meghan were reportedly told to vacate the property in January just days after the publication of the prince's tell-all memoir "Spare"

Since then, they have taken part in a string of projects -- from an interview with Oprah Winfrey to a Netflix documentary -- airing grievances about their experiences as members of the British royal family.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



I just concluded a very productive meeting with @mohamedshia , Prime Minister of Iraq. As I told him, I am here to underscore the commitment of the @UN to support Iraq in advancing peace, human rights, and sustainable development for all Iraqis.

@antoniogeterres

02



My thoughts are with the people of Greece after the terrible train accident that claimed so many lives last night near Larissa. The whole of Europe is mourning with you. I also wish for a speedy recovery for all the injured.

@vonderleyen

03



We've spurred the most equitable recovery in history, with Black unemployment near record lows. Now we're building an economy that's stronger, more resilient, and benefits all Americans.

@POTUS

04



Periodic reminder to try using Twitter Lists. Will greatly improve your experience.

@elonmusk

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