

1492

Christopher Columbus learns how to grow and harvest maize (corn) from Cuba's indigenous population



1556

Second Battle of Panipat: Hindu Emperor of north India Hem Chandra Vikramaditya defeated by forces of Mughal Emperor Akbar, who captures and later beheads Hem Chandra

1937

Adolf Hitler informs his military leaders in a secret meeting of his intentions of going to war

1956

Britain and France land airborne forces at Port Said in Egypt, escalating the Suez Crisis

Thousands march in London pro-Palestinian rally



Demonstrators take part in a protest inside Charing Cross station in London
AFP | London

Thousands of pro-Palestinian protesters gathered in London yesterday to call for a ceasefire in Gaza amid ongoing bombardments by Israel after the deadly Hamas attack on its territory on October 7.

It was the fourth consecutive week that the British capital was the venue for a large rally in support of Palestinians since the attack by Hamas last month.

At the rally, held in Trafalgar Square in central London, protesters waved Palestinian flags and held placards calling for an immediate ceasefire.

One group of protesters held a bundle of fabric, representing a dead baby killed during the Israeli bombing campaign.

Sama Dababneh, 26, a Jordanian business consultant who came to the rally with her Palestinian friends, said they were tired of the stream of upsetting images coming from Gaza.

"We came here to support the ceasefire," she said.

"We spend the whole week consuming the news and this is very draining, so this is our only form of outlet."

London's Metropolitan Police

estimate that around 30,000 attended the rally in central London yesterday.

The force said it had arrested 11 people, including one for displaying a placard that could incite hatred.

Pro-Palestinian groups say they are planning to march in Britain's capital yesterday November 11, Armistice Day, to demand an immediate ceasefire in the conflict between Israel and Hamas.

On Friday British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said that planning protests for November 11, a day of remembrance for soldiers killed in the two world wars and subsequent conflicts, would be "provocative and disrespectful".

There was a clear and present risk that the Cenotaph and other war memorials could be desecrated in a protest, something which would "be an affront to the British public and the values we stand for," he said.

Dababneh said she would be one of those protesting on Armistice Day.

"I am coming for sure," she said. "What is happening in Palestine shows that we didn't learn anything from what happened before."

Earthquake

life and extensive damage

"Some roads had been blocked by damage, but we are trying to reach the area through alternate routes."

Dozens of survivors with fractures and head injuries were raced for treatment to a hospital in Nepalgunj, a small city near the Indian border.

"It came when we were sleeping," Kamala Oli, a woman cradling her infant child at a hospital treating survivors, told AFP.

"There were three of us in the house. Only two of us lived," she added, without giving further details.

Nepali Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal arrived at the site of the quake yesterday after expressing his "deep sorrow over the human and physical damage".

"The government is serious about providing relief to victims and treating the injured," he said.

Neighbouring India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was "deeply saddened" by the loss of lives.

"India stands in solidarity with the people of Nepal and is ready to extend all possible assistance,"

he added.

Nepal lies on a major geological faultline where the Indian tectonic plate pushes up into the Eurasian plate, forming the Himalayas, and earthquakes are a regular occurrence.

Nearly 9,000 people died and more than 22,000 were injured in 2015 when a 7.8-magnitude quake struck Nepal, destroying more than half a million homes.

It damaged or destroyed nearly 8,000 schools, leaving almost one million children without classrooms.

Hundreds of monuments and royal palaces -- including the Kathmandu Valley's UNESCO World Heritage sites -- that had drawn visitors from around the world were destroyed in a major blow to tourism.

Six people also died in November last year when a 5.6-magnitude earthquake struck Doti district, near Jajarkot.

Friday's quake was followed several hours later by an aftershock in the same area with a 4.0 magnitude, the US Geological Survey said.

Ukraine's Zelensky denies war with Russia at 'stalemate'

AFP | Kyiv

President Volodymyr Zelensky denied yesterday that Ukraine's war with Russia had reached a "stalemate", pushing back at suggestions Western leaders were lobbying for peace talks.

The sprawling frontline between the two warring sides has barely moved in almost a year, with one senior Ukrainian official warning this week that the conflict was deadlocked.

"Time has passed, people are tired... But this is not a stalemate," Zelensky told a press conference in Kyiv with EU Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen.

The Ukrainian leader also rejected the idea Western countries were putting pressure on him to enter negotiations with Russia, amid reports US and EU officials had spoken to Kyiv about what such talks would entail.

"No one among our partners is pressuring us to sit down with Russia, talk to it, and give it something," he said.

With the war now in its 20th month and Ukraine struggling to gain ground in its counter-



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky (L) greets EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen (R) at the railway station in Kyiv

"Time has passed, people are tired... But this is not a stalemate"
VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY

offensive, Zelensky has routinely met Western leaders in a bid to stave off fatigue with the conflict.

Zelensky said the war between Israel and Hamas had also drawn attention away from Ukraine, and said that this was

"Russia's goal".

"Of course, it's clear that the war in the Middle East, this conflict, is taking away the focus," Zelensky said.

"We have already been in very difficult situations when there was almost no focus on Ukraine," he said, but added: "I am absolutely sure we will overcome this challenge."

Ukraine's backers, including the United States, have maintained they are ready to support Kyiv with military and financial support for as long as it takes to defeat Russia.

Floods in Ethiopia kill over 20, displace thousands

AFP | Nairobi

More than 20 people have died and over 12,000 others have been forced out of their homes in Ethiopia's Somali region due to flash flooding triggered by torrential rains, the regional government said yesterday.

Bridges and roads have been destroyed by the downpour, making it difficult to reach affected households, the Somali Regional State Communication Bureau said in a statement, with damage to livestock, crops and



Rescuers search for people trapped during a flood

property also reported.

"More than 20 people have died in the flood so far... more than 12,000 families have been

displaced," the statement said.

"Rising rainfall and forecasts show that the risk of flooding remains high."

The UN's humanitarian agency, OCHA, said last month that eastern Africa would likely encounter heavier than normal rains over the October-December period because of the El Nino phenomenon.

El Nino is a naturally occurring pattern associated with increased heat worldwide, as well as drought in some parts of the world and heavy rains elsewhere.

Sudan shelling kills 15, RSF claims gains in Darfur

AFP | Wad Madani

At least 15 civilians in Khartoum were killed yesterday "when shells fell on their homes", a medical source said, as paramilitary fighters battling Sudan's army claimed gains in Darfur.

The victims' bodies were taken to Al-Nau hospital in Omdurman, a district of greater Khartoum, the medical source told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Fighting since April between the forces of army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and his former deputy Mohamed Hamed Daglo, who commands the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), has raged in heavily populated areas.

The struggle between the rival generals has crippled essential services in Sudan and razed entire neighbourhoods of the capital and the vast western region of Darfur.

In nearly seven months of war, more than 10,400 people have been killed, according to a conservative estimate from



A walks past a devastated market area in al-Fasher, the capital of Sudan's North Darfur state

the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project.

The United Nations says the violence has forced more than 6 million people to flee, both within and outside Sudan.

Representatives of the warring sides are currently in the Saudi city of Jeddah for negotiations mediated by Saudi Arabia and the United States, but the fighting back home has raged unabated.

For weeks, the RSF has been

advancing on army bases in Darfur, a region already scarred by decades of conflict and atrocities committed against civilians by armed groups including the RSF's predecessor, the Janjaweed militia.

Yesterday, the paramilitary force announced it had "liberated" an army base in El Geneina, the capital of West Darfur state where a communications blackout has raised fears of fresh horrors.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



The humanitarian situation in Gaza is horrific. I renew my appeals for a humanitarian ceasefire and the immediate release of all hostages. All those with influence must exert it to ensure respect for the rules of war, end the suffering and avoid a spillover of the conflict.

@antoniogetterres

02



The @xAI Grok AI assistant will be provided as part of X Premium+, so I recommend signing up for that. Just \$16/month via web.

@elonmusk

03



Russian bombs have destroyed so many schools. But the children of Ukraine must keep learning. The EU has donated 371 buses to bring Ukrainian children to schools further away, safely. @ZelenskaUA

@vonderleyen

04



Prime Minister @MBA_AIThani_ and I discussed the critical need to protect civilians and increase humanitarian aid for Palestinians. I expressed my gratitude for Qatar's work to secure the exit of U.S. citizens and foreign nationals from Gaza and release of hostages held by Hamas.

@SecBlinken

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