IN HISTORY

TODAY

Edward of Caernarfon (later Edward II) becomes the first English Prince of Wales





Battle of Debre Tabor: Ras Ali Alula, Regent of the Emperor of Ethiopia defeats warlord Wube Haile Maryam of Semien

TWEETS

01

Female genital muti-lation is a horrific &

harmful practice, and an

abhorrent human rights

violation. Let's redouble

efforts & investments

to uphold the rights of

women & girls every-

02

 $\mathbf{A}_{\mathrm{gyWeek,\ interacted}}^{\mathrm{t\ the\ }@\mathrm{IndiaEner-}}$

with top energy sector

CEOs. Highlighted the

wide range of opportu-

nities India offers in the

sector and reiterated our

commitment to boosting

reforms which will fur-

03

Tmet with Egyptian

President El-Sisi in

Cairo to discuss our ef-

forts to increase life-sav-

ing aid into Gaza and

secure the release of all hostages. We also dis-

cussed shared regional

stability objectives, in-

cluding halting threats to

Red Sea security by the

Houthis.

@narendramodi

ther growth.

@antonioguterres

where.

Colonial Tasmanian Parliament passes the 1st piece of legislation (the Electoral Act of 1856) anywhere in the world providing for elections by way of a secret ballot

The Maastricht Treaty is signed by 12 countries from the European Community (EC) to create the European Union (EU)

Biden confuses Macron with dead French president

AFP | Washington, United States

S President Joe Biden con-U fused his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron with France's long-dead former leader Francois Mitterrand, in a speech that went viral in video footage yesterday.

Addressing a campaign event Biden, Macron in Las Vegas on Sunday, the 81-year-old US leader described Macron's reaction to a speech at a G7 meeting in 2020.

As well as getting Macron's country he leads.

"And Mitterrand -- Macron, from Germany -- I mean, from said 'You know, what -- why -- how long you back for?" Biden said, according to a White House transcript.

Mitterrand was French president from 1981 to 1995, and died in 1996.

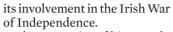
Video of Biden's mix-up has



shared hundreds of times. Biden has made similar public mistakes in the past, notably in September 2022 when he name wrong, he misstated the called on a deceased congresswoman at a conference she helped organize.

France looked at me and said, Where's Jackie? I think she was going to be here," he said, referring to Indiana representative Jackie Walorski, who had died a month earlier.

And in April last year, a White House transcript corrected Biden when he confused New Zea- ley on everything, but we agree land's All Blacks rugby team on this much: She is not Nancy been viewed thousands of times with the Black and Tans, a Brit- Pelosi," he had written in a post on X, formerly Twitter, and ish military force notorious for on X.



The transcript of his speech, given in a pub in Ireland, crossed out "Black and Tans" and inserted "All Blacks".

Biden's predecessor and probable opponent in the November presidential election, Donald Trump, made a similar gaffe last month, confusing his party rival Nikki Haley with former House speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Trump, 77, had falsely said Haley was in charge of security during the violent assault on the US Capitol on January 6, Jackie, are you here? 2021, prompting her to question his mental fitness during a campaign speech.

> Following Trump's gaffe, Biden also took the opportunity to make a dig at his potential

Kyiv says dismantled Russian spy ring

AFP | Kyiv, Ukraine

Ukraine yesterday said it had arrested five former and current intelligence officers it said were secretly working for Russia as part of a powerful spy ring.

Kyiv said the suspects were caught passing information to Ukraine neutralised a powersonal data and strategic energy facilities.



Representative picture "The security service of

about Ukrainian military sites, FSB's military counterintelli- tant energy facilities to repits defensive fortifications, per- gence which was operating in resentatives of the aggressor Ukraine," Kyiv's SBU securi- state's special services," the ty service said in a statement general prosecutor said.

Tuesday.

The general prosecutor said the five -- former employees of Ukraine's defence intelligence and its foreign intelligence units as well as a current SBU regional agent -- were arrested

"The suspects passed on intelligence about the Defence Russia's FSB security service ful agent network run by the Forces and strategically impor-



AFP | New Delhi, India

Azerbaijan Prepares for Historic **Presidential Elections Covering Entire** Territory, Including Karabakh Region

P.Unnikrishnan

TDT | Baku, Azerbaijan

In a significant milestone Lmarking the aftermath of the conflict, Azerbaijan is gearing up for its first-ever presidential elections covering the entire territory, including the strategically vital Karabakh region. Farid Shafiyev, the chairman of Analysis of International Relations in Azerbaijan, highlighted the historic nature of this electoral process during a press briefing held in Baku.

"This election holds international importance," Shafiyev in modern history since 1981, Azerbaijan has regained full control over its entire territory, including areas previously held by separatists. The upcoming presidential elections and legal milestone."

control over the entire region, tions with Armenia without the decision to hold elections third-party intervention. He stems from Azerbaijan's com- criticised Western media for mitment to stability and devel- alleged double standards and opment. Shafiyev explained, emphasised the need for Ar-"During the conflict, we fo- menia to focus on domestic cused on reclaiming control and ensuring security. Now, we are transitioning towards socio-cultural and economic development. Rebuilding the infrastructure and communities devastated by the war is our priority."

While progress has been conflict between Azerbaijan made in the peace agreement and Armenia. He cautioned with Armenia, specific points against attempts to portray the still need to be solved, includ- conflict along religious lines ing amendments to Armenia's and called for a nuanced unconstitution regarding resi- derstanding of the geopolitical dents' rights from the Karabdynamics. Journalists from more than akh region. Shafiyev highlighted discrepancies in Armenia's thirty countries are in Azerelectoral laws, which permit baijan to witness tomorrow's Karabakh residents to con- election process.



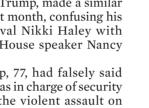
Farid Shafiyev, Chairman of Centre of Analysis of International **Relations, in Azerbaijan**

emphasised. "For the first time test elections without meeting residency requirements, a clause needs rectification for the peace agreement to be fulfilled.

Addressing concerns about international involvement in signify our nation's symbolic the peace process, Shafiyev expressed Azerbaijan's pref-Two years after restoring erence for direct negotiadevelopment rather than lobbying efforts.

'We have good relations with neighbouring countries like Georgia, and Armenia enjoys strong ties with nations like Iran," Shafiyev noted, dispelling notions of religious

on suspicion of treason.



presidential rival.

"I don't agree with Nikki Ha-

t least eight people died Aand 80 were injured Tuesday in a giant explosion at a firework factory in India that saw balls of flames soar into the sky, officials said.

Footage on Indian television showed a tower of flame after the explosion at the firecracker plant, with dozens of ambulances sent and army helicopters called in to evacuate the wounded.

Senior district police official Rajeshwari Mahobia told AFP there were "eight deaths so far and around 80 injured", at the Pradesh state, adding that "the death toll is likely to go up".

showed a wasteland of blackened and smoking rubble.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said reports of the explosion were "very sad news" and said medics at burn units in nearby major hospitals were called to make "necessary preparations".

"Ambulances are being



Rescue personnel and local residents gather near a firecracker plant following an explosion at Harda district in India's Madhya Pradesh state

factory in Harda in Madhya rushed to Harda from the sur- hospital, a total of 90 people rounding areas, and the army were admitted here so far and has been contacted to arrange Images from the factory site for helicopters," Yadav said in a bigger hospital," Sharma told a post on X, formerly Twitter. at the site, with 50 more being being brought here."

sent to help those injured, he added

the Harda district hospital, said the centre had been flooded with a stream of casualties.

we have referred 15 of them to AFP. "As more people are being At least 20 ambulances were rescued from the site, they are

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was "dis-Manish Sharma, a surgeon at tressed by the loss of lives", saying the government would give the families of those killed \$2,400 each in compensation, "We have eight deaths at our and \$600 to those injured.

@SecBlinken ŊΔ

 $2^{
m 00}$ million women and girls have undergone female genital mutilation. 4 million girls are at risk of this harmful practice each year. On the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation, we stand with survivors to hear their voices, to ensure they have the care they need, and to support their efforts to #EndFGM

@DrTedros

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

Myanmar's Suu Kyi in 'strong spirits', son tells

AFP | Bangkok, Thailand

usted Myanmar democ-Oracy figurehead Aung San Suu Kyi is in "strong spirits", her son told AFP yesterday after rewas detained in a coup three phone from London. vears ago.

Suu Kyi was detained on the all the family." morning of the February 2021 coup that ended a 10-year explunged the Southeast Asian nation into bloody turmoil.

The Nobel laureate, 78, has during court proceedings. since been jailed for more than 20 years by a junta court following what rights groups say was her from politics.

"She is in strong spirits as al- a tooth infection.

ways," Kim Aris said of the letter he received from his mother thanking him for a care package he had sent to her late last year. The letter received in early January was "the first real inceiving a letter from her -- their dication I've had... that she's first communication since she actually alive", he told AFP by

"She was sending her love to

Suu Kyi, who remains hugely popular in Myanmar, has been periment with democracy and largely hidden from view since the coup, appearing only in grainy state media photos taken

Local media reported during her months-long trial that Suu Kyi had suffered dizzy spells, a sham trial designed to remove vomiting and at times had been unable to eat because of