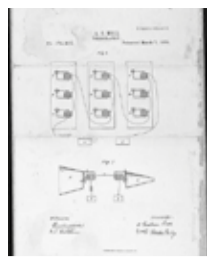


Roman Emperor Antoninus Pius dies and is succeeded by co-Emperors Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus, an unprecedented political arrangement in the Roman Empire

English King Henry VIII's divorce request is denied by the Pope



Alexander Graham Bell receives a patent for the telephone in the US

Roald Amundsen announces his discovery of the South Pole (located 14 December 1911)

Legislation to curb migrant boat arrivals

pressure has mounted on Prime Minister Rishi Sunak to tackle the situation.

The bill to be unveiled Tuesday includes measures facilitating the detention and deportation "as soon as reasonably practicable" of asylum seekers arriving in the country illegally, the Daily Mail reported on Monday.

According to the Mail, the legislation contains a "rights brake",

making asylum claims by those arriving on small boats inadmissible.

The government intends to send at least some deportees to Rwanda under a deal that was struck last year but which had never been applied after running into legal challenges.

People who arrived illegally would also be barred from returning to the UK for life.

Home Secretary Suella Braver-

man on Sunday defended the new legislation, saying in the Sun that Britain "must stop the boats".

"It has to be that if you come here illegally you will be detained and swiftly removed," she said.

"Our laws will be simple in their intention and practice -- the only route to the UK will be a safe and legal route."

Secretary for Northern Ireland Chris Heaton-Harris, meanwhile, said stemming the flow of mi-

grants across the English Channel also "involves proper conversations that are ongoing" with European countries to ensure would-be asylum seekers "are upheld in the first safe country that they come to".

Sunak has made stopping the boats a flagship promise ahead of general elections, for which the opposition Labour Party currently leads in the polls.

Saudi deposits \$5bn in quake-hit Turkey's central bank

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia said yesterday it was depositing \$5 billion in Turkey's central bank, a potentially major boost as the country grapples with inflation and damage from last month's earthquake ahead of presidential elections.

Ahmed Al Khateeb, the Saudi tourism minister and board chairman of the Saudi Fund for Development, signed an agreement with Turkish central bank governor Sahap Kavcioglu "to make a significant \$5 billion deposit", the Saudi government said in a statement.

"This deposit is a testament to the close cooperation and historical ties that exist between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Turkey and its brotherly people," the statement said.

The decision, which will shore up Turkey's foreign reserves and help it combat inflation, was made on the order of King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, it said.

Four Americans shot at, kidnapped in northeast Mexico: FBI

Washington, United States

Four American citizens were shot at and kidnapped by armed men after driving across the US border into northeastern Mexico, the FBI said Sunday.

The Americans crossed into Matamoros, in Tamaulipas state, on Friday, driving a white minivan with North Carolina license plates, the US Federal Bureau of Investigation said in a statement released by the US embassy in Mexico.

"Shortly after crossing into Mexico, unidentified gunmen fired upon the passengers in the (minivan). All four Americans were placed in a vehicle and taken from the scene by armed men," the FBI said.

Matamoros, located across the US border from Brownsville, Texas, has been beset by violence linked to drug trafficking and other organized crime.

Slide kills 10, 100 feared missing



by heavy rains in the Caringin area, in

According to officials.

"We've been updated that 50 people were missing, 15 dead people were evacuated," Natuna Search and Rescue Agency's head

Abdul Rahman told AFP, revising an earlier toll.

Riau Islands Disaster Mitigation Agency's spokesperson Junainah added that with the communication network in the affected area -- between Borneo island and peninsular Malaysia -- cut off, it was hard to get the latest information.

"The weather is unpredictable. The wind is strong and the waves are currently high," said the official, who like many Indonesians goes by one name.

A 60-person search and rescue team departed for the disaster-hit area from Penagi port in Natuna Island in the afternoon, BNPB spokesperson Abdul Muhari said in a statement on Monday evening.

Korea Japan announcement



st South Korea's announcement of plans to end wartime labour

reached a historic breakthrough," Biden said on Twitter.

"The United States stands with the people of both nations as we all move towards a safer, more

secure, and more prosperous future." Earlier, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Washington applauded Seoul and Tokyo "for their courage and vision, and call on the international community to join our commendation of this momentous achievement."

South Korea-Japan ties have long been strained over Tokyo's brutal 1910-45 colonial rule of the Korean peninsula.

Around 780,000 Koreans were conscripted into forced labor by Japan during the 35-year occupation, according to data from Seoul, not including women forced into sexual slavery by Japanese troops.

Seoul's plan is to take money from major South Korean companies that benefited from a 1965 reparations deal with Tokyo and use it to compensate victims.

S.African taxman say president's stolen dollars 'undeclared'



South African President Cyril Ramaphosa Johannesburg, South Africa

Tax authorities said yesterday they found no record of half-a-million dollars stolen from South Africa's president being declared at customs, rekindling a scandal threatening Cyril Ramaphosa.

The \$580,000 he has said was payment for 20 buffalo bought by a Sudanese businessman three years ago is at the centre of allegations that almost cost Ramaphosa his job and endanger his chances of securing a second term after next year's elections.

The businessman Hazim Mustafa confirmed he paid cash for animals in interviews with British media.

But the South African Revenue Services said in a statement that "after an extensive search", record of the money having been declared at customs -- as legally required -- "could not be found ... or may not be in existence".

The statement did not name Mustafa directly, referring instead to "a certain traveller".

The \$580,000 he has said was payment for 20 buffalo bought by a Sudanese businessman three years ago is at the centre of allegations that almost cost Ramaphosa his job

It was issued in response to an information request filed by the largest opposition party, the Democratic Alliance (DA), seeking to establish whether the Sudanese businessman had declared the sum upon entering South Africa.

The revelation adds to questions surrounding the 2020 cash theft from Ramaphosa's luxury farmhouse.

His spokesman Vincent Magwenya said, "The obligation to declare the money... was for the buyer to fulfil on arrival and not for the management of the farm during receipt of payment."

The scandal which erupted in June has tarnished Ramaphosa, who was championed as a graft-busting saviour after the corruption-tainted tenure of predecessor Jacob Zuma.

Ramaphosa has acknowledged \$580,000 in cash that was hidden beneath sofa cushions at his residence at the ranch was stolen, and has denied any wrongdoing.

"We now know that the president... had hidden dirty dollars, which had entered the country illegally," said the DA leader John Steenhuisen.

In December, Ramaphosa narrowly escaped a parliamentary vote that could have initiated proceedings to remove him from office over the affair.

Jailed for murder, convicted of indecent exposure

and murdered an innocent woman," one of his victims, a female cyclist, said in a statement to the court.

"There were opportunities to identify you and they were not taken. I did not feel that, when I reported your crime, it was taken as seriously as I felt that it should have been," she said.

"The horror of what happened will remain with me for the rest

of my life."

The cyclist was unable to confirm to police the registration number of Couzens' car after he stood and exposed himself to her on a country lane in Kent, south-east England.

But the car's details were captured fully on CCTV camera when he again exposed himself to female employees of a fast food restaurant, in the fortnight before he



British police officer Wayne Couzens, 48

attacked Everard.

Getting away with his sexual assaults had only fuelled "a dangerous belief in his invincibility", judge Juliet May said in her sentencing. Since the killing of Everard, other shocking cases involving London police officers have come to light.

David Carrick was jailed for life a month ago, with a minimum term of more than 30 years, for

dozens of rapes and sexual assaults stretching back to 2002.

Carrick and Couzens served at one point in the same armed unit protecting MPs and foreign diplomats.

The government has commissioned an independent inquiry to look into how the officers escaped detection, and London's Metropolitan Police force is pursuing a crackdown in its ranks.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Civil society, human rights defenders, people with disabilities, women and girls and young people around the world are already on the streets, demanding protection for all human rights, for everyone.

@antonio gutierrez

02



Sorry for turning Twitter from nurturing paradise into place that has ... trolls

@elonmusk

03



Technology is positively impacting lives and empowering citizens.

@narendramodi

04



Two of our closest allies, Japan and the Republic of Korea, have reached a historic breakthrough. The United States stands with the people of both nations as we all move towards a safer, more secure, and more prosperous future.

@POTUS

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