

1190

Third Crusade: Holy Roman Emperor Frederick I Barbarossa drowns while crossing the Saleph River (modern Turkey) leading an army to Jerusalem

1786

A landslide dam on the Dadu River caused by earthquake ten days earlier collapses, killing 100,000 in the Sichuan province of China

1977

Apple Computer ships its first Apple II computers



2003

The Spirit Rover is launched, beginning NASA's Mars Exploration Rover mission



# ern Ukraine tations build

on, amidst destructive flooding



The enemy is undertaking incredible efforts, attacks. In vain. Our forces are holding on. The front line is stable

ALEXANDER SLADKOV, A CORRESPONDENT FOR RUSSIAN MEDIA

pendent for Russian media, wrote on Telegram of "intense fighting" in the area.

"The enemy is undertaking incredible efforts, attacks. In vain. Our forces are holding on. The front line is stable," he wrote.

The information could not be independently verified.

Ukraine's army said only that "the adversary remains on the defensive" in Zaporizhzhia, in a Facebook post.

It said it destroyed four missiles and 10 drones, out of some 20 that Russia had fired at "military installations and critical infrastructure".

Russia said on Thursday that its forces had fought a two-hour bat-

tle with Ukrainian troops in the early hours in the Zaporizhzhia region, which neighbours the flood-hit areas.

Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said the Ukrainian offensive involved 1,500 soldiers and 150 armoured vehicles.

"The enemy was stopped and retreated after heavy losses," he said.

Ukrainian officials have said their forces are ready for a long-expected counteroffensive but that there would be no formal announcement when it begins.

Ukrainian Deputy Defence Minister Ganna Maliar said only that Russia was conducting "defensive actions" near the town of Orikhiv in the Zaporizhzhia region.

Parallel to the fresh fighting, the destruction of the major Russian-held dam on the Dnipro River on Tuesday left 600 square kilometres of the region under water.

Emergency services were racing to rescue people stranded by the flood-swollen waters of the Dnipro, which have forced thousands to flee.

## Macron says 'positive' news on children hurt in France knife attack



French President Emmanuel Macron (L) shakes hands Henri (2nd R), the 24-year-old known as the 'backpack hero', who suffered minor stab wounds as he tried to stop the fleeing suspect

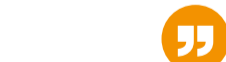
AFP | Paris

French President Emmanuel Macron yesterday said the health of the preschool children badly wounded in a mass knife attack by a Syrian refugee was "heading in the right direction", as police questioned the attacker.

Four children -- aged between 22 months and three years old -- were stabbed Thursday in a playground in the Alpine town of Annecy, a normally idyllic lakeside spot popular with tourists.

While France was in shock over the blood-curdling attack, there was a deluge of praise on social media for rescue workers and a man hailed as a hero for chasing the attacker out of the area.

Prosecutors insisted they did not see a terror motive, but the rampage intensified tensions in France over immigration, with right-wing politicians seizing on the suspect's origins.



Attacking children is the most barbaric act there is

EMMANUEL MACRON

Macron and his wife Brigitte arrived in the southeastern city of Grenoble, where three of the children are being treated, and are to visit those who have "contributed in helping and supporting them", the presidency said.

"Everything that I was told is heading in the right direction," he said in Annecy after visiting the wounded toddlers in hospital, adding that news on their condition was positive.

He added after the visit: "Attacking children is the most barbaric act there is" but also made clear his "pride" over the work of rescuers.

## Smoke from Canadian wildfires detected in Norway

AFP | Washington

Smoke from Canadian wildfires has been detected thousands of kilometres away in Norway this week, the Scandinavian country's Climate and Environmental Research Institute NILU said yesterday.

"Very weak" concentrations of smoke particles have been detected since Monday, in particular at the Birkenes observatory in southern Norway, researcher Nikolaos Evangelou told AFP.

Measurements have varied depending on the fires' intensity, wind direction and precipitation.

"We don't see serious peaks or large increases... so we don't see any environmental issue (in Norway) nor serious health hazards either," he added.

Larger and more powerful wildfires than ever have scorched some 3.8 million hectares of Canadian forests and displaced tens of thousands of residents in recent weeks.



Smoke from the West Kiskatinaw River and Peavine Creek wildfires in the Dawson Creek Zone, British Columbia, Canada

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The scale is unprecedented, with some 2,300 fires registered so far this year.

Southern Norway, like much of northern Europe, has also experienced an unusually dry spring and early summer so far.

In southern Norway, no rain has fallen for 16 days and none is forecast for the coming days.

A three-week ban on fires in open spaces was introduced on Thursday.

## UK former PM Johnson rewards Brexit allies with honours

AFP | London

Boris Johnson's long-awaited resignation honours list was published yesterday, with the British former leader rewarding his key Brexit allies and a hairdresser -- but not his father.

Rumours earlier this year that Stanley Johnson was in line for a knighthood, to make him "Sir Stanley", sparked outrage, and fresh claims of cronyism.



Boris Johnson

But Johnson senior's name was conspicuously left off the list.

British prime ministers routinely name close political as-

sociates and aides for honours when they leave office, and make appointments to the unelected upper chamber House of Lords.

Johnson's delayed list comes after he was forced out last July by a series of scandals, including Covid lockdown-breaking parties at Downing Street, and finally left in September.

The highest award was to Bill Cash, who will become a companion of honour.

## Trump indicted in classified documents probe

AFP | Washington

Donald Trump said Thursday he has been indicted over his handling of classified documents after leaving office, the US ex-president's most serious legal threat yet as a firestorm of criminal investigations imperil his bid for a second White House term.

"The corrupt Biden Administration has informed my attorneys that I have been Indicted, seemingly over the Boxes Hoax," Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform as he broke the bombshell news of a historic moment for the United States: the first time a sitting or former commander-in-chief has ever faced federal charges.

There was no immediate confirmation from the Justice Department regarding Trump's assertion.

A Trump attorney, Jim Trusty, told CNN his client has been indicted on seven charges including the willful retention of documents in violation of the Espionage Act, making false statements, obstruction of justice and a count of conspiracy.

Though the precise details of the charges were not immediately clear, people familiar with the matter told The New York Times the conspiracy charge was related to obstruction of justice.

In his post, Trump, who is running for president again, said he has been summoned to a federal courthouse in Miami next Tuesday -- the day before



Former US President arrives to a Team Trump Volunteer Leadership Training in Grimes, Iowa



In a defiant video released after he shared the news, Trump repeatedly declared his innocence and framed the indictment as a form of election interference by a Justice Department "weaponized" by Joe Biden's administration

his 77th birthday.

"I never thought it possible that such a thing could happen to a former President of the United States," he wrote.

His announcement came a day after US media said federal prosecutors had informed the

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DONALD TRUMP

former president's lawyers that he is the target of the probe into his handling of classified documents.

He was already the first former or sitting president to be charged with a crime -- in his case over election-eve hush money payments to a porn star who said she had an affair with him. That indictment was handed down by Manhattan's district attorney in March.



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



2.3 billion people -- over 1 in 4 -- use polluting fuels for cooking, leading to millions of deaths each year. This puts women and children particularly at greater risk of chronic diseases, while also contributing to climate change and perpetuating gender inequity. #AirPollution

@DrTedros

02



Amazing to see our @Europarl\_EN full of young people today in Strasbourg at the #EYE2023. 10,000 change-makers ready to regenerate our project. This is Europe @EuroparlEYE

@EP\_President

03



The people-to-people ties between The Bahamas and the United States are longstanding and as strong as ever.

@VP

04



We must keep telling the horrors of the Holocaust and never forget. Europe wouldn't be what it is today without Jewish culture, values and contributions to science. We will co-finance a new section at @yadvashem on Jewish life in Europe before the Shoah.

@vonderleyen

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