

330

Newly built city of Constantinople (Byzantium) dedicated, becomes the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire

1189

Holy Roman Emperor Frederick I Barbarossa and 100,000 crusaders depart Regensburg for the Third Crusade



1751

Pennsylvania Hospital founded by Dr. Thomas Bond and Benjamin Franklin, in Philadelphia

1995

More than 170 countries agree to extend the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty indefinitely and without conditions to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons

Demanded in prompts riots

building was set on fire in Lahore.

Internet cut, exams cancelled

Confrontation with military

Khan's arrest came hours after the military rebuked him for alleging that a senior officer had been involved in a plot to kill him.

Pakistan politicians have frequently been arrested and jailed since the country's founding in 1947, but few have so directly challenged a military that has staged at least three coups and ruled for more than three decades.

Criticism of the military establishment is rare in Pakistan, where army chiefs hold significant influence over domestic politics and foreign policy, and have long been accused of interfering in the rise and fall of governments.

"The senior army leadership is uninterested in repairing the rift between itself and Khan," said Michael Kugelman, director of the South Asia Institute at the Wilson Center.

"So with this arrest it's likely sending a message that the gloves are very much off."

The interior ministry had ordered mobile internet services cut and restricted access to social media sites Twitter, Facebook and YouTube, the country's communications agency said.

Authorities have ordered schools closed across the nation -- with end of year exams cancelled for students.

Hundreds of police officers have been injured across the country, while in Pakistan's most populous province of Punjab nearly 1,000 people have been arrested and the army ordered to deploy to keep peace.

"At a time when we are already struggling to feed our children, further uncertainty has been created," Farooq Bhatti, a van driver, said in Rawalpindi.

Some protesters took out their wrath on the military, torching the residence of the corps commander in Lahore and gathering outside the entrance to the army's general headquarters in the garrison city of Rawalpindi and pelting it with stones.

Shock, grief after Tunisian policeman kills 5 outside synagogue



Police secure an area near the Ghriba synagogue following a shooting

AFP | Tunis

Tunisia's small Jewish community was in shock and mourning yesterday after a bloody shooting rampage in which a police officer killed five people outside Africa's oldest synagogue.

The shooting Tuesday sparked mass panic during an annual Jewish pilgrimage at the historic Ghriba synagogue on the resort island of Djerba, which was quickly locked down by security forces.

"I never believed that I would experience such terror," recounted one survivor, Raoudha Seibi.

The attack was "a real nightmare", said a tearful Seibi, a member of the Tunisian Association for the Support of Minorities. "I am still in shock."

Authorities were investigating the motive of the killer, who was shot dead after killing three police officers and two visitors, a French-Tunisian and an Israeli-Tunisian man.

French President Emmanuel

Macron vowed to keep up the fight "against anti-Semitic hatred", and Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen said the bloodshed proves "evil and hatred are still there".

The Ghriba pilgrimage was previously targeted in a 2002 suicide truck bombing that killed 21 people.

The gunman, wearing his police uniform and a bulletproof vest, started the attack by killing a fellow officer and taking his gun and ammunition at the island's port, said officials.



The synagogue was previously targeted in a suicide truck bombing that killed 21 in 2002

Biden to host India's Modi for state visit in June

AFP | Washington

US President Joe Biden will host India Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a state visit on June 22 that will affirm the two countries' "deep and close partnership," the White House announced yesterday.

The visit, the highest level of diplomatic reception at the White House, will boost Washington and New Delhi's "shared commitment to a free, open, prosperous, and secure Indo-Pacific," the statement said. The invitation comes as both



US President Joe Biden (R) greets India's PM Narendra Modi as they arrive to attend an event as part of G7 Summit in Germany (file photo)

Washington has long sought to boost India as a counterinfluence to an increasingly assertive China in Asia -- and New Delhi, worried about Beijing's build-up on the other side of its border, has also sought to build ties

India and the United States seek to shore up support against China's growing assertiveness.

It will be the first state visit by Modi to the United States. He visited Biden at the White House in 2021, but as part of the Quad summit bringing together the United States, Australia, Japan and India.

This time India is understood to have pushed for the pomp of a full state visit. The trip will include a state dinner.

The visit will also strengthen

the two countries' "shared resolve to elevate our strategic technology partnership, including in defense, clean energy, and space," the White House statement continued.

"The leaders will discuss ways to further expand our educational exchanges and people-to-people ties, as well as our work together to confront common challenges from climate change, to workforce development and health security," it said.

15 children drown, 25 missing in Nigeria boat accident

AFP | Kano

Fifteen children drowned and 25 others were missing when their overloaded boat capsized in a river in northwest Nigeria, a local official said yesterday.

The children were on their way from Dundaji village in Sokoto State to collect firewood in the bush on Tuesday on the other side of Shagari river when their boat sank, Aliyu Abubakar, local administrator of Shagari district, said.

"We woke up to a tragedy yesterday morning, where a boat carrying children capsized mid-river," Abubakar told AFP.

"Fifteen bodies, 13 girls and two boys, were recovered by local rescue teams and buried in the village," said the official, who supervised the rescue operation.

River accidents are frequent



Rescuers search for victims at the site of a capsized boat (image for representation)

in Nigeria, often caused by overloading, poor maintenance, heavy flooding in rainy season and disregard of safety regulations.

Divers were working in the Shagari river late on Tuesday searching for more of the children.

In April last year, 29 children from nearby Gidan Magana village in Sokoto drowned in the same river when their vessel capsized while they were also

River accidents are frequent in Nigeria, often caused by overloading, poor maintenance, heavy flooding in rainy season and disregard of safety regulations

on their way to fetch firewood for their families.

During massive flooding in rainy season in December, at least 76 people drowned when their boat went down in a swollen river in southeast Anambra State.

US braces for migration surge with thousands of forces at border

AFP | Washington

The United States yesterday was readying its response to an expected surge of migrants seeking to enter, with officials saying 24,000 law enforcement personnel have been deployed to the Mexican border.

President Joe Biden has acknowledged that the border will be "chaotic for a while" with the expiration of Covid pandemic rules that had forbidden virtually all asylum claims there.

Tens of thousands of people are waiting at crossing points for the end of so-called Title 42 overnight Thursday into Friday, despite the Biden administration vowing to enforce the border vigorously.

A senior administration official said that 24,000 border police and 1,100 border processing



Migrants wait in line to turn themselves in for processing to US Customs and Border Protection agents in El Paso, Texas

personnel have been deployed, double the number a year ago.

The Pentagon has also been sending 1,500 extra troops to the border to reinforce 2,500 already in place.

Thousands of people, largely from Central America and Haiti as well as Venezuela, have been seeking to enter the world's wealthiest country as they flee poverty, violence and drought exacerbated by climate change.

The crossings have become a political flashpoint in the United States, with the rival Republican Party under Donald Trump championing stringent anti-immigration measures.

Trump as president used Title 42, officially a public health measure, as a blunt tool to block migrants, but both the United States and World Health Organization say the emergency phase of the pandemic is over.



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TWEETS

01



In a world of overlapping and converging crises, the health emergency preparedness and response architecture must be able to effectively address emergencies of all kinds.

@DrTedros

02



@POTUS and @FLOTUS will host Prime Minister Narendra Modi of the Republic of India for an Official State Visit to the United States, which will include a state dinner, on June 22, 2023.

@PressSec

03



Viktor Orbán last week said "Mr Trump, come back, make America great again". Does he still ask that? Europe's far-right turn a blind eye to Trump's abuse of women, now confirmed by jury in a civil trial. This man is totally unfit for elected office!

@guyverhofstadt

04



Glad to be back in China after reopening. Had very constructive discussions with key economic policymakers on China's economic rebound, domestic policy challenges and how we can strengthen our engagement and work together to foster global prosperity and development.

@GitaGopinath

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