

538

Witiges, King of the Ostrogoths, ends his siege of Rome, retreats to Ravenna, leaving the city in the hands of victorious Byzantine General Belisarius

1455

First record of Johannes Gutenberg's Bible, letter dated this day by Enea Silvio Piccolomini refers to the bible printed a year before

1642

Abel Tasman is the 1st European to sight New Zealand, viewing the north-west coast of the South Island



1930

Mahatma Gandhi begins his famous 200 mile (300km) protest march against the widely hated British salt tax

targets Afghan journalists

rd, wounds journalists in Afghan north



Wounded journalists are shifted on a vehicle to a hospital, in Mazar-i-Sharif

Dawood Muzammil in the Balkh provincial capital Mazar-i-Sharif on Thursday marked the killing of one of the highest-ranking officials since the Taliban stormed back to power in 2021.

Yesterday's blast took place during an event honouring Afghanistan's media at a cultural centre in Mazar-i-Sharif. Police said a security guard was killed and that five journalists were



I heard a big bang... then there was chaos as everyone was trying to find a way to escape. Some journalists are seriously wounded

AFGHAN JOURNALIST ATIF ARIAN

among the wounded.

"I heard a big bang... then there was chaos as everyone was trying to find a way to escape," Afghan journalist Atif Arian, who was wounded in the blast, said.

"Some journalists are seriously wounded."

Balkh police spokesman Mohammad Asif Waziri said three children were also among the wounded.

Arian said the explosion hap-



Violence across Afghanistan has fallen since the Taliban seized control but security has deteriorated again, with Islamic State claiming several deadly attacks

pened when a group of children were singing an anthem, minutes after a Taliban official had delivered a speech.

Afghan journalists were regu-

larly targeted before the Taliban reclaimed power, with several attacks claimed by Islamic State.

Muzammil, the Balkh governor, was killed by an IS suicide bomber minutes after he arrived at his office in Mazar-i-Sharif.

Violence across Afghanistan has fallen since the Taliban seized control but security has deteriorated again, with Islamic State claiming several deadly attacks.

The jihadist group has emerged as the biggest security challenge to the Taliban government since last year, carrying out attacks against Afghan civilians as well as foreigners and foreign interests.

The Taliban and IS share an austere Sunni Islamist ideology, but the latter are fighting to establish a global "caliphate" instead of the Taliban's more inward-looking aim of ruling an independent Afghanistan.

t residents Australia floods



Queensland town of Burketown



The swollen Albert River had transformed wide areas of land around the town into lakes, with only the tops of trees visible, aerial images provided by emergency services showed

there would be no evacuation flights after yesterday.

Evacuated resident Shannon Moren told public broadcaster ABC she was worried about the impact of the flooding on livestock.

"I checked on my parents' cattle property the other day and you can see cattle up to their necks in the water, literally swimming for their lives," she said.

Police also urged all remaining residents to get out.

The elderly and young children were a priority for evacuation, Queensland police said in a statement, adding that sewerage systems had been "compromised" and power would also be cut off.

"It is not safe for people to remain," police said.

Li Qiang appointed Chinese premier as Xi asserts influence

AFP | Beijing

Li Qiang, one of Chinese President Xi Jinping's most trusted allies, was confirmed as premier yesterday, as Xi cements his influence on the country's top leadership.

Li, the former Shanghai party chief who oversaw the city's gruelling two-month lockdown last spring, was named the successor of outgoing premier Li Keqiang at a meeting of the country's rubber-stamp parliament.

The 63-year-old received nearly every vote from the more than 2,900 delegates at the National People's Congress, a day after Xi was unanimously selected by deputies for a norm-breaking third term as president.

Xi's motion nominating Li Qiang as premier was read out to the chamber yesterday morning.



China's President Xi Jinping (R) shakes hands with newly-elected Premier Li Qiang (L)

Journalists were asked to leave the chamber as deputies, mostly dressed in dark suits, marked their ballots.

Delegates later applauded as Xi ceremoniously deposit-

ed his votes in the ballot box while cheerful traditional music played from speakers.

An electronic screen in the hall displayed 2,936 votes for Li, with only three delegates

Li, who started his career as an irrigation pump station worker near his hometown, rose steadily through local government ranks and was promoted to affluent Zhejiang province's top job in 2012

voting against his appointment and eight abstaining.

Li later took an oath, swearing to be loyal to China's constitution and to "work hard to build a prosperous, strong, democratic, civilized, harmonious and great modern socialist country".

His ascension had once seemed in doubt after his handling of the Shanghai lockdown, in which residents struggled to access food and medical care.

Biden scraps Trump's paint scheme for Air Force One

AFP | Washington

The US Air Force unveiled a new color scheme for Air Force One, discarding the palette chosen by Donald Trump for the presidential aircraft.

President Joe Biden is sticking with a classic blue-and-white colour scheme for the jets, which are under construction, retaining a design that dates to John F. Kennedy's administration six decades ago.

Former president Trump, who left office in January 2021, wanted a bolder red, white and blue design, and kept a scale model bearing those colours on a coffee table in the Oval Office.

Trump's design called for a deep red stripe down the middle of the aircraft and a dark blue underbelly.

The colours presented challenges to engineers, however, and a Friday statement from the secretary of the Air Force cited



A rendering of the livery design for the "Next Air Force One," VC-25B, selected by US President Joe Biden

possible delays and tests to deal with "the added heat" from the darker shade of blue.

The new Air Force One aircraft will instead closely resemble the aging current one, although the light blue will be a "more modern tone" than the existing robin's egg blue, and there will be no polished metal

on the fuselage "because modern commercial aircraft skin alloys don't allow for it," it said.

The replacement aircraft are projected to be delivered in 2027 and 2028, so the winner of the 2024 elections will be the first to take off in the new jets.

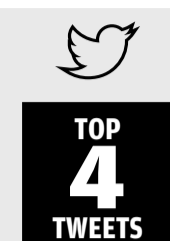
The Boeing aircraft are not like commercial airliners. Each

includes high-tech communication facilities, a medical bay and a self-defence system.

The current Air Force One planes face rising maintenance costs and use parts that are increasingly obsolete, but will have to suffice until the newer aircraft are delivered, the statement said.



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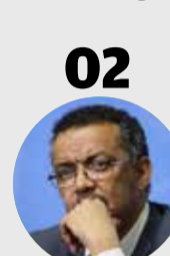


TOP
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TWEETS



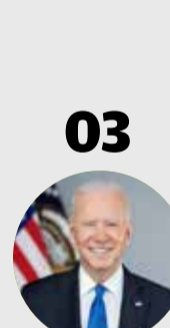
Sexual violence in conflict reverberates down generations and threatens both human & international security. Women and girls must be protected. Abuse must be investigated. Justice must be served to survivors.

@antoniogetulferres



On April 7 this year, @WHO will turn 75. Join us on a journey to celebrate #WHO75 anniversary and the work being done globally to deliver #HealthForAll people, everywhere.

@DrTedros



The American Rescue Plan laid the foundation for our historic recovery and helped us to regain all of the jobs lost during the pandemic. We've added a record 12 million altogether.

@POTUS



The sum of a cult should be greater than the parts/prophets/profits

@elonmusk

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