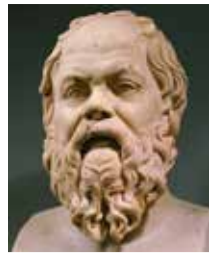


399BC

Philosopher Socrates is sentenced to death by the city of Athens for corrupting the minds of the youth of the city and for impiety



1763

Austria, Prussia & Saxony sign the Treaty of Hubertusburg, marking the end of the French and Indian War and of the Seven Years' War

Soviet military occupation of Afghanistan ends

1989

2001

First draft of the complete human genome is published in the journal "Nature"

Humanitarian aid



People in the aftermath of a deadly earthquake

Both countries need humanitarian assistance."

"There are also growing concerns over emerging health issues linked to the cold weather, hygiene and sanitation, and the spread of infectious diseases - with vulnerable people especially at risk."

More than 100 priests suspected of abuse remain active in Portugal's Church

Reuters | Lisbon

More than 100 priests suspected of child sexual abuse remain active in church roles in Portugal, according to the head of a commission investigating the issue.

The commission, which started its work in January 2022, said in its final report published on Monday that at least 4,815 children were sexually abused by members of the Portuguese Catholic Church - mostly priests - over 70 years.

It added that the findings were the "tip of the iceberg", describing the 4,815 cases as the "absolute minimum" number of victims.

"There is an approximate (number of accused priests) and it will clearly be more than 100," child psychiatrist Pedro Strecht, who headed the commission, told SIC television.



Representative picture

The commission said it was preparing a list of accused priests still working to send to the Church and to the public prosecutors' office.

Strecht said those on the list should be removed from their roles or at least should be banned from interacting with children and teenagers during the investigation.

Jose Ornelas, head of the Bishops' Conference, said the institution was yet to receive the list. Strecht said they will receive it "soon".

China says US balloons flew into its airspace

Reuters | Beijing

China said yesterday that more than ten high-altitude balloons released by the United States since May 2022 flew into its airspace and that of other countries.

Both the countries have been entangled in a diplomatic spat since the US shot down a suspected Chinese spy balloon on Feb. 4.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said the high-altitude balloons "flew around the world and illegally entered the airspaces of China and other relevant countries at least ten times".

Wang did not provide details on the other countries involved, declined to specify which parts of Chinese airspace the incursions happened or provide photos as evidence.

Earlier on Monday, he said the US balloons entered Chinese airspace more than ten times since January 2022.

"The United States should conduct a thorough investigation and give China an expla-



Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin

nation," Wang said on Tuesday.

The United States denied the allegation. "Any claim that the US government operates surveillance balloons over the PRC is false," White House National Security Council spokesperson Adrienne Watson tweeted on Monday.

"We urge the United States not to over exert itself, in case it sprains its waist," Wang said on Tuesday, noting Chinese media reports that likened the use of military force to shoot down the Chinese balloon to "busting mosquitoes with anti-aircraft guns".

Michigan State University police seek motive



Suspect was located as they respond to a shooting at Michigan State University in

any details about the victims, some of whose identities and relationship to the university were still being determined, Rozman said.

The name and other information about the suspect were not immediately released and police said they were baffled by what precipitated the shooting.

The gunman was confirmed dead, from an apparently self-inflicted gunshot roughly four hours after the bloodshed had started, Rozman said.

Rozman also said the suspect "was contacted by law enforcement off campus" at one point, adding, "that scene is being investigated as a crime scene."

It remained unclear whether the gunman was found dead after he was confronted by police, or whether he may have taken his own life during such an encounter.

About an hour earlier, MSU police had released two still images of the suspect from surveillance video that showed him walking into a building, then mounting a short flight of stairs, wearing a jacket, a baseball cap and a black mask over his lower face. He was holding what appeared to be a pistol in one hand.

response to the shooting, which began shortly after 8 p.m. (0100 GMT), found victims at both locations, Rozman told reporters.

Rozman said the university was not aware of any threats made to the campus before Monday's bloodshed.

Three victims were killed and five were taken to a hospital in the nearby city of Lansing, the state capital, all of them listed in critical condition, he said. Two of the dead were at Berkey Hall and the other at the MSU Union.

Officials declined to provide

ated 4.6 million American children home where at least one gun is kept and unlocked. These improperly stored weapons have contributed to school shootings and the deaths of family members, including infants and toddlers.

Events remained sketchy, but Rozman said shots were fired in two locations - an academic building called Berkey Hall and the Michigan State University (MSU) Union building.

Police swarming the campus in

Banksy's mural freezer removed by council



men

east England, on Sunday night. Its subject and timing appear to highlight violence against women.

Banksy offers few clues about his work, which usually appear in public locations overnight, beyond a confirmation on social media.

Artist Pete Brown was painting the scene when the genuine freezer -- which formed an integral part of the mural -- was removed on Tuesday morning.

"A council truck turned up and they took away the freezer," he said, adding that the vehicle had the hazard warning lights and a metal cage typical of those used to clear fly-tipping.

"The fridge freezer is now in storage and will be returned once it has been made safe to the public," the council said. "We will be contacting the owner of the property to discuss the options to preserve the artwork for the district."

Mystery aerial objects may have benign purpose-White House



FBI Special Agents assigned to the bureau's Evidence Response Team ready to process material recovered from the high-altitude Chinese balloon

Reuters | Washington

The US intelligence community is considering the possibility that three mysterious unidentified objects shot down by US fighter jets were tied to a commercial or otherwise benign purpose, the White House said yesterday.

John Kirby, the White House national security spokesper-

son, told reporters that the United States still had no firm grasp on the origin of the three objects.

He said more would be known if and when the debris can be collected, but that the parts are in hard-to-reach areas - two in the frozen north and one in Lake Huron. Kirby said the debris was proving difficult to recover.

Dutch F-35s intercept three Russian military aircraft near Poland

Reuters

Two Dutch F-35 fighters intercepted a formation of three Russian military aircraft near Poland and escorted them out, the Netherlands' defence ministry said in a statement late on Monday.

"The then unknown aircraft approached the Polish NATO area of responsibility from Kaliningrad," according to Reuters' translation of the ministry's statement.

Kaliningrad is a Russian Baltic coast enclave located between NATO and European Union members Poland and Lithuania.

"After identification, it turned out to be three aircraft: a Russian IL-20M Coot-A that was escorted by two Su-27 Flankers. The Dutch F-35s escorted the formation from a



A Dutch soldier stands guard as a Royal Netherlands Air Force F-35 takes off at Graf Ignatievo airbase, Bulgaria

distance and handed over the escort to NATO partners."

The IL-20M Coot-A is NATO's reporting name for the Russian Ilyushin IL-20M reconnaissance aircraft while the Su-27 Flankers are NATO's reporting name for the Sukhoi Su-28 fighter aircraft.

The Netherlands' defence ministry said that eight Dutch F-35s are stationed in Poland for February and March.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



I thank my friend @EmmanuelMacron for joining me at the launch of an important partnership between @airindia and @Airbus that will further strengthen the Indian aviation sector and create opportunities in both nations. This reflects the robust Indo-French Strategic Partnership.

@narendramodi

02



The contract that Airbus and Tata Sons signed this morning marks a new stage in India and France's strategic partnership. Thank you @NarendraModi, for your confidence in France and our industry.

@EmmanuelMacron

03



"An empty browser history says more than a full one" - Abraham Lincoln

@elonmusk

04



Our collective problem-solving mechanisms do not match the pace or scale of the issues we face. This must be the year when we lay the foundations for more effective global cooperation to deal with today's challenges and new risks & threats down the line.

@antonioguterres

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