

1616

First non-aristocratic, free public school in Europe is opened in Frascati, Italy

1835

HMS Beagle with Charles Darwin on board reaches the Galapagos Islands



1916

First use of tanks in warfare, "Little Willies" at Battle of Flers-Courcelette, part of the Battle of the Somme

1928

Scottish bacteriologist Alexander Fleming discovers penicillin while studying influenza

nsifies Libya



al view of a extensive damage in the wake

testimony published by the Benghazi Medical Center.

"We could hear screams. From the window I saw cars and bodies being carried away by the water. It lasted an hour or an hour and a half -- but for us, it felt like a year."

Hundreds of body bags now line Derna's mud-caked streets, awaiting mass burials, as traumatised and grieving residents search mangled buildings for missing loved ones and bulldozers clear streets of debris and mountains of sand.

"The scale of the flood disaster in Libya is shocking and it is heartbreaking," said UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths.

ying for sex

split on the issue and MEPS voting as they wished.

Some EU countries such as Croatia and Lithuania ban prostitution and have criminal penalties for sex workers. Some -- notably Germany, Austria and the Netherlands -- have legalised and regulated it.

Some others -- including Sweden, France and Ireland -- have sought to switch the criminal responsibility for sex work onto the clients in the transaction.

cancer treatment

akthrough Prize awards "the world's brilliant minds" in fields including life, fundamental physics and mathematics, itself as the Silicon Valley-backed answer to Nobel. Founding sponsors include Sergey Brin and Mark Zuckerberg.

laughing. He will split \$3 million with American immunologist Carl June, who also led groundbreaking research into the field independently of his co-winner.

Putin, Kim gifted each other 'rifles': Kremlin

AFP | Moscow, Russia

Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong Un gifted each other rifles when they met in Far Eastern Russia, the Kremlin said on Thursday, confirming the isolated Russian leader will visit North Korea as Moscow woos another pariah state.

The Russian president met with Kim on Wednesday amid speculation they would agree on an arms deal. Putin "gave (Kim) a rifle from our production of the highest quality. In return, he also received a North Korean-made rifle," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

Putin also gifted the North Korean leader a "glove from a space suit that has been to space



North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un (2nd L) and Russia's President Vladimir Putin (R) visiting the Vostochny Cosmodrome in Russia's Amur region

several times." Kim, who seldom leaves his country, held talks with Putin at the Vostochny cosmodrome.

The Kremlin said his visit to Russia's Far East would last "a few more days." Moscow also

eign Minister Sergei Lavrov to Pyongyang, with his trip expected in October, before a Putin visit can be arranged.

North Korean into space

Putin and Kim also discussed the possibility of sending a North Korean into space, Russian news agencies quoted Putin's spokesman as saying.

"We talked about the fact that if the North Korean side wishes, a North Korean cosmonaut can be trained and sent into space," the TASS and RIA Novosti news agencies quoted Dmitry Peskov as saying. If that were to happen, the cosmonaut would be the first North Korean ever to go into space.

London police pay 'substantial' damages to women arrested at vigil

AFP | London, United Kingdom

London's Metropolitan Police has apologised and paid "substantial" compensation to two women arrested at a March 2021 vigil for Sarah Everard who was kidnapped, raped and murdered by a serving police officer, their lawyers said Thursday.

Hundreds of people, mostly women, attended the vigil for Everard in south London near where the 33-year-old marketing executive went missing.

Police officers scuffled with some members of the crowd towards the end of the vigil, held despite coronavirus re-

strictions, with the sight of male officers restraining and handcuffing female demonstrators drawing widespread criticism.

Patsy Stevenson and Dania Al-Obeid, who were both detained at the event and took legal action, had reached a settlement with the Met Police, Bindmans, the law firm representing them, said.

Bindmans said the Metropolitan Police issued an apology and paid "substantial" damages.

"It has taken over two years to reach this conclusion," Stevenson said in a statement.

UK man swims entire New York river in clean-water campaign



Lewis Pugh arrives at the finish of his 315-Mile Hudson River swim in New York

AFP | New York, United States

British endurance swimmer Lewis Pugh on Wednesday completed a 315-mile (500-kilometer) journey down New York's Hudson River, highlighting its successful decades-long cleanup as a beacon for other waterways.

"Fifty years ago, this was one of the most polluted rivers in the whole world," said Pugh, 53, who was appointed the first UN patron of the oceans a decade ago.

"We need to have clean, healthy rivers," he told reporters after completing the unassisted trip from the Hudson's mountain source all the way down to New York City.

He said that in New York's industrial past, the river would sometimes change color from day to day, depending on what

dyes and other pollutants were dumped or ran off.

But after decades of action to clean up pollution, Pugh was able to safely swim down the river, a month-long feat he said will hopefully inspire others.

"They're going to be inspired by what happened here and say to themselves: 'If they can do that in the Hudson, surely we can do it in our river and our river can also be saved,'" he said. Pugh has previously undertaken high-profile swims in Antarctica, the North Pole and the Red Sea to advocate for rivers clean enough to swim and fish in safely.

His Hudson River feat comes as leaders from the around the globe are set to descend on New York to attend the annual UN General Assembly, during which a historic High Seas Treaty is to be formally signed.

India imposes curbs after two die of Nipah

AFP | New Delhi, India

India has curbed public gatherings and shut some schools in the southern state of Kerala after two people died of Nipah, a virus from bats or pigs that causes deadly fever, officials said Thursday.

The virus has no vaccine and a fatality rate ranging from 40 to 75%, according to the World Health Organization.

Symptoms include intense fever, vomiting and a respiratory infection, but severe cases can involve seizures and encephalitis, an inflammation of the brain, and result in a coma.

Three others have tested positive, and more than 700 people including 153 health workers who came in contact with those infected are under observation, health officials said. At least four people have been hospitalised, including



Health workers wearing protective gear shift people who have been in contact with a person infected with the Nipah virus to an isolation center at a government hospital in Kozhikode

the nine-year-old child of one of the victims.

Initially transmitted from animals such as fruit bats or pigs, Nipah is also spread from person to person, the WHO said. The incubation period -- the time from infection to the onset of symptoms -- ranges from around four to 14 days, but has been reported to be as long as 45 days, according to the WHO.

Body of Ecuadorean crime boss stolen from Colombian cemetery

AFP | Bogote, Colombia

The body of Ecuadorean fugitive Junior Roldan was illegally exhumed from a Colombian graveyard, police said Wednesday, months after the former Los Choneros drug gang boss was buried.

Roldan, who went by the alias JR, was accused of several attacks and murders in Ecuador's prisons.

More than 430 inmates have died violently since 2021, dozens of them dismembered and incinerated in disputes between rival gangs linked to Colombian and Mexican cartels.

Roldan's body disappeared from the vault where he was buried in May, local police told AFP Wednesday.

Roldan was released from a prison in the Ecuadorean port city of Guayaquil -- a hub for several drug gangs -- in February 2023 and was granted parole, a decision criticized by President Guillermo Lasso. He was wounded in an armed attack in March, after which prison authorities lost track of him.

Colombian authorities found his body shot in the head in a rural area in the country's northwest two months later.

After no one claimed the



Junior Roldan

body, it was buried in a cemetery in Envigado, on the outskirts of Medellin, Colombia's second city, on May 18.

There are more than 13 organized crime groups operating in Ecuador, officials say, the oldest and most powerful of which is Los Choneros.

Following the murder of Los Choneros leader Jorge Luis Zambrano in 2020, the gang reportedly split into several factions.

Roldan, Zambrano's former lieutenant, became part of the Las Aguilas gang, while Adolfo Macias, also known as Fito, began commanding the Los Fatales group.

Macias, imprisoned since 2011, was transferred to a maximum security jail last month soon after the murder of presidential hopeful Fernando Villavicencio, who was shot by Colombian hitmen days before the first round of voting.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Humanity is facing huge challenges. People are looking to their leaders for a way out of this mess. Next week, many of these leaders will be gathering for #UNGA. They have a special responsibility to achieve compromise in designing our common future for our common good.

@antonio gutierrez

02



We're mobilizing a whole-of-country effort to cut America's cancer death rate by half in the next 25 years and boost support for patients and families. And it starts with a government-wide effort like this first-ever Cancer Cabinet to unleash every asset within our power.

@POTUS

03



We strongly welcome the @EuroparLEN's voting today to set stricter limits on #airpollution, following the @WHO air quality guidelines. This is a major step towards healthier environments and protecting people's health.

@DrTedros

04



@POTUS has appointed Penny Pritzker as the U.S. Special Representative for Ukraine's Economic Recovery. She will work with Ukraine's government, international partners, and the private sector to accelerate Ukraine's economic transformation.

@SecBlinken

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