

Great Fire of Rome begins under the Emperor Nero

Adolf Hitler publishes *Mein Kampf* (original title was the catchy "Four and a Half Years (of Struggle) Against Lies, Stupidity and Cowardice")

Spanish Civil War: General Francisco Franco issues manifesto and leads an uprising in the Spanish army stationed in Morocco



Kim Jong-un is officially appointed Supreme Leader of North Korea and given the rank of Marshal in the Korean People's Army

Grain export deal 'ended'

Brokered by the UN and Turkey had not been fulfilled

Deal has ceased. The Russian part (payments) are on the Russian side. They are likely to return to the grain deal.

BY AN DMITRY PESKOV

damaged last year in a war blamed on Kyiv.

Trade traffic across the Black Sea has been halted and encouraged to be rerouted to the Crimean peninsula in occupied Ukraine. UN Secretary-General Vladimir Putin said the deal was a "daydream" and restoration of the deal would require help for people in Ukraine, according to the UN.

At the end of the last year, the deal had enabled the export of more than 32 million tonnes of Ukrainian grain.



Over the course of the last year, the Black Sea Grain Initiative has enabled the export in cargo of more than 32 million tonnes of Ukrainian grain

export of Russian food and fertilisers have not been honoured.

Moscow had notified Turkey, Ukraine and the UN that it was against extending the deal, Russian news agencies reported yesterday, citing the foreign ministry.

EU chief Ursula von der Leyen condemned a "cynical" decision by Moscow to leave the deal.

Global supplies

Moscow's move was an "act of cruelty" that would hurt people who rely on Ukrainian grain supplies, the United States ambassador to the UN said.

"While Russia plays political games, real people will suffer," Linda Thomas-Greenfield told reporters in New York.

According to data from the JCC, China and Turkey are the main beneficiaries of the grain shipments, as well as developed economies.

The deal has helped the World Food Programme bring relief to countries facing critical food shortages such as Afghanistan, Sudan and Yemen.

The news had a limited impact on international wheat prices, which are

down by nearly a quarter from one year ago.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has been working hard to get the deal renewed and supports removing hurdles to Russia exporting its fertilisers.

Contrary to the Kremlin's statements, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan appeared optimistic about the prospects of the grain deal being maintained.

"I think that despite today's statement, my friend Putin wants to continue the agreement," which is due to expire at 2100 GMT.

Fierce fighting

Meanwhile, Ukraine was pushing ahead with its counteroffensive, with Kyiv yesterday saying its forces had retaken several square kilometres of territory around the eastern city of Bakhmut, which Russian forces seized in May.

Bakhmut, once home to 70,000 people and known for its sparkling wine and salt mine, has been destroyed by the longest and bloodiest battle of the war.

N. Korean leader's sister dismisses talks with US as 'a daydream'

AFP | Seoul

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's powerful sister dismissed the idea of talks with the United States as "a daydream" yesterday, the eve of the first US-South Korean meeting on nuclear deterrence.

North Korea fired its most powerful ballistic missile yet last week, the solid-fuel Hwasong 18 intercontinental ballistic missile, the latest of a string of launches this year.

Seoul and Washington have ramped up defence cooperation in response to the North's weapons tests, staging joint military exercises with advanced stealth jets and US strategic assets.

They will hold their inaugural meeting of the Nuclear Consultative Group (NCG) in Seoul on Tuesday, which, according to the presidential office in Seoul, is aimed at "bolstering nuclear deterrence against North Korea".

Kim Yo Jong warned that a strengthened extended deterrence system and military alliance will only further alienate the North from dialogue.

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KIM YO JONG

of joint military exercises, halt to the deployment of strategic assets and the reversible sanction relief," she said in a statement carried by the Korean Central News Agency.

Russian military pilot dies after crashing into Sea of Azov

AFP | Moscow

A Russian military pilot died after his Su-25 fighter jet crashed in the Sea of Azov on the country's southern coast near Ukraine, an official said yesterday.

"I express my condolences to the relatives of the victim who

died when his Su-25 attack aircraft crashed during a training flight," Roman Bublik, the head of the Yeisk district of the southern Krasnodar region, said on social media.

The fighter jet crashed not far from the seashore and there were no other victims, regional officials said.

S. Korea president vows 'complete overhaul' of approach to extreme weather

AFP | Seoul

South Korea's president vowed yesterday to "completely overhaul" the country's approach to extreme weather from climate change, after at least 39 people were killed by recent flooding and landslides during monsoon rains.

Rescue workers waded through thick mud as they drained a flooded underpass in central Cheongju, searching for more victims after vehicles were trapped in the tunnel by flash floods, the interior ministry said, with nine people still missing nationwide.

South Korea is at the peak of its summer monsoon season and days of torrential rain have caused widespread flooding and landslides, with rivers bursting their banks and reservoirs and dams overflowing --



South Korean rescue workers are seen along a road leading to a flooded underpass where about 15 vehicles were trapped after heavy rains

and there is more rain forecast this week.

"This kind of extreme weather event will become commonplace -- we must accept climate change is happening, and deal with it," President Yoon Suk Yeol said yesterday, ahead of a visit to flood-hit North Gyeong-

sang province.

The idea that extreme weather linked to climate change "is an anomaly and can't be helped needs to be completely overhauled", he said, calling for "extraordinary determination" to improve the country's preparedness and response.

Singapore parliament speaker, MP resign over affair

AFP | Singapore

Singapore's parliament speaker and a woman MP resigned yesterday over an "inappropriate" affair, plunging the ruling party into further turmoil following a rare high-level corruption probe involving a cabinet minister.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said he accepted the resignations of speaker Tan Chuan Jin and MP Cheng Li Hui to "maintain the high standards of propriety and personal conduct" of the People's Action Party (PAP).

He said they were in an "inappropriate relationship" that continued even after he had told them to stop in February.



Tan Chuan Jin

It was the latest development to rock the PAP, which has ruled Singapore uninterrupted for 64 years and has prided itself on a corruption-free government.

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He is out on bail and is helping the bureau with its investigation.

Before that, two senior cabinet ministers were probed for alleged irregularities in their rental of sprawling housing properties in the land-scarce nation, but both were subsequently cleared of any wrongdoing.

Death toll in Kenya starvation cult case passes 400

AFP | Nairobi

The death toll in an investigation linked to a Kenyan cult that practised starvation to "meet Jesus Christ" has exceeded 400 after 12 more bodies were found yesterday, a senior official said.

"Total death Toll - 403," Coast Regional Commissioner Rhoda Onyancha said in a message, following the latest round of exhumations in the Shakahola forest, where cult leader Paul Nthenge Mackenzie allegedly urged followers to starve to death.

"Exhumation continues tomorrow," Onyancha added, as investigators search for more graves in the forest, where the first victims -- some dead, others alive but weakened and emaciated -- were discovered on April 13.

According to government autopsies, starvation appears to have been the main cause of death, although some victims, including children, were strangled, beaten or suffocated.



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TWEETS

01



The Dominican Republic is the EU's largest trading partner in the Caribbean I assured @luisabinader of our support for a green transition that benefits everyone. #GlobalGateway is ready to deliver investments for vital infrastructure.

@vonderleyen

02



Very productive meeting with #China Finance Minister Liu Kun today at #G20India. We discussed China's growth outlook, global economic challenges and support for vulnerable countries.

@KGeorgieva

03



#VaccinEquity business is not over. Thank you @amymaxmen for shining a light on vitally important efforts to jumpstart manufacturing capacity in countries and thereby ensure equitable, fair access to life-saving tools.

@DrTedros

04



President Biden and I have made the largest investment in climate action in history. @EPA-MichaelRegan joined me in Baltimore to uplift our latest initiative.

@VP

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