

1785

Benjamin Franklin announces his invention of bifocals



1813

South American independence leader Simón Bolívar enters Mérida, leading the invasion of Venezuela, and is proclaimed El Libertador ("The Liberator")

1949

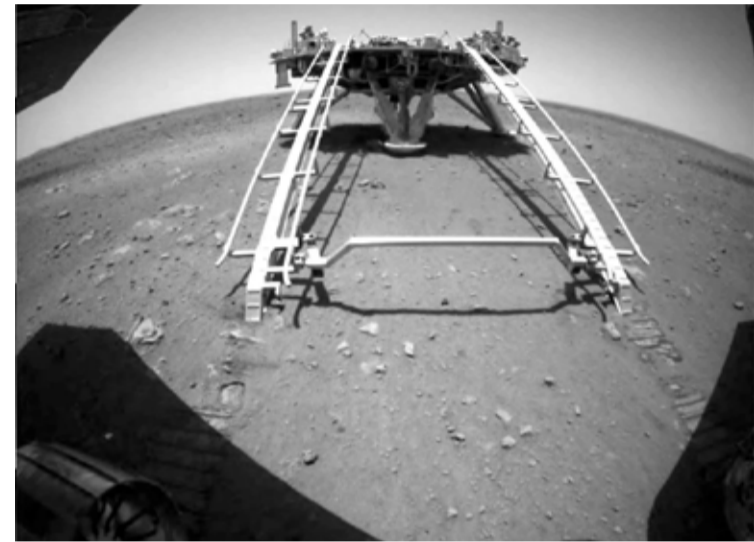
Federal Republic of [West] Germany created out of the American, British and French occupation zones

1958

Mao Zedong starts the "Great Leap Forward" movement in China

says Martian rover first drive on Mars

United States as the only nations to operate rovers on Mars



Chinese rover Zhurong of the Tianwen-1 mission drives down the ramp of the lander onto the surface of Mars

estimated to be just 10 metres (33 feet) over three days, according to the official China Space News. "The slow progress of the rover was due to the limited understanding of the Martian environment, so a relatively conservative working mode was specially designed," Jia Yang, an engineer involved in the mission, told China Space News.

Jia said he would not rule out a faster pace in the later stage of the rover's mission, depending on its operational state at the time.

Jia said the rover was designed to be highly autonomous because the distance to Mars, at 320 million km (200 million miles), means a signal takes 40 minutes to travel both ways, posing a hurdle for real-time control of the rover.

Martian temperatures are also

a problem, he said: a nighttime drop to minus 130 degrees Celsius (minus 200 degrees Fahrenheit) freezes carbon dioxide, covering the uneven ground with a layer of dry ice - a terrain risk for the rover.

Zhurong has an automated suspension system that can lift and lower its chassis by 60 centimetres (2 feet), the only rover with such a capability, according to China Space News.

The rover is covered by nano-aerogel plates to protect its body from the cold.

Ancient ocean

Dust storms could also affect the rover's ability to generate power through its solar panels, Jia said. To overcome this, the panel surface is made with a material that cannot be easily stained by

YOU KNOW WHAT

Powered by solar energy, Zhurong will also look for signs of ancient life, including any subsurface water and ice, using a ground-penetrating radar during its 90-day exploration of the Martian surface

dust and can easily shake dust off by vibration, he said.

China's uncrewed Tianwen-1 spacecraft blasted off from the southern Chinese island of Hainan in July last year. After more than six months in transit, Tianwen-1 reached the Red Planet in February where it had been in orbit since.

On May 15, the landing capsule carrying the rover separated from Tianwen-1 and touched down on a vast plain known as Utopia Planitia, believed to be the site of an ancient ocean.

The first images taken by the rover were released by the Chinese space agency on Wednesday.

The coordinates of the landing site are 109.9 degrees east and 25.1 degrees north, China Space News said.

Tianwen-1 was one of three probes that reached Mars in February.

Brazil senator says Bolsonaro never wanted COVID-19 vaccines, preferred herd immunity



Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro attends an event at Planalto Palace in Brasilia Reuters | Brasilia

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro never wanted to buy COVID-19 vaccines and originally bet on herd immunity beating the coronavirus, the senator leading the upper house's inquiry into the government's handling of the crisis said on Friday.

In an interview, Senator Renan Calheiros said it is too early to say if Bolsonaro had committed any criminal offense in his management of the public health crisis, and that more investigation is required.

"I think everything points in that direction," Calheiros said, regarding Bolsonaro's preference for herd immunity.

"The president first denied the disease, called it a flu, and then argued against social isolation and lockdown. Then he played down the use of masks and encouraged crowds to gather," Calheiros said.

"Why is that? Because of herd immunity, the natural immunity ... you have to encourage crowds and the spread of the virus," Calheiros added.

"This is why he never wanted a vaccine," Calheiros said of Bolsonaro, noting that the president was slow in spending billions of dollars given to him by Congress earlier in the

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SENATOR RENAN CALHEIROS

pandemic to buy vaccines from overseas.

Herd immunity occurs when a large portion of a given population achieves immunity to a disease, sometimes through widespread infection, thereby reducing the chances of person-to-person spread.

The president's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Calheiros is a veteran lawmaker and Bolsonaro critic. His report is expected to focus on the government's delays in securing vaccines, including the details of drawn-out negotiations with foreign drugmakers, and missteps in Amazonas where an infectious new variant arose.



TOP 4 TWEETS

01



More than 50 million vaccine doses have been given to adults in England. This is a huge milestone in the largest NHS vaccination programme in history, and a fantastic team effort that has saved thousands of lives. Play your part and come forward for your doses when called.

@BorisJohnson

02



I was honored to host H.E. Moon Jae-in, President of the Republic of Korea. The alliance between our two nations is stronger than ever and the linchpin of peace, security, and prosperity for Northeast Asia, the Indo-Pacific, and the world.

@POTUS

03



Humanity is waging a war on nature - and we will all be losers if we don't achieve peace with the planet. Solutions exist. Together, we can halt biodiversity loss and build a future where we live in harmony with nature. #BiodiversityDay

@antonioguterres

04



With the Gaza ceasefire in place, attention can now return to "the misery at the heart of the conflict" -- the everyday indignities, and violence, for Palestinians under Israeli occupation that add up to the systematic oppression of apartheid.

@KenRoth

elections amid pandemic crisis



Nepal's Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli gestures upon his arrival at the parliament

YOU KNOW WHAT

Political rivalries between the communist prime minister and his former Maoist allies hit a new peak as the country battles a severe coronavirus wave with acute shortages of oxygen and vaccines

12 and the second phase on November 19," his office said in a statement.

Oli was reappointed the prime minister only last week as no leader could muster a majority after the veteran communist lost a vote of confidence.

The 69-year-old had a month to win a new vote of confidence in parliament but the president called on other parties to try to form a government as Oli struggled to win support.

Bhandari, who hails from the ruling party and is considered close to Oli, has been criticised for agreeing so quickly to Oli's recommendation for a new election.

Saudi returns to Venice with a bold architectural statement on pandemic living

TDT | Manama

Saudi Arabia has returned to Venice for a second time at the Architecture Biennale, with a bold response to how we live with pandemics.

The Biennale's theme, 'How Will We Live Together?' has brought together acclaimed curators Uzma Z. Rizvi and Murtaza Vali, and architects Hussam Dakkak, Basmah Kaki and Hessa AlBader from Studio Bound. Looking at current

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As we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of global lockdowns, our belief remains resolute: that culture will create new ways to connect people, build bridges between nations and make our shared world a better place

SAUDI CULTURE MINISTER HH PRINCE BADR BIN FARHAN AL-SAUD



Officials at the event

and historical perspectives of quarantine and widening the definition of public and private spaces, the team has responded with 'Accommodations', which analyzes how design either unites - or separates - people. Dr. Sumayah Al-Solaiman, CEO of the Saudi Architecture and Design Commission, and previous curator of the Pavilion in 2018, commissioned the exhibit.

Saudi architecture and de-

sign is rapidly developing its voice internationally, blending heritage-inspired with contemporary to design and build new spaces. This ethos will be on full display at the Saudi pavilion through the work of the design collective Studio Bound, a group who are currently leading a number of projects at UNESCO heritage sites in the Kingdom, as well as key projects along the Red Sea Highway.

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