

1215

Frederick II crowned King of the Romans (King of the Germans) in Aachen



1777

American Revolution: Louis XVI of France and his Foreign Minister clandestinely agree to supply US with munitions

1829

William Austin Burt patents America's first "typographer" (typewriter)

1840

Union Act passed by British Parliament, uniting Upper & Lower Canada

...d to safety ...es rage



Members of the coast-guard, the armed forces and local authority workers used dozens of buses to help move people away from the fires

had missed their flights off the island after the fires cut off normal transport routes, according to media reports.

Elsewhere, firefighters are still trying to bring the blaze on the island under control.

Deputy Fire Chief Yannis Artopoulos said the blaze on Rhodes, which broke out on a mountain in the centre of the island, was the toughest his force had had to face.

Five helicopters and 200 firefighters fought the blaze during the daytime, but the air support was called off as the light faded.

The battle to extinguish the fire in Rhodes continues in the area of Laermon and Lardos, where it is raging out of control.

ERT TV reported that some firefighters were stranded in the Ypseni Monastery, near Lardos, on the eastern side of the island as they tried to convince the suns living there to leave the area.

But they were reported to be safe.

Further inland, the fires had reached the village of Laerma and was burning houses and a church there, the ANA news agency and ERT TV reported.

North Korea fires 'several cruise missiles' into sea

AFP | Seoul

North Korea has fired "several cruise missiles" into the Yellow Sea between China and the Korean peninsula, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said yesterday.

The launches, which the military said took place around 4 am (1900 GMT), come as relations between the two Koreas are at one of their lowest points ever.

"South Korean and US intelligence authorities were analysing the launches while monitoring signs of additional activities," the JCS said.

North Korea fired two ballistic missiles into the sea on its opposite coast toward Japan just three days earlier.

The recent weapons tests are the latest in a series by Pyongyang and come as Seoul and Washington ramp up defence cooperation in the face of soaring tensions with the North.

Diplomacy between Pyongyang and Seoul has stalled and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has called for ramping up weapons development, includ-



People watch a television screen showing a news broadcast with file footage of a North Korean missile test, at a railway station in Seoul

ing tactical nukes.

In response, Seoul and Washington have staged joint military exercises with advanced stealth jets and US strategic assets, while an American nuclear-armed submarine this week made a South Korean port call for the first time in decades.

On Thursday, North Korea's defense minister Kang Sun Nam said the Ohio-class submarine's deployment may have fallen "under the conditions of the use of nuclear weapons specified in the DPRK law on

the nuclear force policy," using an acronym for North Korea's official name.

A day later, South Korea's defence ministry reiterated that any use of nuclear weapons by the North would prompt an "immediate and decisive response" resulting in the "end" of the Kim regime.

Yesterday's incident also comes as a US soldier is believed to be in North Korean custody after breaking away from a tour group visiting the Demilitarized Zone.

China told to stop tankers in its waters reaching N. Korea

AFP | New York

The Group of Seven nations, the European Union and three other countries are urging China to expel oil tankers from its waters that appear to be taking fuel to North Korea in defiance of UN sanctions, according to a letter seen by AFP on Friday.

"We have concerns regarding the continuing presence of multiple oil tankers... that use your territorial waters in Sansha Bay as refuge to facilitate their trade of sanctioned petroleum products to the DPRK," the letter said, using initials for the formal name Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Ambassadors from the G7 nations -- Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Britain and the United States -- signed the letter addressed to China's UN envoy Zhang Jun.

Also signing were envoys from the European Union,



An oil tanker ship unloads crude oil at the port in Qingdao, in China's eastern Shandong province (file photo)

South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

In the letter, the ambassadors told Zhang they "would like to provide your government with additional information and satellite imagery that clearly indicates these practices continued to occur within China's jurisdiction in 2022 and have continued in 2023."

"We reiterate our previous request that China inspect the vessels for evidence of illicit oil smuggling, deny them all services, and ultimately expel them from your waters as quickly as possible," it added.

A source said the letter had been sent to the Chinese envoy, though there was no confirmation it had been received.

Greece facing longest heatwave on record while record highs hit US



A mother cools off from the heat with her child playing with water around a fountain in Athens

AFP | Athens

Greece was yesterday facing its hottest July weekend in 50 years, with temperatures forecast to soar above 40 Celsius (104 Fahrenheit), while a record-breaking heatwave stretching across the southern United States was expected to expand in the coming days.

Tens of millions of people in the northern hemisphere have been suffering through intense heat this summer as the world appears headed for its hottest July on record.

As temperature records tumble, experts have pointed the finger at climate change driven by the burning of fossil fuels, saying global warming is playing a key role in destructive weather.

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"According to the data, we will probably go through 16-17 days of a heatwave, which has never happened before in our country," Kostas Lagouvardos, the director of research at the National Observatory, told ERT television yesterday.

The previous heatwave record in Greece was set in 1987, when scorching temperatures of over 39C lasted 11 days.

Across the southern United States, about 80 million Americans will swelter in temperatures of 41C and above this weekend, the National Weather Service (NWS) said.

'Extreme' Indonesian market ends dog, cat meat trade

AFP | Jakarta

A notorious Indonesian animal market has ended the sale of dog and cat meat after years of activist pressure to stop the trade and its brutal methods of slaughter, according to campaigners.

Canine and feline meat were on the menu alongside bats, rats, snakes and monkeys at the Tomohon Extreme Market on Sulawesi island, known for its disturbing culinary spread until a ban was imposed on Friday.

The previously uncompromising bazaar is the first such market in the country to finally back down and stop the trade of cat and dog meat, animal rights group Humane Society International (HSI) said in a statement Friday.

It called the ban a "historic agreement that will spare thousands of animals from being bludgeoned and blowtorched to



Activists look at dogs at a slaughterhouse in Tomohon

Indonesia remains one of the few countries in the world that still permits the sale of dog and cat meat due to local traditions and culture

death for human consumption." Indonesia remains one of the

few countries in the world that still permits the sale of dog and cat meat due to local traditions and culture.

The market's six remaining dog and cat meat traders signed an agreement to stop the sale, and the mayor of Tomohon city signed into law a ban on future trade at the market, the group said in a statement.



TOP
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TWEETS

01



Heat waves are becoming more frequent, more intense and longer - all due to the impacts of the climate crisis. #ClimateAction can't wait.

@antoniouterres

02



Let's be guardians of truth in the digital age. Verify sources, question narratives, and empower ourselves with accurate knowledge. By sharing responsibly and promoting credible information, we can build a stronger, more informed society. Let's stand united against misinformation and disinformation!

@DrTedros

03



Our Administration is committed to realizing the promise of AI by managing the risks with new laws, regulations, and oversight. And in the weeks ahead, I'll continue to take executive action and work with Congress to help America lead the way towards responsible innovation.

@POTUS

04



Good call with President @ZelenskyyUa on #Russia's withdrawal from the Black Sea grain deal. We strongly condemn Moscow's attempt to weaponise food. Allies stand with #Ukraine for as long as it takes & following #NATOSummit, Ukraine is closer to #NATO than ever before.

@jensstoltenberg

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