

Battle of Siffin during the first Muslim civil war between Ali ibn Abi Talib and Muawiyah I beside Euphrates River



Francisco Pizarro orders the death of the last Sapa Inca Emperor, Atahualpa

The Surrey Iron Railway, arguably the world's first public railway, opens in south London

Fidel Castro leads a failed attack on the Moncada Barracks, intended to spark a revolution in Cuba

Threat video Russian origin

of this video," French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said late Wednesday.

'False flag'

A security source, who asked not to be named, told AFP "the first analyses point to a Russian operation under a 'false flag'". The source said "several clues" pointed to this interpretation.

A "false flag" operation sees attackers operate under false identities or without distinctive signs to deceive opponents, observers and potentially trigger an escalation of a conflict.

One of the first accounts to

France has mounted a vast security operation to ensure the Olympics are safe. Around 18,000 French troops have been deployed to secure the Games in addition to regular police.

post the video on X, "@endzionism24", now suspended, was created in February but then remained silent for several months.

It was activated a few days before the video was posted to share content hostile to Israel, a typical pattern of inauthentic accounts used for propaganda and disinformation purposes.

The security source said that "the video was then reposted on X by accounts known to be part of Russian networks and was relayed by African sites known to be relay points for Russians."

These included "@aussie-cossack", a pro-Russian account which has over 60,000 followers.

The man makes numerous mistakes in Arabic grammar and syntax while his pronunciation of "Allahu Akbar" (God is Greatest) at the end of the video was also widely mocked.

US sanctions China-based network over N. Korea support

AFP | Washington, United States

The United States unveiled sanctions Wednesday against a network of half a dozen people and five firms in China it accuses of supporting North Korea's ballistic missile and space programs.

The network is alleged to have helped North Korea with procuring items for its ballistic missile programs, which the US Treasury Department said were being operated in "flagrant violation" of UN Security Council resolutions.

North Korea's continued development of its ballistic missile technologies "is both irresponsible and destabilizing for both the region and the international community," Treasury under secretary for terrorism and financial intelligence Brian Nelson said in a statement.

"The United States remains committed to using our tools to enforce these international sanctions, including disrupting the illicit procurement networks that provide key inputs for these technologies," he added.

Beijing's foreign ministry hit

back Thursday, saying it "opposes illegal unilateral sanctions."

"China always conscientiously implements UN Security Council resolutions and fulfils its own international obligations, and is committed to upholding peace and stability on the (Korean) peninsula," ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said at a news conference.

"Indiscriminately imposing sanctions cannot resolve peninsular issues," she said.



Representative picture

at JFK shooting: FBI chief



FBI Director Christopher Wray

than 30 seconds after he had fired eight shots.

"With respect to former president Trump, there's some question about whether or not it's a

bullet or shrapnel that, you know, that hit his ear," FBI chief Wray said. Two rally attendees were seriously injured and a 50-year-old Pennsylvania firefighter was shot dead. Wray said Crooks "appears to have done a lot of searches of public figures, in general" but that there was no clear pattern to the research. "A lot of the usual repositories of information have not yielded anything notable in terms of motive or ideology," he said.

"Starting somewhere around July 6 or so, he became very focused on former president Trump and this rally," the FBI chief said, and he registered that same day to attend the campaign event in Butler, Pennsylvania.

Rushdie attacker indicted on terrorism charges



New York, United States

The man accused of trying to kill the author Salman Rushdie has been charged with terrorism for allegedly acting on behalf of Hezbollah, according to documents unsealed Wednesday.

Hadi Matar, a 26-year-old American of Lebanese descent who was already charged by the state of New York for the 2022 stabbing attack, has now been indicted by a grand jury on three counts that include attempting to provide material to support a foreign terrorist organization, said the indictment dated July 17 but not unsealed until now.

That organization is Lebanon's Iran-backed movement Hezbollah, the US Justice Department said.

In August 2022 Rushdie lost sight in his right eye after the attack by a knife-wielding assailant at an arts gathering in New York state.

Biden says time to pass torch to 'younger voices'



Biden

AFP | Washington, US

US President Joe Biden told Americans Wednesday he quit the 2024 election to unite the country, saying in a historic Oval Office speech that it was time to pass the torch to "younger voices."

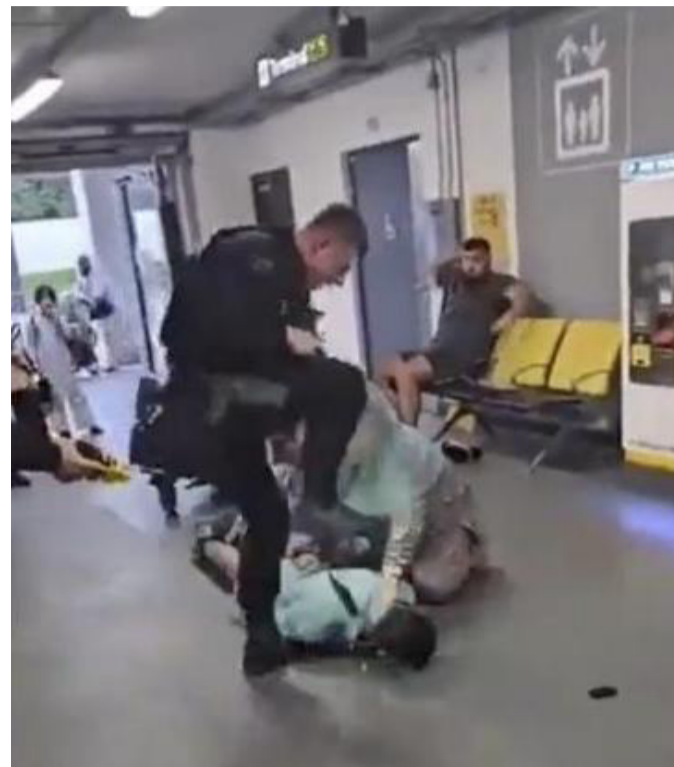
"I revere this office. But I love my country more," the 81-year-old said in an elegiac prime-time address to the nation urging his divided country to embrace democracy and shun hatred.

"The defense of democracy, which is at stake, is more important than any title," Biden said. "I have decided the best way forward is to pass the torch to a new generation. That is the best way to unite our nation."

In his first televised address since his stunning decision, Biden also hailed his Vice President Kamala Harris, 59, who is set to be the new Democratic presidential nominee.

"She's experienced. She's tough. She's capable," Biden said in just the fourth address of his presidency from behind the Resolute Desk -- and likely his last.

UK police officer suspended after video of violent arrest



screen grab from a video circulating online

AFP | London, United Kingdom

UK police officer was suspended yesterday after a video circulating online appeared to show an officer kicking and stamping a man's head while making an arrest.

Greater Manchester Police in northwest England said an officer was "suspended from all duties" after a review of the incident at Manchester Airport on Tuesday.

The video, which has circulated online, has caused public outrage.

The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) watchdog said it was independently investigating the "level of force" used by the police officer involved who was suspended.

"We appreciate the footage which was shared on social media has attracted wide-

spread shock and concern," the IOPC said in its statement.

In a previous statement, Greater Manchester Police said three officers were assaulted, with one female officer "suffering a broken nose" and requiring hospital treatment, while apprehending a suspect at the airport following reports of an assault.

Footage of the police officer using force against the man being arrested was taken following the officers being assaulted, according to the force.

It appeared to show a police officer kicking and stamping on the head of a man lying on the ground, next to a woman.

Details of what happened immediately before and after the video remain unclear, with police saying that the "use of such force in an arrest is an unusual occurrence and one that we understand creates alarm".

Authorities seize hundreds of illegal dog meat skewers

AFP | Jakarta, Indonesia

Public order officers in Bali have seized hundreds of dog skewers and dozens of kilograms of raw dog meat on the Indonesian resort island where the trade is illegal, officials said yesterday.

The tourist hotspot banned the dog meat trade last year, with offenders facing up to three months in prison or up to 50 million rupiah (\$3,064) if found guilty, but the trade still exists in other parts of the country.

During inspections this week authorities found three dog meat sellers who were still carrying out their activities in violation of the local regulation, Bali public order agency head Dewa Nyoman Rai Dharma told AFP.

They seized 500 dog meat

skewers from a seller in the Jembrana district and 56 kilograms of raw dog meat from another seller in the same district.

The dog satay seller only received a warning because he had not been caught trading before, while the other two sellers were deemed repeat offenders and had minor criminal offences filed against them at a local court.

Authorities were only pursuing minor criminal cases for repeat offenders because they wanted to give dog meat sellers a chance to overhaul their businesses, Dewa said.

"But we will process recurrent (sellers) for deterrent effect. We're not playing around."

The two sellers will stand trial next month.



Indonesia is one of a handful of countries that still permit the sale of dog and cat meat, but a campaign against the practice has been gaining ground, with some cities including Semarang in Java imposing local bans on the trade in recent years.



TOP
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TWEETS

01



Hunger has no place in the 21st century. A #ZeroHunger world is not only necessary — with action on finance, it is achievable. Together, let's consign hunger to the history books.

@antoniogetterres

02



At the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome, Abebe Bikila, an #Ethiopian, made history by becoming the first black African to win gold in the men's marathon. Not only that, he ran barefoot and broke the world record. Abebe Bikila inspired generations of runners, from Africa and around the world. That's the power of sport: the power to inspire, and the power to change.

@DrTedros

03



Tomorrow, 26th July, is a very special day for every Indian. We will mark the 25th Kargil Vijay Diwas. It is a day to pay homage to all those who protect our nation. I will visit the Kargil War Memorial and pay tributes to our brave heroes. Work will also commence for the Shinkun La Tunnel Project. This project is important to improve connectivity to Leh, especially during bad weather.

@narendramodi

04



Should Tesla invest \$5B into @XAI, assuming the valuation is set by several credible outside investors?

@elonmusk

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