

1580

Francis Drake completes circumnavigation of the world, sailing into Plymouth aboard the 'Golden Hind'



1687

Acropolis in Athens attacked by Venetian army trying to eject Turks, damaging the Parthenon

1688

City council of Amsterdam votes to support Prince William of Orange's invasion of England, which became known as 'The Glorious Revolution' in the Netherlands

1801

Great Britain annexes the Ashanti Kingdom and places it under the governor of the Gold Coast (Ghana)

presidential ember 10-12



et market in Attaba Square in the centre

candidate to lead Egypt out of the economic crisis".

Opposition politician Hisham Kassem had also been "a potential presidential candidate", his Free Current political coalition said last week.

But he is barred from running by a six-month prison sentence for defamation and contempt of officials.

"The elections were likely brought forward for reasons related to the economic situation," according to Mustapha Kamel al-Sayyid, professor of political science at Cairo University.

Egypt has battled its worst-ever economic crisis since early last year.

The currency has lost half its value since March 2022 in a series of devaluations that have sent consumer prices spiralling in the import-dependent economy.

Last year, the International Monetary Fund approved a \$3 billion loan for Egypt conditioned on "a permanent shift to a flexible exchange rate regime".

"The IMF agreement had certain conditions that Egypt has not fulfilled, chief among which was the full flotation of the pound," Sayyid told AFP, adding that this led to "two IMF visits being postponed this year".

other potential candidates.

At least 35 of Tantawi's supporters have been detained, rights groups say.

The former parliamentarian says his phone has been tapped since September 2021. The University of Toronto's Citizen Lab has attributed the attack to the Egyptian government "with high confidence".

Farid Zahran, president of the Egyptian Social Democratic Party, has also announced his intention to run.

He has called for "guarantees" to ensure "democratic elections that could help choose the right

Philippine Coast Guard says 'successfully removes' barrier at disputed reef



Chinese coast guard boats intercept a Philippine fishing boat after it tried to enter Scarborough Shoal (file photo)

AFP | Manila

The Philippine Coast Guard said yesterday it had removed a floating barrier at a disputed reef that was allegedly deployed to stop Filipinos accessing the traditional fishing ground.

The statement was issued hours after Philippine National Security Adviser Eduardo Ano vowed to take "all appropriate actions" for the removal of barriers installed by the Chinese coast guard at Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea.

A 300-metre (328-yard) long floating barrier was found across the entrance of the shoal last week during a routine government resupply mission to Filipino fishermen plying the waters near the Chinese-controlled reef.

It was not clear from the Philippine statement if the entire barrier had been removed from the water.

A video released by the Philippine Coast Guard showed a man

wearing a mask, snorkel and fins using a knife to sever a rope attached to white buoys.

Another video showed an anchor being hauled from the water into a wooden outrigger boat.

The coast guard announced it had "successfully" removed the barrier "in compliance with presidential instruction".

"The barrier posed a hazard to navigation, a clear violation of international law," it added.

China, which seized Scarborough Shoal from the Philippines in 2012, deploys coast guard and other vessels to patrol the fishing ground.

The floating barrier prevents fishing boats from entering the shoal's shallow waters where fish are more abundant.

Philippine officials previously accused the Chinese coast guard of installing the barrier shortly before the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources ship arrived at the shoal last Wednesday.

Saudi Crown Prince launches master plan for Souda Summits project

TDI | Agencies

Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Prime Minister and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Al Soudah Development Company, launched the master plan for the development of Soudah and parts of Rijal Almaa, under the name "Soudah Summits", which aims to develop a luxury tourist mountain destination.

This destination is located on the highest peak in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at an altitude of up to 3015 meters above sea level, in a unique natural and cultural environment in the Asir region in the southwest of the Kingdom in line with the efforts of the Public Investment Fund in empowering promising vital sectors and supporting the development strategy of the Asir region "Qimam and Sheem".

The Crown Prince and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Al Soudah Development Com-



Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud

pany stressed that the Soudah summits will reflect the new face of luxury mountain tourism by providing an unprecedented living experience, and the project will contribute to achieving the goals of Saudi Vision 2030, developing the tourism and entertainment sector, and supporting economic growth by contributing to increasing the cumulative GDP by more than 29 billion riyals, and providing thousands of jobs

directly and indirectly.

The Crown Prince said: "The master plan confirms our endeavor to activate global efforts to preserve the environment and natural and heritage resources and preserve them for future generations, in a way that contributes to diversifying sources of income and building an economy that attracts international and local investments," quoting the Saudi Press Agency (SPA).

He added: "The Soudah Peaks project will add quality to the tourism sector and highlight the cultural aspect in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and will contribute to making the Kingdom a global tourist destination, and the world will have the opportunity to explore the beauty of Soudah Peaks and learn about its unique heritage, authentic culture and hospitable society, and have unforgettable experiences in the lap of nature and on board the clouds."

Libya orders 8 officials arrested after flood disaster

AFP | Tripoli

Libya's prosecutor general has ordered the arrest of eight officials as part of his inquiry into the recent flood disaster that killed thousands, his office said yesterday.

The flash flood, which witnesses likened to a tsunami, broke through two ageing dams on September 10 after a hurricane-strength storm lashed the area around Derna, a port city in Libya's east.

The officials are suspected of "bad management" and negligence, among other offences, a statement from the prosecutor general's office said, adding that seven of them served currently or previously in offices responsible for water resources and dam management.

"The mistakes that they made" and their "negligence in the matter of disaster prevention" contributed to the catastrophe, the statement charged.

Derna's mayor Abdulmonem al-Ghaithi, sacked after the flood, is among the detainees.

Almost 3,900 people died in the disaster, according to the latest official toll, and international aid groups have said 10,000 or more people may be missing.



Volunteers search for bodies of flood victims amid rubble and mud, in Libya's eastern city of Derna

After opening a probe, Libya's prosecutor general Al-Seddik al-Sur said more than a week ago that the two dams upstream from Derna had been cracked since 1998.

Years of conflict

But repairs begun by a Turkish company in 2010 were suspended after a few months when Libya's 2011 revolution flared, and the work never resumed, the prosecutor said, vowing to deal firmly with those responsible.

According to his office, the investigation is focused on a dam maintenance contract reached between the Turkish firm and Libya's water depart-

ment.

The 2011 NATO-backed revolt toppled longtime dictator Moamer Kadhafi, leading to more than a decade of start-stop conflict in the oil-rich country.

Libya is now divided between an internationally-recognised Tripoli-based administration in the west -- to which Sur belongs -- and another in the flood-struck east backed by military strongman Khalifa Haftar.

Eastern forces years ago launched a failed assault on the capital which ended in a 2020 ceasefire. Since then a period of relative stability has held and allowed war-ravaged Libya to try to rebuild.

Russia puts ICC president on wanted list

AFP | Moscow

Russia said yesterday it had replaced Piotr Hofmanski, the president of the International Criminal Court, which is seeking the arrest of President Vladimir Putin, on its wanted list.

"Hofmanski Piotr Jozef, Polish. Wanted under an article of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation," said a notice in the Russian interior ministry database.

The ministry did not provide details of the allegations against



A general view inside the International Criminal Court Hofmanski.

In March the Hague-based court announced an arrest warrant for Putin on the war crime accusation of unlawfully deporting Ukrainian children.

The ICC also issued a warrant

against Maria Lvova-Belova, Russia's presidential commissioner for children's rights, on similar charges.

Russia has earlier issued arrest warrants for ICC prosecutor Karim Khan and several judges.

Russia, which is not a member of the ICC, insists the warrant against Putin is "void".

In September, the ICC opened a field office in Ukraine, as part of efforts to hold Russian forces accountable for Moscow's offensive in the Western-backed country.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



I want everyone to feel pride in the places they call home. Today we've announced 45 new projects across the UK as part of our Community Ownership Fund including the community centre here in Hertfordshire. We're investing in local areas to create jobs and grow the economy.

@RishiSunak

02



We need leaders with the courage to act -- and that's exactly what our Administration is doing. @POTUS and I are proud to establish the first-ever White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention.

@VP

03



Mario Draghi is one of Europe's greatest economic minds. No-one is better placed to analyse what Europe can do to keep its competitive edge. Today we had a good discussion on his report on Europe's future competitiveness.

@vonderleyen

04



At #IAEAGC event by Australia I highlighted how shipment delays or denials impact efficient transfer of safe & crucial radioactive materials, incl those that save lives. @IAEAorg talks w/ stakeholders to address this situation, aiming to address misunderstandings & perceptions.

@rafaelgrossi

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