

1586

Walter Raleigh brings the 1st tobacco to England from Virginia



1689

Battle of Killiecrankie: Jacobite Scottish Highlanders under Viscount Dundee defeat royalist force under General MacKay

1789

US Congress establishes Department of Foreign Affairs now referred to as the State Department

1866

First transatlantic telegraph cable comes ashore at Heart's Content, Newfoundland after being laid out 1,686 miles by Isambard Kingdom Brunel's Great Eastern steamship

Railways

Opening ceremony



There's a huge number of bundled cables. We have to repair them one by one, it's a manual operation requiring hundreds of workers

SNCF CHIEF EXECUTIVE JEAN-PIERRE FARANDOU

caused travel chaos in northern Germany, with a claim of responsibility posted to an extreme-left website.

The attacks happened hours before the Olympics parade yesterday evening that will see up to 7,500 competitors travel down a six-kilometre (four-mile) stretch of the river Seine on a flotilla of 85 boats.

It will be the first time a Summer Olympics has opened outside the main athletics stadium, a decision fraught with danger at a time when France is on its highest alert for terror attacks.

France's rail network was expected to be busy this weekend not only due to the Olympics but also as people return from or leave for their summer holidays.

At Paris's Montparnasse train station, passengers were waiting for information, with display boards showing delays of more than two hours.

India stuns China in Bangladesh, wins rights to operate terminal of Mongla port

TDT | Agencies

In a major strategic victory over China, India has secured operational rights of a terminal of Bangladesh's Mongla port in the Indian Ocean.

As per experts, it will give a major boost to India's maritime race to gain quasi-control of foreign ports, especially in its neighbourhood where China has sought to expand its influence.

The details of the deal are not out yet. It's India's third successful bid to run overseas ports in the last years, after Chabahar in Iran and Sittwe in Myanmar.

As per media reports, the terminal at the Mongla port will be managed by Indian Port Global Limited (IPGL).

The Indian Ocean region is key to fulfilling the objectives of China's Maritime Silk Road initiative. From Gwadar in Pakistan to Djibouti in East Africa,



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (R) shakes hand with his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina (file photo)

ca, China has made substantial investments in ports, a sector where India still remains a lightweight.

For instance, none of the Indian ports feature in the world's top 10 ports based on container traffic. On the other hand, China has six ports on the list.

According to C Uday Bhaskar, director of the Delhi-based think tank Society for Policy Studies, even development regarding to Chabahar and Sittwe ports has remained unimpressive over the years due to geopolitical and security factors.

"The progress [by Indian

companies] in Iran and Myanmar has been uneven due to other geopolitical factors, and hopefully Mongla will allow for speedy execution of the agreement," he was quoted as saying by South China Morning Post.

China's influence in Indian Ocean

As of now, China is actively involved in at least 17 Indian Ocean ports, out of which it's directly involved in the construction of 13 ports.

Now, India is hoping to boost its influence over key maritime locations on the western and eastern sides of the Indian Ocean and reinforce its role in regional security. "Building and managing ports is a form of 'port diplomacy' - a refurbished national power tool - which is acquiring strategic significance and China has pursued this path with great success," Bhaskar said.

Thousands evacuated as record rains pound northern Japan

AFP | Tokyo

Record heavy rain forced the evacuation of thousands of people across parts of northern Japan as rivers burst their banks washing away bridges and cars, officials and media reports said yesterday.

At least one person was killed and four missing after the downpours in Yamagata and Akita prefectures on the main island of Honshu.

A man in his 60s was missing after a landslide at roadworks in Yuzawa City, while an 86-year-old man was unaccounted for

after last being seen on a river bank in Akita City, police said.

One body was found in Akita City, media reports said.

A local official said in Yamagata, where two rivers burst their banks, that "three people, including two police officers who

were on a mission searching for a missing man, are unaccounted for".

Two parts of Yamagata prefecture recorded the most rain in 24 hours since records began in 1976, the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) said yesterday.

Harris 'will not be silent' on Gaza after tough talks with Netanyahu

Harris meets Netanyahu, calls for end to "devastating" war

AFP | Washington

Kamala Harris signalled a major shift on US Gaza policy Thursday, with the presidential hopeful telling Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to seal a peace deal and insisting she would not be "silent" on the suffering in the Palestinian enclave.

Ripping up outgoing President Joe Biden's playbook of mostly behind-the-scenes pressure on Israel, the vice president said after meeting Netanyahu that it was time to end the "devastating" war.

"What has happened in Gaza over the past nine months is devastating. The images of dead children and desperate hungry people fleeing for safety, sometimes displaced for the second, third or fourth time," Harris told reporters.

"We cannot look away in the face of these tragedies. We cannot allow ourselves to become numb to the suffering and I will not be silent."

The 59-year-old -- now the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee after Biden said over the weekend he would not stand in November's election --



US Vice President Kamala Harris and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu arrive for a meeting in the Vice President's ceremonial office

Harris's outspoken comments mark a significant departure from Biden's approach, potentially signalling a new direction in US policy towards the Israel-Gaza conflict as she becomes the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee for the upcoming election

said she pressed Netanyahu on the dire situation in the "frank" meeting.

She said she "expressed with

the prime minister my serious concern about the scale of human suffering in Gaza, including the death of far too many innocent civilians."

"And I made clear my serious concern about the dire humanitarian situation there."

Biden, for his part, held Oval Office talks with Netanyahu and called on him to swiftly "finalize" a deal on a Gaza ceasefire and the release of hostages, and "reach a durable end to the war in Gaza," according to a White House readout of the meeting.

Harris also called for the establishment of a Palestinian state and, similar to Biden, urged both Netanyahu and Hamas to agree to a ceasefire and hostage release deal to end the war sparked by

We cannot look away in the face of these tragedies. We cannot allow ourselves to become numb to the suffering and I will not be silent

KAMALA HARRIS

Hamas's October 7 attack on Israel.

"As I just told Prime Minister Netanyahu, it is time to get this deal done," she said.

Harris's outspoken comments were a stark contrast to the largely amiable greetings between Biden and Netanyahu earlier in the day, even if it masked months of tensions between the two men as well as questions over the US president's relevance.

"From a proud Zionist Jew to a proud Zionist Irish American, I want to thank you for 50 years of public service and 50 years of support for the State of Israel," Netanyahu said in tribute to Biden at the start of the Oval Office meeting.

Harris has been more outspoken on Gaza in the past than Biden and there had been speculation that she could adopt a tougher approach on Israel. Officials earlier denied there is any "daylight" between her and the president.

California governor orders homeless encampments dismantled



A homeless encampment is seen in California

AFP | Los Angeles

California Governor Gavin Newsom on Thursday ordered the dismantling of homeless encampments on state land, one month after the US Supreme Court overturned protections for unhoused residents sleeping outdoors.

The Golden State has long been reckoning with a homelessness crisis -- roughly one-third of the entire US homeless population live there -- in part due to lack of affordable housing.

"The state has been hard at work to address this crisis on our streets," Newsom said in a statement.

"There are simply no more excuses. It's time for everyone to do their part."

The Democratic governor issued an executive order to direct state agencies "to address dangerous encampments while supporting and assisting the individuals living in them."



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TWEETS

01



Leaders across the globe must wake up and step up their #ClimateAction. That means governments - especially #G20 countries - as well as the private sector, cities and regions. They must #ActNow as though our future depends on it - because it does.

@antonioguterres

02



Great to speak with athletes from @TeamGB ahead of the Olympics opening ceremony tonight. On behalf of the whole country: good luck - we are all behind you. #Paris2024

@Keir_Starmer

03



The EU stands with Ukraine. Today we transfer €1.5 billion in proceeds from immobilised Russian assets to the defence and reconstruction of Ukraine. There is no better symbol or use for the Kremlin's money than to make Ukraine and all of Europe a safer place to live.

@vonderleyen

04



Delivering again on our commitment to support Ukraine. The first payment of 1.5 bln from frozen Russian assets goes to military capabilities and reconstruction. The EU will stand by Ukraine for as long as it takes.

@JosepBorrellF

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