

522BC

Darius I of Persia kills Magian usurper Gaumata, securing his hold as king of the Persian Empire

480BC

Battle of Salamis: The Greek fleet under Themistocles defeats the Persian fleet under Xerxes I



1829

The first units of the London Metropolitan Police appear on the streets of the British capital, the city's 1st modern police force

2008

Dow Jones Industrial Average falls 777.68 points, its largest single-day point loss, following the bankruptcies of Lehman Brothers and Washington Mutual

Spain shocked as 14-year-old kills five people in school



Several students told Spanish media the pupil first stabbed members of his class and the teacher

session the two knives used to attack three teachers and two students," Dominguez said, adding the suspect had been taken to a

by the pupil, the regional government's education minister, Patricia del Pozo, told reporters. Several students told Spanish media the pupil first stabbed members of his class and the teacher who suffered the eye injury before he ran to another classroom and continued his attack.

One student, who was not identified, told private television La Sexta the attacker ran to the back of the class, "dropped his backpack on the floor and pulled out the knives before shouting 'I'm going to kill you!'"

"He was running, chasing people, everyone went out into the playground," he added.

Another unnamed student told Canal Sur television the pupil had "a look on his face like he wanted to stab everyone."

"Devastating and dramatic" Parents rushed to the school, gathering outside the gates which were cordoned off by police, im-



Spain has a low crime rate -- especially of violent crime -- compared to other European countries. Excluding 2020, when incidents of crime were especially rare because of pandemic-induced lockdowns, 2021's crime rate of 41.4 incidents per 1,000 people was the lowest in recent history, according to the government.

ages broadcast on Spanish TV showed. Students were evacuated from the school and given the rest of the day off.

"It was devastating and dramatic because all the parents were outside the school wishing they could hug their children," Jerez de la Frontera mayor Maria Jose Garcia-Pelayo told reporters, adding that the teachers managed to disarm the suspect.

"They acted very diligently to protect the children...what happened is very serious and it requires us to reflect."

The head of Andalusia's re-

gional government, Juan Manuel Moreno, said the trigger for the attack was not clear but flayed "extreme violence" on television and elsewhere.

"We should all reflect on the role played by violence on television, in the movies, in games. The violence which we very often see on social media, gratuitous, sometimes extreme violence," he added. The head of the Spanish bishops' conference, Archbishop Francisco Cesar Garcia Mogan, called for "urgent reflection" and a focus on mental health in education.

Behind India's 'green revolution' dies



The UNESCO ecotechnology director, known as the father of the "Indian Green Revolution", Monkombu Sambasivan Swaminathan

gress was exemplary." Swaminathan was awarded his doctorate in genetics from Cambridge University in 1952 but turned down a US professorship after resolving to return to post-independence India and "serve the nation".

Memories were still fresh of the Bengal Famine of 1943 at the twilight of British colonial rule, when up to 3.8 million people died of hunger.

He began collaborating with US agronomist Norman Borlaug, whose own contributions to im-

proving world food supply won him the Nobel Peace Prize.

After prime minister Indira Gandhi took office in 1966, Swaminathan was given free rein to implement a new agricultural programme.

At the time, India's economy was hobbled by chronic food shortages that left it dependent on foreign aid, but by the early 1970s the new techniques had made it self-sufficient.

"Crisis is a mother of invention. We faced a crisis in the 1960s and we succeeded," he told AFP in 2008.

Swaminathan was the 1971 recipient of the Ramon Magsaysay Award, popularly known as Asia's equivalent of the Nobel, along with a laundry list of other accolades.

Time Magazine ranked him as one of the three most influential Indians of the 20th century, alongside independence hero Mahatma Gandhi and the revolutionary poet and artist Rabindranath Tagore.

His later career saw him briefly serve as a member of India's parliament. He was survived by his three daughters following the death of his wife last year, media reports said.

Japanese scientists find microplastics are present in clouds

AFP | Washington, United States

Researchers in Japan have confirmed microplastics are present in clouds, where they are likely affecting the climate in ways that aren't yet fully understood.

In a study published in Environmental Chemistry Letters, scientists climbed Mount Fuji and Mount Oyama in order to collect water from the mists that shroud their peaks, then applied advanced imaging techniques to the samples to determine their physical and chemical properties.

The team identified nine different types of polymers and one type of rubber in the airborne microplastics -- ranging in size from 7.1 to 94.6 micrometers. Each liter of cloud water contained between 6.7 to 13.9 pieces of the plastics.

What's more, "hydrophilic" or water-loving polymers were abundant, suggesting the particles play a significant role in rapid cloud formation and thus climate systems.

"If the issue of 'plastic air pollution' is not addressed proactively, climate change and ecological risks may be-



The team identified nine types of polymers and one type of rubber

come a reality, causing irreversible and serious environmental damage in the future," lead author Hiroshi Okochi of Waseda University warned in a statement Wednesday.

When microplastics reach the upper atmosphere and are exposed to ultraviolet radiation from sunlight, they degrade, contributing to greenhouse gasses, added Okochi.

Microplastics -- defined as plastic particles under 5 millimeters -- come from industrial effluent, textiles, synthetic car tires, personal care products and much more.

These tiny fragments have been discovered inside fish in the deepest recesses of the ocean peppering Arctic sea ice and blanketing the snows on the Pyrenees mountains between France and Spain.

Ukraine says 31 drones downed in 'massive' attack

AFP | Kyiv, Ukraine

The Ukrainian military yesterday said that Russia had launched a "massive" drone attack overnight and that it had destroyed 31 out of the 39 aircraft.

Russian unmanned aerial vehicles were intercepted over Black Sea coastal regions and further inland, said Nataliya Gumenyuk, spokeswoman for the Ukrainian southern military command.

Russia "does not stop the pressure and searching for new tactics: namely, with the use of mass attacks", Gumenyuk said on the messaging platform Telegram.

"Tonight, several groups of strike UAVs were launched... air defence worked along almost the entire southern direction -- in Odesa, Mykolaiv regions. Also, much higher north -- the enemy aimed its attacks on central Ukraine," she said, adding that Ukraine was still assessing the damage.

Record years melt away 10% of Swiss glacier volume: study



Insulating foam covering a part of the Rhone Glacier to prevent it from melting, and exposing small glacial lakes on its surface due to the ice melting.

dramatic glacial retreat, and warned the situation would only get worse.

"Swiss glaciers are melting at a rapidly increasing rate," it said in a statement.

2022 marked the worst year on record for glacier melt in the Swiss Alps, with six percent of the total ice volume lost.

The glaciers have not fared much better this year, the CC report showed, with another four percent of ice volume destroyed, "representing the second largest

decline since measurements began".

"The acceleration is dramatic, with as much ice being lost in only two years as was the case between 1960 and 1990," it said.

The result of two consecutive extreme years had been collapsing glacier tongues and some smaller glaciers vanishing all together. "All glaciers melted a lot," Matthias Huss, head of Glacier Monitoring in Switzerland (GLAMOS), told AFP.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Everyone has the right to seek and receive verified information. Access to information in the digital era enables informed decision-making and promotes inclusivity. Information integrity is key for sustainable development & human rights.

@antonioguterres

02



Deeply saddened by the demise of Dr. MS Swaminathan Ji. At a very critical period in our nation's history, his groundbreaking work in agriculture transformed the lives of millions and ensured food security for our nation.

@narendramodi

03



From training thousands of troops to providing long range missiles, the UK has stood with Ukraine from the beginning.

@RishiSunak

04



Scientist: Explaining the importance of good sleep.
Me at 3am watching him explain.



@elonmusk

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