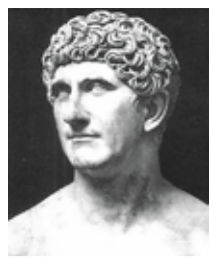


Battle of Alexandria: Mark Antony achieves a minor victory over Octavian, but most of his army subsequently deserts, leading to Octavian's invasion of Egypt



Pilgrim Fathers depart Leiden, Netherlands for England on their way to America

World War I: Battle of Passchendaele (Third Battle of Ypres) begins, goes on to cause approximately 500,000 casualties

Israel welcomes its one millionth immigrant

# des strike India tea estates



Indian Army, security and relief personnel rescue victims



Gandhi, who until recently represented Wayanad in parliament, told lawmakers that the scope of the devastation was "heart-breaking".

"Our country has witnessed an alarming rise in landslides in recent years," he said. "The need of the hour is a comprehensive action plan to address the growing frequency of natural calamities."

Monsoon rains across the region from June to September offer respite from the summer heat and are crucial to replenishing water supplies.

They are vital for agriculture and therefore the livelihoods of millions of farmers and food security for South Asia's nearly two billion people.

But they also bring destruction in the form of landslides and floods.

The number of fatal floods and landslides has increased in recent years, and experts say climate change is exacerbating the problem.

"The number of extreme-



ly heavy rainfall days have increased," Kartiki Negi of Indian environment think tank Climate Trends told AFP.

"The atmosphere is quite disturbed," she said. "Thus we see more and more extreme events

these days."

Intense monsoon storms battered India this month, flooding parts of the financial capital Mumbai, while lightning in the eastern state of Bihar killed at least 10 people.

pensation payment of \$2,400 (200,000 rupees).

Vijayan said that more than 3,000 people were sheltering in emergency relief camps around Wayanad district.

More rainfall and strong winds lashed Kerala on Tuesday, and Vijayan urged the public to "be

prepared and heed warnings" of more potential disasters ahead. "Everyone should be willing to follow the instructions given by authorities and not ignore them," he added.

### 'Alarming rise in landslides'

Indian opposition leader Rahul

## Israel targets Hezbollah commander

AFP | Beirut, Lebanon

Israel struck Hezbollah's stronghold in southern Beirut yesterday in retaliation for rocket fire from Lebanon that killed 12 children over the weekend, saying it had targeted the commander responsible for the attack.

"The IDF (army) carried out a targeted strike in Beirut on the commander responsible for the murder of the children in Majdal Shams and the killing of numerous additional Israeli civilians," the military said in a statement, referring to the Druze Arab town in the annexed Golan Heights where the children were killed on Saturday.

A source close to Hezbollah told AFP that senior commander Fuad Shukur, who is leading the group's operations against Israel in south Lebanon, survived an Israeli strike in the group's southern Beirut stronghold.

Shukur, "who goes by the nom de guerre Mohsen Shukur, survived the Israeli strike," the source told AFP, requesting anonymity, adding that Shukur is "in charge of commanding military operations in southern Lebanon".

## Gaza official says 300 killed in Khan Yunis as army ends assault

Palestinian Territories

Gaza's civil defence agency said yesterday that an Israeli operation in and around the territory's second city of Khan Yunis killed about 300 people since it began last week, while the army said it had "eliminated 150".

"Since the beginning of the Israeli ground invasion of the eastern part of Khan Yunis province, the civil defence and medical teams have recovered approximately 300 bodies of martyrs, many of them decomposed," agency spokesman Mahmud Bassal told AFP.

In 2017, the US Treasury offered \$5 million for information on Shukur, describing him as "a senior adviser" to Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and saying he had "a central role" in the deadly 1983 bombing of the US Marine Corps barracks in Beirut.

## France says autonomy within Morocco 'only' solution for W.Sahara

AFP | Rabat, Morocco

France said yesterday that autonomy within Morocco was the "only" basis for a solution to the decades-old Western Sahara dispute, drawing an angry reaction from the pro-independence Polisario Front.

In a letter to King Mohammed VI congratulating him on the 25th anniversary of his coronation, French President Emmanuel Macron said the Moroccan offer was "now the only basis that will lead to a just, lasting and negotiated political solution in line with UN Security Council resolutions".

The former Spanish colony is largely controlled by Morocco but claimed by the Algeria-backed Polisario Front, which in 2020 declared a "self-defence war" and seeks the territory's independence.

The United Nations, which considers Western Sahara a "non-self-governing territory", has had a peacekeeping mission there since 1991 whose stated



France's President Emmanuel Macron

aim is to organise a referendum on the territory's future.

But Rabat has repeatedly rejected any vote in which independence is an option.

The Moroccan royal court hailed Macron's comments in his letter as "a significant step in support of Moroccan sovereignty" over the Western Sahara.

The Polisario retorted that the French leader was supporting the territory's "violent and illegal occupation" by Morocco.

The movement's main backer, Moroccan arch-rival Algeria, already preempted Macron's comments condemning the

toughening of France's position last week.

The Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic proclaimed by the Polisario is still a member of the African Union but it has suffered several major diplomatic blows in recent years.

In 2020, then US president Donald Trump recognised Morocco's annexation of the Western Sahara in return for Rabat normalising ties with Israel.

In 2022, Spain, which had sought for decades to adopt an even-handed approach between Morocco and the Polisario, announced it supported the Moroccan autonomy plan.



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



Children account for 1/3 of human trafficking victims, suffering unspeakable abuse. I call on governments, civil society & the private sector - including tech companies - to intensify efforts so that no child is victimized & no trafficker goes unpunished. #EndHumanTrafficking @antonioguterres

02



The global conditions are filled with uncertainties. In such a time, India is witnessing growth and stability. @narendramodi

03



@SecDef Austin and I met with Philippine President Marcos to discuss the Indo-Pacific and our commitment to the U.S.-Philippines Alliance. Through increased investments, new cyber and economic dialogues, and nuclear energy cooperation, we continue to advance our shared @SecBlinken

04



They should mix up the propaganda more. This is way too obvious. Just like when they were parroting before the debate that Biden was "sharp as a tack" @elonmusk

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