

1692

First people are accused of witchcraft in Salem, Massachusetts - Sarah Good, Sarah Osborne and Tituba, a West Indian slave

1904

Theodore Roosevelt, appoints 7-man Panama Canal Commission to proceed with completing a canal at the Isthmus

1960

Agadir earthquake in Morocco kills a third of the population (12,000-15,000)



1982

Pierre Trudeau announces he is stepping down after 15 years as Canadian Prime Minister

Protests in Greece probing suspected of oil spill



We will ... use all means

"We will ... use all means until we find the environmental perpetrator responsible for the pollution," Environmental Protection Minister Gila Gamliel said in a statement.

Israel did not provide details of the ship.

A Greek Coast Guard official who declined to be named said Athens had not received any official request from Israel to inspect a Greek ship.

Volunteers, and thousands of soldiers, have been gathering daily on Israel's beaches to remove the clumps of sticky black tar, which have also been washing up in southern Lebanon.

Israel's beaches blackened by tar after offshore oil spill



Protests against coup

Police broke up protests in other towns, including Lashio in the northeast, Myeik in the deep south and Hpa-An in the east, residents and media said.

Outrageous

Junta leader General Min Aung Hlaing said last week authorities were using minimal force to deal with the protests.

Nevertheless, at least 21 protesters have now died in the turmoil. The army said a policeman has been killed.

The crackdown would appear to indicate determination by the military to impose its authority in the face of defiance, not just on the streets but more broadly

in the civil service, municipal administration, the judiciary, the education and health sectors and the media.

"The Myanmar security forces' clear escalation in use of lethal force in multiple towns and cities ... is outrageous and unacceptable," Phil Robertson, deputy Asia director of New York-based Human Rights Watch, said in a statement.

The Canadian Embassy said it was "appalled by a trend of increased violence and use of force against protesters" and Indonesia, which has taken the lead within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in efforts to resolve the turmoil, said it was deeply concerned.



Conservatives show fealty to former president

Washington

US conservatives praised Donald Trump at an annual gathering on Friday, even unveiling a golden statue of the former president, showing he remains a Republican political force despite violent scenes in Washington last month.

Prominent congressional conservatives - including Senators Ted Cruz, Tom Cotton and Josh Hawley and Representatives Steve Scalise and

Matt Gaetz - were among the Trump loyalists speaking at the Conservative Political Action Conference in Orlando, Florida, which the former president will address on Sunday.

"Let me tell you something: Donald Trump ain't going anywhere," said Cruz.

US Senator Rick Scott, a Florida Republican who may run for the party's presidential nomination in 2024, sought to thread the needle between pledging loyalty to Trump and signaling

his aspirations for higher office.

He said "President Trump has flaws" but that he had made the party more approachable for working-class Americans.

"We will not win the future by going back to where the Republican Party used to be," Scott said. "If we do, we will lose the working base that President Trump so animated. We're going to lose elections across the country and ultimately we're going to lose our nation."

Dubai cat cafe hopes rescues will find purr-fect new homes

Reuters | Dubai

A haven for humans craving furry feline company, a cat cafe in Dubai also doubles as an adoption centre for some of the United Arab Emirates' many strays.

The Ailuromania Cat Cafe, which was the Middle East's first cat cafe when it opened in 2015, hopes the relaxing properties of its 25 rescue and shelter cats will help find them their forever homes.

"Anyone who is stressed just has to find a cat. All your stress will go away," said Omnia Fareed, whose two cat-loving sisters Allaa and Iman started the cafe after university, taking inspiration from similar establishments in Korea and London.

The cafe's original residents were strays taken in by the family over the years. Now Ailuromania hosts cats from a government-run animal shelter in the neighbouring emirate of Ras al Khaimah, hoping to increase adoptions.

The cafe's name Ailuromania is a play on the Greek-derived English word for a lover of cats: ailurophile.

The cafe has regular customers who come seeking relaxation from the stresses of life, or because they cannot keep a cat at home.

"They are so cute, they love playing," said visitor Shaasthra.



A man plays with the cats at the Ailuromania Cat Cafe



A worker feeds a cat at the Ailuromania Cat Cafe

She said she appreciates how the cafe looks after the cats' welfare by advising people not to hold them or wake them up.

Another regular visitor, a street cat who would stare in through the window, was

also invited and eventually adopted.

Since Dubai began lifting coronavirus lockdown measures last summer, the cafe reopened with capacity and sanitisation restrictions.



TOP
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TWEETS

01



Congratulations to NSIL and @isro on the success of the 1st dedicated commercial launch of PSLV-C51/Amazonia-1 Mission. This ushers in a new era of Space reforms in the country. 18 co-passengers included four small satellites that showcase dynamism and innovation of our youth.

@narendramodi

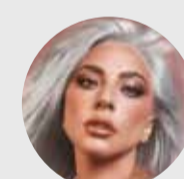
02



Yesterday I traveled to Texas to visit an emergency operations center, food bank, and vaccination site. Each stop represented our nation at its best—people coming together to help their fellow Americans. It's a reminder that there's nothing we can't do when we do it together.

@JoeBiden

03



My beloved dogs Koji and Gustav were taken in Hollywood two nights ago. My heart is sick and I am praying my family will be whole again with an act of kindness. I will pay \$500,000 for their safe return. Email KojiandGustav@gmail.com to contact us.

@ladygaga

04



@WHO chief @DrTedros welcomed the newly adopted Security Council resolution calling for local cease-fires for #vaccineequity while pushing for more "concrete steps", such as waiving intellectual property rights to enable faster vaccine production.

@UN_News_Centre

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