

527

Byzantine Emperor Justin I names his nephew Justinian I as co-ruler and successor to the throne

1748

Ruins of Pompeii re-discovered by Spaniard Rocque Joaquín de Alcubierre

1952

Big Bang theory proposed in Physical Review by Alpher, Bethe & George Gamow

1975

Ayatollah Khomeini calls for an Islamic Republic in Iran

1976

Steve Wozniak and Steve Jobs found Apple Computer in the garage of Jobs' parents house in Cupertino, California



Indictment

US president to be criminally prosecuted



They only brought this Fake, Corrupt, and Disgraceful Charge against me because I stand with the American People, and they know that I cannot get a fair trial in New York!

DONALD TRUMP

'Disgraceful'

"They only brought this Fake, Corrupt, and Disgraceful Charge against me because I stand with the American People, and they know that I cannot get a fair trial in New York!" he wrote on his social media platform Truth Social. Trump survived two impeachments while in the White House and kept prosecutors at bay over everything from the US Capitol riot to missing classified files -- only to land in court over a sex scandal involving Stormy Daniels, a 44-year-old adult movie actress. Top Republicans have rallied around the former president who remains the favourite to win the party's 2024 presidential nom-

ination despite potential legal troubles that extend beyond the New York indictment.

Trump faces felony investigations in Georgia relating to the 2020 election and in Washington over both the classified files and the January 6, 2021 attack on the Capitol by his supporters.

Kevin McCarthy, the top House Republican, said the indictment had "irreparably damaged" the country.

Trump's former vice president and possible 2024 challenger Mike Pence called it an "outrage" that would only "further serve to divide" the United States.

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, another likely 2024 Republican rival, slammed the indictment as "un-American."

On the Democratic side, former House speaker Nancy Pelosi said "no one is above the law" and Representative Adam Schiff -- lead prosecutor of Trump's first impeachment in 2019 -- called it "sobering."

"The indictment and arrest of a former president is unique throughout all of American history," Schiff said. "But so too is the unlawful conduct for which Trump has been charged."

Zelensky, on Bucha anniversary, vows to defeat 'Russian evil'



(L-R) Prime Minister of Slovenia Robert Golob, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, President of Moldova Maia Sandu, Prime Minister of Croatia Andrej Plenkovic and Prime Minister of Slovakia Eduard Heger walk prior to a ceremony marking the first anniversary of the retreat of Russian troops from the Ukrainian town of Bucha, in Bucha, near Kyiv

AFP | Kyiv



The battle for the foundation of the free world is taking place on Ukrainian land. We will definitely win. Russian evil will fall, right here in Ukraine

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY

and destruction in their wake.

Journalists on April 2 last year discovered the bodies of at least 20 people in civilian clothing, some with their hands tied behind their backs, lying in a street of the suburb.

"The battle for the foundation of the free world is taking place on Ukrainian land. We will definitely win. Russian evil will fall, right here in Ukraine," Zelensky said.

He earlier called Bucha "a symbol of the atrocities" committed by Russia's forces, who have been linked to the extra-judicial killings of unarmed civilians in Bucha.

After pizza and prayer, Pope set to leave hospital today

AFP | Vatican City

Pope Francis is expected to return home on Saturday after what will have been three nights in hospital with bronchitis, and will attend Palm Sunday services, the Vatican said.

The 86-year-old has responded well to antibiotics and on Thursday evening shared pizza with staff looking after him at Rome's Gemelli hospital, spokesman Matteo Bruni said.

The Argentine pontiff, who had part of one lung removed as a young man, has suffered increasing health issues in recent years, and it was his second stay in hospital since 2021.

Yesterday morning, he had breakfast, read some newspapers and did some work in the private papal suite on hospital's 10th floor where he was admitted on Wednesday after complaining of breathing problems.

"His Holiness's return home to Santa Marta (his Vatican home) is expected tomorrow, in the wake of the results of the latest tests this morning," Bruni said yesterday.

He said Pope Francis was set to preside over Palm Sunday mass in St Peter's Square, which marks the beginning of Holy Week and Easter, Christianity's most important holiday.

This means the pope will stay



A rack displaying postcards of Pope Francis is pictured at a souvenirs' shop at Piazza Pope Pius XII in Rome



His Holiness's return home to Santa Marta (his Vatican home) is expected tomorrow, in the wake of the results of the latest tests this morning

HOSPITAL SPOKESMAN MATTEO BRUNI

seated while someone else -- likely a senior cardinal -- performs the ceremony at the altar. The mass is due to be followed by the pope's regular Sunday Angelus prayer.

Francis' hospitalisation, just weeks after he marked 10

years as head of the worldwide Catholic Church, had sparked widespread concern.

He has repeatedly said he would consider stepping down if his health failed him, following the example of his predecessor Benedict XVI -- but said in February that for now, he had no plans to quit.

The Vatican initially said Francis was hospitalised for pre-planned checks, before later revealing he had been complaining of breathing difficulties.

In a Vatican issued statement, medical staff said late Thursday that Francis was suffering from an "infectious bronchitis which required the administration of antibiotics".

Rare delays at Singapore airport due to immigration system issues

AFP | Singapore

A disruption at automated immigration clearance counters yesterday led to rare delays at Singapore's Changi airport, affecting hundreds of travellers.

The Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) said in a Facebook post it was "experiencing slowness at selected passenger clearance checkpoints", leading to the delays.

It advised travellers to postpone all non-essential trips outside the country.

Long lines formed at Changi, often voted the world's best air-

Long lines formed at Changi, often voted the world's best airport where clearing immigration is normally a breeze



Travellers queue to check-in for their flight departure at Singapore Changi airport (file photo)

port where clearing immigration is normally a breeze.

"It's very chaotic at T4 and very little communication," wrote one person on Facebook. His comment was accompanied by a photo showing passengers packing the terminal lobby.

Passengers whose flights

were departing soon were being called to be cleared at the manual counters, one more traveller wrote.

There were also "super long" lines at the airport's Terminal 1 but manual counters were clearing them up fast, another traveller said.

S. Korean dictator's grandson offers apology for 1980 massacre

AFP | London

The grandson of former South Korean military dictator Chun Doo-hwan apologised yesterday for a massacre committed in the 1980s, a move hailed by victims and analysts as symbolic and significant.

Chun Woo-won, 27, became the first member of his family to visit the Gwangju cemetery and say sorry for the 1980 crackdown on a democracy uprising, which killed at least about 200 people, according to official estimates.

New York-based Chun has attracted widespread media coverage in South Korea for accusing his relatives of corruption in his Youtube and Instagram livestreams.

During one social media



Visitors listening to a guide as they walk between graves at the May 18 National Cemetery for victims of the Gwangju pro-democracy movement, in Gwangju

broadcast, he claimed to have taken illegal narcotics and was arrested when he landed in Seoul Tuesday, but released the next day.

Yesterday, Chun was seen in televised footage consoling

massacre victims' relatives.

"I give my sincere apologies. I am sorry," he said in South Korea's Gwangju, looking visibly emotional.

"As a family member, I acknowledge that my grandfather Chun Doo-hwan was a sinner and slaughterer who committed such a great crime," he said at a separate event.



As a family member, I acknowledge that my grandfather Chun Doo-hwan was a sinner and slaughterer who committed such a great crime

CHUN WOO-WON



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Human rights are for all, including the 100 million people who have been #ForcedToFlee. Protecting refugees is a responsibility we all share.

@antoniogeterres

02



To date, we have disbursed Euro 150 billion under #NextGenerationEU. This means hundreds of investments and reforms for a green, digital and just transition set in motion. And more will come, across the EU.

@vonderleyen

03



When Bucha was de-occupied, the heinous truth about what was happening in the temporarily occupied territories was revealed to the world. We will never forget the victims of this war, and we will certainly bring all Russian murderers to justice.

@Zelenskyyua

04



Guns are the number one killer of children in America. It's time for Congress to act -- so our kids can learn to read in school instead of learning to duck and cover.

@POTUS

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