

Justinian I becomes the sole ruler of the Byzantine Empire after the death of his uncle Justin I

Results of the Domesday inquiry presented to William the Conqueror in Salisbury (the date of compilation and the Great Domesday are historically contestable)



English chemist Joseph Priestley discovers oxygen by isolating it in its gaseous state

Slavery Abolition Act 1833 comes into effect, abolishes slavery throughout the British Empire



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Great pleasure meeting our first-ever @UN Global Advocate for Peace Maryam Bukar Hassan this week. Everywhere we look, peace is under attack. We need strong voices like @AlhanIslam's to champion the cause of peace for everyone, everywhere.

@antonioguterres

02



#Cambodia has become the 10th country globally—and the 2nd in the Western Pacific Region—to join the @WHO Special Initiative for Mental Health (SIMH).

@DrTedros

03



In a boost to our efforts to provide next-generation infrastructure, 4 major rail projects worth over Rs. 11,100 crore have been approved by the Cabinet. These projects will benefit people of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, and Jharkhand.

@narendramodi

04



Met yesterday with Egyptian Foreign Minister Abdelatty to discuss Egypt's important efforts to promote regional peace and security. I thanked Egypt for its mediation role in Gaza and its support for ending the conflict in Sudan.

@SecRubio

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

## US, allies accuse Iran of covert overseas 'kill, kidnap' policy

Washington, United States

The United States and more than a dozen of its allies on Thursday accused Iran of attempting to kill or kidnap people in Western countries, including dissidents, journalists and officials.

"We are united in our opposition to the attempts of Iranian intelligence services to kill, kidnap, and harass people in

Europe and North America in clear violation of our sovereignty," the countries said in a joint statement.

"These services are increasingly collaborating with international criminal organizations to target journalists, dissidents, Jewish citizens, and current and former officials in Europe and North America. This is unacceptable," the statement said.

A UK parliamentary commit-

tee earlier this month blamed Iran for at least 15 attempts to kill or kidnap British-based individuals since 2022.

Dutch intelligence meanwhile accused Tehran of staging a 2024 assassination attempt on an Iranian living in that country. The plot was thwarted when police intervened and arrested two suspects. One of the two people detained was also suspected of involvement in attempting to

kill Spanish right-wing politician Alejo Vidal-Quadras, a supporter of the Iranian opposition who was shot in Madrid the same year.

And the US Justice Department announced the indictment in 2023 of three members of a European criminal gang who allegedly undertook a Tehran-backed plot to assassinate a dissident Iranian-American journalist.

## Top US military, presidential hospital locked down in gun scare

Washington, United States

The Walter Reed hospital outside Washington, which treats military personnel and US presidents, was briefly locked down Thursday after reports of an active shooter.

The emergency ended after authorities made an arrest of an individual who turned out to be carrying an imitation firearm, the police in Montgomery County, Maryland, where the facility is located, said on social media. Earlier, the Navy unit running the complex announced that "security is responding to reports of a potential active shooter" and said "the installation remains on lockdown."

The sprawling Walter Reed Medical Facility treats wounded military personnel and houses a hospital dedicated to treating US presidents and conducting their annual check-ups.

## Seals sing 'otherworldly' nursery rhymes like songs

AFP | Paris, France

When male leopard seals dive down into icy Antarctic waters, they sing songs structured like nursery rhymes in performances that can last up to 13 hours, scientists said Thursday.

The Australian-led team of researchers compared the complexity of the songs composed by the big blubbery mammals to those of other animals -- as well as human musicians like the Beatles and Mozart.

Lucinda Chambers, a bio-acoustics PhD student at Australia's University of New South Wales, told AFP that people are often surprised when they hear the "otherworldly" hoots and trills sung by leopard seals.

"It kind of sounds like sound effects from an '80s sci-fi" movie, said the lead author of a new



study in the journal Scientific Reports.

During the spring breeding season, male leopard seals dive underwater and perform their songs for two minutes before returning to the surface for air. They then repeat this performance for up to 13 hours a day, according to the study.

The researchers determined that all leopard seals share the same set of five "notes" which are impossible to distinguish

between individuals.

However each seal arranges these notes in a unique way to compose their own personal song.

"We theorise that they're that structure as a way to broadcast their individual identity, kind of like shouting their name out into the void," Chambers said.

The researchers believe the males use these songs to woo potential female mates -- and ward off rivals.

## US to refuse visas to Palestinian Authority officials

AFP | Washington, United States

Washington said yesterday it would deny visas to Palestinian Authority officials and sharply criticized the body which governs parts of the Israeli-occupied West Bank, just as multiple US allies move to recognize Palestinian statehood.

The State Department did not specify who was being targeted, only saying it would deny visas to "members" of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and "officials" from the Palestinian Authority (PA).

The organizations are "taking actions to internationalize its conflict with Israel such as through the International Criminal Court (ICC) and Interna-



President Mahmoud Abbas (L) meeting with the Mufti of Jerusalem Mohamed Ahmed Hussein, in Ramallah

tional Court of Justice (ICJ)," statement. It also accused the groups of

"continuing to support terrorism including incitement and glorification of violence," and of "providing payments and benefits in support of terrorism to Palestinian terrorists and their families."

Israel's Foreign Minister Gideon Saar welcomed the US sanctions, saying the gesture displayed "moral clarity."

The measures against the PA, whose leader Mahmud Abbas has been widely recognized for years as a key partner in efforts to resolve the conflict, come as growing numbers of countries consider recognizing a Palestinian state.

Canada and France are among the latest nations to announce they will grant recognition.

## Indian court acquits ex-MP, six others accused of deadly bombing

AFP | Mumbai, India

An Indian court yesterday acquitted a Hindunun and former lawmaker, and six others accused of participating in a deadly bombing near a mosque in 2008.

The attack killed six people and wounded more than 100 others when a bomb strapped to a motorcycle exploded close to the mosque in Malegaon in the western state of Maharashtra.

Seven people were tried on



Sadhvi Pragya Thakur,

terrorism and criminal conspiracy charges, including former MP from the ruling Bharatiya

Janata Party (BJP) Sadhvi Pragya Thakur, in a case that dragged on for years.

The prosecution claimed Thakur's motorbike was used to carry the explosives used in the attack, and that she took part in a key planning meeting before it was staged.

However, Judge AK Lahoti ruled Thursday that the prosecution failed to provide sufficient evidence against Thakur and the six others.

"Judgements cannot be based

on morals and public perception," Lahoti said, according to Indian legal website Live Law.

Defence lawyer Ranjit Nair said the judge noted that the prosecution could not "present any proof against the accused".

During the trial, India's counter-terrorism unit said the 2008 bombing was orchestrated to incite communal tensions, local media reported.

Thakur, 55, spent nine years in jail before she was given bail in 2017.

## Trump blasts India, Russia as 'dead economies'

Washington, United States

President Donald Trump labeled Russia and US ally India "dead economies," indicating that his threat to ramp up tariffs on New Delhi will now go ahead.

In a social media post sent at midnight Wednesday, Trump said "I don't care what India does with Russia. They can take their dead economies down together, for all I care."

"We have done very little business with India, their Tariffs are too high, among the highest in the World. Likewise, Russia and the USA do almost no business together. Let's keep it that way," he added.

The statement on Truth Social followed Trump's announcement Wednesday that India will face 25 percent tariffs, while also announcing an unspecified "penalty" over New Delhi's purchases of Russian weapons and energy.

Trump, 79, said the tariffs would kick in on Friday.

He gave no indication in either announcement about what penalties would be imposed for India's continued trade with Russia, which is under massive US and Western sanctions over its invasion of Ukraine.

## 23 injured in Saudi amusement park accident: reports



Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

At least 23 people were injured when a fair-ground attraction in Saudi Arabia snapped mid-ride, sending its full carousel plunging to the ground, media reported yesterday.

Footage circulating online showed the "360 Degrees" ride breaking in half, with the circular carousel crashing down from a height of several metres.

The Saudi-owned Al Arabiya TV channel reported 23 injured, four of them seriously, in the accident on Wednesday.

The amusement park in Taif, southwest Saudi Arabia, has been closed and an investigation is underway, Al Arabiya added.