

1715

King Louis XIV of France dies after a reign of 72 years, the longest of any major European monarch

1878

First female telephone operator starts work, Emma Nutt, for the Edwin Holmes Telephone Dispatch Company in Boston



1939

World War II begins when Germany invades Poland by attacking the Free City of Danzig

1941

Jews living in Germany are required to wear a yellow Star of David

X

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01



Had extensive discussions with President Putin. Discussed the full range of the India-Russia Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership. It is gladdening to see significant progress across various sectors in recent years. Focus areas for the India-Russia friendship remain energy, innovation, space, fertilisers and people-to-people linkages..

@narendramodi

02



On this International Day, we honour the enormous contributions of people of African descent. We also recall the work still to be done towards ensuring their full enjoyment of human rights, equality & opportunity. Let's dismantle systemic racism to achieve equality, justice & transformative change for people of African descent.,

@antonioguterres

03



We are preparing for new communication with envoys of the U.S. President. More details will follow tomorrow. We are doing everything to ensure that war doesn't remain the only option for what comes next.

@ZelenskyyUA

04



An important day for the friendship between Sweden and France. Strong choices in terms of defense cooperation, a new step in our strategic partnership, a shared ambition: a strong, sovereign Europe, master of its own destiny. Thank you dear @SwedishPM for this welcome.

@EmmanuelMacron

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

Swollen rivers, washed-out roads hamper Nepal rescue effort

AFP | Bidur, Nepal

Nepali rescue teams battled difficult terrain, an unpredictable river and treacherous marshland yesterday, the sixth day in their search for survivors and victims of devastating floods.

The catastrophic flooding has killed more than 900 people, while the number of people unaccounted for has also risen, reaching more than 4,793 on Monday.

"There are too many challenges," said E. Hawadi, a police officer coordinating rescue efforts in the badly affected Nuwakot district.

"There are no roads, they have all been washed away, and many areas are just not accessible," he told AFP.

Floodwaters remained high



in some areas. Elsewhere, the ground had turned into slushy mud, slowing movement and complicating operations.

"It is very difficult for my men. The area is still flooded, and elsewhere it is all marshland," Hawadi said.

Entire communities have been swept away, leaving families homeless in heavy rain or sheltering in temporary facilities.

Unidentified bodies are being buried in mass graves after DNA sampling.

Russia wants AI, digital cooperation with China

AFP | Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Moscow aims to cooperate with Beijing in the field of artificial intelligence and digital innovation, Russian President Vladimir Putin told China's Xi Jinping yesterday as the leaders met in Kyrgyzstan.

They arrived in the central Asian country for a two-day summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), a regional bloc that seeks to serve as a counter-balance to the West.

Russia, with its troops bogged down in Ukraine, has deepened ties with its main oil customer China, which has never condemned Moscow for its four-and-a-half-year invasion.

"Cooperation is successfully developing on all fronts," Putin told Xi ahead of their talks.

They last met in May in Beijing.

"Digital innovations, including in artificial intelligence technologies, are also opening up new opportunities for the



Russia's President Vladimir Putin and China's President Xi Jinping shake hands during a meeting on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Bishkek

economic development of our countries," Putin said.

The Kremlin has in the past months sought to tighten its control over the online sphere, imposing intermittent mass internet shutdowns and restrictions on popular messaging apps.

Moscow is pushing Russians to embrace the state-backed

Max messenger platform -- an unencrypted super-app similar to China's WeChat that critics say raises privacy and snooping concerns.

It has repeatedly threatened foreign-owned sites with bans, part of what rights advocates say is a broader attempt by authorities to control and monitor internet use.

Turkey says regional defence pact not against any country

AFP | Istanbul, Turkey

Turkey's top diplomat stressed yesterday the regional defence pact with Pakistan and Saudi Arabia was not aimed at any particular country and open to others, including Egypt.

Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan's remarks came after the first ministerial meeting of the Mecca Joint Defence Agreement which commits Turkey, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia to mutual defence in the event of any of them being attacked.

"This alliance is founded on international principles such as respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states and non-interference in their internal affairs," he told reporters in Istanbul after they met in an Ottoman-era palace.

"The alliance is not against any state and is open to all states in our region that adhere to these fundamental principles," he said of a pact inked against a backdrop of war between the US and Iran. It unites NATO's second-largest army, Turkey, with the Islamic world's only

nuclear-armed state, Pakistan, and the leading Gulf power in Saudi Arabia.

The meeting came as Israel on Monday said it signed a three-billion euro deal with Athens (almost \$3.5 billion) to set up the "Achilles Shield" aerial defence system for Greece. Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and his Saudi counterpart Prince Faisal bin Farhan were also at the talks, alongside defence ministers from all three countries and their military chiefs of staff.

John Ternus to lead Apple into the age of AI

AFP | San Francisco, United States

John Ternus takes over as Apple's chief executive today, inheriting a company that towers over the smartphone market but trails its rivals in artificial intelligence.

One of his biggest challenges will be balancing the company's dependence on China while parrying acute political pressure from the White House.

The handover ends Tim Cook's 15-year run, replacing the operations specialist who built Apple's supply chain with the engineer who built its hardware.

Ternus, 51, joined Apple's design team in 2001 and worked his way up to senior vice president of hardware engineering, reporting to Cook.

He leads the engineering teams behind Apple's entire

product lineup, including the iPhones that generate most of the company's revenue.

He gets barely a week to settle in, with Apple holding its annual iPhone event on September 9, where it is expected to unveil its first foldable handset.

"Tim Cook left the house in phenomenal order," said Dan Ives, partner and senior managing director at investment firm Yorkville Ives & Co.

"But now it's about Ternus defining the AI chapter."

Ives expects the new chief executive to lean into what he knows.

"There's no reason to fix what's already working," he said, predicting Ternus will concentrate on

hardware innovation while leaving Cook's supply chain intact.



Mother suffers burns while giving birth in Prague hospital

● The baby was not injured in the incident

● The 24-year-old mother suffered burns to her genitals, thighs, sides and lower belly.

AFP | Prague, Czech Republic

A mother giving birth in a Prague hospital suffered burns during a caesarean section, the hospital said Monday, with media reporting a disinfectant caught fire during the procedure.

The baby was not injured in the incident, a spokeswoman for the Bulovka hospital on the northern outskirts of the Czech Republic's capital said.

But the Denik N daily said Sunday that the 24-year-old mother suffered burns to her genitals, thighs, sides and lower belly.

"The caesarean section was performed because of

acute obstetrical complications," the spokeswoman, Eva Stolejda Libigerova, told AFP on Monday, adding that the hospital was investigating the August 25 incident.

"The mother is in a stable condition which does not require intensive care and... remains at a standard ward with her child," she said, refusing to go into detail about the rare incident.

Denik N said the mother caught fire when the hospital staff administered a disinfectant, then used a surgical instrument to stop bleeding.

It added the woman was taken to another Prague hospital with a renowned burn ward for subsequent treatment before returning to Bulovka.

The Bulovka hospital also had to apologise in 2024 when it performed an abortion on the wrong pregnant woman after mixing two Asian women up.

The hospital paid compensation to the woman and police shelved the case, Czech media said.

Tribunal says India cannot withdraw from water treaty with Pakistan

AFP | The Hague, Netherlands

An international tribunal yesterday ordered India to "observe its obligations" under a treaty with Pakistan on the sharing of the Indus and other rivers, which the New Delhi government sought to suspend.

It also made an order "prohibiting" India from carrying out works at two hydro-electric projects that could breach the 1960 Indus Water Treaty.

The treaty governs the use of water from six rivers, whose

headwaters originate in India but flow into Pakistan as part of the Indus basin -- a resource relied on by hundreds of millions. India said in May 2025 that it was suspending its membership of the treaty after accusing Islamabad of backing a deadly attack on tourists on the Indian side of Kashmir. Pakistan denied the charges.

India immediately rejected the Permanent Court of Arbitration's ruling that it had no grounds to withdraw from the treaty.