

1913

Ford Motor Company institutes the world's first moving assembly line for the Model T Ford

1934

Leningrad mayor Sergei Kirov is assassinated. Joseph Stalin uses it as an excuse to begin his Great Purge of 1934-38



1955 1988

Rosa Parks is arrested for refusing to move to the back of a bus and give her seat to a white passenger in Montgomery, Alabama

Benazir Bhutto is named Prime Minister of Pakistan, the first female leader of a Muslim country



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01



Rapid developments in science & technology threaten to make the acquisition & use of chemical weapons easier. We cannot allow this. As we pay tribute to the victims of chemical warfare, I urge States to reaffirm their commitment to a world free of these repugnant weapons.

@antonioguterres

02



On Commemoration Day, we remember those who gave their lives for the UAE with courage and pride. In recognising the immense sacrifices of our heroes and their families, we affirm our deep-rooted belief that dedication and service continue to safeguard our beloved nation.

@MohamedBinZayed

03



@Albomp, am pleased to share my warmest congratulations on your wedding!

@DrTedros

04



Volodymyr Zelenskyy /@ZelenskyyUa20h The Ukrainian delegation should already be in the United States by this evening, U.S. time. The dialogue based on the Geneva points will continue. Diplomacy remains active.

@ZelenskyyUa

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

Floods hit Sri Lanka's capital as cyclone death toll rises to 334



People gather around the Deduru Oya Bridge, which collapsed after floods in Kurunegala
AFP | Colombo, Sri Lanka

Sri Lankan authorities battled rising floodwaters in parts of the capital yesterday after a powerful cyclone left a trail of destruction, killing at least 334 people across the country.

The northern part of Colombo was facing a major flood, as the water level in the Kelani River continued to rise, the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) said.

The death toll had reached 334, with several people missing, the DMC reported, following a week of heavy rains brought on by Cyclone Ditwah, which moved away from Sri Lanka on Saturday.

"Although the cyclone has left us, heavy rains upstream are now flooding low-lying areas along the banks of the Kelani

River," a DMC official said.

President Anura Kumara Dissanayake declared a state of emergency on Saturday to deal with the aftermath of the cyclone and appealed for international aid.

India was the first to respond, sending relief supplies and two helicopters with crew to carry out rescue missions.

Japan said it will send a team to assess immediate needs and pledged further assistance.

While the rains have subsided across the island, several roads in the worst-affected central province remained inaccessible, the DMC said.

The extreme weather system has destroyed more than 20,000 homes and sent 122,000 people into state-run temporary shelters.

Another 833,000 people required assistance after being displaced by the floods.

Troops from the army, navy, and air force have been deployed alongside civilian workers and volunteers to assist with the relief effort.

Officials reported that about a third of the country remains without electricity or running water due to collapsed power lines and inundated water purification facilities. Internet connections have also been disrupted.

The cyclone has become Sri Lanka's deadliest natural disaster since 2017, when flooding and landslides claimed more than 200 lives and displaced hundreds of thousands.

The worst flooding since the turn of the century occurred in June 2003, when 254 people were killed.

When history marches back into battle



Members of historical clubs dressed as 1812 French and Russian soldiers take part in a staged battle to mark the 213th anniversary of Napoleon's army retreat from Russia across the Berezina River, near the village of Studenka, in Barysaw

Netanyahu submits pardon request in Israel corruption cases

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, on trial facing corruption charges, announced yesterday he had submitted a pardon request, saying the long-running cases were tearing the country apart.

US President Donald Trump wrote to Israeli President Isaac Herzog earlier this month, asking him to pardon Netanyahu, who has repeatedly denied wrongdoing in the ongoing court cases.

"The trial in my case has been ongoing for nearly six years, and is expected to continue for many more years," Netanyahu said in a video statement.

He said he wanted to see through the process until acquittal, "but the security and political reality -- the national interest -- dictate otherwise.

The State of Israel is facing enormous challenges".

"The continuation of the trial is tearing us apart from within, arousing fierce divisions, intensifying rifts," he added.

The cases against Netanyahu have exposed divisions in Israeli society between his supporters and opponents.

Netanyahu's backers have dismissed the trials as politically motivated.

The premier and his wife Sara are accused in one case of accepting more than \$260,000 worth of luxury goods such as cigars, jewellery and champagne from billionaires in exchange for political favours.

He is also accused of attempting to negotiate more favourable coverage from two Israeli media outlets in two other cases.

Hong Kong in mourning as fire death toll climbs to 146



People look at the aftermath of a major fire that swept through several apartment blocks at the Wang Fuk Court residential estate in Hong Kong's Tai Po district

AFP | Hong Kong, China

Crowds of mourners gathered yesterday across Hong Kong including thousands near the apartment blocks that were engulfed in flames earlier this week, killing at least 146 people in the city's deadliest fire in decades.

Police as well as Hong Kong's anti-corruption watchdog have launched investigations into the blaze at Wang Fuk Court, but a petition calling for greater accountability and demanding an independent probe was swiftly shut down as an organiser was reportedly arrested for sedition.

The first Sunday since the deadly inferno saw thousands flock to a small park next to the charred residential estate, which has become a focal point for grief over what was the world's deadliest residential building fire since 1980.

The queue of people, many dressed in dark colours and holding flowers, stretched more than 1.2 kilometres (0.75 miles) in the Tai Po neighbourhood, an AFP reporter saw, meaning some mourners had to wait hours to pay their respects.

Police said on Sunday that the death toll had risen to 146, up from 128 recorded the day before, as officers of the Disaster Victim Identification Unit broadened their search in the estate and recovered additional bodies.

"As of 4:00 pm (0800 GMT), the latest death toll stands at 146. We cannot rule out the possibility of further fatalities," Chief Superintendent Tsang Shuk-yin of the police's casualty enquiry unit told a news conference.

The 18 additional bodies were found in flats, staircases, hallways and rooftops, police said, adding that the wrecked building interiors complicated the search.

Hong Kong officials have set up an interdepartmental task force to look into the cause of the blaze.

The city's anti-corruption watchdog has arrested 11 people in connection to the fire, three of whom were also arrested by police for manslaughter.

Hong Kong media have widely reported, citing unnamed sources, that police have made one sedition arrest in relation to the fire.

Reports said the person arrested was 24-year-old student Miles Kwan, who was among those handing out flyers on Friday calling for governmental accountability and an independent probe.

Police told AFP on Saturday that it "will take actions according to actual circumstances and in accordance with the law" and said they had nothing further to add on Sunday evening.

Kwan could not be reached by phone on Sunday.