

31 BC

Battle of Actium: Octavian's (later Augustus) naval forces defeat those under Mark Antony and Cleopatra off the western coast of Greece; naval battle leading to the end of the Roman Republic

1192

Sultan Saladin and King Richard the Lionheart of England sign the Treaty of Jaffa ending the Third Crusade in a compromise neither is happy with; treaty leaves Jerusalem under Islamic control with Christian pilgrimage rights and restores the Kingdom of Jerusalem



1666

Great Fire of London begins at 2am at a baker's shop in Pudding Lane, destroying 80% of London

1864

US Civil War: Union General William T. Sherman captures and occupies Atlanta, Georgia, ending the Atlanta Campaign in the US Civil War

X

TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Sad days for the @WHO family, with the sudden passing of Dr Vasee Moorthy. Vasee joined WHO in 2009 and made a major contribution to advancing the Organization's work on clinical trials, especially in low- and middle-income countries.

@DrTedros

02



This morning I spoke with Chancellor Merz to discuss the hybrid attack at Leipzig airport. I assured him that the EU stands in full solidarity with Germany in the face of this attack by Russia. We will keep the EU united despite these escalating and serious acts. The German government has taken strong measures. And the message is clear: hybrid attacks will not go without a clear response.

@vonderleyen

03



It's time to look at the SCO agenda for the next 25 years. India's position is clear...We must transform our shared geography into shared opportunities. We must work on the three pillars of Security, Connectivity and Opportunity.

@narendramodi

04



Today we celebrate the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. This marks the beginning of the Season of Creation – observed by Christians of various denominations – whose theme this year is “Living Water.”

@Pontifex

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

Health risks soaring in Gaza as rainy season nears: WHO

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

The approaching rainy season risks worsening a dire public health crisis in Gaza, where most people live in overcrowded tent camps amid rubble and overflowing sewage, the WHO warned yesterday.

The World Health Organization warned that there had already been a clear deterioration in the quality of water reaching the population in recent months, while the number of diarrhoea cases had surged.

“Whilst we fail to provide

people with the minimum quantities of water, water quality and water contamination remains a major issue,” said Reinhilde Van de Weerd, the WHO’s representative in the Palestinian territories.

Gaza has been engulfed in a devastating health and humanitarian crisis since Israel launched its war in the territory following Hamas’s unprecedented October 7, 2023 attack inside Israel.

Despite a US-backed ceasefire that took effect in October 2025, violence has not halted in

the Gaza Strip, and Israel continues to impose significant restrictions on the entry of goods, including medical equipment and fuel.

In April, Doctors Without Borders said that Israel was using water access as a “weapon” in Gaza, pointing to data from the United Nations, European Union and World Bank indicating that Israel had destroyed or damaged nearly 90 percent of water and sanitation infrastructure in the territory.

Israel slammed the report at the time.

Qatar urges US, Iran to resume talks after flare-up

● Iran’s President Masoud Pezeshkian said Tehran would “immediately” reciprocate if the United States returned to a June deal aimed at ending their war.

AFP | Doha, Qatar



Iranians swim at Suru Beach in Bandar Abbas along the Strait of Hormuz.

Mediator Qatar yesterday urged the United States and Iran to return to negotiations after they renewed tit-for-tat attacks.

On Sunday, the US carried out strikes on an Iranian island in the Strait of Hormuz, with Tehran quickly retaliating by attacking US military targets in the Middle East.

“We have said from day one that leaving the issue unresolved and trying to normalise the closure of the Strait would lead to escalation,” Qatari foreign ministry spokesman Majed

Al Ansari told a regular press briefing.

“This is precisely what we have witnessed over the past two days,” he said.

“We urge the parties to exercise wisdom and return to the negotiating path, and we continue to intensify our efforts with our mediation partners to ensure a return to that path.”

Earlier on Tuesday, Iran’s President Masoud Pezeshkian said Tehran would “immediately” reciprocate if the United States returned to a June deal aimed at ending their war.

“In Qatar, in the region, in the world today, we cannot afford to accept the status quo,” Al Ansari said.

“Discussions with our mediation partners -- whether in Pakistan or Oman -- are ongoing,” he added.

Last week, Qatar’s Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani travelled to Tehran as part of the mediation efforts, after Iran and Oman, which border the key strait, said they were discussing a temporary shipping corridor and the clearance of mines.

SCO Summit: Iran signals response if US revives June deal



TDT | agencies

At the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Bishkek, Iran’s President Masoud Pezeshkian warned that Tehran would respond immediately if the United States returns to a June agreement aimed at ending their conflict.

Pezeshkian said Iran would take “reciprocal action” if Washington rejoined the deal, while warning that renewed US pressure and threats could derail diplomacy.

The remarks came as more than a dozen leaders gathered for the SCO summit, including Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

On the sidelines, Pezeshkian held talks with Putin and thanked Moscow for its support, calling the Russia-Iran relationship strategic.

Putin, in turn, praised Iran’s “courage and resilience” and said Russia would continue providing assistance while maintaining momen-

tum in trade and economic ties.

The summit also highlighted the growing influence of the SCO as Russia and China push for what Putin described as a “multipolar world” alongside the United Nations.

With tensions between Washington and Tehran rising again, the SCO summit has become an important diplomatic stage — putting Iran’s ties with Russia and China, and the future of negotiations with the US, firmly in focus.

Norway’s King Haakon VIII swears allegiance to constitution



AFP | Oslo, Norway

Norway’s King Haakon VIII took an oath before parliament yesterday, the first major institutional step of his reign, though his wife, still convalescing after a lung transplant, was unable to attend.

Dressed in a ceremonial uniform, the 53-year-old Haakon, who became king when his father King Harald V died on Friday morning aged 89, swore to abide by the Scandinavian country’s constitution, under which the royals have a primarily symbolic function.

“I promise and swear that I will govern the Kingdom of Norway in accordance with

its Constitution and Laws, so help me God, the almighty and omniscient,” he recited in the parliament’s main chamber.

Haakon’s wife Queen Mette-Marit, 53, was not beside her husband as she is still recovering from her June 17 transplant.

Are Holm, head of the Pulmonary Department at Oslo University Hospital, said in a statement from the palace that complications after a transplant are not “uncommon”.

“The queen has had complications on several occasions since the operation, including today,” Holm said.

“As a result, the queen must be kept under observation throughout the day,” he continued.

Bihar showcases Future-Ready Power sector at Bharat Electricity 2026

TDT | New Delhi

Bihar showcased its rapidly transforming, technology-driven power sector at Bharat Electricity 2026 in New Delhi, with Energy Minister Shailesh Kumar alias Bulu Mandal delivering the keynote address on “Energy Sovereignty for a Climate-Resilient Viksit Bharat.”

The Minister inaugurated the Bihar Power Pavilion, highlighting the State’s progress in clean energy, storage, smart metering, digital transformation and long-term energy security. Addressing the gathering, he said energy sovereignty goes beyond increasing generation capacity and requires a secure, reliable, affordable, clean and climate-resilient energy ecosystem.

Bihar has emerged as a national leader in smart metering, with more than 94 lakh smart prepaid meters installed. Technology-led reforms have improved billing transparency and energy accounting, while AT&C losses have fallen from around 59–60% to below 11.54%.

The State has also met a record peak electricity demand of 9,475 MW, with demand projected to reach around 19,033

MW by FY 2037.

As part of its clean-energy push, Bihar plans to provide free 1.1 kW rooftop solar systems to 2.5 lakh eligible BPL households, helping consumers become more energy self-reliant.

The Bihar Power Pavilion showcased several major projects, including a proposed 1,200 MW/7,308 MWh pumped storage plant in Nawada and solar-plus-storage projects in Lakhisarai. These include 301 MW of solar PV capacity supported by a 523 MWh battery energy storage system at Kajra.

The State is also exploring long-term nuclear energy options as part of a diversified energy-security strategy.

The Minister stressed the importance of climate-resilient power infrastructure, particularly as Bihar faces floods, droughts, storms and other extreme weather events.

Making a pitch to investors, he said Bihar is undergoing rapid transformation and invited businesses to join the State’s development journey.

“Come to Bihar, not merely as investors, but our partners,” he said, promising support and an enabling environment for growth.

