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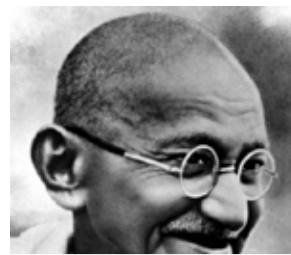
Indian Mughal Emperor Akbar defeats Bengali army at the Battle of Tukaroi

1887

Anne Sullivan begins teaching 6 year old blind-deaf Helen Keller

1939

Mahatma Gandhi begins a fast in Mumbai (Bombay) to protest against autocratic rule in India



1943

Battle of the Bismarck Sea: Australian and American air forces devastate Japanese navy convoy

They said they'll shoot'



n schoolgirls recount kidnap ordeal

Umma Abubakar, among those released, described their ordeal. "Most of us got injured on our feet and we could not continue trekking, so they said they will shoot anybody who did not continue to walk," she told Reuters. Boarding schools in northern Nigeria have become targets for mass kidnappings for ransom by armed criminal gangs, a trend started by the jihadist group Boko Haram and continued by its offshoot, Islamic State West Africa Province. Friday's raid on the Government Girls Science Secondary School was the second such abduction in little over a week in the northwest, a region increasingly targeted by gangs.

Governor Matawalle said "repentant bandits" working with the government under an amnesty programme had helped secure the Jangebe girls' release. Initial reports put the number kidnapped at 317, but Zamfara government spokesman Sulaiman Tanau Anka said the total was 279, as some of the girls had run into the bush at the time of the raid.

'THEY HIT US WITH GUNS'

Reuters journalists in Zamfara's state capital, Gusau, saw dozens of girls in Muslim veils sitting in a hall in a state government building. A few parents arrived, and one father wept with joy after seeing his daughter. Most of the girls appeared un-



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harmed, but at least a dozen were sent to hospital. Farida Lawali, 15, told how she and the other girls had been taken to a forest by the kidnapers. "They carried the sick ones that cannot move. We were walking in the stones and thorns," she said, sitting in the government house building, covered in a light blue veil. "They started hitting us with guns so that we could move," she added. "While they were beating them with guns, some of them were crying and moving at the same time."

President Muhammadu Buhari, who met his top security officials on Tuesday, said news of the girls' release brought "overwhelming joy".

He warned against paying ransoms to kidnapers, which the national government has denied doing.

"Ransom payments will continue to prosper kidnapping," Buhari said, urging the police and the military to bring the kidnapers to justice.

One father, whose seven daughters were among those kidnapped and freed, said the incident would not deter him from schooling his children.

"It's a ploy to deny our girls ... from getting the Western education in which we are far behind," Lawal Abdullahi told Reuters. "We should not succumb to blackmail. My advice to government is that they should take immediate precautions to stop further abductions."

The UN children's agency UNICEF urged the Nigerian government to protect schools so children will not be fearful of going to school, and parents afraid of sending their children to school.



In 2014, Boko Haram abducted more than 270 schoolgirls from the north-easterly town of Chibok, in Nigeria's most high-profile school kidnapping. Around 100 remain missing.

as handed to Japan over Ghosn's escape



Former Renault-Nissan boss Carlos Ghosn (pictured September 2020) was arrested in November 2018 and had been expected to face trial on charges including understating his pay and misusing company assets

confirming they had been handed over to Japanese custody. The US courts rejected the contention by the Taylors' lawyers that the two men would face tor-

ture-like conditions in Japanese prison sufficient to merit breaching the extradition treaty between Tokyo and Washington.

Peter Taylor and his father, a

former US Special Forces member turned private security contractor, had been imprisoned pending the outcome of the extradition fight.

US court documents show the two, and a Lebanese national, allegedly helped smuggle Ghosn out of Japan inside a large musical equipment case.

Prosecutors in one court filing called it "one of the most brazen and well-orchestrated escape acts in recent history."

Ghosn, who was a global business superstar when his career came crashing to an end, fled Japan while out on bail facing financial misconduct charges.

He was arrested in November 2018 and had been expected to face trial on charges including understating his pay and misusing company assets.

Ghosn, who has denied any wrongdoing, has said he fled because he could not get a fair trial in Japan.

UK's Prince Philip remains in hospital after two weeks

Reuters | London

Britain's Prince Philip was receiving treatment and undergoing heart tests yesterday, two weeks after the 99-year-old husband of Queen Elizabeth was admitted to hospital in London as a precaution after he felt unwell. Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, was transferred on Monday from the private King Edward VII hospital to St Bartholomew's Hospital, which is a centre of excellence for cardiac care, for tests for a pre-existing heart condition and treatment for an unspecified infection which is not COVID-related.

His 14-night stay in hospital is the longest he has needed treatment, although Buckingham Palace has said



he is comfortable and responding to treatment.

Last week, his youngest son Prince Edward said his father was feeling a lot better but the palace says Philip is expected to remain in hospital until the end of the week at least.

The queen, 94, has remained at Windsor Castle, west of London, where the couple have been staying during the coronavirus lockdown, and has continued to carry out her official duties, albeit remotely.

Both she and Philip have received their first COVID-19 vaccine dose. Although son and heir Prince Charles visited Philip at the King Edward VII Hospital, visitors are only allowed into clinical areas of St Bartholomew's for very limited reasons.



TOP
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TWEETS

01



Countries are not in a race with each other, this is a common race against the #COVID19 virus. @WHO and our COVAX partners will continue to work day & night towards our #VaccinEquity vision in every country within the first 100 days of this year. There are now 39 days left.

@DrTedros

02



"By December 2020, carbon emissions were 2% higher than in the same month the year before." Well, well, well... Looks like the so-called "ambitious commitments to include "green" policies in the economic recovery packages" aren't really working out...

@GretaThunberg

03



No child in America should go hungry. The American Rescue Plan will extend and invest in critical food programs to help ensure every family gets the food they need.

@JoeBiden

04



New drug coming out called Regretamine. Pop one & all regrets are gone.

@elonmusk

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