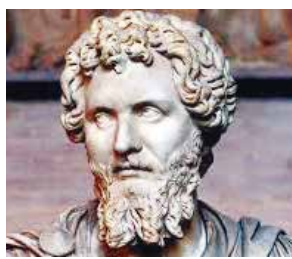


Roman Emperor Septimius Severus dies in Eboracum (York) in England, leaving the Roman Empire in the hands of his two quarrelsome sons, Caracalla and Geta

Coronation of Zhao Kuangyin as Emperor Taizu of the Song initiates three centuries of Song Dynasty dominance in southern China



First US Electoral College chooses George Washington as President and John Adams as Vice President

The Palestine National Congress appoints Yasser Arafat chairman of the PLO

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TWEETS

01



Wonderful to speak with my dear friend President Trump today. Delighted that Made in India products will now have a reduced tariff of 18%. Big thanks to President Trump on behalf of the 1.4 billion people of India for this wonderful announcement.

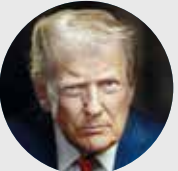
When two large economies and the world's largest democracies work together, it benefits our people and unlocks immense opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation.

President Trump's leadership is vital for global peace, stability, and prosperity. India fully supports his efforts for peace.

I look forward to working closely with him to take our partnership to unprecedented heights.

@narendramodi

02



It was an Honor to speak with Prime Minister Modi, of India, this morning... He agreed to stop buying Russian Oil, and to buy much more from the United States and, potentially, Venezuela. This will help END THE WAR in Ukraine

@POTUS

03



The rule of law is a cornerstone of global peace & security. The key to friendly relations among the countries and regions of the world. And the beating heart of the @UN Charter. It's time for all countries to recommit to the full respect of international law. To live up to the promises & obligations outlined in the Charter.

@antonioguterres

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

# Teen swims **four** hours to save family lost at sea off Australia

The boy made it across four kilometres of ocean



The beach in Quindalup, Western Australia. Right, Austin Appelbee

● The youngster said he started heading for shore with just his life jacket

● When he reached the beach, the teen said he called emergency services

AFP | Sydney, Australia

A 13-year-old boy recounted yesterday how he swam for four hours through choppy waters off western Australia to get help for his family in a feat hailed by rescuers as "superhuman".

The boy, named in local media as Austin Appelbee, made it across four kilometres (2.5 miles) of ocean to raise the alarm after his mother and two younger siblings were swept out to sea.

He had gone out kayaking and paddle-boarding on the water Friday afternoon with his family.

But the waves soon grew, flipping their boards and filling their kayak with water as they were dragged further out into the ocean.

"I was really scared," the young teen told reporters.

"I was just thinking in my head, like thinking I was going to make it through. But I was also thinking about all my

friends at school, and friends at my Christian youth," he said.

"I just said: 'Alright, not today, not today, not today. I have to keep on going'."

The youngster said he started heading for shore with just his life jacket but later abandoned it to swim unencumbered.

"I was very puffed out, but I couldn't feel how tired I was."

The boy said he was trying to think of happy things, at one point singing the "Thomas the Tank Engine" theme song.

"At this time, you know, the waves are massive, and I have no life jacket on. So anyway, I just keep swimming. I do breaststroke. I do freestyle. Survival backstroke."

'Brave fella'

When he reached the beach, the teen said he called emergency services and asked them to deploy boats, helicopters and planes, telling them: "My family is out at sea."

Marine rescue volunteer Paul Bresland said the teen's four-hour swim saved his family, who were eventually found clinging to a paddleboard in the open ocean off the tourist town of Quindalup.

"He swam, he reckons, the first two hours with a life jacket on," Bresland told national broadcaster ABC.

"And the brave fella thought he's not going to make it with a life jacket on, so he ditched it,



and he swam the next two hours without a life jacket.

"I thought, mate, that is incredible," said Bresland, describing the boy's efforts as "superhuman".

Police inspector James Bradley said the boy's actions "cannot be praised highly enough".

"His determination and courage ultimately saved the lives of his mother and siblings," he told the ABC.

The boy's mother, named in local media as Joanne, has also been praised for keeping her family alive during hours out at sea with her other son, 12-year-old Beau, and eight-year-old daughter Grace.

"It seemed nice and calm to begin with," the mother told reporters.

"One of the hardest decisions I've ever had to make was to say to Austin: 'Try and get to shore and get some help, this could get really serious really quickly,'" the mother was quoted as saying.

"As the sun went down I thought: 'Something's gone terribly wrong here', and my fear was that Austin didn't make it," she said.

"Everything goes through your head."

## Ten men charged in France over rape of drugged five-year-old

AFP | Lille, France

French prosecutors said yesterday they had charged 10 men aged 29 to 50 in relation to an investigation into the alleged rape of a five-year-old boy while drugged.

The shocking case, in which the boy's father has been charged, is a rare example of sexual abuse using drugs involving a young child.

An investigation was opened on February 15, 2025, following a report on a "chemsex" party the previous night in the northern city of Lille. Chemsex is the practice of turbo-charging sexual encounters with powerful drugs.

The allegations were that a five-year-old child who was "put in contact with adult males by his own father" suffered "acts of sexual violence aggravated by the use of chemical substances", it said.

It referred the matter to an investigating judge for acts committed in Lille between November 2024 and February 14, 2025, including for "rape and sexual assault involving the administration of a substance to the victim, without their knowledge, to impair

their judgment or control their actions".

Following an investigation, the 10 men were charged between February last year and last month.

One of the main suspects killed himself while being held in pretrial detention in June last year, the prosecutor's office said, without providing further details on his identity.

The father has been indicted for "incestuous sexual assault" and "complicity in aggravated rapes and sexual assaults against his son", the prosecutor's office said.

He too was allegedly raped and assaulted during the same party, Lille prosecutor Samuel Finielz said.

The child is being looked after by his mother, from whom the father had separated before the alleged abuse.

The local Dernieres Nouvelles d'Alsace newspaper reported that at least one of the men -- a 30-year-old truck driver who was charged in January -- was not accused of being a participant but someone who received a video and did not report it to the authorities.

## Four out of every 10 cancer cases are preventable: WHO

AFP | Paris, France

Nearly four out of every 10 cancer cases could be prevented if people avoided a range of risk factors including smoking, drinking, air pollution and certain infections, the World Health Organization said yesterday.

New research published on the eve of World Cancer Day estimated that 38 percent of all new cancer cases globally in 2022 -- 7.1 million -- were linked to preventable causes.

The large team of researchers, which included the WHO's International Agency for Research on Cancer, looked at 30 factors that increase the risk of getting cancer.

Tobacco was the leading offender, responsible for 15 percent of all new cancer cases, followed by cancer-causing infections with 10 percent and drinking alcohol with three percent, according to the study published in the journal Nature Medicine.

Other risk factors included being overweight, a lack of exercise, UV radiation and being exposed to threats such as asbestos while working.

"This is the first global analysis to show how much cancer risk comes from causes we can prevent," senior study author Andre Ilbawi, the WHO's team lead for cancer control, said in a statement.

Almost half of all the preventable cases were lung, stomach or cervical cancer.

Lung cancer was linked to smoking and air pollution, while stomach cancer was largely linked to a bacteria called Helicobacter pylori.



Representative image

Cervical cancer cases were overwhelmingly caused by human papillomavirus (HPV), which vaccines are effective against.

Men were far more likely to get preventable cancer, with 45 percent of new cases compared to 30 percent for women.

And nearly a quarter of all preventable cancer cases among men were from smoking, compared to 11 percent for women.

To address the problem, the researchers called for countries to adopt strong tobacco control measures and alcohol regulation, and to vaccinate against common infections such as HPV, improve air quality and ensure safer workplaces, healthy diets and exercise.

"If we want to reduce the cancer burden we also need to reduce the noncommunicable disease (NCD) burden -- it is indisputable that tobacco, alcohol, ultra-processed food and air quality are major drivers of multiple kinds of cancer," said Katie Dain, CEO of the NCD Alliance.

## China's BYD designing new model for India

AFP | Dubai, United Arab Emirates

China's BYD, the world's top electric car-maker, is preparing a new model for India as it looks to continue its rapid growth overseas, executive vice president Stella Li said yesterday.

Engineers at BYD's headquarters in Shenzhen, southern China, are working on the design,

she said, although the launch date remains unclear.

"India is a market for us but we need to put more effort," Li said at the World Governments Summit in Dubai.

BYD, which began life as a battery company, sold 2.26 million electric vehicles last year, overtaking Elon Musk's Tesla as

the world's top manufacturer.

The Chinese company now plans to "introduce a different model fitted for India", Li said, without giving further details.

"My team is working on that, but there is still some work to do," she said. She denied a report that BYD is planning a car assembly plant in India.

