

1471

Battle of Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, final battle between the Houses of Lancaster and York: Prince of Wales, Edward of Westminster killed and King Edward IV restored to his throne. Re-restores political stability to England until his death in 1483.

1814 1904

King Ferdinand VII of Spain signs the Decree of the 4th of May, returning Spain to absolutism

Construction begins by the United States on the Panama Canal



1979

Margaret Thatcher becomes the first woman to be elected Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

Volunteers provide oxygen as India's COVID-19 cases rise

Reuters

India's tally of coronavirus infections rose on Monday to just short of 20 million.

Total infections since the start of the pandemic have reached 19.93 m, swelled by 368,147 new cases over the past 24 hours, while the death toll rose by 3,417 to 218,959, health ministry data show. At least 3.4 m people are currently being treated.

Offering a glimmer of hope, the health ministry said positive cases relative to the number of tests fell on Monday for the first time since at least April 15.

Modelling by a team of government advisers shows coronavirus cases could peak by Wednesday.

UK on course to ditch social distancing rule in June - PM Johnson

Reuters

Britain is on course to ditch the COVID-19 social distancing rule requiring people to stay at least one metre apart towards the end of next month, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Monday.

Johnson's government has set out a roadmap to end lockdown restrictions in stages as widespread vaccinations help to suppress infections.

June 21 has been set as a date when social distancing could end.

Asked about that possibility during a campaign visit in northern England, Johnson said: "I think we've got a good chance, a good chance, of being able to dispense with one-metre plus."

The one-metre plus rule means people need to stay at



Boris Johnson

least that distance apart and take other mitigating measures to prevent the spread of infections. It has been heavily criticised by the hospitality industry.

The next stage of the government's unlocking plans is May 17, when restrictions on foreign travel are expected to be eased, but not lifted.

Johnson struck a cautious tone ahead of that deadline.

"We do want to do some opening up on May the 17th, but I don't think that the people of this country want to see an influx of disease from anywhere else. I certainly don't. We've got to be very, very tough, and we've got to be as cautious as we can," he said.

Amid campaigning, Johnson has faced questions about who paid for the refurbishment of his apartment and childcare for his young son. [read more](#)

Campaigning ahead of an election for a parliamentary seat and local government elections, he declined to answer questions about opposition Labour Party allegations of sleaze.

"All this kind of stuff is absolutely not relevant," he said, adding that voters wanted to focus on policies ahead of the elections on Thursday.

Syrian court selects two candidates to appear on ballot against Assad

Reuters

Syria's higher constitutional court on Monday selected two obscure figures to appear on ballots standing against President Bashar al-Assad in a May 26 election which the West rejects as a farce that will hurt diplomatic efforts to end the civil war.

From a list of 51 potential candidates, the court approved just three: Assad, former deputy cabinet minister Abdallah Saloum Abdallah, and Mahmoud Ahmed Marei, head of a small, officially sanctioned opposition party. Assad, who ruled for 30 years, has regained control of most of his country after 10 years of civil war.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



So of the EU Commission @vonderleyen and thanked EU for support and assistance to India's COVID response. We discussed India-EU Leaders' Meeting on 8 May. I am confident that the Meeting will provide a new momentum to our Strategic Partnership. [@narendramodi](#)

02



The UAE's food trade exceeds AED100 billion annually. Our country is a global food logistics hub, and we will work to create a nurturing environment for agribusinesses to develop new farming technologies and enhance our future food security. [@HHShkMohd](#)

03



Teachers are an extraordinary force for good in our nation — I'm lucky enough to be married to one and have seen firsthand how hard they work for their students. This year teachers have gone above and beyond to help children learn through the pandemic. So please, thank a teacher. [@JoeBiden](#)

04



Billionaires, giant corporations, and CEOs who were already doing really well before the pandemic are now doing super well. But millions of working people who've struggled to put food on the table and keep a roof over their heads still need to see a real recovery. [@ewarren](#)

Bangladesh boat accident



A speedboat collided with a sand-laden bulk carrier and sank



A speedboat is seen ashore after it collided with a sand-laden bulk carrier and sank on Padma River, in Madaripur, Bangladesh

ers from the town of vessel in the Padma river as it rammed into the other neared the main river station

in the central rural town of Shibchar.

We have also rescued five injured people including three children," police official Amir Hossain told AFP.

Hossain said the bow of the passenger boat was destroyed when the speedboat smashed into the side of the transport vessel, sinking in the river in minutes.

"Police, the fire brigade and army rescue teams are on the spot, conducting search and rescue work," he said.

Witness Abdur Rahman said there was a loud noise when the boats collided and the vessels then overturned.

"When we rushed to the spot we found the speedboat torn into two pieces. Hundreds of villagers immediately started conducting rescue work before they were joined by police and the fire

brigade," he said. Bangladesh is building the country's largest road and railway bridge near the accident spot and police said officers were immediately at the scene.

Construction work has slowed ferry transport on the river, prompting many to take the journey on less safe speedboats, which take only about 15 minutes to make the crossing in contrast to up to two hours on safer ferries.

The government administrator of Shibchar district said up to five people were believed to be missing.

He said the driver of the speedboat would be investigated as he appeared to have hit the transport vessel, which was moored at the time.

foreign minister issues expletive-over China sea dispute



A Chinese fishing vessel is anchored next to Filipino fishing boats at the disputed Scarborough Shoal. Inset, Philippines' Foreign Affairs Secretary Locsin



China, my friend, how politely can I put it? Let me see... O...GET THE F*** OUT. What are you doing to our friendship? You. Not us. We're trying. You. You're like an ugly oaf forcing your attentions on a handsome guy who wants to be a friend; not to father a Chinese province...

TEODORO LOCSIN

friend; not to father a Chinese province...", Locsin said.

China's embassy in Manila did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Chinese officials have previously said the vessels at the disputed Whitsun Reef were fishing boats taking refuge from rough seas.

In a statement on Monday, the Philippine foreign ministry accused China's coast guard of "shadowing, blocking, dangerous manoeuvres, and radio challenges of the Philippine coast guard vessels."

Philippine officials believe the Chinese vessels are manned by militia.

On Sunday, the Philippines vowed to continue maritime exercises in its EEZ in the South China Sea in response to a China demand that it stop actions it said could escalate disputes.

Israeli state watchdog to investigate religious festival stampede



Emergency workers hug as they react at the site

Reuters

Israel's government watchdog said yesterday it would open an investigation into the deaths of 45 people crushed in a stampede at a Jewish religious festival last week.

State Comptroller Matanyahu Englman said his office, which audits the government, would look into the circumstances surrounding the event

at Mount Meron in the Galilee region. "I wish to announce today that I intend to open a special audit that will investigate the circumstances that led to this tragedy," he told reporters.

Israel observed a day of mourning on Sunday after one of its worst civilian disasters. Six U.S. citizens were among the dead, along with two Canadians, a British citizen and an Argentinian.

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