

1760

The Great Upheaval: New England planters arrive in Nova Scotia, Canada, to claim land taken from the Acadians

1940

British complete the "Miracle of Dunkirk" by evacuating 338,226 Allied troops from France via a flotilla of over 800 vessels, including Royal Navy destroyers, merchant marine boats, fishing boats, pleasure craft, and even lifeboats



1989

Eastern Europe's first partially free elections in 40 years are held in Poland, Solidarity Party comes to power

2023

Ukrainian counteroffensive begins with increased fighting in the east and south of the country

New Delhi hotel blaze kills 21, including foreigners



Forensics team members take photographs of the site following a fire that broke out at a hotel in New Delhi

Several of those killed were foreigners, mainly from Central Asia and Africa

Some 47 guests were in the hotel when the fire broke out

The blaze was eventually brought under control with the help of eight fire engines

AFP | New Delhi, India

A fire ripped through a hotel in New Delhi yesterday, killing at least 21 people, many of them foreign nationals, police and local media said.

The fire broke out in the morning at Flourish Stay, a bed-and-breakfast in a congested neighbourhood in the south of the city, Delhi Police said in a statement.

"It is with profound sorrow that 21 persons have been de-

clared dead in this tragic incident," police said.

Several of those killed were foreigners, mainly from Central Asia and Africa, the Press Trust of India news agency reported, quoting unnamed officials.

Many of them had come to the city for medical treatment, according to local media reports.

Authorities said more than 40 people were taken to hospitals for treatment.

Eight were in a critical condition, according to a statement by a nearby hospital.

Indian television channels showed flames leaping from the building and thick plumes of black smoke rising into the sky.

Some 47 guests were in the hotel when the fire broke out, local lawmaker Satish Upadhyay told reporters.

Locals rushed to the site, as firefighters worked to douse the blaze and ambulances arrived to transport the injured.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called the deaths "tragic".

"My condolences to those who have lost their loved ones,"

his office said in a statement.

'Jumped from the building'

Some reports suggested the hotel had just one door for entry and exit and lacked proper ventilation.

"An inquiry will be conducted, and anyone who has broken norms and is responsible will be immediately arrested," Upadhyay said.

Some people trapped on the upper floors of the building jumped onto mattresses laid out by the street outside, said eyewitnesses.

"We got mattresses from a nearby bedding shop because people needed to be rescued," Mohammad Anees, a local resident, told AFP.

"Once the mattresses were laid out, five women jumped from the building and landed safely on them."

The blaze was eventually brought under control with the help of eight fire engines, police said.

The cause of the fire, one of the deadliest blazes in the Indian capital in recent years, was not immediately clear.

Rubio hopeful for action plan on Israel-Lebanon

Washington, United States

US Secretary Marco Rubio voiced hope yesterday that the latest round of talks in Washington between Israel and Lebanon will produce a security roadmap, despite Israel and Hezbollah's continuing hostilities.

Israeli and Lebanese envoys meeting Wednesday for the fourth round of direct talks in the US capital "hopefully today will... produce a joint statement and an action plan on the track for security in that country, independent from Hezbollah," Rubio told a congressional panel. The negotiations come days after US President Donald Trump said the two countries had pledged to de-escalate.

Sri Lanka care home fire kills five: police

Colombo, Sri Lanka

A fire swept through an elder care home in Sri Lanka yesterday, killing at least five residents, police said, with six others missing. Firefighters called to the facility in Batagoda, south of the capital Colombo, found the charred remains of the five dead. Police said rescuers and locals were able to evacuate 44 residents from the facility, which was completely destroyed in the blaze.

Several people were hospitalised for smoke inhalation.

"We have called forensic teams to investigate the cause of the fire," a police officer at the scene told reporters.

Fire accidents are rare in Sri Lanka. Four people were killed in a gas station fire in April last year.

Netanyahu says Iran 'playing with fire'

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Wednesday that Iran was "playing with fire" after the Islamic republic carried out an attack on Kuwait.

"Iran surely knows what the (US) president has said, that if necessary, there'll be a full-scale return to military action," Netanyahu said in an interview with US channel CNBC when asked if there was still a ceasefire following recent attacks on Kuwait and Bahrain.

"You know, it's the president's decision. Israel is ready and the US forces are ready. I think Iran should take that into account. I think they are taking it into account but they're playing with fire, that's clear."

U-TURN WITH UK

Why Are We Still Trapped in an Uneven Calendar?

P. UNNIKRISHNAN



"What is the date today?" someone asked. "It is 03rd June," I replied.

"No, I mean what day?" I checked my phone and said, "Wednesday."

That small office conversation made me think. Why do some months have 31 days, some 30, and February only 28? Why should salaries, holidays, school terms, business targets and accounting cycles be built around such an uneven system?

January has 31 days. February has 28. March has 31. April has 30. The pattern is confusing, and most of us simply accept it because the whole world accepts it.

But what if life could be simpler?

Imagine a calendar with 13 months, each having exactly 28 days.

That means: 13 months x 28 days = 364 days

Each month would have exactly four weeks. The first day of every month could always fall on the same weekday. If the 1st is Monday, then the 7th would always be Sunday, the 14th would be Sunday, the 21st would be Sunday, and the 28th would be Sunday. Every month would follow the same pattern.

Planning would become beautifully simple.

Schools could create equal terms and timetables. Companies could manage equal salary cycles. Banks could make monthly comparisons more easily. Businesses would have the same number of working days and weekends every month. Families could remember birthdays and anniversaries more easily.

Even birthdays would become more meaningful. Many people remember the date they were born, but not the day. In a 13-month calendar, if someone was born on a Thursday, their birthday would fall on a Thursday every year. There is something charming about that. A person born on Thursday would always celebrate on Thursday.

Of course, there is one issue. A year is not exactly 364 days. It is about 365.2422 days. That extra fraction is the reason we have leap years. If we ignore it, over many centuries, summer and winter would slowly shift to different parts of the calendar.

But the solution is not impossible. After 13 months of 28 days, we would have one extra day in a normal year. That day could be celebrated as a special global holiday — perhaps a Happy Year Day — outside the regular months and weeks.

For example:
Month 13, Day 28
Then: Happy New Year's Day
Then: New Year begins

In a leap year, we could add one more special day.

The present calendar may have been created long before electricity, computers, smartphones and artificial intelligence. Yet, even with all our technology and innovation, we remain hooked to this old structure. It is like running modern life on an ancient operating system.

The real problem is not mathematics. The real problem is habit. When the world gets used to something, we stop questioning it. We accept it because everyone else accepts it. We rarely ask whether the system is logical, fair or efficient.

Changing the calendar would not be easy. Governments, companies, banks, schools, airlines, software systems and religious institutions would all have to adjust. The world's entire backend, from payroll to passports, is connected to the calendar.

But that does not mean we should never ask the question. If a system is confusing, unequal and outdated, should we continue using it forever simply because we inherited it? Or should we at least have the courage to imagine something better?

A calendar with 13 equal months may sound like a dream today. But many ideas that once sounded impossible later became normal.

Sometimes, progress begins with a simple question: Why are we still doing it this way?

(P. Unnikrishnan is the Chairperson and Managing Director of the Daily Tribune.)

Vance, Rubio fuel 2028 White House buzz

AFP | Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump thinks the two Republicans most likely to jockey to succeed him would make an unbeatable ticket if they run together, he told an interviewer yesterday.

Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio are both widely seen as strong contenders to run for the 2028 Republican presidential nomination -- and as rivals.

"I like them both. I like them together," Trump said on the New York Post podcast "Pod Force One," adding: "I don't know how you beat them if they're together."

The two men would have to agree to it but "they get along really well," Trump

mused.

He did not venture to say who should be at the top of the ticket.

Neither



man has officially declared his intention to run, and Rubio, 54, has publicly said that the vice president is a friend and insisted that he would not run in 2028 if Vance is a candidate.

Recent polls suggest that Vance and Rubio are nearly tied among Republican voters.

Last month, Rubio attracted buzz for confidently handling a White House press briefing, fielding questions on Iran, Cuba and China with a relaxed style and dashes of humor -- and little of the invective that Trump often unleashes in his briefing room appearances.