

1821

Russian Antarctic expedition led by Fabian Gottlieb von Bellingshausen returns to Kronstadt after being the first to circumnavigate Antarctica

1914

US President Woodrow Wilson issues his "Proclamation of Neutrality" to keep the United States out of the war in Europe



1942

The first train carrying Jews departs from Mechelen, Belgium, for Auschwitz

1944

Anne Frank is arrested in Amsterdam by German Security Police (Grüne Polizei) following a tip-off from an informer who is never identified



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01



We've already endured a summer of extreme heat, but @WMO forecasts hotter & drier conditions from South America to South Asia, Europe, Africa & beyond, driving even more severe effects worldwide. We need to #ActNow to protect people & tackle the root cause of the crisis.

@antonioguterres

02



My thoughts are with the friends and families of the Greek and Danish wildfire pilots who tragically died earlier today in a collision with another helicopter while on duty in Greece. I wish a full recovery to those injured. It takes a special courage to fly towards the flames so that others can be safe. As we continue to battle these fires side by side, Europe grieves with Greece and Denmark.

@vonderleyen

03



We are committed to protecting our external borders, and to supporting Spain. When our external borders come under pressure, the European response must be determined, fast and united. Solidarity is key.

@magnusbrunner

04



Happy National Day, #Switzerland! Every milestone @WHO has reached has been made possible, in part, by the country that has hosted us with such grace. Switzerland's support has never wavered, and neither has our gratitude.

@DrTedros

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

Israel objects to US-backed Gaza plan



A Palestinian child rides his bicycle past the rubble of destroyed buildings in Gaza City

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Israel voiced objections yesterday over a plan promoted by President Donald Trump to end the Gaza war, with a cabinet member seeking to tear it up, defying pressure to end strikes and begin pulling forces from the Palestinian territory.

It was the latest sign of disconnect between Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who faces a tough re-election fight in October and has heavily promoted his relationship with the US leader, whom he met again in Washington last week.

Netanyahu's office demanded "verifiable" disarmament by Hamas, which on Friday announced it would give up weapons under the Trump plan to a nascent Palestinian governing committee.

"Israel has conveyed its com-

ments and concerns on the proposed framework to our American counterparts. The version that has been made public does not reflect Israel's positions," Doron Spielman, spokesman for the prime minister's office, told AFP.

Incensing Netanyahu's hard-right allies -- upon whom his coalition depends -- the latest document released by the Board of Peace, the Trump-backed group in charge of implementing a Gaza plan, called for Israel to cease military operations "without delay" and lays out a "phased withdrawal" from the territory.

Saying that such language was "completely different" from what Israel understood, far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich and a colleague demanded that Netanyahu's security cabinet "immediately" hold a new vote on the Gaza plan.

Israel still controls some 60 percent of the territory despite a ceasefire declared in October. An Israeli political source told AFP that Israel "will not retreat" from its current position in the Gaza Strip.

Several Israeli media reports said that Netanyahu met Nickolay Mladenov, the high representative for Gaza under the Board of Peace.



The city of Gaza is one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities, with a history stretching back more than 4,000 years.

US regulators grant long-awaited Boeing 737 MAX 7 certificate

New York, United States

More than eight years after Boeing organized the maiden flight of the 737 MAX 7, the aircraft has won certification, US authorities announced yesterday.

The Federal Aviation Ad-

ministration (FAA) announced certification of the smallest version of the single-aisle MAX plane, a process that had been significantly prolonged by new requirements under federal legislation following two fatal MAX crashes in 2018 and 2019.

Kremlin critic Nadezhdin flees Russia for France

AFP | Moscow, Russia

Russian anti-war politician Boris Nadezhdin -- who was recently detained outside Moscow and blocked from running for parliament -- said Monday he had left the country, in a video posted from Paris.

Nadezhdin was one of the

few politicians who openly criticised President Vladimir Putin and Moscow's Ukraine offensive to have stayed in the country.

Almost all of Putin's critics are in jail, in exile or dead.

Nadezhdin had been seeking to stand in tightly controlled parliamentary elections in September.



Tanker off Oman reports explosion near vessel: monitor

AFP | Dubai, United Arab Emirates

The master of a tanker off the coast of Oman has reported hearing an explosion near the vessel, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) Centre reported Sunday.

"The vessel and crew are all reported as safe," said the UKMTO. The master is the highest-ranking person on an oil tanker.

The incident happened 20 nautical miles (37 kilometres) northeast of Khasab, in Oman, the monitor added.

"Vessels are advised to transit with caution and report any suspicious activity," the UKMTO advised.

Why Uzbekistan's Foreign Minister Is in India and Why the Visit Matters



File photo: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Uzbekistan Foreign Minister Bakhtiyor Saidov during a previous meeting in Washington, DC Credits: ANI

TDT | Open/ANI

India's engagement with Central Asia is back in focus as Uzbekistan's Foreign Minister Bakhtiyor Saidov begins a four-day visit to New Delhi aimed at expanding cooperation across trade, investment, connectivity, energy and regional security.

The visit comes at a time when India is seeking to strengthen strategic partnerships across Central Asia while boosting economic ties with a region that sits at the crossroads of Europe and Asia.

Saidov's schedule includes a meeting with President Droupadi Murmu, participation in a business forum, and wide-ranging bilateral talks with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar at Hyderabad House. The discussions are expected to cover political ties, economic cooperation and ways to accelerate bilateral engagement.

The visit builds on a series of high-level exchanges between New Delhi and Tashkent. India and Uzbekistan established diplomatic relations in 1992 and elevated the relationship to a Strategic Partnership

in 2011. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev last met on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Tianjin in September 2025.

Despite growing political ties, economic engagement remains below potential. Bilateral trade currently stands at around USD 756.6 million, with India ranking among Uzbekistan's top 10 trading partners. India exports pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, vehicle components, optical equipment, mobile phones and frozen buffalo meat, while importing fruits, vegetables, fertilisers, juices and lubricants from Uzbekistan. The relationship has gathered further momentum after both countries signed a bilateral market access protocol in May this year to support Uzbekistan's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO), a move expected to create fresh opportunities for businesses in both countries.

With trade, connectivity and strategic cooperation high on the agenda, the visit is expected to add another layer to India's growing outreach in Central Asia.

Russian strike burns 8 million books in Ukraine: publisher

AFP | Kyiv, Ukraine

A Russian strike on a warehouse in northeastern Ukraine over the weekend destroyed eight million books, the publishing house said Monday, slamming it as an attack on Ukrainian culture.

It is not the first time Russia has struck a major publishing centre, drawing accusations from Kyiv that Moscow was specifically targeting them.

"This is the largest loss to Ukraine's book infrastructure since the beginning of the full-scale war" in 2022, the publisher, Ranok, said.

An AFP reporter on Saturday saw firefighters battling to contain the blaze at the warehouse in Kharkiv hours after Russia launched a drone and missile attack.

"More than 8 million books have been destroyed in the fire, among them textbooks



for children," Ranok said in a statement on social media.

"The blaze is still raging. The enemy is trying to burn out our education and culture," it added.

The publisher's director Viktor Kruglov called it an "attack on Ukrainian education and culture."