

1840

World's first adhesive postage stamp, the "Penny Black", is first used in Great Britain

1889

Exposition Universelle (World's Fair) in Paris opens with the recently completed Eiffel Tower serving as the entrance arch

1937

German airship Hindenburg explodes in flames at Lakehurst, New Jersey, killing 35 of the 97 on board and 1 on the ground



1941

Joseph Stalin becomes Premier of the Soviet Union, replacing his foreign minister Vyacheslav Molotov

## Birth to nine babies: government



Septuplets, picture of Halima Cisse's 9 children, Ministry of Mali

was initially believed

to have been carrying septuplets. Cases of women successfully carrying septuplets to term are rare -- and nonuplets even rarer. Moroccan health ministry spokesman Rachid Koudhari said he had no knowledge of such a multiple birth having taken place in one of the country's hospitals. But Mali's health ministry said in a statement that Cisse had given birth to five girls and four boys by Caesarean section.

"The mother and babies are

doing well so far," Mali's Health Minister Fanta Siby said, adding that she had been kept informed by the Malian doctor who accompanied Cisse to Morocco.

They are due to return home in several weeks' time, she added.

Doctors had been concerned about Cisse's health, according to local press reports, as well as her babies' chances of survival.

Mali's health ministry said in a statement that ultrasound examinations conducted in both Mali and Morocco had suggested that Cisse was carrying seven babies.

Siby offered her congratulations to "the medical teams of Mali and Morocco, whose professionalism is at the origin of the happy outcome of this pregnancy".



# into virus fight



supplies from Bahrain.

"Reaching out across the seas - Operation Samudra Setu-II bolsters our oxygen availability. INS Talwar, the first among our ships deployed in the operation arrives in Mangalore (India) from Bahrain. 2 liquid oxygen cryogenic containers of 20 MT each on board."

"Deeply appreciate this support from Bahrain. Taking forward our close bilateral ties deep-rooted in shared history & cultural affinities," he added.

"We are happy that the Indian associations and community members have come forward to help the people back home at this point when the Government of India is dealing with the second severe wave of COVID 19. The

Embassy supports this initiative and is working to coordinate this effort and provide logistical assistance," Indian Ambassador to Bahrain, Piyush Srivastava, told *Tribune*.

Bagchi also tweeted receiving medical supplies from the US, Australia, and many others. "Going from strength to strength. US aircraft carrying an oxygen generating plant, over 2.8 lakh rapid testing kits and other medical supplies arrive in India. Deeply appreciate the strong support from the US, Will further boost our oxygen capacities," Bagchi tweeted.

Meanwhile, US said it was "ready to move immediately" if regulators authorise the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for 12- to

15-year-olds.

The pandemic has claimed more than 3.2 million lives worldwide since it first emerged in late 2019, and the fight against Covid-19 has been complicated by the emergence of new variants as the virus circulates around the globe.

The British government said yesterday it is spending 29.3 million pounds (\$40.6 million) on new coronavirus vaccine laboratories at its secretive Porton Down research facility to "future-proof the country from the threat of new variants".

In hard-hit Brazil, a former health minister said President Jair Bolsonaro repeatedly ignored warnings that his Covid-19 response risked causing a collapse of the health system.

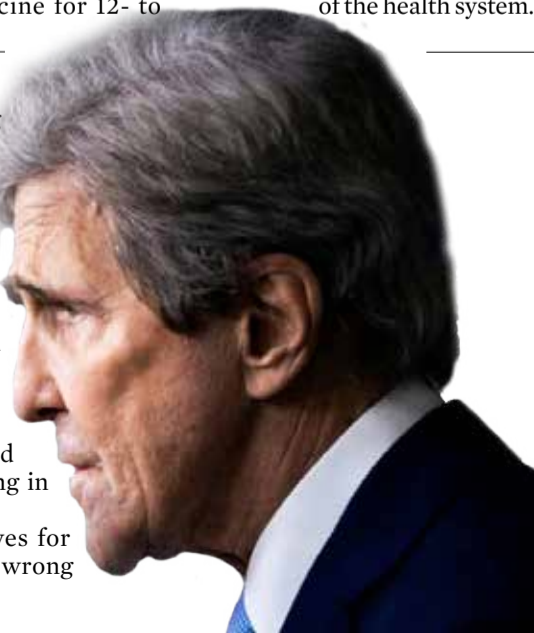
...e going up, we are on -- people are building d as if there were no ...king differently." ...ks came less than two n doubled US ambitions nhouse gas emissions, ntry back at the fore- ...ment Bank president awa told the seminar egion -- which includes d's biggest polluter -- for about 50 percent of se gas emissions. ...for coal, oil and gas re- , he warned more than e expected growth in uld be from Asia.

"Without decarbonising energy systems the goals of the Paris Agreement will be beyond reach," he said.

Kerry called on banks to stop financing coal projects and for a framework to be put in place for "phasing out other fossil fuel investments" and support countries transition to "net-zero" emissions.

He also said fossil fuel subsidies should be abolished around the world -- including in the United States.

"You must create incentives for the right behaviour, not the wrong behaviour," he said.



## Activist Thunberg says global leaders still in denial over climate

Reuters | Stockholm

Politicians, including Sweden's leaders, are still in denial over the threat from climate change, environmental activist Greta Thunberg said on Tuesday after meeting Sweden's Prime Minister Stefan Lofven.

"We climate activists have had, I don't know how many meetings with the people in power and it is, basically, the same discussion every time - there is a complete denial," Thunberg told reporters after the meeting.

"The sense of crisis is absolutely zero."

Thunberg, who shot to fame in 2018 when her lone protest outside the Swedish parliament in Stockholm over the lack of action to stop climate change became a global movement, also criticised the media for downplaying the seriousness of the crisis.

"If no one puts pressure on those in power, obviously they are not going to do anything," she said.

Global governments appeared to have given up on the goal of limiting global warming to an increase of 1.5 degrees compared to pre-industrial levels, she said.

"We are not going to accept that."

Sweden's government has claimed a leading role in the fight against climate change, but Thunberg and her fellow activists said the government was not doing enough.

"As it looks now ... those who don't take the climate crisis seriously and don't treat it as a crisis, unfortunately, are a part of the problem," she said.

But there was reason to hope.

"Think if these people did do something, think if they could shoulder the responsibility, they could be such a big part of the solution, and we said that to him (Lofven)," Thunberg said.

In a comment on the meeting on Instagram Lofven said that Sweden was a driving force in the European Union's effort on climate change, while its industry was transitioning to a fossil-free future and helping other countries reduce emissions.

"Sweden has the opportunity to be the world's first fossil-free, welfare-state, but we need to raise the pace of change," Lofven said. "We need new steps."



## Australia's most populous state reports first COVID-19 case in more than a month

Reuters | Canberra

Australia's most populous state reported its first locally acquired coronavirus infection in more than a month on Wednesday, with health authorities working to track down the source and the variant involved.

The first local infection in southeastern New South Wales since March 31 strengthens prospects for a resumption of social distancing curbs, many of which had been eased as cases dwindled.

Although Australia has largely eradicated COVID-19, a man in his 50s with no known links to hotels used to quarantine people who have arrived from overseas tested positive on Tuesday, the state's health ministry said in a statement.

The unidentified man visited several spots in the eastern suburbs of Sydney, the state capital and Australia's biggest city, the ministry said.

Testing showed a higher viral load than typically seen in infected people, potentially increasing the chance that the man has spread the disease, the ministry said. He is considered to have been infectious since April 30.

"That gives us some cause for concern," the state's chief health officer, Kerry Chant, told reporters in Sydney, adding that all those who had been in close contact with the man had been told to self-isolate and get tested.

Australia's hardline approach to rein in COVID-19, with measures including snap lockdowns, border controls and swift contact tracing has kept its tally of infections at just over 29,800, with 910 deaths since the pandemic began.



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



Kerala has received 73,38,806 doses of vaccine from GoI. We've provided 74,26,164 doses, even making use of the extra dose available as wastage factor in each vial. Our health workers, especially nurses have been super efficient and deserve our wholehearted appreciation!

@vijayanpinarayi

02



Our goal by July 4th is to have 70% of adult Americans with at least one shot -- and 160 million Americans fully vaccinated. It's another huge goal, and a serious step toward a return to normal. Get vaccinated, keep following CDC guidance. We can do this.

@JoeBiden

03



Today is International Day of the #Midwife! Midwives are fundamental to providing quality care for pregnant women and their babies. But there is still a shortage of 900,000 midwives worldwide. We will only achieve #HealthForAll by investing more in #midwives.

@DrTedros

04



Very excited about our new partnership with the @bahrainnpc to promote opportunities and help inspire and #LeaveNoOneBehind in #Bahrain @UN\_Bahrain @UNDPArabStates @mikaelhaddad

@UndpBahrain

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