

1497

Italian explorer John Cabot returns to Bristol from North America, likely Newfoundland, becoming the first European known to do so since the Vikings

1890

Murderer William Kemmler becomes the first person executed by electric chair at Auburn Prison in New York



1945

An atomic bomb is dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima by the US B-29 Superfortress "Enola Gay"

1965

US President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act, prohibiting voting discrimination against minorities



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TWEETS

01



I am in Kinshasa, #DRC, and have met with our health and humanitarian partners supporting the #Ebola response to discuss the challenges we face, as the outbreak is spreading faster than our scale up of the response, with new cases doubling in some hotspots over the past week alone.

@DrTedros

02



In Kyiv and its region, Russia has once again chosen to target civilians. This policy of terror, carried out with missiles and drones, is unacceptable. Each new attack reinforces an obvious truth: Russia must pay the price for its aggression and answer for its crimes. Alongside Ukraine, we will not yield to either fatigue or intimidation.

@EmmanuelMacron

03



Once again we wake up to the news of horrible atrocities by Russia through its aerial attacks on Ukraine. Russia must pay for the destruction it has caused. And we are using the proceeds from the immobilised Russian assets to make sure it does.

@vonderleyen

04



Newly declassified memos show the FBI opened a criminal probe specifically targeting Donald Trump in May 2017 even though the bureau's own evidence overwhelmingly showed at the time there was no collusion with the Kremlin.

@WhiteHouse

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

SpaceX rocket stage believed to have slammed into Moon

AFP | New York, United States

A four-tonne piece of a SpaceX rocket was believed to have unintentionally crashed into the Moon on Wednesday, a collision that posed no danger to Earth but is expected to leave behind a lunar crater.

While there is not yet official confirmation that the Falcon 9 upper stage struck the lunar surface, it had been expected to make impact at approximately 0635 GMT. NASA and its Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter probe and South Korea's Pathfinder



Picture for representation only

Lunar Orbiter were planning to take images of the site after impact, but it may take days to receive that information.

Scientists and amateur stargazers alike had been looking forward to observing the sunlit plume of rubble and debris created by the smash.

"It might be possible for folks with a telescope to observe the plume of ejecta created by the impact," said Benjamin Fernandez of Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, the lead author on a recent paper on the

anticipated impact.

"It is unclear how bright it will be, which is one of the reasons why we are looking to study this event," the researcher told AFP before impact.

Assuming all of the propellant is spent, authors of the paper estimate the spacecraft weighs approximately 8,800 pounds (4,000 kilograms).

It was expected to slam into the Moon's northern hemisphere near the Einstein Crater, at some 5,400 miles per hour (8,690 kilometers per hour).

Japan rearmament

North Korea warns of 'military options'

AFP | Seoul, South Korea

The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un accused Japan yesterday of "transformation into a war state" as Tokyo beefs up its military stance in the Pacific.

Japan has been gradually moving away from its post-World War II pacifist status -- increasing military spending, ramping up defence pacts and deploying missile launchers to its outer islands.

Tokyo's Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi said Tuesday the military needs to be boosted with a "sense of urgency and crisis", as a new government assessment warned of growing threats from China, Russia and North Korea.

In a statement carried by North Korean state media, Kim Yo Jong said Pyongyang's "leadership will set up additional military options which are obviously due to Japan's transformation".

"Japan, a war criminal state, is accelerating its transformation into a war state," said her statement published by the Korean Central News Agency.

Kim cited Tokyo's recent test-firing of Tomahawk long-range cruise missiles and its May participation in US-led drills in the Philippines as evidence of Washington's support for "dangerous military moves" in the Pacific.

Tokyo is moving "to formulate the possession of the capability for preemptive attack", she said. "We will never remain a passive onlooker to the military evolution of Japan which may pose a grave threat."



A Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) soldier operates a quadrupedal unmanned ground vehicle during a live fire exercise at East Fuji Maneuver Area in Gotemba

Japan's defence ministry declined to comment directly on Kim's diatribe but told AFP that the country's defence capabilities "remain bare minimum" and "are not meant to threaten other countries".

"Ours isn't the defence meant to wage wars, but to prevent new wars, strictly kept to self-defence and within the scope of our (pacifist) Constitution and international laws," it said in a statement.

Kim Yo Jong



The ministry also confirmed that the Tomahawk experiment last week was Japan's first, adding it seeks to obtain up to 400 Tomahawks by the end of fiscal 2027.

Japan occupied all of Korea before its 1945 surrender in the Second World War, after which the peninsula was divided into separate states along the 38th parallel.

Japan has hosted US military bases ever since its surrender in World War II.

India panel warns Meta over Modi video removal

AFP | New Delhi, India

An Indian parliamentary panel called yesterday for Meta chief Mark Zuckerberg to apologise for the temporary removal of a video of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Modi's video, addressing students during youth-led protests July 23, was briefly removed from Meta-owned Facebook and Instagram, but was later restored.

Meta has said it was caused by technical error.

Joel Kaplan, chief global affairs officer at Meta, said he met with India's Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Wednesday and apologised.

"I apologised to the minister on behalf of Meta for the error restricting PM Modi's post," Kaplan said in a statement.

US lifts sanctions on Iraqi airline linked to Iran's Revolutionary Guards

AFP | Washington, United States



The United States Treasury official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told AFP the airline had been removed after going through the department's administrative reconsideration process.

In an update to its website, the US Treasury lifted sanctions on Fly Baghdad and two of its aircraft, but maintained its sanctions against a man previously identified as the company's owner, Basheer Abdulkadhim Alwan al-Shabbani.

Washington had originally designated the airline, its aircraft and owner in January 2024, alleging that it provided support to the IRGC's Quds Force and its proxy groups in Iraq, Syria and Lebanon.

"FBA (Fly Baghdad Airlines) has demonstrated major changes to their operations such that their listing is no longer warranted," the official said.

They clarified that the removal was "not indicative of any shift in US policy toward the Government of Iran, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps—Qods Force, any designated terrorist organization, or any person who supports or acts on behalf of any of these."

Air India appoints former Ethiopian Airlines chief as CEO

AFP | New Delhi, India

Air India appointed former Ethiopian Airlines Group head Tewolde Gebremariam on Wednesday as its chief executive officer, to steer the carrier after a turbulent period.

Tewolde succeeds Campbell Wilson, who resigned after leading the airline since its return to Tata Group ownership in 2022.

Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran said the carrier was now entering a "critical execution and expansion era".

Tewolde led Ethiopian Airlines Group for more than a



Tewolde Gebremariam

decade.

Air India praised his experience in managing large-scale airline transformations.

Russian barrage on Kyiv kills 17 as Ukraine fails to down single missile

AFP | Kyiv, Ukraine

Russian missile and drone strikes killed at least 17 people and wounded dozens more in Kyiv and the surrounding region overnight, authorities said yesterday.

Kyiv was unable to shoot down any of the missiles launched by Russia, whose intensifying attacks have prompted Kyiv to plead for more US-made Patriot interceptors.

Russia has significantly upped its attacks on the Ukrainian capital in recent months, typically firing salvos of hard-to-intercept bal-

listic missiles in short blitzes that rock buildings and send booms echoing across the city.

"Ballistic interceptors are what could have saved the lives of those killed today," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said, announcing the 17-person death toll.

A cloud of smoke hovered over the capital at sunrise, AFP journalists saw, after the attacks sparked fires in several locations in the region.

Over 40 people were wounded in the capital and its surrounding areas, local authorities said.