

Hernán Cortés and the Tlaxcalans defeat a numerically superior Aztec force in the Battle of Otumba in Mexico

French Emperor Napoléon Bonaparte and Russian Tsar Alexander I meet on a raft in the middle of the Neman River and sign the first Treaty of Tilsit



Japanese and Chinese troops clash at the Marco Polo Bridge near Beijing, beginning the Second Sino-Japanese War

Coordinated terrorist bomb blasts strike London's public transport system during the morning rush hour, killing 52 and injuring 700

**Microsoft cuts 4,800 jobs as it revamps Xbox**  
Washington, United States

Microsoft said yesterday it was eliminating about 4,800 jobs -- roughly two percent of its global workforce -- in a cost-cutting move that will deliver a sweeping restructuring of its struggling Xbox gaming division.

The cuts include the deepest overhaul in Xbox's history, with approximately 3,200 gaming jobs to be shed over the coming fiscal year, four game studios being spun off or sold, and a fifth entering a review process that could lead to closure, the company said.

The announcement is the latest in a string of mass layoffs by the technology giant as it spends massive amounts of money to stay in the artificial intelligence race, with companies investing tens of billions of dollars in AI-ready data centers and computing power.

**Ebola outbreak confirmed death toll tops 500:**  
WHO

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

More than 500 people have now died in the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo, World Health Organization figures showed yesterday.

Newly updated figures from the UN health agency showed that in the DR Congo, there have been 1,561 confirmed cases in the outbreak declared in mid-May, including 506 confirmed deaths. Two others have also died in neighbouring Uganda.



**Sri Lanka prison riot kills 23, wounds more than 100**

AFP | Colombo, Sri Lanka

Clashes in a Sri Lankan jail have killed 23 people, including four guards, and wounded more than 100 in the country's deadliest prison riot in more than five years, officials said Monday.

The wounded were rushed to the Negombo hospital, north of the capital Colombo, following overnight clashes between inmates from two drug gangs at the area's main prison, police said.

Hospital director Pushpa Gamlath said there were 23 bodies at her state-run health facility, and more than 100 wounded inmates and guards were also admitted.



A 15-day-old female Sumatran elephant calf named Nona Seroja and a caretaker are pictured alongside her 55-year-old mother, Ria, at the Flying Squad Camp in Tesso Nilo National Park, Riau Province.

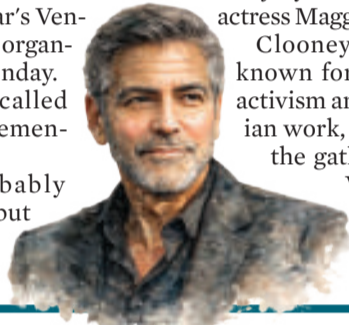
**Clooney to get lifetime award at Venice film festival**

Rome, Italy

US actor, director and producer George Clooney will receive a lifetime achievement award at this year's Venice film festival, organisers said on Monday.

Clooney, 65, called the award "a tremendous honour".

"It also probably means I'm old, but I'll take it," he said in a state-



ment released by the annual festival.

This year's edition will run between September 2 and 12 and the jury will be led by US actress Maggie Gyllenhaal.

Clooney, who is also known for his political activism and humanitarian work, is a regular at the gathering on the Venice Lido.

**Netanyahu urges US not to sell F-35 fighter jets to Turkey**

AFP | Washington, United States

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday urged the United States not to sell its F-35 fighter jets or components to Turkey, arguing it would "upset the power balance" in the region.

US President Donald Trump travels later Monday to Ankara for a NATO summit, and his visit could be seen by the Turks as an opportunity to secure acquisition of dozens of jet engines and potential readmission to the F-35 fighter jet program. The Israel prime minister, however, warned that it would be a mistake for Washington to reward Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, whom Netanyahu said "calls openly for the annihilation of Israel," with ad-

vanced military technology.

"I don't think they should be given F-35s or the engines for their fighter jets, because that'll upset the power balance in the Middle East, which is ultimately guaranteed by Israeli air superiority and also by, I think, by America's posture in the Middle East," Netanyahu told Fox News morning show "Fox & Friends."

Analysts say Turkey wants to secure the new engines for use in its flagship KAAAN stealth fighter project, as Ankara seeks to join the exclusive club of nations producing fifth-generation combat aircraft, notably the United States, China and Russia. In 2017 however, Turkey acquired a Russian S-400 missile defense system, a move that infuriated Washington.



**UK fighters intercept Russian plane near aircraft carrier**

London, United Kingdom

A Russian patrol aircraft staged "unsafe" activity near the UK's flagship aircraft carrier as it conducted NATO air defence operations off Iceland, Britain's defence ministry said Monday.

The Bear-F plane "repeatedly approached" the carrier group last week,

passing the HMS Prince of Wales aircraft carrier "unnecessarily close" at low altitude and dropping numerous sonar devices nearby, according to the ministry.

Two UK F-35 warplanes were dispatched from the carrier to intercept and escort the patrol plane until it departed, it added.

"This activity was unsafe and unprofessional," a ministry spokesperson said of Thursday's in-

cident in the Norwegian Sea in the so-called High North.

The allegations emerged as the ministry said Defence Secretary Dan Jarvis and Icelandic Foreign Minister Thorgerdur Katrin Gunnarsdottir had visited HMS Prince of Wales over the weekend.

The Royal Navy carrier is leading the group on a mission to defend the North Atlantic "against increasing Russian

threats", according to the ministry.

The mission has seen F-35 jets conduct NATO air defence operations from a European aircraft carrier for the first time, and comes amid heightened tensions with Russia.

Military experts and European leaders say Russia has ramped up its "hybrid war" tactics in the strategic region.



A British Royal Navy F-35B fighter jet intercepting a Russian Tupolev Tu-142 'Bear-F' maritime reconnaissance and anti-submarine warfare (ASW) aircraft

**Japan releases snowman-like asteroid image after flyby**

AFP | Tokyo, Japan

Rare images taken by a Japanese space probe during a flyby of a near-Earth asteroid have revealed that the space rock resembled a snowman, scientists said yesterday.

The fridge-sized Hayabusa2 skimmed asteroid Torifune on Sunday in a mission that demonstrated the ability to deflect a potentially dangerous space rock away from Earth.

A new image released by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) on Monday could aid such efforts, as researchers say near-Earth asteroids vary in their size, shape and surface characteristics.

"The moment I actually saw this image and the scientific



A view of the asteroid Torifune during a flyby of the Hayabusa2 space probe.

data -- it really gave me goosebumps," JAXA scientist Yuya Mimasu told reporters, adding the asteroid "personally looked

like a snowman".

The black-and-white image, captured by a telescopic camera, showed what appeared to be

two round objects joined together.

"You can actually see the rocks... I really hadn't expected to be able to take a photo like this, so I'm absolutely over the moon," he said.

The mission follows NASA's successful 2022 test that changed the orbit of the asteroid Dimorphos by deliberately smashing it with a spacecraft.

Torifune was known to have an elongated shape, but its details were unknown.

Moving at a speed of more than 18,000 kilometres (11,185 miles) per hour, the probe was due to fly within 800 metres (2,625 feet) of the asteroid, but JAXA said they would analyse the distance later.



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TWEETS

01



France has deployed mine countermeasures assets to the Middle East, including two minehunters in particular. Accompanied by two frigates and a maritime patrol aircraft, these assets are ready to contribute, alongside our partners, to the full resumption of navigation and to ensure the safety of traffic in the Strait of Hormuz..

@EmmanuelMacron

02



The computing power, the data & the talent behind the most advanced systems are concentrated in a handful of companies, in a handful of countries. When power imbalances are hardwired into technology, inequality becomes part of the code. Every country must have a seat at the table when it comes to AI governance.

@antonioguterres

03



Last night, Kyiv came under a massive Russian attack. Russia launched 68 missiles and 351 attack drones.

@ZelenskyyUa

04



One of the greatest England matches I've ever seen. We are through to the quarter finals!

@Keir\_Starmer

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