

1909

Inventor Leo Baekeland patents the first thermo-setting plastic, Bakelite, sparking the birth of the plastics industry

1941

Imperial Japanese Navy with 353 planes attack the US fleet at Pearl Harbor Naval Base, Hawaii, killing 2,403 people

1988

PLO delegation led by Yasser Arafat proclaims the State of Palestine, recognizing the existence of the State of Israel for the first time



1988

6.9 earthquake in Spitak, Armenia kills 25,000-50,000 people and leaves up to 500,000 homeless

# ethal /s

## Germany says Iran proposals on its nuclear programme unacceptable

Reuters | Berlin

Proposals made by Iran on its nuclear programme are not acceptable, a German Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said yesterday, adding that Berlin is still willing to follow a diplomatic path on the issue but time is running out.

"We reviewed the proposals ... carefully and thoroughly, and concluded that Iran violated almost all compromises found previously in months of hard negotiations," she said.

The spokeswoman added that the proposals were "not a basis for a successful end to talks." "We expect that the Iranian delegation, after consultations in Tehran, will return to Vienna with realistic proposals," the spokeswoman said.

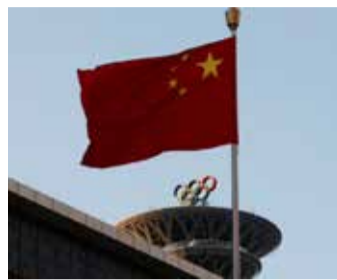
## China threatens countermeasures if US boycotts Beijing Olympics

Reuters | Washington/Beijing

US politicians should stop calling for a diplomatic boycott of the Beijing Winter Olympics to avoid hurting bilateral ties and China will take "countermeasures" if necessary, China's foreign ministry said on Monday.

The Biden administration is expected to announce this week that US government officials will not attend the 2022 Olympics in Beijing, CNN reported on Sunday.

Those calling for a boycott are "grandstanding" and should



A Chinese flag flutters near the Olympic rings on the Olympic Tower in Beijing, China

Lijian, China's foreign ministry spokesman.

"If the US insists in wilfully clinging to its course, China will take resolute countermeasures," he said at a news conference.

US President Joe Biden said last month that he was considering such a diplomatic boycott to protest China's human rights record, including what Washington says is genocide against minority Muslims. The administration has been under pressure from activists and members of Congress to skip the games.

stop "so as not to affect the dialogue and cooperation between China and the United States in important areas," said Zhao

## Myanmar's Suu Kyi jailed for four years, drawing global outrage

Reuters

A court in military-ruled Myanmar jailed deposed leader Aung San Suu Kyi for four years yesterday on charges of incitement and breaching coronavirus restrictions, drawing international condemnation of what some critics described as a "sham trial".

President Win Myint was also sentenced to four years in prison, said a source following proceedings who spoke on condition of anonymity, as the court delivered its first verdicts in numerous cases against Suu Kyi and other civilian leaders ousted by the military in a coup on Feb. 1.

Myanmar has been in turmoil since the coup against Suu Kyi's democratically elected government led to widespread protests and raised international concern about the end of tentative political reforms following decades of military rule.

Nobel Peace Prize winner Suu Kyi, 76, has been detained since the coup, along with most senior leaders of her National League for Democracy (NLD) party. Others are abroad or in hiding.

"The conviction of the State Counsellor following a sham trial in secretive proceedings before a military-controlled



Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi

**Suu Kyi, the daughter of the hero of Myanmar's independence, spent years under house arrest for her opposition to military rule but was freed in 2010 and led her NLD to a landslide victory in a 2015 election.**

court is nothing but politically motivated," UN human rights chief Michelle Bachelet said in comments echoed by the European Union and others.

The military has not given details of where Suu Kyi has been detained and it was not immediately clear if the sentencing would mean any immediate change in her circumstances.

China, which has long had

good relations with the military as well as Suu Kyi's government, urged all parties to "bridge their differences", while Japan, a major investor in Myanmar, said the verdict was an "unfavourable development".

The United States, EU and others issued a flurry of sanctions against senior military leaders and military-linked firms following the coup.

## Official visits Iran regional issues



### 'CONTINUOUS DIALOGUE'

"Stability and security can only be established through continuous dialogue and cooperation between the regional countries," Shamkhani said, according to state TV.

"Improving economic, trade and investment ties are the main priorities of Iran's foreign policy," Shamkhani added that joint efforts were needed to "end some of the military and security crises in the region... Dialogue should replace military approaches to resolve disputes".

Saudi Arabia began direct talks with Iran in April, with Riyadh describing the talks as "cordial" but largely exploratory.

"Developing warm and brotherly relations between Abu Dhabi and Tehran is one of the UAE's priorities," Sheikh Tahnoon said during his meeting with Shamkhani, according to Iranian media.

Anwar Gargash, diplomatic adviser to the UAE president, said in a tweet yesterday that Sheikh Tahnoon's visit to Tehran "comes as a continuation of the UAE's efforts to strengthen bridges of communication and cooperation in the region which would serve the national interest".

## How to fight off Russia

sovereignty of the state from the Russian aggressor," Zelenskiy said in a statement.

"The Ukrainian army ... is confident in its strength and able to thwart any conquest plans of the enemy," he said.

Russia has dismissed talk of a new assault on Ukraine as false and inflammatory but told the West not to cross its "red lines" and to halt the eastward expansion of the NATO

alliance.

Zelenskiy will travel east to Kharkiv, a traditional centre for Ukrainian weapons manufacturing, to mark a delivery of tanks, armoured personal carriers and armoured vehicles made in the city's factories. He will also visit the Donetsk region, where Ukraine's army has fought Russian-backed forces in a simmering conflict that Kyiv says has killed 14,000 people since 2014.

## US embassy in Tokyo warns of 'suspected racial profiling' by Japanese police

Reuters | Tokyo

The United States Embassy in Tokyo yesterday warned in a tweet of incidents of suspected racial profiling of non-Japanese by Japanese police.

Japan is a mostly ethnically homogeneous country where some people equate more immigrants with a rise in crime, although foreign labour is increasingly needed to make up for a declining and ageing population.

"The US Embassy has received reports of foreigners stopped and searched by Japanese police in suspected racial profiling incidents. Several were detained, questioned, and searched," the tweet said.



Police officers stand guard near the US embassy in Tokyo

"US citizens should carry proof of immigration and request consular notification if detained."

The tweet is an unusual move from the United States, a key

Japanese ally. A US Embassy spokesperson said the embassy had nothing further to add to the tweet, and the National Police Agency could not immediately comment.



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



Welcome to India my friend President Putin. Our meeting today will strengthen our Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership. The initiatives that we take today will further increase the scope of our cooperation to new areas. @KremlinRussia

@narendramodi

02



Today the UK has ordered 114 million more Pfizer and Moderna vaccines for the next two years, future proofing our lifesaving vaccine programme. These vaccines can also be edited against any future variants. When you're called up - make sure you get your jab.

@BorisJohnson

03



This is obscene. Last week, 8 investors in Pfizer and Moderna became \$10 billion richer as news about the Omicron variant spread. It's time for these pharmaceutical companies to share their vaccines with the world and start controlling their greed. Enough is enough!

@SenSanders

04



9 in 10 women in Afghanistan experience at least one form of intimate partner violence in their lifetime. @UN\_Women is on the ground, delivering support and services to prevent or respond to violence against women.

@antonioguterres

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