

1660

English parliament declares Charles Stuart to be King Charles II of England



1895

China cedes Taiwan to Japan under Treaty of Shimonoseki

1902

Mount Pelée on the French overseas island of Martinique erupts, wiping out the city of Saint-Pierre, killing 30,000 and leaving only two survivors

1980

World Health Organization announces smallpox has been eradicated

Maldives ex-president 'critical' after assassination attempt

Maldives ex-president Mohamed Nasheed in intensive care after 'life-saving surgery' on chest, abdomen and limbs



Police secure a site after a suspected bomb blast injured former Maldives president and current parliament speaker Mohamed Nasheed in Male

Nasheed was described as a "deliberate act of terror" and urged the public to provide any information that could identify the perpetrators.

Police said a device attached to a motorcycle was detonated as Nasheed got into a car in the capital.

The hospital said earlier that shrapnel had been removed from one of his lungs and from his liver but that another piece was still in the same organ.

"We are hopeful of a full recovery," said a family member who did not want to be named, adding that Nasheed was responsive and spoke with doctors when he was admitted.

One of his bodyguards as well as a British national were also wounded and taken to hospital.

Underwater cabinet

The Indian Ocean nation of

340,000 Sunni Muslims is best known for its luxury holiday resorts popular with honeymooners, but it suffers from regular political turmoil.


There was no claim of responsibility for Thursday's bomb attack, but officials close to Nasheed's Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) said they suspected vested political interests opposed to his anti-corruption drive.

Nasheed had vowed to investigate a \$90-million theft from the state's tourism promotion authority during the tenure of former president Abdulla Yameen.

"There are some dormant Islamists who could have collaborated with political elements threatened by Nasheed's anti-corruption drive," an MDP source told AFP.

The government has cracked down on extremism and foreign

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Mohamed Nasheed is maybe best known internationally for holding a 2009 underwater cabinet meeting to highlight the threat of global warming

preachers are banned.

Violent attacks have been rare, though a dozen foreign tourists were wounded by a bomb blast in Male in 2007.

The Islamic State claimed a boat arson attack last year, but there is little evidence the group has a presence in the archipelago.

Nasheed, a liberal, is maybe best known internationally for holding a 2009 underwater cabinet meeting to highlight the threat of global warming, signing documents as officials wore scuba gear against a backdrop of coral reefs.

He was toppled in a military-backed coup in February 2012, convicted on a charge of terrorism and jailed for 13 years.

Anti-Olympics campaign gains traction online in Japan



A man wearing a face mask walks past Olympic Rings at the Japan Olympic Museum in Tokyo

Reuters | Tokyo

An online petition calling for the Tokyo Olympics to be cancelled has garnered almost 200,000 signatures in the past few days, as public concerns mount over holding the Games in a pandemic.

With less than three months to go before the start of the summer Olympics, already postponed for a year due to the coronavirus, questions still remain over how Tokyo can hold the global event and keep volunteers, athletes, officials and the Japanese public safe from COVID-19.

In two days since its launch, an online campaign called "Stop Tokyo Olympics" has gathered more than 187,000 signatures, nearing its 200,000 goal and underscoring public concerns over holding the massive sporting event in Japan's capital.

Battling a fourth wave of the pandemic and struggling with a sluggish vaccination campaign, the Japanese government is seeking to extend states of emergency in Tokyo and three other areas until the end of May, the economy minister said yesterday.

Opinion polls in Japan have found a majority of the pub-

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We strongly call for the prevention of spread of coronavirus and protection of lives and livelihood by using available resources to stop the Olympics

KENJI UTSUNOMIYA, THE ONLINE PETITION ORGANIZER

lic is opposed to the Games, which are due to open on July 23.

"We strongly call for the prevention of spread of coronavirus and protection of lives and livelihood by using available resources to stop the Olympics," Kenji Utsunomiya, the online petition organizer, wrote on his website. Utsunomiya is a lawyer who has run several times for Tokyo governor.

But, organizers have repeatedly said the Games will go ahead, unveiling detailed Covid-19 protocols for athletes and officials.

Pfizer Inc and its German partner BioNTech SE said on Thursday they had agreed to donate their vaccine to help inoculate those participating in the Games.

Efforts to restore 'prisoner of Russia's Navalny -aide



Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny attends a hearing

reputation.

"They (Amnesty) told me just yesterday that they will issue a press release on May 12 after they have examined how the Russian disinformation campaign managed to influence them," he told the House of Commons foreign affairs committee.

"They will not only reinstate his status but they will also issue a post-mortem," he said.

A spokeswoman at Amnesty's main media center in London said she had no immediate comment.

The 44-year-old Russian opposition politician was arrested in January and sentenced to jail for parole violations he called trumped up.

25 killed in Rio de Janeiro's deadliest police raid

AFP | Rio de Janeiro

A massive police operation against drug traffickers in a Brazilian favela Thursday left 25 people dead, turning the impoverished Rio de Janeiro neighbourhood into a battlefield and drawing condemnation from rights groups.

A policeman was among those killed in the early morning raid on Jacarezinho, on Rio's north side, where residents awoke to explosions, heavy gunfire and helicopters overhead.

Police confirmed the toll -- and investigators said it was the deadliest police operation in the history of Rio de Janeiro state.

Police identified the other 24 dead as "suspects" and said all protocols had been followed before officers opened fire, but rights groups and academics cried foul.

"Who are the dead? Young black men. That's why the police talk about '24 suspects.' Being a young, black favela resident automatically makes you a suspect to the police. They just keep piling up bodies and saying, 'They're all criminals,'" said Silvia Ramos, head of the



Rio de Janeiro police led an operation against drug traffickers

Security Observatory at Candido Mendes University.

"Is this the public security policy we want? Shootouts, killings and police massacres?" she told AFP.

Large groups of heavily armed police could be seen streaming into the favela as frightened residents tentatively went about their business once the gunfire died down, AFP journalists said.

Residents reported seeing corpses lying on the pavement in pools of blood, and numerous bodies being taken out in an armoured police vehicle, a

local community leader told AFP, asking that his name not be published for safety reasons.

At least two people were wounded when the subway car they were riding in was apparently caught in the crossfire during the operation, news site G1 reported.

TV network GloboNews showed aerial images of armed suspects fleeing from one residence to another in the densely packed neighbourhood during the raid, passing what looked like high-powered rifles from hand to hand.

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Brazil's police said crackdown on drug trafficking was justified but residents say there were clear signs of 'execution-style killings' during operation

"Unfortunately, there were many clashes in the area. There is nothing to celebrate with this toll," one police official told a press conference, adding that the officer killed was shot in the head.

Rights groups and residents later inspected the houses targeted -- some had blood stains and damage from the shootout.

Police said the operation targeted a gang suspected of recruiting children and teenagers for drug trafficking, robberies, assaults and murders.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Two-thirds of adults have now had their first COVID vaccine dose. Thank you to everyone who has made this UK-wide rollout such a success. Please book your job when offered and get your second dose to give you maximum protection.

@BorisJohnson

02



Spoke with my friend @ScottMorrisonMP to thank him for Australia's solidarity and support for India's fight against the pandemic. We agreed on the importance of ensuring affordable and equitable access to vaccines and medicines, and discussed possible initiatives in this regard.

@narendramodi

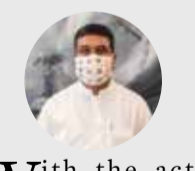
03



The consumption of processed food is a rapidly increasing source of sodium. @WHO Global Sodium Benchmarks provide countries & the food industry guidance on how to reduce salt intake and help people make the right food choices. Together we can #BeatNCDs!

@DrTedros

04



With the active support of @IndembAbuDhabi, @Indembkwt, @IndEmbDoha, IndiaInBahrain, @IndianEmbRiyadh & @IndembMuscat, we are in the process of securing commercial supplies of LMO into the country through logistics management by @IndianOilcl and @gailindia in coming weeks.

@dpradhanbjp

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