

Roman army under General Titus completes the siege of Jerusalem by destroying what remained after four months of occupation and plundering

Battle of Kulikovo: Moscow's great monarch Dmitry defeats the Mongols, beginning the decline of the Tatars



Michelangelo's statue of David is unveiled in Florence

First permanent European settlement in the US is founded in St. Augustine, Florida

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Air pollution is taking a devastating toll on lives & economies. The case for action has never been clearer. Reducing air pollution protects health, boosts productivity & builds more resilient & prosperous societies.

@antonioGuterres

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My congratulations to health workers, the government and communities in #Bhutan on becoming the first country in the @WHOSEARO region to eliminate dog-transmitted #rabies: <https://bit.ly/4gPimQK>. This is a historic achievement, and another step towards our goal to end human deaths from dog-transmitted rabies by 2030.

@DrTedros

03



Because video games are part of our culture, we are going to create an international video game festival.

@EmmanuelMacron

04



The Trump Administration is investing in American workers. Happy Labor Day!

@VP

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

IAEA head urges Iran to reengage as western powers seek UN referral

AFP | Vienna, Austria

IAEA head Rafael Grossi yesterday said giving the UN nuclear agency access to key nuclear facilities in Iran would have "positive repercussions" for the Islamic republic as a draft resolution seen by AFP proposes referring Tehran to the UN Security Council.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has not had access to key nuclear facilities in Iran since Israel, joined by the United States, launched a 12-day conflict in June 2025 that included strikes on nuclear sites. Nuclear facilities have also been hit in the latest war, which erupted on February 28, and the IAEA has repeatedly urged access.

"The best, shortest way for a positive outcome is for Iran to engage with us," Grossi told a press

conference after opening the quarterly meeting of the IAEA board of governors.

A resolution drafted by the United States, Britain, France and Germany expected to be submitted and voted on this week seeks to refer Iran to the UN Security Council for failing to comply with its nuclear reporting obligations.



tions.

The draft, seen by AFP, asks Grossi to "submit this resolution to all members of the agency and to the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations".

Asked whether such a referral was the right course of action, Grossi said that "my job with Iran continues, irrespective of the resolution".

"If Iran engages with us in a serious dialogue, if we can start getting access... I can guarantee to you that this will have very, very positive repercussions," he said.

US envoy sees 'movement' toward more talks with Russia, Ukraine

AFP | Washington, United States

A key US negotiator yesterday hailed weekend discussions in Moscow and Kiev, suggesting they could see a scheduling of fresh three-way peace talks aimed at ending Europe's deadliest conflict since World War II.

"Substantive progress was made, including movement on scheduling additional trilateral talks," US Special Envoy Steve Witkoff wrote on X.

Witkoff, a business ally of President Donald Trump, traveled to Russia and Ukraine over the weekend alongside negotiating partner Jared Kushner, who is Trump's son-in-law.

Sunday's appearance in Kyiv was their first to the Ukrainian capital.

A senior Ukrainian official told AFP on Sunday that the two envoys had brought new and "more effective" proposals on ending the war, but Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky warned that fighting appeared likely to continue into the winter.

On Monday, the Kremlin did not rule out three-way



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky (C-R) and US Envoy Jared Kushner (C-L) visit St. Sofia Cathedral in Kyiv



Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, launched in February 2022, has resulted in the deaths of at least 15,000 civilians, according to the United Nations, although it says the actual number is likely considerably higher.

talks with the United States and Ukraine aimed at ending the conflict. Negotiators from Moscow and Kyiv last met for US-organized talks in Geneva in February, but did not reach an

agreement on territorial issues.

Diplomatic efforts led by Washington have slowed in recent months as the Trump administration shifted focus toward the war with Iran.

Germany's Merz 'shocked' by poll loss, vows to push on with reforms

AFP | Berlin, Germany

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said yesterday he was "deeply shocked" after his centre-right party suffered a heavy loss in a state poll to the far-right AfD, but vowed to push on with reforms.

"This is the heaviest electoral defeat the (CDU party) has suffered in years, in decades," a crestfallen Merz told a press conference, a day after the defeat in the ex-communist eastern state of Saxony-Anhalt.

"Naturally, this will have to have consequences."

The CDU, which leads the ruling coalition at the national level, scored just 17 percent in the vote, compared to almost 44 percent for the anti-immigration, Russia-friendly Alternative for Germany (AfD).

Sven Schulze, the state's defeated CDU premier, acknowledged that the AfD, which is just short of the number of lawmakers needed to rule alone, had won the right to try to form a govern-

ment. "We are the opposition -- the mandate to govern now lies with the AfD," he said alongside Merz.

Merz also conceded his own low poll ratings had played a role in his party's loss, as well as criticism his government has been slow to implement reforms.



Can dogs sniff cancer? AI joins the hunt



AFP | Bengaluru, India

Research suggests diseases can alter the chemicals released by the body, creating distinctive odours.

Dogs have around 300 million scent receptors, compared to about five million in humans.

The testing method is simple: a patient breathes into a cotton mask for about 10 minutes, and the mask is then sealed in a bag and taken to the lab. Patients do not meet the dogs.

A recent Dagnosis study of more than 1,500 participants, involving six hospitals in Karnataka state, was published in the Journal of Clinical Oncology.

The company said it achieved an accuracy rate of more than 90 % across seven major types of cancer, and now plans to test in real-world programmes.

Cancer specialists in Bengaluru independent of the project voiced cautious optimism.

"The study is promising, as an early signal," said Santhosh Kumar Devadas, head of oncology at Ramaiah Memorial Hospital.

"But they need to do the study with a much larger group before we make any definitive conclusions."

Neelesh Reddy, a senior consultant oncologist at Manipal Hospitals, told AFP that "only time will tell how this technology will be useful to the actual patients".

Most of the dogs are beagles, along with some Malinois and Shepherd mixes, brought on board through adoption or legal breeders.

Kulgod's co-founder Itamar Bitan, 28, who spent four years in an Israeli special-forces canine unit, said the dogs were trained using "positive reinforcement" to detect a "specific funky smell" for a reward.

"Some of the dogs run directly to the feeder expecting rewards, some dogs freeze, some dogs will scratch the sample with excitement," Bitan said.

"But, as long as the machine that learns how the dogs react to the sample is very consistent... we don't really mind."

Chloe, a Labrador mix, is one of 15 dogs being coached by the startup, clad in customised data-gathering helmets.

"It's like a doggy 'Iron Man' suit," said Kulgod, who comes from a family of doctors and studied cognitive science at the University of California, Berkeley.

'Promising' study

