

Roman Emperor Nero commits suicide, imploring his secretary Epaphroditos to slit his throat to evade a Senate-imposed death by flogging



Odo of Aquitaine defeats a Umayyad Muslim army at the Battle of Toulouse

Book of Common Prayer is adopted by the Church of England

500 Mormons leave Iowa City, Iowa, and head west for Salt Lake City, Utah, carrying all their possessions in two-wheeled handcarts

# Men wounded in knife attack

After knife attack in French Alps



The 'Jardins de l'Europe' in Annecy

which starts Sunday. French President Emmanuel Macron called it an "attack of absolute cowardice".

"The nation is shocked. Our thoughts are with (the victims) as well as their families and the emergency services," he wrote on Twitter.

## Minute of silence

Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne's office announced she was travelling to the scene and MPs in the French parliament held a minute's silence.

"We hope that the consequences of this extremely serious attack... will not send the country into mourning," parliament speaker Yael Braun-Pivet told MPs as she interrupted a raucous debate about pension reform.

The motive and identity of the

**YOU KNOW WHAT**

Dozens of other very young children were receiving support for the trauma of witnessing the stabbings, which happened at a lakeside playground. High schoolchildren who had also witnessed the attack were being treated for shock

attacker are being investigated and the local prosecutor is expected to give further details at a press conference.

In 2012, a Franco-Algerian extremist called Mohamed Merah killed seven people during a shooting rampage in the southern city of Toulouse, with the murders of three children and a rabbi at a Jewish school sparking widespread outrage.

Most recently, the beheading of a teacher in broad daylight in 2020 near his school in a Paris suburb by a radicalised Chechen refugee led to shock and grief, as well as a national debate about the influence of radical Islam in deprived areas of the country.

# Prosecutors tell Trump lawyers he is target of classified docs probe: reports

AFP | Washington

US prosecutors have told Donald Trump's lawyers that he is the target of a probe into his handling of classified documents after leaving the presidency, in a sign he might be indicted, US media reported.

The notice came from the office of special counsel Jack Smith, The New York Times, CNN and other news outlets said, and gives the clearest sign yet that prosecutors are moving closer to charging the former president, who is seeking a return to the White House in 2024.

The Times, citing "two people familiar with the matter", said it was not clear when Trump's team had been told he was the subject of the investigation.

Special counsel Smith, named by Attorney General Merrick



Former President Donald Trump greets supporters at a Team Trump volunteer leadership training event

Garland, has been looking into a cache of classified documents that Trump had stored at his Mar-a-Lago residence after leaving the White House.

The FBI carted away some 11,000 papers after serving a search warrant on Mar-a-Lago in August, and Trump could face obstruction-of-justice charges after spending months resisting efforts to recover the trove.

Trump has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing.

"No one has told me I'm being indicted, and I shouldn't be because I've done NOTHING wrong," Trump posted on his Truth Social network Wednesday.

Trump has openly acknowledged taking and storing the documents, undermining his lawyers' suggestion that he took the stash inadvertently in the confusion of a chaotic departure

# US cities shrouded in toxic haze as reinforcements reach Canada wildfires

AFP | New York

Smoke from Canadian wildfires continued to shroud US cities in a noxious haze yesterday, forcing flight delays and cancellations to outdoor activities as environmental groups called for urgent action to tackle climate change.

Residents in the capital Washington awoke to an acrid smell and orange-tinged skies, with the Environment Protection Agency rating parts of the mid-Atlantic region at "Code Maroon," the highest category of the Air Quality Index, signaling hazardous conditions.

This made parts of the United States the most polluted in the world, worse than cities in South Asia and China that normally dominate global rankings, with the situation not expected to improve until the weekend.

"Today's air quality is extremely unhealthy," tweeted the city's Department of Energy & Environment.

"Members of the general public may experience health effects & sensitive groups may experience more serious health issues."

Commuters donned N-95 masks while the National Zoo announced it would close "for the safety of our animals, our staff and our guests."

The Washington Nationals, the capital's Major League Baseball team, announced it was postponing its afternoon game against the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Public schools in the capital canceled all outdoor activities including recess, physical ed-



Heavy smog covers the skylines of the boroughs of Brooklyn and Manhattan in New York

**YOU KNOW WHAT**

The smog enveloped the Statue of Liberty and the Manhattan skyline, with the Federal Aviation Administration saying it had slowed traffic to and from the city's airports due to reduced visibility

ucation, athletic practices and competitions.

The Federal Aviation Administration meanwhile said low visibility had forced it to "manage the flow of traffic safely into New York City, DC, Philadelphia and Charlotte."

Flights bound for New York's

La Guardia and to Philadelphia International resumed after a pause.

Environmental groups were quick to draw attention to climate change, which is creating warmer, drier conditions that are increasing the risk and extent of wildfires.

"This is the climate crisis, here and now, causing dangerous air pollution and threatening the health of millions of people," said May Boeve, Chief Executive of 350.org.

Her comments echoed UN chief Antonio Guterres, who tweeted Wednesday: "With global temperatures on the rise, the need to urgently reduce wildfire risk is critical."

"We must make peace with nature. We cannot give up."

Skies were noticeably clearer in New York compared to the day before, even as the AQI index remained high.

Officials handed out face coverings at train stations, bus depots and parks.

# Ex-Pakistan PM Khan granted new bail as army vows to 'tighten noose'

AFP | Islamabad

Former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan had his bail renewed in over a dozen cases yesterday, a month after his three-day detention sparked violence, thousands of arrests, and the resignations of much of his party's leadership.

The 70-year-old former international cricket star, facing more than 150 cases registered against him since his ousting in April last year, appeared at two courts in the capital, Islamabad.

"Imran Khan is granted bail till June 19 in eight cases registered against him under the anti-terrorism legislation," one of his lawyers, Sher Afzal Marwat, said.

Gohar Khan, another lawyer, said a different court had extended bail in nine other cases.

His arrest and detention following a court appearance last month sparked nationwide protests -- including a mob torching the residence of a senior army commander.

Pakistan has been mired in economic and political crisis for over a year, with little respite expected ahead of an election that must be held by mid-October.

Khan appeared to be riding a wave of popularity towards



Security personnel with ballistic shields escort former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan to court in Islamabad

**"I want to tell my nation that I am ready to face jail... I will never bow down to this unfair and autocratic regime. I also request you not to bow down, as the moment you succumb to this unjust and autocratic rule, the existence of our nation will be jeopardised"**

IMRAN KHAN

those polls, holding huge rallies across the country, sweeping a string of by-elections, and vilifying authorities in addresses to the nation broadcast nightly on

social media.

But the violence following his arrest -- particularly targeting military installations -- led to a sweeping crackdown that threatens his political survival and that of his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party.

The army holds undue influence over Pakistan politics, having staged at least three successful coups leading to decades of martial law.

Late Wednesday, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) -- the military's publicity wing -- vowed to tighten "the noose of law" around those involved in violence.

Following a meeting of the army's top commanders, a statement said the "ill design of inimical forces will be dealt with iron hands".



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



Met with the Yemeni Presidential Leadership Council President al-Alimi in Riyadh to discuss our shared commitment to resolving the conflict in Yemen as soon as possible and mitigating the humanitarian and economic crises.  
@SecBlinken

02



I'm in Washington DC to bang the drum for Britain. This morning I met with CEOs of America's leading companies - whose investments create hundreds of thousands of British jobs - to set out why the UK is the best place in the world to do business.  
@RishiSunak

03



#EquatorialGuinea declared the #Marburg outbreak over. My thanks to the affected communities, health workers and the government for their response. I honour those health workers who paid the ultimate price for simply doing their jobs.  
@DrTedros

04



Good first phone call with Bulgaria's Prime Minister Nikolai Denkov. We discussed the work ahead, starting with an important #EURO at the end of the month. I welcome the EU priorities of your government and commitment for reforms.  
@vonderleyen

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