

1786

A landslide dam on the Dadu River caused by earthquake ten days earlier collapses, killing 100,000 in the Sichuan province of China

1963

US Equal Pay Act signed into law by President John F. Kennedy

1977

Apple Computer ships its first Apple II computers



2003

The Spirit Rover is launched, beginning NASA's Mars Exploration Rover mission

World over Macron slapping was medieval martial arts enthusiast



Tarel, later identified as 28-year-old Damien Tarel, slaps French President Emmanuel Macron in the face during a visit in Tain-L'Hermitage, France

face ran a club for enthusiasts of medieval swordsmanship and had no previous criminal record, sources close to the investigation said on Wednesday. A police source identified the suspect as 28-year-old Damien Tarel. He is under investigation for assault against a public official, the local prosecutor said. Macron, who has been on a tour to take the pulse of the country after the pandemic and less than a year before the next presidential election, was hit on Tuesday during a walkabout in southern France as he greeted a small crowd of onlookers. Tarel, dressed in a khaki T-shirt, then shouted "Down with Macronia" and "Montjoie Saint Denis", the battle cry of the French army when the country was a monarchy. A source close to the investigation described him as someone who was "a bit lost, a bit geeky, a bit of a gamer". Tarel and a second man were still in police custody yesterday, the source added. The charge of assault against a public official carries a maximum sentence of three years in jail and a 45,000 euro fine. Tarel managed a local club of martial arts enthusiasts focused on the practice of historical European martial arts, including traditional swordsmanship. Macron said he had not feared for his safety, and continued shaking hands with members of the public after he was struck. In an interview with the Dauphine Libere newspaper after the incident, Macron said: "You cannot have violence, or hate, either in speech or actions. Otherwise, it's democracy itself that is threatened."

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Macron has been targetted before by disenchanted citizens. In 2016, when he was economy minister, he was pelted with eggs by hardleft trade unionists over labour reforms and two years later was left shaken after he was heckled by anti-government protesters.

...to Britain's Prince terminally-ill Israeli girl



An Israeli father asks for his critically ill daughter to be sent to Israel, in Manchester

President Reuven Rivlin urged Charles, the heir to the British throne, to help to fulfill Alta's parents' request to bring her to Israel. "Their religious beliefs directly oppose ceasing medical treatment

that could extend her life and have made arrangements for her safe transfer and continued treatment in Israel," Rivlin wrote. "It would be a tragedy if these parents' wishes could not be accommodated in a way that respects both the law and their religious beliefs." Israel's health minister appealed to Britain's government last week on the family's behalf to say that Israel wished to take her in for treatment. Alta's father, Avraham Fixsler, said he had Israeli doctors who were willing to come to Manchester, where she is in hospital, and give the family their options for treating her. "We believe she is not suffering and we want to have the right to keep her," he said.

Havana Zoo introduces Yanek, a rare white tiger, Cuba's first

Reuters

Havana zoo has introduced the country's first-ever white Bengal tiger, a rare type not known to exist in the wild. Mother Fiona gave birth to four cubs -- including white tiger Yanek -- at the National Zoo of Cuba in March; but only now, it said, are the cubs independent enough to be presented to the public as they play and swim in their special zoo pool. "We are very happy that a white tiger has been born in Cuba; it is the first time that this has happened," said the animals' caretaker Angel Cordero. They were also the first tiger cubs born on Cuban soil in more than 20 years. Along with Yanek, Fiona and fellow Bengal tiger Garfield are the proud parents of sisters Melissa and Gaby, and brother Miguel.



UK govt slams students for ditching 'colonial' queen portrait



London (AFP)

The UK government has criticised graduate students at the University of Oxford who removed a portrait of Queen Elizabeth II, claiming it represented a colonial past that many found offensive.

The move comes as students across the country have played a leading role in protests against historical figures with links to the British empire or slavery. The queen "has become the latest victim of cancel culture", or ostracism of those whose opinions are deemed unacceptable, the right-leaning Daily Telegraph wrote on Wednesday. Graduate students at Magdalen College took down the coloured print of the queen from their recreation room after a majority vote, because "for some students, depictions of the monarch and the British monarchy represent recent colonial history", The Times reported. Education Secretary Gavin Williamson reacted angrily Tuesday night, calling the move "simply absurd". "She is the head of state and a symbol of what is best about the UK," he tweeted. Hanging portraits of the queen is not customary in state educational institutions, but some colleges at Cambridge and Oxford universities have portraits on display. "It was decided that the room should be a welcoming, neutral place for all members, regardless of background, demographic, or views," said Matthew Katzman, head of the Middle Common Room committee at Magdalen.

...tested for coronavirus after rare lion's death



"After lions in Vandalur Zoo tested positive for Covid-19, we were asked to test the camp elephants as a precautionary measure," a forest ranger at Mudumalai Tiger Reserve in the south of Tamil Nadasaid yesterday. Nasal and anal samples were taken from 28 elephants, including two calves, on Tuesday, and sent to the Indian Veterinary Research Institute in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh. The animals' handlers lifted their trunks to collect a sample from a nostril, according to video shared by the reserve. Elephants at a reserve in southern India have been tested for Covid-19 after a lion died of the virus

serve. They also inserted swabs into the elephants' rectums. The results are expected to arrive in a week. "The animals had no symptoms, it was just as a precaution," the ranger said. "There was no difficulty in taking the sample swabs themselves as these are all trained elephants." Some 21 tigers in a zoo in the eastern state of Jharkhand underwent virus tests last week after a 10-year-old tiger with a fever died, local media reported. The tiger had returned a negative rapid antigen test but officials said they were also awaiting results from an RT-PCR test, the Press Trust of India reported.

TOP
4
TWEETS

01

Here is an interesting opportunity for youngsters to harness their writing skills and also contribute to India's intellectual discourse. Know more... <https://innovateindia.mygov.in/yuva/>

@narendramodi

02

Unequal vaccine distribution risks mutations forming and prolonging the #COVID19 pandemic. @G7 and all governments must cooperate on vaccine roll-out and breaking down vaccine trade barriers in order to simultaneously suppress the virus. [#VaccinEq-uity #G7UK](http://bit.ly/ukg721)

@DrTedros

03

Climate risks keep rising - we must act decisively. With control over 35 trillion USD of assets, insurance is a major player in the global economy. Today I called on the insurance sector to direct their investments towards climate solutions, not pollution.

@antonioguterres

04

May global temps are out for the @CopernicusECMWF ERA5 dataset. It was the 5th warmest May on record, after 2020, 2016, 2017, and 2019. May temperatures have risen around 0.7C in the past 40 years, and was 1.2C above the temperatures of the late 1800s.

@hausfath

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