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People need security – against internal and external threats. We can only achieve that with a strong German economy. 1.3 percent economic growth for 2026 shows: Our first measures are helping. We are on the right track.

@bundeskanzler

02



On the occasion of the International Space Summit in Paris, Amazon Leo renews its trust in Arianespace with 6 additional launches, 24 in total. This demonstrates French and European excellence in space access. Let us continue to aim high.

@EmmanuelMacron

03



We, the main actors connecting the Republic of Korea and France, have greeted our fellow compatriots. On the last day of our visit to France, we shared lunch with our fellow compatriots.

@Jaemyung_Lee

04



Peace is never a passive achievement. Peace is hard work. As I ring the Peace Bell to commemorate #PeaceDay, I call on world leaders to stand with us: Take action; Invest in solutions; And do the hard work of building lasting, sustainable peace.

@antonioguterres

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

Researchers who uncovered cause of narcolepsy honoured

Washington, United States

Two researchers who did groundbreaking work on narcolepsy, the neurological disorder that triggers sudden sleep attacks, won a prestigious science award on Wednesday.

An Albert Lasker prize -- often described as a possible hint at a Nobel -- went to Emmanuel Mignot of France and Japan's Masashi Yanagisawa for their work back in the 1990s.

Working with very different approaches they reached the same conclusion as to the cause of narcolepsy: in people, it is a missing brain chemical.

Their studies opened the way for treatment of the condition and revolutionized the still-nascent field of sleep science.

Mignot remembers considering the disorder characterized by sleep attacks and sudden



Japan's Masashi Yanagisawa and Emmanuel Mignot of France

loss of muscle tone in both animals and humans as "really weird," and set out to find what causes it.

He spent a decade studying the genome of dogs, in which narcolepsy can be hereditary, in hopes of finding the culprit gene. A popular video in France these days shows a dog running playfully in a yard, then abruptly collapsing in sleep.

This needle-in-a-hay-stack challenge finally paid off for Mignot in 1999.

Around the same time Yanagisawa identified the neurotransmitter orexin, also called hypocretin, which at first he thought was involved in the feeling of hunger. But it turns out the absence of this substance caused narcolepsy in mice.

Trump gave \$45,000 cash gift to 'human printer' aide



Natalie Harp

AFP | Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump gave his executive assistant Natalie Harp a \$45,000 cash gift, US media reported.

Two other White House employees, Margo Martin and Chamberlain Harris, received similar amounts, according to the Washington Post.

The three women described the payments as "Cash Gift for Holidays," the Post reported Tuesday, citing financial disclosure forms.

Harp has been a near-constant presence at Trump's side in his second term and has been dubbed the "human printer" -- thanks to her role carrying a portable machine to print out documents that Trump asks for.

She is one of the few officials with direct access to Trump's Truth Social account and types out posts as he dictates them, even inserting his trademark capital letters, according to footage in a 2024 election campaign documentary.

The 35-year-old earns \$150,000 a year in her role as the special assistant and exec-



Margo Martin

utive assistant to the president, according to an annual report to Congress.

A White House spokesperson defended the gifts, citing Trump's "longstanding practice of giving Christmas gifts to people in his orbit, including at times employees and aides."

The gifts were unrelated to any of the individuals' duties,



Chamberlain Harris

Greek woman has IVF birth from 22-year-old embryo after losing son

AFP | Athens, Greece

A Greek woman has given birth from an embryo frozen over 22 years ago after losing her son born from the same treatment, her doctor said Wednesday.

"For Christina Rapti-Tzelepi, today's birth carries special emotional significance," gynaecologist Konstantinos Pantos said in a Facebook post.

"In 2004, after an embryo transfer, she had a healthy baby boy on the first attempt. In October 2025, the family experienced the tragic loss of their son in a road traffic accident at the age of 21," Pantos said.

Rapti-Tzelepi is 54, the maximum allowed age in Greece for in vitro fertilisation.

She gave birth to a baby girl on Wednesday follow-

ing the transfer in December of an embryo from the same initial batch, Pantos said.

"There was mourning and joy involved, but everything disappeared this morning when we held our beauty in our arms," Rapti-Tzelepi told state TV ERT.

Rapti-Tzelepi's husband Konstantinos Raptis said the family were in a "race against time" to see the pregnancy through.

"My wife reached, quite literally, the very limits of the age restrictions imposed by the existing legislation," Raptis said in a statement.

He called for the national IVF age limit to be lifted.

"Older women have an immeasurable capacity to offer mature, conscious and unconditional love, as well as a stability that no statistic can ever fully measure," Raptis said.

Human pyramid



Brazil's Army soldiers form a human pyramid on a motorbike during the Independence Day parade in Brasilia

Netanyahu says 'very close' to toppling Iran's Islamic republic

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said during a visit to Israeli troops in southern Syria yesterday that Iran's Islamic republic was on the verge of collapse, as fighting in the six-month Middle East war intensifies.

"There is still work to be done -- the main task is to bring down the terror regime in Iran. We are very close to that," he said on the Syrian side of Mount Hermon on the Israel-Syria border during a visit with Defence Minister Israel Katz.

"We know that the entire axis will ultimately collapse," he added, referring to Iran's

proxy groups in the Middle East.

In southern Syria, Israeli forces have been stationed in a "security zone" since the fall of longtime ruler Bashar al-Assad in December 2024.

They occupy what was previously a buffer zone patrolled by the United Nations that had separated Israeli and Syrian forces in the Israeli-occupied Golan since 1974.

The Israeli leader had already visited troops in Syria at least twice in the past, once in December 2024, shortly after Israel took control of the buffer zone, and in November 2025.



US military strike on an Iranian tanker in the Gulf of Oman