

Battle of Stirling Bridge:
Scottish rebel William Wal-
lace defeats the English

An expulsion order is issued against the Mori-
scos of Valencia, beginning the expulsion of all
of Spain's Moriscos (former Muslims and their
descendants)



Great Northern War: Charles XII
of Sweden stops his march to con-
quer Moscow outside Smolensk,
the turning point in the war

First true self-service
supermarket, Clarence Saunders'
"Piggly Wiggly," opens in
Memphis, Tennessee

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TWEETS

01



I returned to Seoul after completing my trip to France. I was delighted to reunite, this time in Nice and Paris, with President Macron (@EmmanuelMacron) and his wife, whom we had met in Seoul five months ago.

@Jaemyung_Lee

02



Education is a fundamental human right. But exercising that right is becoming increasingly dangerous. In the past two years, more than 8,500 attacks targeted schools, students & teachers. All countries must ensure the right to education for every child & protect schools & places of learning.

@antonioGuterres

03



The International Space Summit brings together more than 90 countries in Paris, more than 50 projects, and more than 20 billion euros in commitments. Let's keep aiming high!

@EmmanuelMacron

04



Charlie Kirk had a unique gift for articulating the good — the goodness of family, faith, and America. One year ago today, he was killed for it.

@SecRubio

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

EU to unveil child social media 'delay' plans

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

EU chief Ursula von der Leyen said yesterday she will reveal next week how the European Union plans to shield children from social media dangers with a "delay" on when they can access the platforms.

"We do not have to accept addictive social media design," von der Leyen said in a video posted on X to tease the plans, to be spelled out in her annual keynote speech to the EU parliament on Wednesday.

"We do not have to accept children being drawn into ever more extreme content," said the European Commission president. "We do not have to accept that girls and women have their photos used for AI-generated sexualised images."

Von der Leyen has been weighing up bringing in EU-wide social media limits for children under 13 -- which an expert panel has recommended -- or a blanket ban under 15, which France in particular is

pushing for.

A European source told AFP that von der Leyen is considering a ban on children under 15 with flexibility for minors aged between 13 and 15 if a parent allows access -- but warned that could yet change with several days to go.

European Commission officials have been tight-lipped on the details and von der Leyen will be liaising intensively with the bloc's executive on the final shape of any social media curbs.

N.Korea leader salutes 'overseas' troops

AFP | Seoul, South Korea

Leader Kim Jong Un praised troops in "overseas military operations" during a speech marking North Korea's founding anniversary, state media reported yesterday, an apparent nod to Pyongyang's assistance in Moscow's war against Ukraine.

Since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, North Korea has become a key ally of the Kremlin, sending troops to support Moscow's war effort in return for economic benefits and military technology, analysts say.

During comments marking North Korea's September 9, 1948 founding, Kim hailed overseas compatriots but paid special tribute to troops deployed abroad, the official Korean Central News Agency reported on Thursday.

"I also extend my special gratitude and profound respect to the commanders and soldiers of our military par-



Kim Jong Un waving during a commissioning ceremony for the destroyer "Kang Kon" at Wonsan Port in Kangwon Province.

ticipating in overseas military operations," said Kim on the nation's 78th anniversary. "Our ideal is being realised rapidly thanks to patriotism, voluntary service and devoted contributions by all citizens praying for the country's prosperity," he added.

According to South Korea, some 2,000 North Korean troops have been killed in the war between Russia and Ukraine.

In August, Ukraine claimed that Moscow had launched North Korean ballistic mis-

siles in a strike that killed at least nine people and wounded dozens.

Kyiv has also said that up to 50,000 North Korean troops are due to deploy to Russia, although it has provided no evidence to back the claim or a timeframe for the deployment.

In making the claim, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky asked Seoul to supply air defence systems to protect against Russian missiles, a request that has gone unanswered by the South.

Girls worst hit by climate shocks on schools: Unicef

AFP | Paris, France

Girls are at greater risk of dropping out of education when their schools are hit by heatwaves, storms or wildfires linked to climate change, the UN children's agency said yesterday.

Unicef analysis suggested that one in 10 or more than 171 million students in 106 countries or territories had their education disrupted by extreme weather last year.

But the agency said girls were worst affected when schools were damaged, classes cancelled or education switched online.

"Girls are at greater risk of dropping out when climate hazards disrupt or close schools," it said.

"Damage to schools and sanitation facilities, displacement and lost family income can place additional caregiving and water-collection responsibilities on girls.

"These pressures can also increase the risk of child mar-



Afghan girls taking their midterm exams at a primary school in Kabul.

riage, making it more difficult for girls to return to class when schools reopen."

According to the analysis, storms were the most common cause of disruption and last year affected 109 million students around the world.

Floods hit at least 70 million while heatwaves disrupted schooling for some 50 million youngsters.

The overall figures for 2025 are down on analysis of the previous year, in which Unicef

said nearly 250 million children in 85 countries -- one in seven -- were affected by climate hazards.

The agency said it had changed its methodology, basing its analysis on information from aid agencies and local media rather than government figures.

Unicef said about one billion or about half the world's children live in countries at very high risk of climate and environmental shocks.

Oxfam says IMF pushed for larger austerity cuts in borrowing countries



● The organization urged the IMF to ensure its programs do not worsen inequality

AFP | Washington, United States

The IMF has pushed borrowing countries to make bigger austerity cuts over the past decade, charity Oxfam said early Thursday, urging for alternatives to such measures.

"These cuts undermine vital spending on public services -- from health care to education and housing -- that protect low-income communities," Oxfam warned in a statement.

It said the median annual austerity cuts required by the International Monetary Fund rose from 0.21 percent of GDP

between 2012 and 2017 to 0.85 percent of GDP between 2018 and 2025.

At the same time, the fund also weakened protections to social spending in its loan programs, Oxfam added.

One concern is that the IMF could "return to 1980s-style structural adjustment" by demanding large public spending cuts from governments at the start of a program, instead of phasing in reductions over years, Oxfam said.

"Frontloading austerity is like asking countries to swallow a whole bottle of poison that we already know is harmful in small doses," said Nabil Abdo, Oxfam's international senior policy advisor, in a statement. The organization urged the IMF to ensure its programs do not worsen inequality, and called for alternatives to austerity.

Israel opposition figure sues Netanyahu's wife over Oct 7 conspiracy theory

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

An Israeli opposition politician on Thursday said he had filed a libel lawsuit against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's wife after she suggested he had prior knowledge of Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack.

The lawsuit for defamation and incitement to violence comes as Israel's election campaign takes an acrimonious turn, in a country divided and traumatised by the worst massacre ever committed on its soil.

In an interview with Israel's right-wing Channel 14 in late August, Sara Netanyahu lashed out at Yair Golan, the former deputy military chief of Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack.

She suggested that Golan knew of Hamas's plans to attack southern Israel, claim-

ing he was "already dressed and ready" at dawn that day, "while others knew nothing, including the prime minister".

Sara Netanyahu's remarks sparked a flurry of responses, with many Israelis choosing to praise Golan for his reaction on October 7, when he spontaneously joined efforts to push back the attack using his personal weapon.

Golan on Thursday said he had filed a lawsuit for defamation and incitement to violence.

"These conspiracy theories... did not arise on their own but from the malicious mind of those seeking to shake off responsibility for the terrible disaster," the lawsuit reads.

Golan is seeking damages of 2.5 million shekels (about 822,000 dollars), and for Sara Netanyahu to retract her statement, according to the same document.



A vendor along with his children rides a motor-cart loaded with goods at Green Takoeng village in Kuleaen district of Cambodia's Preah Vihear province