

Battle of Nineveh: Byzantine Emperor Heraclius defeats Sassanid forces during the Byzantine-Sassanid War

Last Qajar Shah of Iran is deposed; Reza Shah Pahlavi takes over



United Nations accepts six Manhattan blocks as a gift from John D. Rockefeller Jr.

Kenya becomes an independent republic with Jomo Kenyatta as its first President

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Had a very warm and engaging conversation with President Trump. We reviewed the progress in our bilateral relations and discussed regional and international developments. India and the U.S. will continue to work together for global peace, stability and prosperity.

@narendramodi

02



I have seen firsthand how glaciers are melting as global temperatures rise. Glaciers may be retreating – but we cannot. Mountains and glaciers are essential for our fresh water, food & livelihoods - and protecting them is critical for our planet & our future.

@antonioGuterres

03



Brothers and sisters, as is our custom every year to celebrate Arab minds through the Arab Genius Award, and after receiving thousands of nominations... today we announce the winner of the Arab Genius Award in the Engineering and Technology category for 2025, Professor Abbas El-Gamal from Egypt, a Hitachi Professor at the Stanford University School of Engineering

@HHShkMohd

04



The 20 points for ending the war form a fundamental document. We are actively working on the key steps – they must be doable. From this fundamental document, we are developing at least two additional ones.

@ZelenskyyUa

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

Time magazine names ‘Architects of AI’ as **Person of the Year**

Nvidia’s Jensen Huang, OpenAI’s Altman and xAI’s Musk are among entrepreneurs



The cover of TIME Magazine featuring a painting by Jason Seiler for TIME



The cover of TIME Magazine featuring an illustration by Peter Crowther

AFP | New York, United States

Time magazine named the “Architects of AI” as its Person of the Year yesterday, highlighting the US tech titans whose work on the cutting-edge technology is transforming humanity.

Nvidia’s Jensen Huang, OpenAI’s Sam Altman and xAI’s Elon Musk are among the entrepreneurs

who have “grabbed the wheel of history, developing technology and making decisions that are reshaping the information landscape, the climate, and our livelihoods,” the magazine said.

“They reoriented government policy, altered geopolitical rivalries, and brought robots into homes. AI emerged as arguably the most consequential tool in great-power competition since the advent of nuclear weapons.”

One of two covers of the magazine is a take on the iconic “Lunch atop a Skyscraper” photograph from 1932 that shows ironworkers casually eating lunch on a steel beam above New York City.

In the Time illustration, Mark Zuckerberg, AMD chief Lisa Su, Musk, Huang, Altman as well as Google’s AI chief Demis

Hassabis, Anthropic’s Dario Amodei and Stanford professor Fei-Fei Li are sitting astride the city.

According to the magazine, which is owned by Silicon Valley billionaire Marc Benioff, 2025 was the year AI shifted from promising technology to reality and when ChatGPT usage more than doubled to 10% of the world’s population.

Skydiver survives plane-tail dangling incident in Australia

AFP | Sydney, Australia

Heart-stopping footage released Thursday by Australian authorities showed the moment a skydiver was left dangling thousands of metres in the air after their parachute caught on the plane’s tail.

The skydiver survived the incident, which occurred south of Cairns during a stunt in September but has only just been revealed following investigations by the transport safety watchdog.

Plans for a 16-way formation by parachutists at 15,000 feet (4,600 metres), filmed by a parachuting camera operator, hit chaos within seconds of the first participant reaching the plane’s exit.

A video released by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau showed the participant’s reserve parachute being activated after its handle snagged the wing flap of the plane.

The jumper was flung backwards -- their legs striking the aircraft -- as the orange reserve parachute wrapped itself around the plane’s tail.



The moment a skydiver was left dangling thousands of metres in the air after their parachute caught on the plane’s tail.

The parachuter also knocked the camera operator, who was straddling the side of the aircraft and preparing to jump, into freefall, the bureau said in a report that did not include names, ages, or genders.

The jumper was seen placing their hands on their helmet for a few seconds, as if in shock.

While dangling over the terrifying drop, the jumper cut the strings of the reserve chute with a hook knife and freed themselves, the bureau said.

The parachuter then deployed their main chute and landed safely on the ground.

“Carrying a hook knife -- although it is not a regulatory requirement -- could be lifesaving in the event of a premature reserve parachute deployment,” said the bureau’s chief commissioner Angus Mitchell.

The aircraft’s tail was “substantially damaged” by the incident and the pilot had limited control of the plane, issuing a mayday distress call, but managed to safely land the plane.

Swiss yodelling joins world cultural heritage list

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

Yodelling, the traditional singing of herders in the Swiss Alps, was recognised by the United Nations yesterday as part of the world’s cultural heritage.

Yodelling was added to UNESCO’s Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, at a meeting in New Delhi.

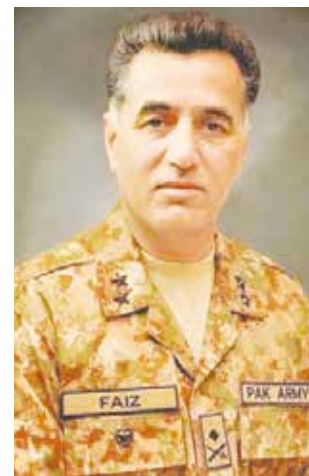
“As the emblematic song of Switzerland, yodelling encompasses a wide variety of artistic expressions and is deeply rooted in the population,” the Swiss culture ministry said.

Yodelling is also sung in Austria and Germany, but while Switzerland joined forces with France to have the mechanical watchmaking tradition of the Jura mountains recognised by UNESCO in 2020, it pursued this nomination independently.

In Switzerland, yodelling is passed on in families, clubs, music schools or simply between singers.

More than 12,000 yodellers are members of one of the 711 groups of the country’s Federal Yodelling Association.

Pakistan’s ex-spy chief jailed 14 years for abuse of power



AFP | Islamabad, Pakistan

A military court sentenced the former head of Pakistan’s powerful Inter-Services Intelligence spy agency to 14 years in prison for violating state secrets and abusing his authority, the army said yesterday.

Faiz Hameed, who served during the tenure of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan, was also convicted of “engaging in political activities” and causing “wrongful loss to persons”, the army’s publicity wing said in a statement.

Faiz Hameed, a lieutenant general who stepped down in December 2022, was detained in August 2024 after claims he raided the businesses of a real estate developer, according to Supreme Court documents published in 2023.

The intelligence chief is considered the second most-powerful position in the Pakistani military.