

Nebuchadnezzar II of Babylon lays siege to Jerusalem under Zedekiah's reign. The siege lasts until July 23, 586 BC.

King Henry VIII declares himself head of the Church in England



Elizabeth I crowned Queen of England in Westminster Abbey, London

British Museum opens in Montague House, London



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The President stands with ICE. I stand with ICE. We stand with all of our law enforcement officers

@VP

02



The new Amrit Bharat trains mark a significant step in improving passenger comfort and connectivity. Other benefits include boosting commerce and tourism!

@narendramodi

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In Aleppo, Syria, due to fighting since 6 January, 2 paramedics and 2 health workers were injured. At least ten health facilities were forced to suspend operations due to insecurity, hostilities in their vicinity, and access constraints.

@DrTedros

04



We all want peace for Ukraine. For this, Ukraine must be in a position of strength. Today we table our proposal for a Euro90 billion loan for 2026 and 2027.

@vonderleyen

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

Thailand crane collapses onto train, **killing 32**



An aerial view of the wreckage of a train that crashed when a construction crane collapsed in Thailand's Nakhon Ratchasima province

AFP | Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand

A crane at a China-backed high-speed rail project in Thailand collapsed onto a passenger train on Wednesday and caused it to derail, killing at least 32 people, authorities said.

The massive crane's broken structure was left resting on giant concrete pillars, while smoke rose from the wreckage of the train below, footage from the scene verified by AFP showed.

The company contracted to build the section of the high-speed rail where the crane fell, Italian-Thai Development -- one of the Thailand's biggest construction firms -- has seen a series of deadly accidents at its sites in recent years.

The firm expressed condolences for those killed and the dozens injured, saying in a statement it would "take responsibility for compensating the victims' families and covering medical expenses for those injured".



Recovery workers watch as a carriage of a train that crashed when a construction crane collapsed is lifted off the tracks in Thailand's Nakhon Ratchasima province

Dozens of rescuers worked into the evening, using other cranes to remove wreckage and searching for missing people in the tilted carriages in Nakhon Ratchasima province, northeast of the capital Bangkok.

Mitr Intrpanya, who was at the scene, said he heard a loud noise "like something sliding down from above, followed by two explosions".

"When I went to see what

had happened, I found the crane sitting on a passenger train with three carriages," the 54-year-old told AFP.

"The metal from the crane appeared to strike the middle of the second carriage, slicing it in half."

The Thai health ministry said 32 people were killed, three were missing and 64 were hospitalised including seven in serious condition.

Egypt says won't 'hesitate to take necessary measures' to preserve Sudan unity

AFP | Cairo, Egypt

Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty said yesterday that Cairo would take all necessary measures to preserve Sudan's unity, as the neighbouring country approaches its fourth year of war between the army and its paramilitary rivals.

Speaking at a press conference with the UN secretary-general's special envoy for Sudan, Ramtane Lamamra, Abdelatty said Egypt "will not stand idly by and will not hesitate to take the necessary measures in a way that preserves Sudan, its unity and territorial integrity".

Egypt shares its southern border with Sudan, and is one of the closest allies of the Sudanese army, which has been fighting the paramilitary Rap-



Sudan's Prime Minister Kamil Idris (front, C) waves as he arrives to deliver an address in Khartoum

id Support Forces (RSF) since April 2023.

Abdelatty said that Egypt "will not accept and will not allow under any circumstances the collapse of Sudan, the collapse of Sudanese national

institutions or harming the unity of Sudan".

"These are red lines," he continued, adding that "a violation to Sudan's national security is a violation of Egypt's national security".

Qatar says some personnel departing US base over 'regional tensions'



A photograph shows the wreckage of a burnt firetruck displayed in front of Tehran University during the funerals of security forces personnel killed in recent protests in Tehran

AFP | Doha, Qatar

Some personnel have been asked to depart the United States' Al Udeid military base in Qatar, two diplomatic sources told AFP on Wednesday, with the Gulf state saying "regional tensions" were behind the move.

The decision comes after Washington threatened to respond to an Iranian government crackdown on protests while Tehran has said it would strike US military and shipping assets in the event of a new attack.

The measure was taken "in response to the current regional tensions", Qatar's International Media Office said in a statement.

"Qatar continues to implement all necessary measures to safeguard the security and safety... including actions related to the protection of critical infrastructure and military facilities," it added.

A diplomatic source told AFP earlier that a number of personnel were asked to leave the base by Wednesday evening.

A second source confirmed the information, also on condition of anonymity.

The US embassy in Qatar

declined to comment on personnel movement at Al Udeid.

In June, Iran targeted the United States' Al Udeid military base in Qatar in response to earlier American strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities.

Ali Shamkhani, a senior adviser to Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, warned US President Donald Trump on Wednesday that the strike on the base had demonstrated "Iran's will and capability to respond to any attack".

Doha was able to leverage the unprecedented attack on its soil to help deliver a speedy truce between Washington and Tehran.

Washington has repeatedly said the United States is considering air strikes on Iran to stop a crackdown on protesters.

Iranian authorities called the American warnings a "pretext for military intervention".

Norway-based NGO Iran Human Rights said it had confirmed 734 people killed during the protests, including nine minors, but warned the death toll was likely far higher.

"The real number of those killed is likely in the thousands," IHR's director Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam said.

UK govt retreats on mandatory digital ID to work

London, United Kingdom

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Wednesday defended his decision to shelve plans to make a digital ID mandatory to work in Britain.

The latest U-turn in his Labour government's policies follows an intense backlash against plans to introduce a free digital ID for UK nationals and those residing in the country in a bid to curb illegal migration.

Officials briefed British media late Tuesday that the new ID which had been proposed by the government in September would no longer be mandatory for employment.

"I'm determined to make it



UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer

harder for people to work illegally in this country, and that is why there will be checks," Starmer told parliament.

"They will be digital, and they will be mandatory."