

Islamic Era begins: Muhammad and his followers begin migration from Mecca to Medina (Hijra)

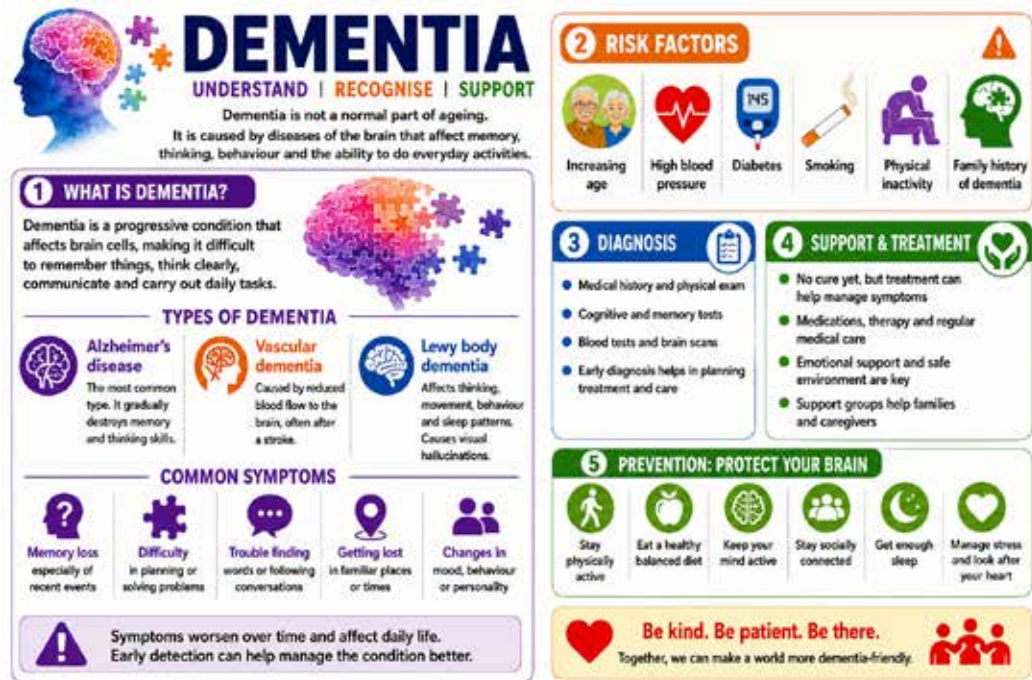
Public debate between Martin Luther and theologian Johann Eck at Pleissenburg Castle in Leipzig, during which Luther denies the divine right of the Pope



Adolf Hitler orders preparations for the invasion of Britain (Operation Sealion)

First test detonation of an atomic bomb occurs at Trinity Site, Alamogordo, New Mexico, as part of the US Manhattan Project

Up to 45% of dementia cases could be prevented or delayed: WHO



AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

Up to 45 percent of dementia risk could be prevented or delayed, the World Health Organization said yesterday, citing modifiable risk factors such as tobacco and air pollution.

Dementia is the seventh leading cause of death and a major cause of disability and dependency among older people globally.

Dementia is caused by brain diseases and affects memory, thinking and the ability to function.

"While there is no cure for dementia, up to 45 percent of the risks can be attributed to modifiable risk factors such as tobacco, alcohol use, social isolation, physical inactivity, air pollution and noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), including high blood pressure and diabetes," the WHO said in a statement.

More than 57 million people live with dementia worldwide and nearly 10 million people get diagnosed every year, it said.

Alzheimer disease is the most common form of de-

mentia and is estimated to account for 60 to 70 percent of cases.

The UN health agency issued its first dementia recommendations in 2019, but said the evidence base had grown significantly since. The guidelines aim to promote early awareness and intervention in a bid to reduce the burden of dementia in the coming decades, it said.

Although more common after 65, the condition is not an inevitable part of ageing, the WHO insisted.

Lebanon, Israel conclude talks

AFP | Beirut, Lebanon

Lebanon and Israel completed a new round of Washington-mediated negotiations in Rome yesterday, agreeing to implement the "pilot zones" in southern Lebanon agreed under a recent framework deal, a US official said.

"Talks concluded after two days of productive and positive

discussions," the official said, adding that the participants "agreed on the structure and guidelines for the pilot zone process, to be finalised and implemented in the coming days."

The US-brokered negotiations took place in the Italian capital over the framework agreement sealed last month after five rounds of talks in

Washington, with Lebanese negotiators hoping for progress on an Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

The deal seeks an end to the war in Lebanon, disarmament of Hezbollah, the deployment of Lebanese troops in the south and for Israeli forces to steadily withdraw from the country, starting with two "pilot zones".

Bangladesh seizes \$6.2 bn in assets tied to ousted PM Hasina

AFP | Dhaka, Bangladesh

Bangladesh has confiscated assets worth 760 billion taka (about \$6.2 billion) linked to ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, her family and 10 business groups, authorities said yesterday.

Since Hasina was toppled in a student-led mass uprising in 2024 and fled to India, authorities have investigated the former prime minister's wealth and looked into her relatives and major business groups accused of benefiting during her

15-year, iron-fisted rule.

The Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit said it had seized assets worth 570 billion taka in Bangladesh and another 190 billion taka overseas.

The agency's chief Ikhtiar Mohammad Mamun told reporters while

presenting the annual summary of its activities that authorities had opened 98 cases as part of the investigations into Hasina and those associated with her.

"We are still working to recover the money laundered overseas," Mamun said. "We hope to share positive developments by the end of this year".



Starmer bids UK MPs 'goodbye'

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Outgoing UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer yesterday pledged his "wholehearted support" to his successor as he prepares to hand over to premier-in-waiting Andy Burnham.

Facing his last weekly grilling from MPs in parliament, Starmer said he wanted to see the next leader of his centre-left Labour party succeed.

"I will give my wholehearted support to my successor. I want this Labour government to be a success," he said, when asked what advice he had for his successor.

"I want our country to be a success. I



shall give my support privately if asked for, not publicly when not asked for."

Starmer announced his resignation last month, bowing to months of pressure to step down after a series of scandals, missteps and policy U-turns. They blighted his two-year tenure, after he led his party to victory in 2024 elections following 14 years in opposition.

Burnham is expected to be crowned Labour's leader on Friday after securing overwhelming support from the party's 403 MPs and the backing of major trade unions.

Biden announces memoir, says cancer treatment 'going really well'

AFP | Washington, United States

Former US president Joe Biden yesterday announced the forthcoming publication of a memoir on his time in the White House, and said that his cancer treatment was going "really well."

In May 2025, just four months after he left office as the oldest sitting president, Biden revealed that he had been diagnosed with an aggressive form of prostate cancer that had spread to his bones.

He subsequently began radi-

ation therapy.

"Since I left the presidency, I've had a lot of people ask me, 'Joe, what have you been doing?'" the 83-year-old said in a video on his X account.

"I've been spending a lot of time with my family. I'm dealing with a cancer diagnosis, and I've been getting treatment, and it's been going really well," he said, thanking his well-wishers.

He said his upcoming presidential memoir, "Promise Me, America," would be about the "challenges we faced as a nation, about the decisions I made, and why I made them."

India approves \$13 billion semiconductor plan

AFP | New Delhi, India

India approved a new semiconductor programme on Wednesday, offering more than \$13 billion in financial assistance to accelerate local chip production, as it seeks to become a global electronics powerhouse.

India's Union Cabinet approved the "Semicon 2.0" initiative, expanding on a drive launched five years ago to reduce reliance on imports and attract investment in one of the world's most strategically important industries.

It comes as countries race to secure semiconductor supply chains following pandemic-era disruptions and growing geopolitical tensions that exposed vulnerabilities in global chip production.

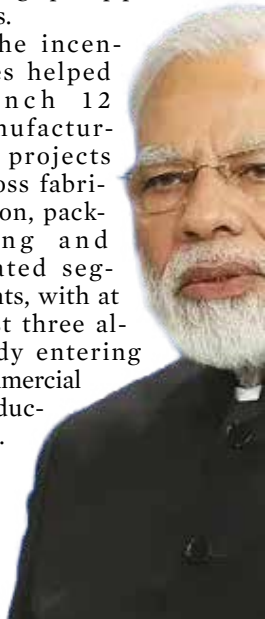
The programme will focus on strengthening the local semiconductor ecosystem, encouraging domestic production of key materials and attracting global manufacturers to establish fabrication plants in India.

The plan recognised the need for "sustained and long-

term support" to the industry and aimed to place India "on the semiconductor map of the world", the cabinet said in a statement, without providing more details on how the money will be used.

An earlier semiconductor incentive scheme "Semicon 1.0", which was unveiled in 2021, offered support covering up to half the cost of setting up chip projects.

The incentives helped launch 12 manufacturing projects across fabrication, packaging and related segments, with at least three already entering commercial production.



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TWEETS

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Ukraine-Southeast Europe Summit. I am glad that we are all together, and that this format – the joint work of Ukraine and countries of South-Eastern Europe – is active and meaningful.

@ZelenskyyUA

02

As innovators, leaders & agents of change, young people are seeking to build more inclusive, resilient & sustainable communities & societies. Let's equip young people with the competencies our changing world requires, so they can help build a better tomorrow for all.

@antonioгутerres

03

The Cabinet has approved Semicon 2.0 with an outlay of Rs. 1,27,500 crore, reaffirming our long-term commitment to making India a global centre for semiconductor design, manufacturing & innovation. Powered by our youth, Semicon 2.0 will strengthen every aspect of the semiconductor ecosystem.

@narendramodi

04

I am proud of everything we have achieved together. To everyone who has supported this Labour government: thank you.

@Keir_Starmer

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