

An Lushan revolts against Chancellor Yang Guozhong at Fanyang, initiating the An Lushan Rebellion during the Chinese Tang dynasty

Battle of Noryang Point: In the final naval battle of the Imjin War, the allied Korean and Chinese fleets decisively defeat the Japanese



Boston Tea Party incident – Sons of Liberty protesters throw tea shipments into Boston Harbor to protest the British-imposed Tea Act and escalating taxation without representation in the British Parliament

TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



In moments like this, we must come together. Australia stands united against hatred and terror.

@AlboMP

02



Deeply touched by the warm welcome extended by the Indian community in Amman. Their affection, pride in India's progress and strong cultural bonds reflect the enduring connection between India and its diaspora. Also grateful for the role the diaspora continues to play in strengthening India-Jordan relations.

@narendramodi

03



Wishing all of my Jewish friends in America a very Happy Hanukkah as they begin their celebration this evening. Please say a prayer for all of the victims of the terrible terrorist attack in Australia. May their memory be a blessing.

@VP

04



Congratulations to Chilean President-Elect @JoseAntonioKast on his victory. The United States looks forward to partnering with his administration to strengthen regional security and revitalize our trade relationship.

@SecRubio

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

# Flash floods kill 37 in Moroccan coastal town



Moroccans look at a destroyed vehicle and other debris following a flash flood, in the coastal town of Safi, some 300 kilometres (186 miles) south of the capital Rabat

AFP | Rabat, Morocco

The death toll from flash floods that hit the Moroccan coastal town of Safi over the weekend rose to 37, local authorities said yesterday.

"Fourteen people are currently being treated at Mohammed V hospital in Safi, including two in intensive care," local authorities added in their statement.

Search and rescue operations continued yesterday, after the

deadliest such severe weather event in Morocco in over a decade.

Images on social media showed a torrent of muddy water sweeping cars and rubbish bins from the streets in Safi, which sits around 300 kilometres (186 miles) south of the capital Rabat.

Severe weather and flooding are not uncommon in Morocco, which is struggling with a severe drought for the seventh consecutive year.

The General Directorate of

Meteorology (DGM) said 2024 was Morocco's hottest year on record, while registering an average rainfall deficit of -24.7 percent.

Moroccan autumns are typically marked by a gradual drop in temperatures, but climate change has affected weather patterns and made storms more intense because a warmer atmosphere holds more moisture and warmer seas can turbocharge the systems.

Flash floods killed hundreds in Morocco in 1995.

## Son arrested after Rob Reiner and wife found dead: US media

AFP | Los Angeles, United States

Police took Rob Reiner's son into custody after the Hollywood director of hits including "When Harry Met Sally" and his wife were found dead in their Los Angeles home, US media reported yesterday.

Networks CBS and ABC said Nick Reiner was arrested, and the Los Angeles Times reported he was booked into the Los Angeles County jail on suspicion of murder, citing jail records.

Los Angeles deputy police chief Alan Hamilton had said earlier they were seeking to interview "every family member" of the 78-year-old actor-director and his wife, Michele Singer Reiner.

The bodies were discovered Sunday and police said they were treating the case as an "apparent homicide."

As tributes poured in for Reiner, Donald Trump unleashed a crude broadside on the Hollywood icon, appearing to blame the deaths on the director's "raging" criticism of the US president.

Several US news media cited police sources as saying the couple were stabbed, while celebrity news website TMZ, which first broke the story, reported that their throats had



Director Rob Reiner and wife Michele Singer Reiner

been cut by a family member during an argument.

Reiner directed classic films including 1984's rock music mockumentary "This Is Spinal Tap," fantasy gem "The Princess Bride" from 1987, and the 1992 courtroom drama "A Few Good Men."

His films spanned everything from laugh-out-loud comedy to searing drama and earned him a global following.

Reiner was politically active and an outspoken supporter of progressive causes -- potentially a reason for the extraordinary statement by Trump on Monday less than a day after

the killings.

While movie fans around the world grieved, Trump claimed Reiner died "reportedly due to the anger he caused others through his massive, unyielding, and incurable affliction with a mind crippling disease known as TRUMP DERANGEMENT SYNDROME."

"He was known to have driven people CRAZY by his raging obsession of President Donald J. Trump, with his obvious paranoia reaching new heights as the Trump Administration surpassed all goals and expectations of greatness," the president posted.

## North Korean leader's sister sports Chinese foldable phone



AFP | Seoul, South Korea

The North Korean leader's powerful sister Kim Yo Jong has been spotted with a likely Chinese-made foldable phone, as Pyongyang's elite skirt sanctions to get their hands on the latest gadgetry from abroad.

Images released by state media on Sunday showed Kim holding the phone in her right hand during a trip to a hospital opening alongside her brother Kim Jong Un.

Although the brand name cannot be seen in the picture, the phone closely resembles the Chinese brand Honor's

"Magic" line, advertised as "the world's thinnest foldable smartphone".

The V3 model of the phone sells for around \$1,379 -- well out of range of the average North Korean, who analysts say typically earn up to three dollars a month in state-run industries.

Kim's family is known for their love of gadgets.

Leader Kim Jong Un has been pictured using Apple products, including iPads and MacBooks, at high-profile events.

In 2023, he also sported a foldable smartphone during a missile launch.

## New US presidential planes delayed again until 2028

AFP | New York, United States

The delivery of a new Boeing jet to be used by the US president, famously known as Air Force One, has been delayed once again by at least a year. According to an updated timeline by the US Air Force, the first of two new specially equipped Boeing 747-8 aircraft, known as the VC-25B, will not enter service until at least 2028.

"On Dec 12, 2025, the US Air Force awarded a \$15.5 million modification to its existing contract with The Boeing Company for the VC-25B program," an Air Force spokesperson told AFP on Sunday.

The spokesperson said the costs were related to the "integration of new communica-

tions" capabilities that "can be accomplished within the current program schedule with the projected delivery date for the first VC-25B aircraft in mid-2028."

Previously, the US Air Force had said that the first aircraft would be delivered in 2027.

No reason for the delay was announced. When contacted by AFP, Boeing referred any questions about the program to the US Air Force.

The US aerospace giant has faced repeated delays and financial losses related to its fixed-price contract to replace Air Force One. Signed in 2018 during President Donald Trump's first term, the contract aimed for initial delivery of a plane by the end of 2024.



## US-Ukrainian talks resume in Berlin with territorial stakes unresolved

AFP | Berlin, Germany

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky pushed on with high-stakes talks in Berlin yesterday with US President Donald Trump's envoys aimed at ending the war with Russia, but thorny territorial questions remained unresolved.

Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff said on X that "a lot of progress" had been made during a meeting on Sunday that also involved the US president's son-in-law Jared Kushner. Ukraine, battling a gruelling war since Russia's invasion in February 2022, hopes

to convince the United States that a ceasefire must be agreed without prior territorial concessions to Russia.

However, an official briefed on the talks said that US negotiators still want Ukraine to cede control of the eastern Donbas region as a condition of peace talks with Russia, a red line for Kyiv. Russian President Vladimir "Putin wants territory," the official said, adding that the United States was demanding that Ukraine "withdraw" from the regions -- and that Kyiv was "not agreeing" to this demand.