

1942

Christopher Columbus signs a contract with Spanish monarchs King Ferdinand II of Aragon and Queen Isabella I to find the "Indies" with the stated goal of converting people to Catholicism



1895

Treaty of Shimonoseki is signed ending the First Sino-Japanese War (1894-95)

1917

Vladimir Lenin issues his radical "April Theses" calling for Soviets to take power during the Russian Revolution

1961

1,400 Cuban exiles land in the Bay of Pigs in a doomed attempt to overthrow Fidel Castro

Taiwan reaches WHO Gold Tier in Hepatitis C fight

TDT | Agencies

For decades, hepatitis C has been recognized as a major global public health challenge, with an estimated 58 million people living with chronic hepatitis C infection worldwide. Although no vaccine currently exists, hepatitis C is now curable with highly effective direct-acting antiviral (DAA) therapies delivered through treatment courses of 8-12 weeks. Therefore, the World Health Organization (WHO) launched the Glasgow Declaration on Viral Hepatitis in 2015, setting ambitious goals to eliminate viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030.

In line with the WHO's Guidance for Country Validation of Viral Hepatitis Elimination and Path to Elimination, Taiwan has reached the Gold Tier programmatic targets under the WHO Path to Elimination (PTE) framework for hepatitis C. This progress has been driven by the government's political will and the systematic integration of hepatitis prevention, screening, diagnosis, and treatment into a universal health-care system.

Through Taiwan's Adult Preventive Healthcare Services for hepatitis B and C, as well as the National Health Insurance program for DAA reimbursement, hepatitis C screening and treatment are widely available, thereby reducing financial and structural barriers to care. As of June 2025, an estimated 90.2% of individuals with chronic hepatitis C have been diagnosed, and 92.6% of those diagnosed have received DAA treatment, exceeding the WHO PTE Gold Tier benchmarks.

Prevention and patient safety remain indispensable components of hepatitis C elimination. Taiwan maintains 100% screening of donated blood and 100% safe medical injection practices. Comprehensive harm reduction programs are also provided to ensure wide access to sterile injecting equipment for people who inject drugs (PWID), with more than 150 syringes distributed per person. These measures are essential for reducing new infections and safeguarding elimination gains over time.

Consistent with the WHO and Sustainable Development

58M
people are estimated to be living with chronic hepatitis C infection worldwide, though the disease is now curable with 8-12 week antiviral treatments

Goals (SDGs) principle of Leave No One Behind, Taiwan has focused on populations facing higher risks and greater barriers to care. High screening coverage and treatment rates have been achieved among people living with HIV, patients with end-stage renal disease, individuals receiving opioid agonist therapy, and prisoners in correctional facilities. These outcomes reflect the equity of our healthcare systems and reflect the WHO's core principle.

Over the past two decades, Taiwan has observed a substantial decline in liver cancer incidence and mortality, trends closely linked to long-standing hepatitis prevention and treatment policies. The achievements

presented in the Taiwan Hepatitis C Elimination Report are the result of close cross-sectoral collaboration among central and local governments, public health authorities, clinical providers, and civil society organizations. Taiwan's success is also rooted in the government's political will, supported by robust surveillance systems and transparent data reporting.

As the global target toward the 2030 viral hepatitis elimination goals, the "Taiwan Model" offers clear evidence that elimination is achievable when science, political will, and equity converge. The Taiwan Hepatitis C Elimination Report has been submitted to the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO) for validation under the PTE Gold Tier for hepatitis C elimination. We look forward to the recognition of Taiwan's demonstrated leadership and contributions in advancing hepatitis C elimination. Taiwan remains committed to working with the international community and sharing our experience to help accelerate global progress toward a world free from hepatitis C.

Syria says has taken control of all bases previously operated by US forces

AFP | Washington

Syria yesterday said it had taken control of all military bases previously hosting US forces, who had long been in the country leading an international coalition against the Islamic State group.

The foreign ministry in a statement said it "welcomes the completed handover of military sites where United States forces were previously present in Syria to the Syrian government".

It added that "the hand-over of these sites was carried out... in full coordination between the Syrian and American governments".



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TWEETS

01



Security in the Gulf and in Europe are interlinked. I extended our full solidarity to the Gulf Cooperation Council and its members @GCCSG @jasmalbudaiwi as they face unprovoked attacks from Iran. Recent events demonstrate very clearly why Iran should never have nuclear weapons. Grateful also for the solidarity and mediation efforts many Gulf States have shown in response to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. Times are calling for a closer partnership between Europe and the Gulf countries. The EU-GCC Summit later this year offers us the perfect opportunity to further strengthen our relations. I'm looking forward to continuing the discussions in Cyprus next week.

@vonderleyen

02



Many countries are trapped in cycles of unresolved debt crises & held back by an unfair system of vast debt repayments that drain public resources & undermine long-term investment. The Borrowers Platform - a new mechanism supported by the @UN - is a breakthrough in global financing - bringing borrowing countries together learn from each other & speak with a collective voice.

@antonioguterres

03



I know parents are worried about social media and its impact on their children's safety. They rightly expect fast action. Today, I'm calling on senior leaders from X, Meta, Snap, YouTube and TikTok to step up. I will do whatever it takes to keep children safe online.

@Keir_Starmer

Trump says Israel, Lebanon agree to 10-day ceasefire

AFP | Washington

US President Donald Trump announced that Israel and Lebanon have agreed to a 10-day ceasefire starting yesterday, though there was no indication if Iran-backed Hezbollah was on board.

Trump said the truce followed "excellent" conversations with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Lebanese President Joseph Aoun, taking place two days after Israel and Lebanon held peace talks in Washington.

"These two Leaders have agreed that in order to achieve PEACE between their Countries, they will formally begin a 10 Day CEASEFIRE at 5 P.M. EST," Trump



Smoke rises from the site of a series of Israeli strikes that targeted the southern Lebanese city of Nabatieh

said on his Truth Social network. Vice President JD Vance, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, and top US military officer Dan Caine to work with the two countries

"to achieve a Lasting PEACE."

"It has been my Honor to solve 9 Wars across the World, and this will be my 10th, so let's, GET IT DONE!" said Trump, who launched the war on Iran alongside Israel on February 28.

Hezbollah then pulled Lebanon into the Middle East war, firing rockets at Israel in support of its backer Tehran.

Since then, Israeli strikes on Lebanon have killed more than 2,000 people and displaced more than one million, and Israeli ground forces have invaded the country's south.

Trump said late Wednesday that Aoun and Netanyahu were due to speak yesterday, but there was no confirmation that any such call had happened.

Pope slams 'tyrants' on Cameroon conflict visit after spat with Trump

AFP | Bamenda

Pope Leo XIV yesterday criticised the "tyrants" ransacking the world, on a high-security visit to a "bloodstained" region of Cameroon following a war of words with US President Donald Trump.

Since his landmark four-nation African tour kicked off earlier this week -- after Trump lashed out against the pope's criticism of the Middle East war -- the pope has abandoned his previous restraint in speaking out in favour of world peace.

"Woe to those who manipulate religion and the very name



Pope Leo XIV releases a white dove after calling for peace in Cameroon

of God for their own military, economic and political gain, dragging that which is sacred into darkness and filth," Leo

said in the northwestern city of Bamenda, the epicentre of a nearly decade-long English-speaking separatist insurgency that has killed thousands.

"The world is being ravaged by a handful of tyrants, yet it is held together by a multitude of supportive brothers and sisters," the pontiff warned, in a solemn speech at Bamenda's Saint Joseph's Cathedral.

Coming after US Vice President JD Vance -- a Catholic -- urged the Vatican to "stick to matters of morality", the remarks could deepen the rift between the Trump administration and the Chicago-born pontiff.

Yet the mood was joyous as the pope arrived under a military escort in a popemobile with bulletproof windows, blessing the worshippers who had gathered, many singing and blowing vuvuzela horns, to welcome him to Bamenda.

As he left the cathedral, Leo released white doves, a symbol of peace in a region of the central African country he called a "bloodstained yet fertile land that has been mistreated".

"Those who rob your land of its resources generally invest much of the profit in weapons, thus perpetuating an endless cycle of destabilisation and death," he said.

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