

Six residents of Carthage, North Africa, are executed for being Christian, the earliest recorded instance of Christianity in the region

Empress Catherine II becomes Tsarina of Russia following the murder of Tsar Peter III



Leaders Harry Truman, Joseph Stalin and Winston Churchill hold their first post World War II meeting at the Potsdam Conference

Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 is shot down over Eastern Ukraine by a Buk surface-to-air missile

US ‘very concerned’ about Israel strikes in Syria

Washington, United States

Washington is talking with both Israel and Syria after the Israelis bombed the Syrian army headquarters in Damascus, the top US diplomat said yesterday, expressing concern at the attack.

“We’re talking to both sides, all the relevant sides on this and hopefully we can bring it to a conclusion, but we’re very concerned,” US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said.

Death toll in south Syria violence tops 300: monitor

Damascus, Syria

More than 300 people have been killed in days of violence in southern Syria’s Sweida province, a war monitor said Wednesday, raising an earlier toll of 248 dead.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said that since clashes erupted on Sunday, 69 Druze fighters were killed as well as 40 civilians, 27 of whom in “summary executions... by members of the defence and interior ministries”, while 165 government forces and 18 Bedouin fighters were also killed, along with 10 members of the government’s security forces in Israeli strikes.

US deports 5 migrants convicted of crimes to Eswatini

Mbabane, Eswatini

The United States has deported five migrants convicted of crimes to the small African kingdom of Eswatini, ruled by an absolute monarch accused of human rights abuses, officials have said.

The deported migrants are nationals of Cuba, Jamaica, Laos, Vietnam and Yemen.

The deportation of migrants to countries which are not their own is part of US President Donald Trump’s campaign promise to expel millions of undocumented migrants from the United States.

His administration has defended so-called third-country deportations as necessary, since the home nations of some of those targeted for removal sometimes refuse to accept them.



Palestinians search for items to salvage in the rubble of buildings destroyed a day earlier in Israeli strikes on Al-Daraj neighbourhood in Gaza City

Palestinian statehood summit planned for September

Postponed at the last minute after Israel’s military campaign against Iran

AFP | Paris, France

International envoys will discuss a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict at UN headquarters in New York this month, before national leaders meet in September, a French diplomatic source said Wednesday.

The conference, co-chaired by France and Saudi Arabia, was originally planned for mid-June to revive work on the long-standing diplomatic effort to find a way for Israeli and Palestinian states to live side-by-side in peace.

It was postponed at the last minute after Israel’s military campaign against Iran.

Last week, diplomatic sources said last week the conference had been rescheduled for July 28 and 29, but did not say who would attend.

The French source said Wednesday that the meeting would be at ministerial level.

It would seek to “advance the recognition of a Palestinian state for a certain number of states who have not yet recognised it, including France,” the source said.

But it would also work “on

normalisation and Israel’s regional integration with Arab and Muslim countries.”

Heads of state and government would then meet in either Paris or New York, before the UN General Assembly, which will be attended by world leaders on September 22, the source added.

France’s foreign ministry said Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot would attend the meeting.

Last week, French President Emmanuel Macron called for joint recognition by France and Britain of a Palestinian state.

Before the initial conference was postponed, Barrot said France would not recognise a Palestinian state alone, in a possible reference to the eagerness of Paris to see any French recognition matched by Gulf Arab allies -- notably regional kingpin Saudi Arabia -- recognising Israel.

US President Donald Trump near the end of his first term led promoted the “Abraham Accords” in which the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Morocco became the first Arab countries in decades to normalise with Israel.

Iceland volcano erupts for ninth time since 2023

AFP | Reykjavik, Iceland

A volcano erupted on Wednesday in Iceland’s Reykjanes peninsula in the southwest, weather authorities said, the ninth eruption to hit the region since the end of 2023.

Live video feeds showed lava spewing out of a fissure in the ground, with the Icelandic Met Office saying that it began just before 4:00 am (0400 GMT).

The weather agency later in the day reported that the main fissure was estimated to be 2.4 kilometres (1.5 miles) long, and that a second smaller fissure, about 500 metres long, had opened up nearby.

Due to high levels of gas pollution in the air, residents were advised to stay indoors.

Broadcaster RUV reported that the nearby fishing village Grindavik had been evacuated, as had the Blue Lagoon, Iceland’s famed tourist spot.



Lava and smoke erupting from a volcano near Grindavik on the Icelandic peninsula of Reykjanes

Police Commissioner Margret Kristin Palsdottir, told the broadcaster that the evacuation of the some 100 people staying in the village had gone smoothly.

Palsdottir also said they had

prevented some tourists from entering the area.

“Of course, we understand that this is a fascinating event, especially for tourists who are not as accustomed to it as we

are,” Palsdottir said.

Geophysicist Benedikt Ofeigsson told RUV that the eruption didn’t seem as big as earlier ones and was in a good location as it wasn’t near any infrastructure.



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TWEETS

01



Deeply saddened by passing of former President of Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari. He played a key role for regional peace & security & was a strong advocate for multilateral & regional cooperation. My heartfelt condolences to his family, the Government & the people of Nigeria.

@antonioguterres

02



Our budget will help build a Union that protects. We are proposing 131 billion for Defence and Space, under the Competitiveness Fund. 5 times of what we have today. This will strengthen our industrial base and our capabilities.

@vonderleyen

03



Skill India is strengthening the resolve to make our youth skilled and self-reliant.

@narendramodi

04



It’s almost like the economics profession doesn’t fully understand tari

@VP

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