

1506

The cornerstone of the current St. Peter's Basilica is laid in the Vatican by Pope Julius II

1783

Fighting ceases in the American Revolution, eight years to the day when it began

1906

San Francisco earthquake and fire kills nearly 4,000 while destroying 75% of the city



1954

Egyptian Colonel Gamal Abdel Nasser seizes power and appoints himself Prime Minister

Elizabeth stands as Philip is laid to rest

Link to one another after Prince Philip's funeral



The Queen watches as pallbearers carry the coffin of Prince Philip

Philip, who married Elizabeth in 1947, helped the young queen adapt the monarchy to the changing times of the post-World War Two era as the loss of empire and the decline of deference challenged the world's most prominent royal family.

In 1997, the queen described Philip as her "strength and stay" over their decades of marriage. Now 94, she has reigned for 69 years.

Her husband's coffin was borne to the chapel on a bespoke Land Rover Defender TD 130 in military green that Philip himself helped to design, as a minute gun fired eight times.

Philip's children and grandchildren followed behind on foot, evoking memories of the 1997 funeral of Diana when William and Harry - then just 15 and 12 - walked behind their mother's coffin.

His naval cap and sword lay on top of the coffin, which was covered with the Duke of Edinburgh's personal standard featuring the Danish coat of arms, the Greek cross, Edinburgh Castle and the stripes of the Mountbatten family.

A wreath of white roses, lilies and jasmine from the queen also adorned the coffin.

There were just 30 mourners inside the chapel because of continuing coronavirus restrictions in Britain. As the service began at 3 p.m. (1400 GMT), Prime Minister Boris Johnson observed a minute's silence, along with millions of Britons.

Before the procession, military bands spaced out across the quadrangle of Windsor Castle in brilliant sunshine to play the prince's chosen music, including "I Vow To Thee My Country", "Jerusalem" and "Nimrod".

Harry and William

The four-person choir sang a sailors' hymn, "Eternal Father, Strong to Save". Shortly before the coffin was lowered into the Royal Vault, the Russian "Kontakion of the Departed", a hymn of the

"We have been inspired by his unwavering loyalty to our Queen, by his service to the Nation and the Commonwealth, by his courage, fortitude and faith"

DEAN OF WINDSOR DAVID CONNER

Orthodox and Eastern churches, echoed around the ancient church.

There were no eulogies, just brief words of praise for the prince from the dean of Windsor and Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby in their prayers.

Elizabeth has been widowed just as she grapples with one of the gravest crises to hit the royal family in decades - allegations of racism and neglect by it from Harry and Meghan, his American-born wife.

In last month's interview the couple, who quit royal duties and moved to California last year, laid bare their perceptions of the family's attitudes in what amounted to a critique of the old-fashioned customs of an ancient institution.

They accused one unnamed royal of making a racist comment, and said Meghan's pleas for help when she felt suicidal were ignored.

Meghan said she had been silenced by "the Firm" while Harry said his father, Charles, had refused to take his calls. Harry said both Charles and his brother William were trapped in the royal family.

Biden drops promise for quick expansion in refugee admissions



A woman holds her four-month son as she prepares to get in the back of a pickup truck for transport after crossing the Rio Grande River into the United States from Mexico in Penitas

AFP | Washington

President Joe Biden's administration announced Friday he was scrapping his pledge for a rapid expansion in the number of refugees allowed into the United States, but seemed to backtrack later in the day after fierce blowback from within his Democratic Party.

The outcry came after a senior administration official said Biden would maintain the historically low ceiling of 15,000 people resettled a year, a number set by predecessor Donald Trump who had imposed hardline border policies.

The Biden administration had recently stated it wanted to allow in about 60,000 refugees annually, ramping up to double the following year. That aim had been part of the Democrat's broader promise to end harsh anti-immigrant and anti-refugee sentiment whipped up by Trump.

Instead, the White House will keep the strict 15,000 limit so that it can "rebuild" a broken program and deal with pandemic-related complications, said the official, who asked not to be identified.

After a top Democrat and



LIRS, one of the chief organizations helping refugees in the United States, said that as of this month, only 2,000 refugees have been resettled in the current fiscal year

refugee aid groups slammed Biden's target as "appalling low" and "deeply disappointing," the White House issued a statement later Friday saying the number was provisional.

Noting that Biden has green-lighted settlement of refugees from previously blocked regions and signed off on flights from those areas to begin within days, the White House said it expected Biden "to set a final, increased refugee cap for the remainder of this fiscal year by May 15," but added that "his initial goal of 62,500 seems unlikely."

Assassinate Raul Castro in 1960: declassified documents



Raul Castro speaks as the Communist Party of Cuba opens a historic congress in Havana

States told its Havana station to cancel the mission.

"Do not pursue," the cable said. "Would like to drop matter."

At that point, the pilot was already out of contact. When he returned to Cuba, Martinez told his handler that "he had no opportunity to arrange an accident such as we had discussed."

the 89-year-old brother of late revolutionary leader Fidel Castro, prepares to leave Cuban politics by stepping down as head of the all-powerful Community Party of Cuba.

Raul's departure ends a near six-decade family hold on power in Cuba that started in 1959.

The reins will now pass to 60-year-old Miguel Diaz-Canel,

638
assassination plots were survived by Fidel Castro according to Guinness World Records

who has served as Cuba's president since 2018.

"These documents remind us of a dark and sinister past in US operations against the Cuban revolution," National Security Archive analyst Peter Kornbluh told AFP.

"As the Castro era officially comes to an end, US policymakers have the opportunity to leave this historical baggage behind and engage Cuba's post-Castro future."

Fidel Castro defied 11 American presidents and survived numerous assassination plots -- 638 according to Guinness World Records -- as well as a failed 1961 attempt by 1,400 anti-Castro Cubans, who were trained and financed by the CIA, to land at the Bay of Pigs in an attempt to overthrow the communist regime.

Moscow prosecutor moves to outlaw Kremlin critic Navalny's activist network

Reuters | Moscow

State prosecutors in Moscow asked a court to label jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny's anti-corruption group and regional headquarters "extremist" organisations, a move that would ban them and open up activists to long jail terms.

The move, if approved, would mark one of the most serious steps taken by authorities yet to target the network of groups set up by the staunch critic of President Vladimir Putin who is on hunger-strike as he serves a two-and-a-half-year jail term.

Activists caught organising the activity of such groups can be jailed for up to 10 years, people taking part in them can be held criminally liable and the groups themselves are prohibited from any kind of banking activity.

The Moscow state prosecutor said it had decided to appeal to the court after studying Navalny's Anti-corruption Foundation and campaign groups that he has built up in



Alexei Navalny attends a court hearing in Moscow

regions across the country. "Under the guise of liberal slogans, these organisations are engaged in forming the conditions to destabilise the social and social-political situation," the prosecutor said in a statement on its website.

"Effectively the goal of their activity is to create the conditions to change the basis of the constitutional order, including by using a 'colour revolution' scenario," it said.

An outspoken Putin critic for years, Navalny has organised nationwide anti-Kremlin street protests and carved out a following online with investigations alleging corruption by senior Russian officials.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



I was honored to welcome Prime Minister Suga to the White House today as we usher in a new era of friendship between the U.S. and Japan. Both Pacific nations, we are also united by our shared commitment to the universal values of freedom, democracy, and human rights.

@POTUS

02



"Forestry and bioenergy criteria have moved from being science-based to being Sweden-based" Being referred to as the opposite of science is a clear sign that you're doing something wrong...

@GretaThunberg

03



I want to express my deep solidarity with the people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines following the volcano eruptions. @UNCERF has released \$1 million USD to assist the emergency response. We stand ready to provide additional support to the commendable local response efforts.

@antonioguerres

04



The junta's "drive to take Myanmar back to dictatorship, isolation and poverty reveals its desperation. It has no objective beyond self-preservation and few tools aside from brutality. It has virtually no political base."

@KenRoth

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