

1804

Napoleon Bonaparte proclaimed Emperor of France by the French Senate

1896

Khodynka Tragedy: A mass panic on Khodynka Field, Moscow, during the festivities of the coronation of Russian Tsar Nicholas II, results in the deaths of 1,389 people



1974

India becomes the sixth nation to explode an atomic bomb

2009

Sri Lankan Civil War: The LTTE are defeated by the Sri Lankan government, ending almost 26 years of fighting between the two sides.

affair ee?

the more time on his philanthropy starting several years earlier.”
A spokesman for the Gates Foundation told Reuters it stood by the statement to the paper.
The billionaire, who co-founded Microsoft in 1975 and served as its CEO until 2000, said in March 2020 that he was stepping down from the board to focus more on philanthropy.
Gates and his wife Melinda filed for divorce earlier this month after 27 years of marriage.

Dubai ruler dissolves tribunal for settling disputes with home lenders

Reuters

Dubai's ruler dissolved by decree a special tribunal formed after the global financial crisis over a decade ago to settle disputes related to real estate lenders Amlak Finance and Tamweel, the government media office said on Twitter yesterday.

Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum ordered the creation of the special judicial committee in 2009 to protect creditors of mortgage lenders Amlak and Tamweel following the debt and property crisis that wobbled the emirate's economy.

“Pursuant to the Decree, all complaint and lawsuits that have been reviewed by the Special Tribunal and haven't received a final judgment will be referred to the concerned Court of First Instance at Dubai Courts,” a statement on Sheikh Mohammed's website said.

Dubai eases COVID-19 restrictions, allows full hotel capacity



Reuters

Dubai yesterday eased COVID-19 restrictions, allowing hotels in the regional tourism hub to operate at full capacity and permitting concerts and sports events where all attendees and participants have been vaccinated.

The United Arab Emirates ranks highly globally for COVID-19 testing and vaccination rates.

Social distancing and compulsory face masks will continue, Dubai's Supreme Committee of Crisis and Disaster Management said. Capacities for restaurants and entertainment venues also increased.

Dubai has pushed to keep its economy, which relies on international trade and business, open through the pandemic after an initial lockdown. The emirate is due to host the Expo 2020 world fair from October, hoping to attract millions of overseas visitors.

The UAE has in recent weeks banned entry from India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka to guard against the spread of the highly contagious Indian variant.

Saudi to reopen to foreign tourists soon, official says



Tourists watch Saudi men perform a traditional folk dance
Reuters

Saudi Arabia plans to soon reopen to foreign tourists, a senior tourism official said yesterday after the kingdom announced the lifting of quarantine restrictions for certain foreign arrivals.

The kingdom announced late on Sunday that non-citizens arriving from certain countries and who were fully vaccinated against or recently recovered from COVID-19 would no longer be required to quarantine in designated government hotels.

Those new measures, however, only apply to residents, government and business travellers or those visiting friends and family but not foreign tourists, according to the Saudi Tourism Authority (STA).

STA Chief Executive Fahd Hamidaddin said the kingdom would reopen to foreign tourists this year with an announcement expected to be made “very soon.”

Hamidaddin declined to say exactly when.

Saudi Arabia liberalised its tourism industry in 2019, making it easier for foreigners to apply for tourist visas to the kingdom that had been relatively closed off for decades.

Hamidaddin said the kingdom was still targeting 100 million annual visits by 2030, up from about 40 million a year before the pandemic. It was also still targeting for tourism to account for 10% of GDP, up from 3%, by 2030, he said.

China to relax birth policy

Reuters

China will tread carefully in relaxing its birth policies for fear of harming social stability, even as the latest census highlights the urgency to address the country's declining birth trends and ageing population, policy sources said.

Expectations for birth policy reforms are rising after the 2020 census last week showed China's population grew at its slowest in the last decade since the 1950s as births declined and ageing accelerated.

A fertility rate of 1.3 children per woman in 2020, on par with ageing societies like Japan and Italy, underscores the risk for China: the world's second-biggest economy may already be in irreversible population decline without having first accumulated the household wealth of G7 nations.



TOP
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TWEETS

01



#Cancer affects nearly 20 million people & causes 10 million deaths. Responding to the global cancer burden requires solidarity. I thank @IARCWHO staff for their valued contribution to cancer research & congratulate Elisabete Weiderpass, @IARC_DIR, for her visionary leadership.
@DrTedros

02



Interacted with doctors across India. They shared insightful inputs, based on their own experiences of curing COVID-19. The determination of our doctors during these times is remarkable!

@narendramodi

03



Daily average of #COVID19 +ve cases from 1 to 8 May was 37, 144. Down to 35,919 in the last week. 10% - 30% decrease in 8 districts. Active cases down from 4,45,000 to 3,62,315. Lockdown will bear fruit. Let us continue to be cautious. We shall overcome!

@vijayanpinarayi

04



The current violence in Gaza & Israel only perpetuates the cycles of death, destruction & despair, and pushes farther to the horizon any hopes of coexistence & peace. Fighting must stop immediately. The @UN is actively engaging all sides towards an immediate ceasefire.

@antonioguterres

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

Cyclone makes landfall in India, Gujarat evacuates over 200,000



A damaged car is seen on a road after a tree fell on it



Passenger buses are stranded on a waterlogged road

struck down by record COVID infections and deaths. Many families are barely staying afloat,” said Udaya Regmi, South Asia head of delegation, International Federation of Red Cross.

The cyclone has already killed at least 16 people and left a trail of destruction as it brushed past the coastal states of Kerala, Kar-

nataka, Goa and Maharashtra, the authorities said.

“The landfall process has started, and it is expected to last for four hours. The intensity of the Cyclone Tauktae will go down once it is over,” Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani said in a social media address on late Monday evening.

State revenue secretary Pankaj Kumar told Reuters it would be the most severe cyclone to hit Gujarat in at least 20 years. A 1998 cyclone killed at least 4,000 people and caused hundreds of millions of dollars in damage in Gujarat. Regmi said the Indian Red Cross Emergency team was working with authorities and helping

with the evacuations from low lying areas to relief centres further inland in the face of what he called a “monster storm.”

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) categorised the storm, which formed in the Arabian Sea, as an “extremely severe” storm, upgrading it from “very severe”.

Man rescued after week missing in Texas

Cuevas, was arrested Monday, freed Wednesday, then re-arrested Friday. He had faced a past murder charge.

When the incident began May 9, frightened neighbors saw the nine-month-old tiger wandering through their yards in a residential neighbourhood.

Videos showed an off-duty sheriff's deputy pulling a gun when he saw the tiger, before Cuevas arrived to take it away.

The animal was recovered by the owner's wife, and she agreed to hand it over to police, Borza told reporters late Saturday.

He did not say where the big cat

had spent the week but stressed that the woman had always known its whereabouts.

“We are happy to report that the missing tiger seen in a Houston neighborhood last week has been found and appears to be unharmed,” city police said.

Easy to catch a tiger?

Owning a tiger is illegal within Houston city limits -- though it is permitted in many parts of the state under certain conditions -- but police said Cuevas's wife would face no charges.

Still, Borza told reporters, “You should not have that in your

home. It's not good for the tiger.”

The Houston Police Department released a video of the 175-pound (80-kilogram) tiger being petted and given a drink.

The big cat was transported to the Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch in Murchison, Texas, where it will have its own habitat with half an acre of land (0.2 hectare), including a wooded area and pool.

“Our goal is to provide him the best quality of life for the rest of his life,” ranch director Noelle Almud told a press conference.

Almud told reporters that India would go into quarantine for

30 days before being introduced to its new habitat, although he looked healthy based on an initial visual inspection.

Texas is known for having a large number of tigers in captivity.

Nationwide, the WWF conservation group estimates that there are some 5,000 tigers living in captivity, a number greater than the entire world population of wild tigers.

Borza, in his news conference, thanked the Houston police officers who helped track the animal down. “I think the public thought it'd be easy to catch a tiger,” he said. “But it wasn't at all.”