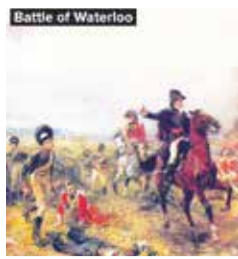


618

Coronation of Chinese governor Li Yuan as Emperor Gaozu of Tang, the new Emperor of China, initiating three centuries of Tang Dynasty rule over China

1812

War of 1812 begins when the US declares war against Britain



Battle of Waterloo: Napoleon Bonaparte and France are defeated by British forces under the Duke of Wellington and Prussian troops under Field Marshal von Blücher

1815

1928

American aviator Amelia Earhart becomes the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean (as a passenger), landing at Burry Port, Wales

Israel says secretly cooperating with Somaliland for years

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Israel's Defence Minister Israel Katz yesterday said his country had been cooperating "under the radar" with Somaliland for years, as he met with the breakaway African state's president.

In December, Israel became the first country to recognise the independence of Somaliland since it declared its au-

tonomy from Somalia in 1991 following a civil war.

"Israel and Somaliland have a long-standing friendship based on shared interests, democratic values, and a commitment to security and stability. For many years we have cooperated under the radar in a series of activities that will remain secret," Katz said, according to a statement from his office.

"Now we are determined to bring our security cooperation to new heights -- for the benefit of both peoples and for the stability of the region," he added, as he met with Somaliland's President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi.

The meeting focused on ways to "deepen security, economic, and political cooperation between the countries", Katz's office said.

UK PM says Russian warship's warning shots in Channel 'reckless' but not 'sinister'

AFP | London, United Kingdom

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer yesterday said a Russian warship's warning shots fired near a yacht in the English Channel were "reckless" but



not "sinister".

"I think it's reckless," Starmer told the GB News television channel following the incident in which shots were fired on Tuesday near the vessel 20 nautical miles south of the Isle of Wight.

"We were discussing it here at the G7 yesterday, so we've got to be on our guard, but the incident in the Channel ... (the) MoD (Ministry of Defence) assessment is that it was actually a drifting warship, rather than anything more sinister," he added.

Grok was used in strikes against Iran: US

AFP | San Francisco, United States

Elon Musk's artificial intelligence tool Grok was used in strikes against Iran, the United States government revealed in a legal briefing seen Tuesday by AFP.

The June 15 brief defends the gas turbines used by a giant data center belonging to the trillionaire's company xAI, which are the target of an environmental lawsuit.

In the brief, the US Department of Justice argued that the lawsuit "threatens American national, economic, and energy security by seeking to shut off the power supply for artificial intelligence innovation that supports the Department of War's military operations."

To support the argument, federal prosecutors presented testimony from Pentagon AI chief Cameron Stanley in which he states, under oath, that Grok is already in use within Project Maven, the US military's AI-assisted targeting program that was initially powered by Anthropic's Claude model.

The project's Maven Smart Systems (MSS) "enabled US forces to deploy over 2,000 munitions to 2,000 distinct targets within 96 hours during Operation Epic Fury," Stanley's statement said.

Stanley praised Musk's technology and "the greatly increased operational efficiency made possible by the Grok Gov Model."

The NAACP, a civil rights organization defending Black Americans' rights, is suing xAI and accusing it of operating dozens of turbines without permits in violation of the Clean Air Act.

The rights group says they

OECD oil stocks fall to lowest level since 1990: IEA

AFP | Paris, France

Oil inventories held by OECD member countries fell in May to their lowest level since 1990 as governments drew down stocks to offset the blockage of Gulf crude shipments during the Middle East war, the International Energy Agency said Wednesday.

The drawdown since the start of the conflict has reached 163 million barrels in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development club of wealthy countries, the IEA said in its monthly report.

"Despite the significant re-

duce majority Black neighborhoods, but xAI says the turbines are temporary and mobile, and therefore not subject to regulation.

At the end of February, the government terminated its contracts with Anthropic after it refused to allow its tools to be used for fully automated strikes or the mass surveillance of Americans.

The Pentagon then turned to Anthropic's competitors, like Google, OpenAI and xAI, to continue its pursuit of AI.

At Google, more than 600 employees demanded the company not provide AI to the military.

The US military's transition to AI is taking



ductions in demand for crude oil and refined products, the buffers in the system continue to erode at a record pace," the agency said.

To ease the burden from soaring oil prices due to Tehran's effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz, the IEA organised coordinated stock releases of 400 million barrels to the global market, of which 252 million have been released as of June 12.

time, and in March the government had to acknowledge that Claude was still being used for the war in Iran.

A close ally of President Donald Trump, Musk folded xAI into his space exploration company SpaceX in February, which carried out the largest IPO in history on June 12.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



I pay tribute to our colleagues & humanitarian partners in Haiti - the vast majority Haitians themselves - who refuse to give up, despite the dangers. But just over a quarter of our response plan is funded. Haiti is not asking for charity but for the world to keep its word.

@antonioguterres

02



India firmly believes that cyberspace has to be one that furthers the global public good. Access to AI technologies must also be broad and inclusive. All democratic countries should have access to such AI models so that they can protect their critical information infrastructure and respond effectively to growing cyber threats.

@narendramodi

03



Important G7 session on AI. AI is developing exponentially. It is the most important technology of our time. It comes with immense potential, but also risks for free, democratic societies.

@vonderleyen

04



@WHO will continue to support the government-led #Ebola response until it's over. Together!

@DrTedros

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

BY INVITATION

FIFA 2026: A Goal for Growth



JOEL INRUPATI

The excitement of young men and women in yellow and green jerseys, as I saw them descend the escalator at the airport, made me feel good.

Emblazoned across their jerseys was just one word: Brazil. When I asked whether they were American fans of the Brazilian football team, or Brazilians who had come to watch the matches, a beaming young man exclaimed in a heavy Portuguese accent, "We Brazil. We come to watch match. Here. Tomorrow."

It was 12 June, and I had arrived at New York's JFK Airport. I did not know then that, on the following day, Brazil would play Morocco in the 2026 FIFA World Cup at a nearby stadium.

I realised these fans would soon go to MetLife Stadium, officially designated as the New York New Jersey Stadium, in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

One could sense that football mania had gripped the region, not just through the giant posters, billboards, full-page newspaper ads, or colourful merchandise, but through the very pulse of the city. The infectious excitement was unmistakably in the air.

FIFA 2026 features 104 matches spread across 16 host cities in 3 countries: the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

The stadium hosting the most matches is Dallas Stadium in Arlington, Texas, with nine games. Close behind it, hosting eight games each, are the New York New Jersey Stadium, Los Angeles Stadium, Atlanta Stadium, Miami Stadium, and BC Place Vancouver.

As we drove past the New York New Jersey Stadium, I could not help but admire the massive signboards and preparations for a month-long football fiesta that will culminate in the World Cup Final at the same venue.

The Brazil-Morocco match -- the only Brazil match held so far -- may have ended in a 1-1 draw, but Brazil will always remain one of football's most celebrated nations. No country has won the FIFA World Cup a record five times, as it has done. Whether they will lift the trophy again is a question only time can answer.

Yet beyond the goals, trophies, and celebrations lies a bigger story. The FIFA World Cup is also a powerful economic engine.

Major tournaments attract millions of visitors and generate billions of dollars in economic activity. Hotels fill up, restaurants welcome new customers, local transportation systems see increased usage, and small businesses benefit from the influx of visitors. From construction workers and hospitality staff to security personnel and event managers, thousands of jobs are created directly and indirectly.

Host nations also use the World Cup as a catalyst for long-term development. Stadiums are upgraded, airports expanded, roads improved, and public transportation strengthened. While football may last only a few weeks, the infrastructure investments often serve communities for decades afterward.

The benefits are not merely financial. The World Cup brings together people from different languages, cultures, religions, and political systems. For a few weeks, billions of people focus on a common passion. Rivalries remain on the pitch, while friendships are built in the stands, airports, restaurants, and city streets.

Consider the United States and Iran, both participants in FIFA 2026. Politics may place nations on opposite sides, and even at war, but sport creates opportunities for respect, dialogue, and shared experiences. Football cannot solve every conflict, but it can remind us of our common humanity.

That may be the World Cup's greatest achievement. It does not simply crown a champion. It stimulates economies, accelerates development, showcases nations, and unites people across borders. In a world too often divided by conflict and uncertainty, FIFA 2026 offers something refreshingly different: a celebration where competition inspires progress, and where everyone, in some way, emerges a winner.

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Daily Tribune)

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