

1770

British explorer Captain James Cook first sights Australia

1775

American Revolution begins in Lexington, Massachusetts. The "Shot Heard Round the World" took place in Concord later that day

1909

Joan of Arc receives beatification by the Roman Catholic Church



1982

Fidel Castro resigns from the Communist Party of Cuba's central committee after 45 years of holding the title.

# Navalny needs doctor, says fighter



Navalny attends a court hearing in Moscow, Russia



In this file photo taken on Sept. 8, 2019, Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny, with his wife Yulia, right, daughter Daria, and son Zakhar pose for the media after voting during a city council election in Moscow, Russia.

the BBC, Russia's ambassador to Britain accused Navalny of attention-seeking.

"He will not be allowed to die in prison, but I can say that Mr. Navalny, he behaves like a hooligan, absolutely," Ambassador Andrei Kelin said in the interview, which was recorded on Friday and aired on Sunday. "His purpose for all of that is to attract attention for him."

Navalny has said prison authorities are threatening to put him in a straitjacket to force-feed him unless he abandons his hunger strike. Russia jailed Navalny for 2-1/2 years in February for parole violations he said were fabricated. He was arrested in January when he returned to Russia from Germany, where he had been recovering from a nerve agent poisoning attack he blamed on Putin.

The team of jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny yesterday called for massive protests across Russia next week to help save the life of the hunger-striking opposition leader, who doctors warn could die in a matter of days.

fail, which could lead to cardiac arrest.

A group of actors, writers, historians, journalists and directors, including Jude Law and J.K. Rowling, wrote an open letter to President Vladimir Putin on Friday urging him to ensure Navalny gets medical care.

A group of opposition regional lawmakers also called on Putin on Saturday to make sure Navalny is properly treated.

In a television interview with

and insisted on being treated by a doctor of his choice from outside the facility, a request they have declined.

"Allow a doctor to see my dad," Navalny's daughter Dasha, a student at Stanford University, wrote on Twitter.

A medical trade union with ties to Navalny said on Saturday he was in critical condition, citing medical tests that it said showed that Navalny's kidneys could soon

## NASA's Mars copter flight could happen today



NASA's Ingenuity Mars Helicopter, with all four of its legs deployed, is pictured before dropping from the belly of the Perseverance rover in March 2021

AFP | Washington

NASA's Ingenuity Mars Helicopter could make its first flight over the Red Planet as soon as Monday, the US space agency reported, following a delay of more than a week due to a possible technical issue.

The mini-helicopter's trip will mark the first-ever powered, controlled flight on another planet, and will help NASA reap invaluable data about the conditions on Mars.

"NASA is targeting no earlier than Monday, April 19, for the first flight of its Ingenuity Mars Helicopter," the space agency reported Saturday.

Data will return to Earth "a few hours following the autonomous flight," which would take off at approximately 3:30 am (0730 GMT), NASA said.

Ingenuity's first trip was initially set for last Sunday, but was delayed after a potential issue emerged during a high-speed test of the four-pound (1.8 kilogram) helicopter's rotors.

NASA calls the unprecedented helicopter operation highly risky: The flight is a challenge because the air on Mars is so thin -- less than one percent of the pressure of Earth's atmosphere.

The helicopter arrived on Mars attached to the underside of the Perseverance rover, which touched down on February 18.

After the helicopter's flight, Ingenuity will send Perseverance technical data on what it has done, and that information will be transmitted back to Earth.

The helicopter mission is the equivalent on Mars of the first powered flight on Earth -- by the Wright brothers in 1903 in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. A piece of fabric from that plane has been tucked inside Ingenuity in honor of that feat.

## Days insulting Mohammed as denying Holocaust



(P) was banned Thursday after days of violent protests

The group Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) was banned Thursday after days of violent protests during which four policemen were killed.

The radical party has orchestrated a months-long campaign for the expulsion of the French ambassador to protest against President Emmanuel Macron's defence of the cartoons' publication.

The French embassy in Islamabad on Thursday recommended its nationals leave Pakistan, a call that appears to have gone largely unheeded.

"I... call on Western govts who have outlawed any negative comment on the holocaust to use the same standards to penalise

those deliberately spreading their message of hate against Muslims by abusing our Prophet," Khan tweeted.

Denying the Holocaust is illegal in several European countries -- including Germany and France -- and offenders can be jailed.

Khan suggested the government had not banned the TLP because it disagreed with TLP's motivation, but rather its methods.

"Let me make clear to people here & abroad: Our govt only took action against TLP under our anti-terrorist law when they challenged the writ of the state and used street violence & attacking the public & law enforcers," he said. "No one can be above the law and the Constitution."

## Myanmar shadow government wants ASEAN crisis talks invite



The coup in Myanmar has sparked mass protests against the military junta

Yangon (AFP)

Myanmar's shadow government yesterday urged Southeast Asian leaders to give it a seat at the table during crisis talks next week, and not to recognise the military regime that seized power in a February coup.

Junta leader Min Aung Hlaing is expected to join a special ASEAN summit on Myanmar on Saturday in Jakarta -- his first official overseas trip since the putsch that ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

The army has moved to quell mass protests against its rule, killing at least 730 people according to a local monitoring group.

Min Aung Hlaing's invitation to the meeting of the 10-country Association of Southeast Asian Nations has drawn scorn from activists who have urged foreign leaders not to formally recognise the junta.

Moe Zaw Oo, deputy minister of foreign affairs for the parallel "national unity government" -- formed Friday by ousted lawmakers mostly from Suu Kyi's party, as well as ethnic-minority politicians -- said ASEAN had not reached out to them.

## Macron says 'clear red lines' should be drawn with Russia - CBS

Reuters | Paris

World powers should draw "clear red lines" with Russia and consider possible sanctions against Moscow when they're crossed, French President Emmanuel Macron told US news network CBS in an interview.

"We have to define clear red lines with Russia," Macron said, according to a video excerpt of the interview to be aired later on Sunday.

"This is the only way to be credible. Sanctions are not sufficient in themselves but sanctions are part of the package," he said, adding that he also agreed with US President Joe Biden's willingness to open a dialogue with Russian President Vladimir Putin at a time of festering tensions.

Macron's remarks departed from France's previous stance on Russia and shifted the country closer to its US ally.



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TWEETS

01



The forest ecosystem has changed so dramatically that not even the reindeer that have learned to survive on these lands since the ice age can live in the landscape that this type of forestry creates". A not-so flattering portrait of Sweden you seldom see.  
@GretaThunberg

02



Wear a mask.

- Stay socially distanced.
- Wash your hands.
- Get vaccinated.

Now is not the time to let up in the battle against COVID-19 -- we have to fight this to the end.  
@POTUS

03



Reviewed preparedness to handle the ongoing COVID-19 situation. Aspects relating to medicines, oxygen, ventilators and vaccination were discussed. Like we did last year, we will successfully fight COVID with even greater speed and coordination.  
@narendramodi

04



Invite you to pray for the population of eastern Ukraine. I truly hope that an escalation of the tensions might be avoided and, instead, that actions capable of promoting reciprocal trust and which foster reconciliation and peace might be undertaken.  
@Pontifex

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