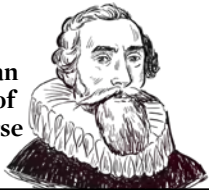


Astronomer Johannes Kepler has an epiphany and develops his theory of the geometrical basis of the universe while teaching in Graz, Austria



Steamship SS Great Britain is launched, designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel, it is the first ocean-going craft with an iron hull or screw propeller and the largest vessel afloat in the world

First US women's rights convention held in Seneca Falls, NY, organized by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott

British PM Winston Churchill launches his "V for Victory" campaign

Trump seeks Epstein files release

President demands unsealing of Epstein case records while denying WSJ’s 2003 letter claims

● DOJ to request grand jury unsealing

● Trump denies WSJ’s Epstein letter

● Threatens lawsuit against Murdoch

AFP | Washington

President Donald Trump attempted yesterday to control the storm triggered by a bombshell report on his friendship with Jeffrey Epstein, ordering the Justice Department to seek the release of testimony from the prosecution of the late, alleged sex-trafficker-to-the-famous.

Trump also vowed to sue “the ass off” The Wall Street Journal and its owner Rupert Murdoch after the newspaper said that in 2003 the future president wrote a raunchy letter to Epstein, referring to their shared “secret.”

“I look forward to getting Rupert Murdoch to testify in my lawsuit against him and his ‘pile of garbage’ newspaper, the WSJ. That will be an interesting experience!!!” Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform.

Attorney General Pam Bondi said the Justice Department would ask a court to unseal grand jury testimony from the case



People holds signs calling for the release of files regarding late sex offender Jeffrey Epstein participate in a protest as part of the ‘Good Trouble Lives On’ national day of action against the administration of US President Donald Trump in Houston, TX

against Epstein, apparently in hopes of dampening fury among many of Trump’s most loyal supporters over what they see as a White House cover-up.

Epstein, a financier, was found hanging dead in his cell in New York in 2019 while awaiting trial on charges that sexually exploited dozens of underage girls at his homes in New York and Florida.

The case sparked conspiracy theories, especially among Trump’s far-right voters, about an alleged international cabal of wealthy pedophiles. Epstein’s

death -- declared a suicide -- before he could face trial super-charged the narrative.

When Trump returned to power for a second term this January, his supporters clamored for revelations about Epstein’s supposed list of clients. But Bondi issued an official memo in July declaring that there was no such list.

The discontent in Trump’s MAGA, or Make America Great Again, base poses a rare challenge to the 79-year-old Republican’s control of the political

narrative in America.

It remained unclear whether a court would authorize the unsealing of what is usually highly secret grand jury testimony.

Even if such material were made public, it was also unclear whether it would shed much, if any, light on the main questions raised in the conspiracy theories -- particularly the existence and possible contents of an Epstein client list.

Naked woman and signature

Trump was friends with Ep-



The letter in question reportedly includes Trump’s signature as part of a naked sketch and ends with the line, “Happy Birthday – and may every day be another wonderful secret”

stein and the two were photographed and videoed together at parties over the years, although there has never been evidence shown of wrongdoing.

The Wall Street Journal article published late Thursday was damaging because it indicated a shared interest in sex.

The Journal reported that Trump had wished Epstein a happy 50th birthday in 2003 with a letter featuring a hand-drawn naked woman and referring to their “secrets.” The letter was reportedly among a slew of well-wishes from other rich and well-known figures for a birthday album.

A furious Trump said on Truth Social that the purported letter was a “Scam” and “Fake.”

Church leaders visit bombed Gaza parish

Top Holy Land clerics visit Gaza church after deadly Israeli strike draws global outcry

● Leaders deliver food, medical supplies

● Visit follows Israeli strike killing 3 at Catholic church

● Pope Leo XIV condemns “needless slaughter”

AFP | Gaza City

Two of the most senior Christian leaders in Jerusalem made a rare visit to Gaza yesterday, a day after Israeli fire killed three at the Palestinian territory’s only Catholic church, provoking international condemnation.

The Roman Catholic Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Pierbattista Pizzaballa, and his Greek Orthodox counterpart, Theophilos III, greeted local Christians and toured the Holy Family Church in Gaza City.

Both men, in full black clerical robes in the searing heat, arrived in two battered people carriers, one with the yellow, white and cross-keys flag of the Vatican fluttering from the front window, before heading inside.

They also said prayers and lit candles at the Greek Orthodox



Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem Theophilos III (C), Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem Pierbattista Pizzaballa (CR) and a delegation of top Christian clerics visit the Arab Ahli (Baptist) Hospital in Gaza City

Saint Porphyrius Church, in a visit the Greek Orthodox Jerusalem Patriarchate called a “powerful expression” of church unity and solidarity.

Israel strictly controls access to the territory, where the civil defence agency yesterday reported that further Israeli strikes killed at least 25 Palestinians, including a family of five in their own home.

Local people used their bare hands to pick through the debris in the southern city of Khan Yunis in a desperate search for survivors.

“Entire families are buried under the rubble,” Louai Abu Sahloul, a relative of the victims, told AFP, adding that the relentless wave of strikes was taking its toll.

“People are like walking dead, tired of hunger, pain and de-

struction everywhere in Gaza,” he said.

Asked about the strike, the Israeli military told AFP it “struck a terror infrastructure site belonging to Hamas in the Khan Yunis area” and had taken steps to mitigate the risk to civilians.

‘Stop the needless slaughter’

The Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem and the Jerusalem



The church targeted in the Israeli strike was sheltering children and people with special needs—one of the injured was the parish priest, bandaged and still present during the patriarchs’ visit

Patriarchate said aid agencies helped facilitate the visit, which also involved the delivery of food supplies and emergency medical equipment.

Pope Leo XIV, the leader of the Catholic Church, said he was “deeply saddened” by Thursday’s strike on the church, where hundreds of displaced people were sheltering, including children and those with special needs.

His predecessor, Pope Francis, kept in regular contact with parish priest Father Gabriel Romanelli and repeatedly called for an end to the Gaza war.

Romanelli was one of 10 people injured and was seen with bandages on his leg.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Nelson Mandela showed how one person can transform oppression, struggle & subjugation into reconciliation, social justice & unity. Change starts not in capitals, but in communities. On #MandelaDay, let’s remember that the power to end poverty & inequality is in all our hands.

@antonioguterres

02



I welcome the agreement treached by @EUCouncil on the 18th package of sanctions against Russia. We are keeping the pressure on Russia to cripple its ability to wage war against Ukraine. Our support for a just and lasting peace in Ukraine is unwavering.

@eucopresident

03



Working together with Germany, we are coming for criminal smuggling gangs to secure Britain’s borders.

@Keir_Starmer

04



“It always seems impossible until it’s done.” Nelson Mandela’s words have stayed with me for decades — a source of strength in the face of challenge, and a call to defy cynicism and indifference. For the SDGs. For people. For planet. #NelsonMandelaDay

@AminaJMohammed

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