

Octavian, later known as Augustus, compels the Roman Senate to elect him consul

World War II: Over 4,000 Canadian and British soldiers are killed, wounded, or captured during a raid on Dieppe, France



Iran and Iraq begin a cease-fire in their eight-year-old war at 11 pm EDT

Operation Iraqi Freedom winds down as the last of the United States Brigade Combat Teams cross the border into Kuwait



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Our main goal is a reliable and lasting peace for Ukraine and for the whole of Europe. And it is important that the momentum of all our meetings lead to precisely this result.

@ZelenskyyUa

02



Chaired a meeting to discuss the roadmap for Next-Generation Reforms. We are committed to speedy reforms across all sectors, which will boost Ease of Living, Ease of Doing Business and prosperity.

@narendramodi

03



Today, I'm in Washington D.C. with @ZelenskyyUA and European leaders. Together, we will meet with @POTUS. We are working to end the bloodshed in Ukraine. And achieve a just and lasting peace.

@vonderleyen

04



BIG DAY at the White House tomorrow.

@WhiteHouse

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

China's top diplomat Wang arrives in India

AFF | New Delhi, India

China's top diplomat landed in neighbouring India yesterday, seeking to bolster long-fraught relations in the face of intense pressure and tariffs from the United States.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi held talks with his counterpart Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, and is also expected to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his three-day visit to New Delhi.

Modi, according to Indian media, might also visit China this month.

India's foreign ministry said in a social media post that "important engagements of the India-China Special Representatives and on bilateral relations" were scheduled over the next two days.

Restarting border trade across their icy and high-altitude Himalayan border is expected to feature high on Wang's agenda.

Its resumption would be significant for its symbol-

ism, and follows agreements to return direct flights and issue tourist visas.

India is also part of the Quad security alliance with the United States, Australia and Japan, which is seen as a counter to China.

Modi



calls 'friend' Putin

Modi said Monday he spoke to "my friend" Vladimir Putin, with the Russian president "sharing insights" on his Alaska summit with Trump last week.

"India has consistently called for a peaceful resolution of the Ukraine conflict and supports all efforts in this regard," the Indian premier wrote on social media.

Indian hopes that the Alaska meeting would ease US tariff pressure were tempered earlier Monday by US trade adviser Peter Navarro.

"If India wants to be treated as a strategic partner of the US, it needs to start acting like one," he wrote in a sharply-worded column in the Financial Times.

"India acts as a global clearinghouse for Russian oil, converting embargoed crude into high-value exports while giving Moscow the dollars it needs," he wrote.

"The proceeds flow to India's politically connected energy titans, and in turn, into Vladimir Putin's war chest," he added, in an apparent swipe at India's big refiners, which include tycoon Mukesh Ambani.

Navarro said the 50% tariff -- due to begin on August 27 -- will "hit India where it hurts".

Son of Norway princess charged with four rapes

Rapes allegedly took place in 2018, 2023 and 2024

● Hoiby has already admitted to assault and vandalism

● He said had acted "under the influence of alcohol and cocaine"

AFF | Oslo, Norway

A son of Norway's crown princess has been charged with 32 offences including four rapes and several acts of violence and assault, a prosecutor said yesterday.

Marius Borg Hoiby, who was born from a relationship before Crown Princess Mette-Marit's married Crown Prince Haakon, has been under investigation since his arrest on August 4 last year on suspicion of assaulting a girlfriend.

In addition to four counts of rape, the charges include domestic abuse against a former partner and several counts of violence, disturbing the peace, vandalism and violation of restraining orders against another former partner.

He is also charged with filming the genitals of a number of women without their knowledge or consent, public prosecutor Sturla Henriksbo told



Back row (L-R) King Harald, Crown Prince Marius Borg Hoiby, Crown Prince Haakon and Crown Princess Mette-Marit, front (L-R) Prince Sverre Magnus, Queen Sonja and Princess Ingrid Alexandra pose during a Christmas photo session at the Royal Palace in Oslo

reporters. "The maximum penalty for the offences listed in the indictment is imprisonment of up to 10 years," he said.

"These are very serious acts that can leave lasting scars and destroy lives," the prosecutor said.

"The fact that Marius Borg Hoiby is a member of the royal family should, of course, not mean that he should be treated more lightly or more severely than if similar acts had been committed by others," Henriksbo stressed.

The four rapes for which Hoiby is charged allegedly took place in 2018, 2023 and 2024, the last one after the police investigation began.

Hoiby has already admitted to assault and vandalism in the August 2024 incident for which he was arrested.

In a public statement 10 days after his arrest, he said he had acted "under the influence of alcohol and cocaine after an argument", having suffered from "mental troubles" and struggling "for a long time with substance abuse".

Dubai police retrieve stolen diamond worth \$25 million

AFF | Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Dubai police said yesterday they caught three thieves just hours after they stole a precious pink diamond worth \$25 million.

"The Dubai Police General Command has foiled the theft of a very rare pink diamond, valued at \$25 million," the police said in a statement shared by the United Arab Emirates' official news agency WAM.

A diamond trader who had brought the jewel from Europe was lured to a villa by a crime gang under the pretence of a viewing by a potential wealthy client, police said.

But the gem was stolen when the diamond dealer arrived for the bogus inspection, the statement added.

Within eight hours three people from an unspecified Asian country were arrested "thanks to the efforts of spe-



cialised and field teams, and by using the latest artificial intelligence technologies," police said.

Video footage shared by the Dubai Media Office showed the three men with their faces blurred after their arrest as well as CCTV footage of the gang.

Dubai is an important hub for diamond trading. Tightly controlled and policed, the UAE prides itself on its security and stability.

Iran warns war with Israel could resume at any time



AFF | Tehran, Iran

A senior Iranian official warned Monday that war with Israel could erupt at any moment, describing the current lull after June's 12-day conflict as only a temporary halt.

"We must be prepared at every moment for confrontation; right now, we are not even in a ceasefire (agreement); we are in a cessation of hostilities," said First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref.

The fighting in June saw Israel bombard Iranian nuclear and military sites, as well as residential areas, killing more

than 1,000 people, including senior commanders and nuclear scientists.

Iran retaliated with missile and drone strikes that killed dozens in Israel.

The United States announced a halt in fighting on June 24, two days after it joined the war by bombing Iranian nuclear facilities. But there was no agreement formalising the ceasefire, only an undeclared pause in hostilities. On Sunday, Yahya Rahim Safavi, a military adviser to Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, told Iranian media the country was "preparing plans for the worst-case scenario".