

1356

English forces under Edward the Black Prince defeat French at Battle of Poitiers and capture the French King during the Hundred Years' War



1870

Siege of Paris by Prussian Forces begins (lasts until January 28 1871)

1893

New Zealand becomes the first country to grant all women the right to vote

1985

8.1 earthquake in Mexico City kills an estimated 10,000 and leaves 250,000 homeless

# Excluded from returning to primary school in Afghanistan

Focus on re-opening of high schools for boys but makes no mention of girls



School girls gather at their class after arriving at a gender-segregated school in Kabul (file photo)

education, with the number of schools tripling and female literacy nearly doubling to 30 percent -- however, the change was largely limited to the cities.

The United Nations said it was "deeply worried" for the future of girls' schooling in Afghanistan.

"It is critical that all girls, including older girls, are able to resume their education without any further delays. For that, we need female teachers to resume teaching," the UN's children's agency UNICEF said.

Primary schools have already reopened, with boys and girls mostly attending separate classes and some women teachers returning to work.

The new regime has also permitted women to go to private universities, though with tough restrictions on their clothes and movement.

## Women's ministry closed

In a further sign that the Taliban's approach to women and girls had not softened, they appeared to have shut down the government's ministry of women's affairs and replaced it with a department notorious for enforcing strict religious doctrine during their first rule.

In Kabul on Friday, workers were seen raising a sign for the Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice at the old Women's Affairs building in the capital.

Videos posted to social media showed women workers from the ministry protesting outside after losing their jobs. No official from the Taliban responded to requests for comment. Although still marginalised, Afghan women have fought for and gained basic rights in the past 20 years, becoming lawmakers, judges, pilots and police officers.

Hundreds of thousands have entered the workforce -- a necessity in some cases as many women

**YOU KNOW WHAT**

The edict makes Afghanistan the only country on earth to bar half its population from getting a secondary education

were widowed or now support invalid husbands as a result of decades of conflict.

The Taliban have shown little inclination to honour those rights -- no women have been included in the government and many have been stopped from returning to work.

Meanwhile, a top United States general admitted it had made a "mistake" when it launched a drone strike against suspected Islamic State (IS) militants in Kabul last month, instead killing 10 civilians, including children.

The strike during the final days of the US pullout was meant to target a suspected IS operation that US intelligence believed with "reasonable certainty" was planning to attack Kabul airport, said US Central Command commander General Kenneth McKenzie.

"The strike was a tragic mistake," McKenzie told reporters after an investigation.

McKenzie said the government was looking into how payments for damages could be made to the families of those killed.

# Yemen's Houthis execute nine over senior official's killing



An executioner points a gun at a man convicted of involvement in the 2018 killing of top Houthi leader Saleh al-Sammad

AP | Sanaa

Yemen's Houthi militia said they executed nine people yesterday for involvement in the killing of one of their top leaders in a 2018 airstrike claimed by Saudi Arabia.

Saleh al-Sammad was head of the Houthis' supreme political council and his death three years ago was seen as a major blow to the Iran-backed terrorists who control Sanaa.

The pro-militia Saba news agency said the nine were shot by a firing squad at a square in the Yemen capital.

They were among 17 people convicted of involvement in his killing by a Houthi court.

Sammad was killed in April 2018 alongside six other people in an airstrike in the western Yemeni province of Hodeida.

"The general prosecution has carried out the death sentence against nine people involved in the murder" of Sammad, Saba reported.

"They were shot to death in Tahrir Square... in the presence of senior Houthi leaders and Sanaa residents," the agency added.

**YOU KNOW WHAT**

Sammad was killed in April 2018 alongside six other people in an airstrike by Saudi Arabia in the western Yemeni province of Hodeida

Saudi Arabia said later that it carried out the airstrike.

"The heroes of the Royal Air Force were able to successfully target the leader of the Houthi militia Saleh al-Sammad," Saudi Arabia's ambassador to the United States, Prince Khaled bin Salman, tweeted at the time.

Prince Khaled said the strike was overseen by his brother the Saudi crown prince after Sammad threatened a wave of missile strikes against Saudi Arabia.

# Enrichment plant

**YOU KNOW WHAT**

Construction appears to be under way at the uranium enrichment plant to expand its floor space by about 1,000 square meters

of 80,000 American troops are based. Experts say both types of missiles could be armed with nuclear warheads.

Kim has threatened to bolster his nuclear arsenal and acquire more sophisticated weapons unless Washington drops its hostility against his country in an apparent reference to US-led sanctions and its regular military drills with Seoul. But he still maintains his self-imposed moratorium on testing long-range missiles directly targeting the US mainland, a suggestion that he wants to keep chances for future diplomacy with Washington alive.

# Amid high security, small pro-Trump crowd rallies at US Capitol

AFP | Washington

Police vastly outnumbered protesters around the US Capitol yesterday at a sparsely attended rally by supporters of the people who breached the building on Jan. 6, trying to overturn former President Donald Trump's election defeat.

About 100 to 200 protesters showed up, some carrying the flags of the right-wing group Three Percenters over their shoulders. It was far fewer than the 700 people organizers had expected and the thousands who brought mayhem to the Capitol on Jan. 6.

Hundreds of officers patrolled the Capitol grounds and a black eight-foot-high (2.44 m) fence which surrounded the white-domed building for about six months after the attack was reinstalled in anticipation of the event. One hundred National Guard troops were on standby.

As part of an effort by some of Trump's far-right supporters to rewrite the history of the deadly mob assault on the Capitol that was captured in graphic video, speaker after speaker insisted that hundreds of rioters arrested that day were "political prisoners."



People gather in front of the US Capitol during a protest

Prosecutors and legal experts say the cases are being handled properly.

"This is about justice and disparate treatment," said Matt Braynard, a rally organizer and supporter of Trump's false claims that his defeat was the result of widespread fraud.

While crowds were small, passions rose at times, with sporadic yelling matches breaking out between participants in the rally and counter-demonstrators. Police on bicycles moved

in to break up some of these squabbles.

A group of police in riot gear removed one man from the crowd who had a large knife strapped to his hip.

Organizers of the "Justice for J6" rally called for a peaceful event, but US Capitol Police Chief J. Thomas Manger told reporters on Friday there had been threats of violence linked to the rally, some targeting individual members of Congress, and police were bracing to prevent clashes between Trump supporters and opponents.

**BETTER YOU KNOW**

Hundreds of officers patrolled the Capitol grounds and a black eight-foot-high (2.44 m) fence which surrounded the white-domed building for about six months after the attack was reinstalled in anticipation of the event

Tony Smith, 40, of Upper Marlboro, Maryland, said he had come to voice his support for a fair judicial process for those charged in the breach of the Capitol.

"If we don't honour that we don't honour America," said Smith, who was carrying a poster board that said "We Want Trump!"



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



"The global average temperature will rise 2.7 degrees Celsius by century's end even if all countries meet their promised emissions cuts" And we're of course far from reaching even these highly insufficient targets. How long will we let this madness go on?

@GretaThunberg

02



Fantastic to welcome @MinPres Mark Rutte to Downing Street today and reaffirm the long-standing partnership between the UK and the Netherlands as #North-SeaNeighbours, NATO allies and firm friends. Hartelijk dank voor je bezoek, Mark!

@BorisJohnson

03



The @UNFCCC report shows we are breaking the #ParisAgreement promise to keep global heating to 1.5°C. We can still achieve that target, but are almost out of time. We need real ambition & cooperation to win the race against the climate crisis.

@antonioguterres

04



Digital is the make-or-break issue. There is no digital without chips. Yet today we depend on chips from Asia. We will present a European Chips Act, to create a EU chip ecosystem from design to production. This is about our competitiveness and tech sovereignty. #SOTEU

@vonderleyen

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