

Scottish explorer Alexander Mackenzie completes the first European east-to-west crossing of America north of Mexico

Congresswoman Alice Mary Robertson becomes the first woman to preside over the floor of US House of Representatives



NASA's Apollo 11 lunar module, carrying Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, lands on the surface of the Moon. Seven hours later, Armstrong becomes the first person to step on the moon at 10:56 pm EDT, and Aldrin joins him shortly after. Michael Collins remains in orbit in the command module.

Viking 1 lands on Mars at Chryse Planitia, the first successful Martian landing

Russia pounds Kyiv with ballistic missiles in escalating air war



AFP | Kyiv, Ukraine

Russia fired two dozen ballistic missiles at Kyiv overnight on Sunday, killing one person and wounding 16, in an ever-escalating air war that is taking an increasing civilian toll on both sides.

The latest bombardment highlights a dual challenge for Ukraine in its fifth year of war. It is facing intensifying Russian missile attacks alongside rare domestic political instability triggered by a sudden wartime shake-up of its defence leadership.

In the morning, AFP journalists in Kyiv saw charred apartment blocks with windows blown out and mangled, overturned cars.

"The missiles just kept coming one after another, the explosions were powerful, it was horrible," 47-year-old Kyiv resident Ganna Zagorodnia told AFP.

Turkey condemns closing of 8 Turkish schools in Greece

AFP | Ankara, Turkey

Turkey's foreign ministry on Sunday condemned a decision by Greece to close eight schools catering to the country's Turkish-speaking minority, accusing its neighbour of discrimination.

In a communique, the ministry condemned "systematic practices aimed at undermining the right to education of the Turkish minority in Western Thrace".

"We once again call on Greece to act in accordance with its contractual obligations regarding minority rights and fundamental rights," it added.

The number of Turkish-language schools left in the north-east region of Thrace -- near the border between the two countries -- is now 76.



Earthquake of 5.1 magnitude kills five in Peru

AFP | Lima, Peru

A 5.1 magnitude earthquake in the Andes region of Peru killed five people, officials said Sunday.

The Saturday night tremor injured another 21 people as it shook the town of Chongos Bajo about 300 kilometers (180 miles) east of Lima, the Geophysics Institute of Peru said.

The epicenter's depth was 24 km (15 miles).

"The earthquake destroyed our home. Here there are many adobe houses that collapsed," an unnamed resident of Chongos Bajo told the N television network.

Because the epicenter was at a shallow depth and many houses in that area are made of adobe or a wood, cane and mud blend called "quincha," some towns suffered significant damage, said General Luis Vasquez, the director of the National Civil Defense Institute.

Russian opposition figure Nadezhdin withdraws from election



AFP | Moscow, Russia

Russian anti-war politician Boris Nadezhdin on Sunday said he will not be running in September's legislative elections, saying he has been "silenced" and "pushed out of politics".

Nadezhdin -- one of the few politicians in Russia openly criticising President Vladimir Putin and Moscow's Ukraine offensive -- had recently been convicted for displaying "extremist symbols".

"My ability to legally engage in opposition politics in Russia has been exhausted," he wrote on Telegram.

"I'm not prepared to put at risk those who support me and took part in the election campaign"

Ferry capsizes off Guyana, 66 people missing

AFP | Georgetown, Guyana

An ageing ferry carrying more than 100 people capsized off the coast of Guyana, with 67 saved and rescue teams searching for the rest, officials said Sunday.

The ferry MV Barima left the small English-speaking country at the northeast corner of South America Saturday afternoon with 133 people aboard for a trip from the capital Georgetown to the town of Port Kaituma.

Port Kaituma is inland in the oil-rich Essequibo region, and the ferry travels along the coast in the Atlantic before heading upriver to reach its destination.

Initial signs are that the ship capsized after being hit by a big wave, Public Works Minister Juan Edghill said on Facebook.



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TWEETS

01



The International Criminal Court seeks to become the unaccountable arbiter of a new global law -- empowered to prosecute and arrest our citizens at will and existentially threaten American sovereignty. We will teach the ICC the full meaning of American resolve.

@SecRubio

02



I must be used to help solve the climate crisis -- not deepen it. Its appetite for electricity, water & land is growing fast. AI companies must power data centres with renewable energy by 2030 & disclose their environmental footprint. Technology aimed at protecting people must also protect the planet.

@antoniogetterres

03



The TUTAKA Festival in Poland has become a true tradition for Belarusians. Each summer, we come together from across the world to discuss the issues facing the Belarusian community, discover new initiatives, enjoy music, and be among fellow Belarusians.

@Tsihanouskaya

04



Last night's attack was one of the largest Russian ballistic missile attacks to date. Kyiv and the Kyiv region were the Russians' primary target. They had been preparing this attack for several days, stockpiling missiles.

@ZelenskyyUA

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

In 10 years, your *phone may not need apps*

AFP | Shanghai, China

Tech firms are racing to roll out advanced smartphones that use artificial intelligence to do everything from ordering food to composing messages upon a simple voice command.

Wide adoption of phones running on so-called AI agents would be a revolution, but would also take control away from major apps, which aren't always happy about it.

At least three firms were showcasing so-called agentic phones at the World Artificial Intelligence Conference in Shanghai this weekend -- heralding what may be to come.

Smartphone maker Nubia unveiled its NaviX Ultra, a phone powered by Doubao, China's massively popular AI chatbot tool run by TikTok creator ByteDance.

"A new era of AI agent smartphones begins," Nubia said, sharing images of the handsets online.

A limited run of a prototype dubbed the "Doubao Phone" sold out fast in December.

Initially, the prototype could follow simple voice commands to execute tasks across apps, including ordering food and comparing shopping prices.

However, days after it was released, tech giants including



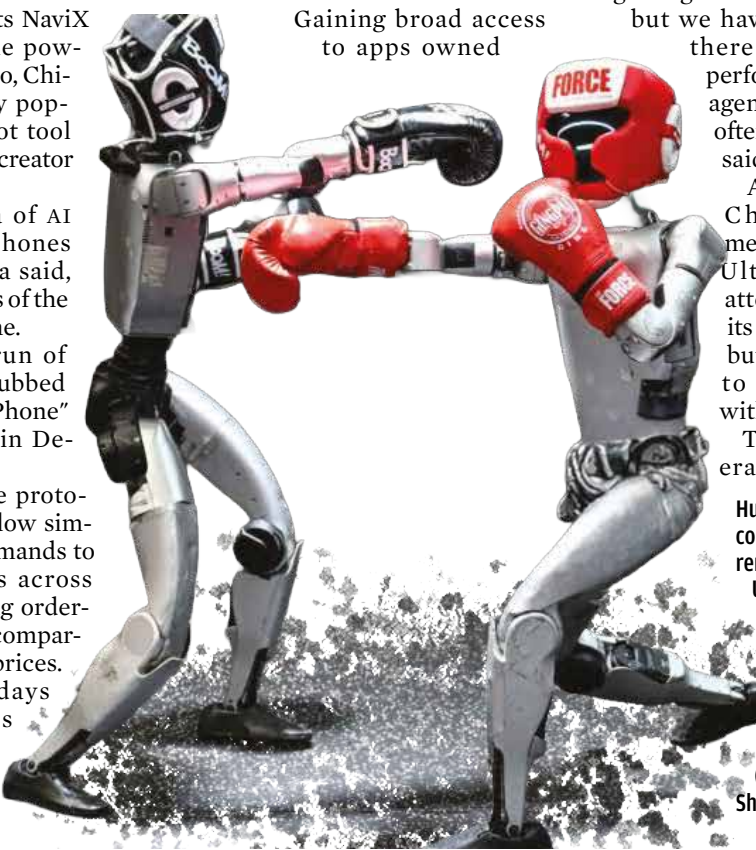
People visit the BYD booth

Alibaba, Tencent and JD.com restricted the built-in assistant's access to their platforms.

The move effectively disabled the phone's AI agent, so ByteDance turned off the powerful tool in certain circumstances, including when payments were involved.

'Lose control'

Gaining broad access to apps owned



A humanoid robot prepares to take a picture with an Instax camera

by other companies is a sticking point for AI agent devices, said Kiranjeet Kaur, associate research director at US market intelligence firm IDC.

Platforms want to keep direct contact with their users, otherwise "they lose control to another party", she added.

"Agenting is everyone's dream, but we haven't reached there yet," as the performance of AI agent tools is still often patchy, Kaur said.

According to Chinese tech media, the NaviX Ultra does not attempt to force its way into apps, but rather seeks to collaborate with them.

The first-generation Doubao

Humanoid robots controlled by a remote control by Unitree Robotics take part in a fight during the World Artificial Intelligence Conference (WAIC) in Shanghai

phone had been hobbled when major apps blocked unauthorised access.

AFP has contacted Nubia for comment.

Another manufacturer, Honor, showcased an AI system for its "Robot Phone", whose interactive camera flips up on a small robotic arm.

The company says its "companion-centric" device can interpret human gestures and bop to musical rhythms, as well as take selfies and steady videos.

An agent using several AI models, some co-developed with Alibaba, will be embedded in the robot phone when it goes on sale later this year, Honor told AFP.

'No clear winner'

Shanghai-based AI startup StepFun also unveiled an "AI agent-native smartphone", the STEPX Neo, ahead of the World Artificial Intelligence Conference.

StepFun's chairman Yin Qi said "deep partnerships" had been established with several major Chinese platforms, including Alipay and ride-hailing giant Didi, according to a sponsored article in state news agency Xinhua.

"Leveraging these services, the smart-

phone can provide one-stop support for travel bookings, everyday purchases, local services, office productivity and video editing," it said.

Outside China, big tech companies such as Google are busy infusing smartphones with increasingly advanced AI features such as the ability to book appointments.

US startup Brain Technologies launched an agentic "Natural AI Phone" which went on sale in Japan in April in partnership with mobile giant SoftBank Corp.

At a demonstration given to AFP in April, Brain Technologies' phone -- which connects with a handful of apps including social network LINE -- messaged a contact to apologise for being late on just an audio command, although it also often failed to carry out requests.

"There is no clear winner in this race yet, which is why it is currently quite a hot topic," said Marc Einstein of Counterpoint Research.

But in five or 10 years' time, we won't be using apps on our phones "like we do today", he predicted.

This will fundamentally change the digital economy and disrupt business models."

A humanoid robot by AheadForm

