

QUOTE OF THE DAY

FREE SPEECH CARRIES WITH IT SOME FREEDOM TO LISTEN WARREN E. BURGER

News in brief

Lula keeps big lead over Bolsonaro in new Brazil presidential poll



A new poll ahead of Brazil's presidential election in October shows former president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva maintaining a significant lead over Jair Bolsonaro, but the right-wing incumbent is gaining ground. Forty-seven percent of those surveyed by the Datafolha consulting firm said they intended to vote for Lula, the 76-year-old leftist leader, in the first round election on October 2, the same result as last month's poll. That represents a 15-point lead over the far-right Bolsonaro (32 percent), which is slightly narrower than the 18-point gap last month, but a significant jump over the 21-point spread in May.

New Zealand police are investigating the suspected murder of two children whose remains were found in suitcases bought at an online auction for an unclaimed locker last week.

Bodies of two children found in suitcases bought at auction in New Zealand



Police launched a homicide inquiry in Auckland last week after the remains were found by a family going through the contents of a storage locker they had purchased unseen. The two children were aged between 5 and 10 years and had been dead for some time, police said in a statement on Thursday. The suitcases had been in storage for some time, they added, without providing details.

China court sentences Chinese-Canadian billionaire Xiao to 13 years in prison



A Shanghai court said yesterday that it had sentenced Chinese-Canadian billionaire Xiao Jianhua to 13 years in prison and fined his Tomorrow Holding conglomerate 55.03 billion yuan (\$8.09 billion). The Shanghai First Intermediate Court said that Xiao and Tomorrow had "severely violated financial management order" and "hurt state financial security".

Three men have been indicted in connection with the 2018 killing of notorious Boston gangster James "Whitey" Bulger, who was beaten to death in a West Virginia prison, federal prosecutors said.

3 charged in prison death of notorious Boston mobster Whitey Bulger



Fotios "Freddy" Geas, 55, Paul "Pauly" DeCologero, 48, and Sean McKinnon, 36, were charged on Wednesday with conspiracy to commit first degree murder by the US Attorney's Office for the Northern District of West Virginia, according to a statement. The three were imprisoned at Hazelton prison in Bruceton Mills, West Virginia, where the 89-year-old Bulger was also serving out his life sentence for a string of brutal crimes.

Myanmar junta chief says military open to negotiations with Suu Kyi after her trial

Reuters | Bangkok



Protesters walk through a market with posters of ousted Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi at Kamayut township in Yangon

Myanmar's military chief said yesterday the junta is open to negotiations with ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi to end the crisis sparked by its coup after her trials in a junta-run court have concluded.

Suu Kyi, 77, has been detained since the generals toppled her government in a coup on Feb-



After the legal processes against her according to the law are finished we are going to consider (negotiations) based on her response

JUNTA CHIEF MIN AUNG HLAING

ruary 1 last year and plunged the Southeast Asian nation into chaos.

She has been jailed for 17 years for a clutch of charges and faces decades more in prison if convicted on a raft of other charges she is battling in

a closed junta court.

"After the legal processes against her according to the law are finished we are going to consider (negotiations) based on her response," junta chief Min Aung Hlaing said in a statement.

Xi, Putin to attend G20 summit in Indonesia's Bali this November

Reuters | Jakarta



Russian President Vladimir Putin meets with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing (file photo)

Chinese and Russian leaders Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin will attend the G20 summit on the resort island of Bali this November, a longtime adviser to the Indonesian president said yesterday.

Andi Widjajanto, former cabinet secretary and unofficial adviser to President Joko Widodo, who is popularly known as Jokowi, told Reuters the two leaders would join the summit. "Jokowi told me that Xi and Putin are both planning to attend in Bali," Widjajanto, who heads the National Resilience Institute, told Reuters.

On Thursday, Jokowi told Bloomberg News that both leaders had given him their assurances. Indonesian presidential officials did not respond to requests for confirmation of

the report.

The Chinese foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment. A Kremlin spokesman declined to comment to Bloomberg, but another official familiar with the situation

told the news agency Putin plans to attend the meeting in person.

The trip would be significant given it would be Xi's first time outside China since January 2020, when he visited Myanmar.

COVID-19: Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	Total deaths
1 USA	95,065,403	1,064,207
2 India	44,298,864	527,206
3 France	34,299,686	153,427
4 Brazil	34,223,207	682,074
5 Germany	31,725,160	146,214
6 UK	23,460,787	187,018
7 S. Korea	21,861,296	25,813
8 Italy	21,581,917	174,447
9 Russia	19,000,055	383,362
10 Turkey	16,671,848	100,400
11 Japan	16,161,801	35,955
12 Spain	13,306,301	111,906
13 Vietnam	11,376,571	43,103
14 Australia	9,870,724	13,155

Global tally: 599,316,028
Deaths: 6,467,703
Recovered: 573,349,521
New cases: +617,377
New deaths: +1,244

Figures as of closing

Middle East

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	515,645		24,613		442,182	48,850
Saudi Arabia	812,397	+97	9,273	+1	799,354	3,770
UAE	1,007,742	+703	2,341	+1	986,102	19,299
Kuwait	118,531	+813	721	+7	109,916	7,894
Oman	397,231		4,260		384,669	8,302
Qatar	421,532		681		415,462	5,389

Huge complex of 500 standing stones found in Spain

Reuters | Madrid



Side view of a menhir and stone platform at La Torre-La Janera megalithic site near Huelva

A huge megalithic complex of more than 500 standing stones has been discovered in southern Spain which could be one of the largest in Europe, archaeologists told AFP Thursday.

The stones were discovered on a plot of land in Huelva, a province which flanks the southernmost part of Spain's border with Portugal, near the Guadiana River.

Spanning some 600 hectares (1,500 acres), the land had been earmarked for an avocado plantation.

But before granting the permit, the regional authorities requested a survey in light of the site's possible archaeological significance -- and revealed the presence of the stones.

"This is the biggest and most diverse collection of standing stones grouped together in the Iberian peninsula," said Jose Antonio Linares, a researcher at Huelva University and one of the project's three directors.

It is likely that the oldest standing stones at the La Torre-



This is the biggest and most diverse collection of standing stones grouped together in the Iberian peninsula

JOSE ANTONIO LINARES, A RESEARCHER AT HUELVA UNIVERSITY

La Janera site were erected during the second half of the sixth or fifth millennium BC, he said.

"It is a major megalithic site in Europe," he said.

At the site, they found a large number of various types of megaliths, including standing stones, dolmens, mounds, coffin-like stone boxes called cists and various enclosures.

"Standing stones were the most common finding, with 526 of them still standing or lying on the ground," said the researchers in an article published in Trabajos de Prehistoria, a prehistoric archaeology journal in the Iberian Peninsula.

North aid o

North Korea tells South

Kim Jo Yong, the powerful sister of the North Korean leader says the country will not 'barter' away its 'honour'

Reuters | Seoul

The sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said her country will never accept South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol's "foolish" offer of economic benefits in exchange for denuclearisation steps, accusing Seoul of recycling proposals Pyongyang already rejected.

In a commentary published by state media yesterday, Kim Yo Jong stressed that her country has no intentions to give away its nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles program for economic cooperation, saying "no one barter its destiny for corn cake."

She questioned the sincerity of South Korea's calls for improved bilateral relations while it continues its combined military exercises with the United States and fails to stop civilian activists from flying anti-Pyongyang propaganda leaflets and other "dirty waste" across their border.

She also ridiculed South Korea's military capabilities, saying the South misread the launch site of the North's latest missile tests on Wednesday, hours before Yoon used a news conference to urge Pyongyang to return to diplomacy.

US judge says some evidenc

Reuters | West Palm Beach

A US judge said he is leaning toward releasing some of the evidence presented by the US Justice Department to justify its search of Donald Trump's Florida home last week, in a case pitting news organizations against federal prosecutors.

Despite objections by the Jus-



Judge Reinhart's order seemed to mark a victory for news outlets, who appeared in federal court in West Palm Beach to persuade the judge that the public interest in the affidavit outweighs the benefits of keeping it sealed