

1597

1st Dutch East India Company ships return from the Far East

1619

1st known African Americans in English North America (approx. 20) land at Point Comfort (Fort Monroe), Virginia. They are then sold or traded into servitude



1741

Alaska first sighted by Danish explorer Vitus Bering at head of Russian expedition

1993

Oslo Peace Accords signed, after secret negotiations in Norway, followed by a public ceremony in Washington, D.C. the following month

Korea dismisses Seoul's offer as 'foolish' repeat

North Korean president to 'shut his mouth' after offer of economic aid for denuclearisation



Kim Yo Jong, sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, delivers a speech during the national meeting against the coronavirus, in Pyongyang

"It would have been more favorable for his image to shut his mouth, rather than talking nonsense as he had nothing better to say," she said about Yoon.

South Korea's Unification Ministry, which handles inter-Korean affairs, expressed "strong regret" over Kim Yo Jong's comments, and Yoon's office called for Pyongyang to show "self-restraint" and "think deeply" about Seoul's offer.

"This attitude from North Korea will not only threaten peace on the Korean Peninsula but result in further difficulties for the North by worsening its international isolation and economic situation," Lee Hyo-jung, a Unification Ministry spokesperson, said during a briefing.

Kim Yo Jong last week had threatened "deadly" retaliation against the South over the COVID-19 outbreak in the North, which it dubiously claims was caused by leaflets and other objects dropped from balloons launched by southern activists.

Yoon during a nationally televised speech on Monday proposed an "audacious" economic assistance package to North Korea if it takes steps to abandon its nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles program. The offers of large-scale aid in food and health care and modernizing electricity generation systems and seaports and airports weren't meaningfully different from previous South Korean proposals rejected by the North, which is speeding the de-

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KIM YO JONG

velopment of an arsenal Kim Jong Un sees as his strongest guarantee of survival.

Kim Yo Jong, one of the most powerful officials in her brother's government who oversees inter-Korean affairs, said Yoon displayed the "height of absurdity" with his offer, saying it was realistic as creating "mulberry fields in the dark blue ocean."

She said South Korea's words and actions would only incite "surging hatred and wrath" from North Koreans and insisted Pyongyang has no immediate plans to revive long-stalled diplomacy with Seoul. "It is our earnest desire to live without awareness of each other," she said.

Inter-Korean ties have worsened amid a stalemate in larger nuclear negotiations between North Korea and the US that derailed in 2019 because of disagreements over a relaxation of crippling US-led sanctions on the North in exchange for disarmament steps.

There are concerns that Kim Yo Jong's threats last week over the leafletting portends a provocation, of which the possibil-

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ities may include a nuclear or missile test or even border skirmishes. The United States and South Korea kick off their biggest combined training in years next week to counter the North Korean threat. The North describes such drills as invasion rehearsals and has often responded to them with missile tests or other provocations.

During Wednesday's news conference, Yoon expressed hope for meaningful dialogue with the North over his aid-for-disarmament proposal. Maintaining a reserved tone, Yoon said his government has no plans to pursue its own nuclear deterrent and doesn't desire political change in Pyongyang that's brought by force.

Finnish PM takes drugs test after party video causes stir



Prime Minister of Finland Sanna Marin holds a news conference

Reuters | Helsinki

Finnish Prime Minister Sanna Marin said yesterday she had taken a drugs test following the publication of video footage this week that showed her partying with friends, and vowed she had never used illegal drugs.

Marin, 36, also said her ability to perform her official duties had remained unimpaired on the Saturday night in question and that she would have left the party had she been required to work.

Video clips of Marin partying with well-known Finnish influencers and artists began circulating in social media this week and they were soon published by several media outlets in Finland and abroad.

"In recent days, there have been quite grave public accusations that I was in a space where drugs were used, or that I myself used drugs," Marin told a news conference.

"I consider these accusations to be very serious and, though I consider the demand for a drug test unjust, for my own legal protection and to clear up any doubts, I have taken a drug test today, the results of which will come in about a week."



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



It is very emotional for me to see grain being loaded again on ship in Odesa. This ship also carries hope for the world's most vulnerable people and countries. #WorldHumanitarianDay @antonioiguterres

02



#TeamEurope is the largest donor of humanitarian aid in the world. For 30 years, EU aid workers have helped alleviate the suffering of millions. They brought food when it was scarce. They brought hope when it was dim. I'm proud of each of them. #WorldHumanitarianDay @vonderleyen

03



For decades, the tax code has allowed big corporations to avoid paying their fair share in this country. Not anymore under the Inflation Reduction Act. @VP

04



Today, on #WorldHumanitarianDay, I salute my @WHO & @UN colleagues, as well as partners & all aid workers worldwide, who are working tirelessly under the most difficult circumstances to provide support & care. You have my deep admiration. #ItTakesAVillage to help people in need. @DrTedros

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

Leao leans toward releasing Trump search



A vehicle with flags in support of Donald Trump drives outside of the Paul G. Rogers Federal Courthouse

Justice Department, US Magistrate Judge Bruce Reinhart said he believes "there are portions of the affidavit that could be unsealed," referring to the sworn statement laying out the evidence for why there was probable cause to search Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort.

He ordered the Justice Department to file a redacted version of the affidavit under seal by noon next Thursday, but said prosecutors will be given the opportunity to appeal if they don't agree with his proposed version.

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

The search marked a significant escalation in one of the many federal and state investigations Trump is facing from his time in office and in private business. The Republican former president has suggested he might run for the White House again in 2024, but has not made any commitment.

Brazil's Bolsonaro gets in spat with heckler

AFP | Sao Paulo

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro got into an altercation Thursday with a social media personality who questioned and insulted him, grabbing the man by the shirt and arm after he called the leader a "bum."

Video of the incident outside the presidential residence shows Bolsonaro clutching the heckler in an apparent attempt



A video grab shows Jair Bolsonaro trying to snatch the heckler's phone

to grab his cell phone as the man filmed himself criticizing the far-right leader.

News site G1, which published the video, identified the man as Wilker Leao, a self-described lawyer, army corporal, politics junkie and military enthusiast with 127,000 followers on TikTok.

The incident happened outside the Alvorada Palace in Brasilia as a grinning Bolsonaro, looking casual in an untucked, short-sleeve blue shirt, greeted supporters who crowded around his waiting motorcade to take pictures with him.

Filming with his phone, Leao approached the president and asked why he had entered an alliance with a corruption-stained group of parties known as the "Centrao" and signed legislation restricting plea bargains, often used in anti-graft investigations.

An unidentified person pulled Leao away and threw him to the ground. Undeterred, Leao approached again, calling the president -- who had gotten in his car -- a "coward," "bum" and "the Centrao's sweetheart."

Bolsonaro then exited the car and appeared to make a grab at Leao's phone.

YOU KNOW WHAT
Bolsonaro has had earlier confrontations, often with the press. In 2020, he told a journalist, "I want to punch you in the mouth" and once suggested he'd like to shoot supporters of the rival Workers' Party