

1620

Mayflower Pilgrims come ashore in Plymouth Bay, traditionally thought to be at Plymouth Rock, Massachusetts

1898

Scientists Pierre and Marie Curie discover radium



1988

A terrorist bomb destroys Pan Am Flight 103 in mid-air over Scotland, killing all 259 passengers and crew on board and 11 people on the ground

1991

Soviet Union formally dissolves as 11 of 12 republics sign a treaty forming the Commonwealth of Independent States

Epstein files opened: famous faces, many blacked-out pages

Justice Department's partial disclosure reignites controversy over powerful figures tied to Epstein

● US releases Epstein investigation records

● Files heavily redacted, sparking criticism

● Clinton, Jagger, Jackson appear in photos

AFP | Washington

The US Justice Department has begun releasing a long-awaited cache of records from its investigations into the politically explosive case of convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein -- though much of the material remained heavily redacted.

Among the trove released Friday are numerous photographs depicting former Democratic president Bill Clinton and other luminaries, including Mick Jagger and Michael Jackson, in Epstein's social circle.

The sweeping blackouts across many of the documents -- combined with tight control over the release by officials in President Donald Trump's administration -- stoked skepticism over whether this disclosure will silence conspiracy theories of a high-level cover-up.

In one example, a 119-page document labeled "Grand Jury-NY" is entirely redacted. Also, seven pages listing 254 masseuses have every name buried beneath thick black bars alongside



Redacted documents after the US Justice Department began releasing the records from investigation into Jeffrey Epstein

the note, "redacted to protect potential victim information."

Even so, the files shed some light on the disgraced financier's intimate ties to the rich, famous and powerful -- Trump, once a close friend, among them.

At least one file contains dozens of censored images of naked or scantily clad figures. Others show Epstein and companions, their faces obscured, posing with firearms.

Previously unseen photographs include Maxwell with disgraced former prince Andrew,

pictured lying across the legs of five people.

Another photo shows a youthful-looking Clinton lounging in a hot tub, part of the image blacked out.

In another, Clinton swims alongside a dark-haired woman who appears to be Epstein's accomplice, Ghislaine Maxwell.

A 'fraction' of the evidence

The White House wasted no time seizing on Clinton's appearances.

"Slick Willy! @BillClinton

just chillin, without a care in the world. Little did he know..." Communications Director Steven Cheung posted on X.

Clinton's spokesman Angel Urena responded to the newly released files by saying the country "expects answers, not scapegoats."

"The White House hasn't been hiding these files for months only to dump them late on a Friday to protect Bill Clinton. This is about shielding themselves," Urena wrote on X.

Democrats -- and a handful of



One 119-page grand jury document was entirely blacked out, while a list of 254 masseuses had every name censored, highlighting the scale of redactions in the Epstein files release

Republicans -- voiced frustration that the release fell far short of what was mandated by the Epstein Files Transparency Act.

Republican congressman Thomas Massie, who has long pushed for the release, said it "grossly fails to comply with both the spirit and the letter of the law."

That law required the government's entire case file to be posted publicly by Friday, constrained only by legal and victim privacy concerns.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said Democrats would "pursue every option to make sure the truth comes out."

Trump spent months trying to block the disclosure of the files linked to Epstein, who died in a New York jail cell in 2019 while awaiting trial on sex-trafficking charges.

Pakistan court hands former PM Khan 17-year sentence in gifts case



Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party supporters protest to demand release of their jailed leader and Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan

AFP | Islamabad

A Pakistani court sentenced former prime minister Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi to 17 years yesterday for corruption involving gifts the jailed leader received while in office.

The ruling is the latest legal setback for Khan, who has faced a multitude of cases since his government was removed from power in 2022.

Khan, incarcerated since

2023, has denied the charges and accused authorities of political persecution.

Both Khan and Bibi were handed a 10-year prison sentence on criminal breach of trust, and seven years on corruption charges in a case alleging the underpricing of state gifts.

Under Pakistani law, government officials must declare all gifts, but are allowed to keep those below a certain value or buy them back at a discount.

Tens of thousands attend funeral of slain Bangladesh student leader

AFP | Dhaka

Massive crowds gathered in Bangladesh's capital yesterday for the funeral of a slain student leader, held under tight security after two days of protests and violence.

Tens of thousands of people joined the funeral procession to pay their respects to Sharif Osman Hadi, a key figure in last year's pro-democracy uprising who was set to contest the general elections in February.

He was shot by masked gunmen last week while leaving a mosque in Dhaka, and died in a hospital in Singapore on Thursday.

"You are in our hearts and you will remain in the heart of all Bangladeshis as long as the country exists," interim leader Muhammad Yunus said in an emotional speech in front of the parliament building, where funeral prayers were held.

Police wearing body cameras were deployed in the area, and flags were flown at half-mast to



Bangladeshis rally along a vehicle carrying the body of youth leader Sharif Osman Hadi

mark a day of state mourning.

Hadi's body was then buried at the central mosque of Dhaka University.

Hadi, 32, was an outspoken critic of India, where Bangladesh's ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina has taken refuge since fleeing Dhaka in the wake of the 2024 uprising.

Iqbal Hossain Saikot, a government employee who travelled to the capital to attend the funeral, told AFP that he believed Hadi was killed be-

cause of his staunch opposition to India.

"The millions of Bangladeshi people who love the land and its sovereign territory" will carry on Hadi's legacy, said Saikot, 34.

Hadi's death has triggered unrest, with protesters across the South Asian nation demanding the arrest of those responsible.

Bangladesh police said they had launched a manhunt for his killers but have yet to report progress.



TOP
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TWEETS

01



Palestinians need a horizon of hope. The ceasefire must be implemented in full. The endless cycle of violence must be broken. And the way must be cleared to an irreversible path to a two-state solution.

@antoniguterres

02



Released a commemorative postal stamp on Ashwagandha at the second WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine.

@WHO

@narendramodi

03



What does solidarity mean? It means recognizing that inequality anywhere holds back progress everywhere. The #SDGs are our blueprint for shared prosperity. This #SolidarityDay, let's carry the #SDGs forward together for people and planet.

@AminaJMohammed

04



As G7 President this year, Canada delivered historic investments and forged new partnerships -- positioning our nation as a force for peace and cooperation, steadfast defender of multilateralism, and a global leader in multiple fields including energy, technology, and defence.

@MarkJCarney

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