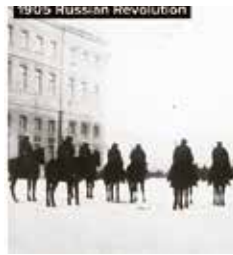


Prince William of Orange, the future King William III of Britain, summons the Convention Parliament to discuss ruling jointly with his wife, Mary, the daughter of the exiled King James II

Battle of Rorke's Drift: A British garrison of about 150 holds off 3,000 to 4,000 Zulu warriors. Eleven Victoria Crosses and several other decorations are awarded to the defenders.



A large demonstration of workers in St Petersburg, Russia, led by Father Gapon, marches to the Winter Palace with a petition to the Tsar; troops fire on the protesters in what becomes known as Bloody Sunday

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TWEETS

01



The @UN Charter is the foundation of international relations, the bedrock of peace, sustainable development & human rights.

When leaders run roughshod over international law, picking & choosing which rules to follow – they are undermining global order & setting a perilous precedent.

When a handful of individuals can bend global narratives, sway elections, or dictate the terms of public debate, we are facing inequality and the corruption of institutions & our shared values.

The Charter is a compact which binds us all.

All countries must adhere to it, fully & faithfully.

@antonioguterres

02



Today's Cabinet decision relating to providing equity support to Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) will benefit countless MSMEs thus contributing to a Viksit Bharat.

@narendramodi

03



Good discussion with @ninawarken, German Minister of Health, during the @WEF Annual Meeting in #Davos. We discussed the importance of investing in @WHO so it can continue performing its critical, core functions of developing norms and standards to promote and protect health, convening health stakeholders to advance #HealthForAll, and coordinating global responses to health crises.

@DrTedros

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

Saudi Arabia, Qatar, six others accept 'Board of Peace' invite

AFP | Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia and seven Muslim-majority countries including Gaza mediators Qatar and Turkey have agreed to join US Presi-

dent Donald Trump's "Board of Peace", the Saudi foreign ministry said yesterday.

In a joint statement, Riyadh announced the "shared decision" of the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Qatar,

Turkey, Egypt, Jordan, Indonesia, Pakistan, and the United Arab Emirates to join the body to be chaired by Trump, saying they supported his "peace efforts" on the Gaza conflict.

Prince William to visit S. Arabia next month

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Prince William will make his first official visit to Saudi Arabia next month, Kensington Palace announced on Wednesday.

"At the request of His Majesty's Government, the Prince of Wales will visit the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia between Monday 9th and Wednesday 11th February," the palace's statement said.

"His Royal Highness' vis-

it comes as the UK and Saudi Arabia celebrate growing trade, energy and investment ties, and as the two nations approach a century of diplomatic relations."

The last senior royal to make an official visit to Riyadh was his father, King Charles III, when he was Prince of Wales in February 2014.

The UK has previously raised concerns over Saudi Arabia's

Britain's Prince William

human rights record and in 2020 sanctioned 20 Saudi nationals involved in the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, who died at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul in 2018.

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer met with the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Mohammed bin Salman, in Riyadh in December 2024.

The pair discussed a range of issues including growth opportunities between the countries, as well as "the steps taken by the Crown Prince's government to improve human rights", according to the UK government readout at the time.



World's oldest cave art discovered in Indonesia

AFP | Paris, France

A red stencil of a hand pressed against the wall of an Indonesian cave is the oldest rock art ever discovered, scientists said yesterday, and sheds light on how humans first migrated to Australia.

The cave art dates back at least 67,800 years, according to research published in the journal Nature by a team of Indonesian and Australian archaeologists.

"We have been working in Indonesia for a long time," study co-author Maxime Aubert of Australia's Griffith University told AFP.

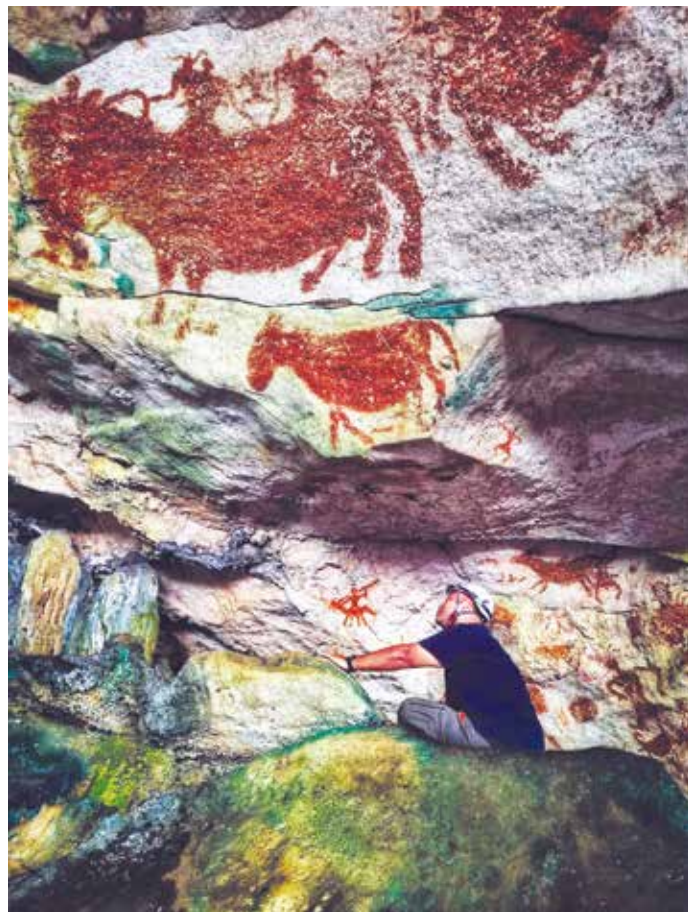
This time they ventured to caves on the island of Muna in the Sulawesi province on the advice of Indonesian archaeologist Adhi Agus Oktaviana, the study's lead author.

There they found "handprints in negative, stencilled, probably using red ochre," Aubert said.

The fingers of one of the hands were "retouched to become pointed like claws -- a style of painting only seen in Sulawesi," the Canadian archaeologist added.

To determine the art's age, the team took five-millimetre samples from "cave popcorn", which are small clusters of calcite that form on the walls of limestone caves.

Then they zapped the layers of rock with a laser to measure



A view of prehistoric cave paintings in the Sulawesi island of Indonesia.

how the uranium decayed over time, compared to a more stable radioactive element called thorium.

This "very precise" technique gave the scientists a clear minimum age for the painting, Aubert explained.

At 67,800 years old, the Indonesian stencil is more than a thousand years older than other

hand stencils found in a Spanish cave which has been attributed to Neanderthals. However the dating of that cave art "has been controversial," the study cautioned.

The new discovery is also more than 15,000 years older than previous art found in the Sulawesi region by the same team.

China says Britain had 'obligation' to approve mega embassy



Hong Kong former veteran labour activist Christopher Mung Siu-tat (C) speaks during a press conference concerning the decision on the new Chinese embassy, outside the Houses of Parliament in central London

AFP | Beijing, China

China said yesterday that Britain had an "obligation" to approve its mega embassy in London, a day after the controversial plans were given the green light.

"Providing support and convenience for the construction of diplomatic premises is an international obligation of the host country," Guo Jiakun told a news conference.

The 20,000-square-metre (235,000-square-foot) site is set to become the largest embassy complex in the UK by area, and one of the largest in the centre of a Western capital.

Plans for the embassy triggered anger and protests from rights groups and activists, who fear the site could be used to spy on and harass dissidents.

While British housing minister Steve Reed said the decision was final, it could still face legal challenges, with residents in London vowing to act.

Ties between China and Britain plummeted under the previous Conservative government, with the new embassy appearing to be a sticking point.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, whose Labour party swept to power in 2024 elections, has sought to reset ties with the economic powerhouse, and will reportedly visit China later this month.

While the embassy approval could boost relations, security minister Dan Jarvis noted that China would still continue to pose national security threats to Britain.

South Korean ex-PM Han gets 23 years jail for martial law role

● The sentence is eight years longer than prosecutors demanded

AFP | Seoul, South Korea

Former South Korean prime minister Han Duck-soo was sentenced to 23 years in prison yesterday for aiding and abetting a declaration of martial law that briefly suspended civilian rule and plunged the country into chaos.

The defendant "disregarded his duty and responsibility as prime minister until the very end", said Judge Lee Jin-gwan, of the Seoul Central District Court.

"We sentence the defendant to 23 years in prison."

The sentence is eight years longer than prosecutors demanded.

The 76-year-old career technocrat was ordered to report to prison immediately after the ruling.

Judge Lee said the martial law decree by Han's boss Yoon Suk Yeol in December 2024 was intended with the "aim of subverting the constitutional order" and amounted to insurrection. Yoon's stunning imposition of martial law saw armed troops deployed to the National Assembly and the National Election Commission before it was vetoed by the opposition-led parliament.

In the aftermath, Yoon was



A supporter stands in front of a banner showing a picture of South Korea's former impeached president Yoon Suk Yeol and his wife Kim Keon Hee near the Seoul Central District Court in Seoul

impeached and removed by the Constitutional Court in April, triggering an election two months later.

Han is one of many former officials -- including Yoon -- who have stood trial over their roles in the martial law attempt.

"The defendant is deemed to have played a significant role in the insurrectionary acts of Yoon and others by ensuring, at least formally, compliance with the procedural requirement," Judge Lee said in a televised sentencing.

Lee pointed out that while Han "voiced concerns to Yoon" over the move, he failed to "explicitly oppose it" or urge other cabinet members to dissuade Yoon from it.

During the course of the trial, Han denied wrongdoing, insisting he had never supported or helped the martial law declaration.