

In a coronation ceremony, Zhu Yuanzhang, aged 40, ascends to the throne of China as the Hongwu Emperor, initiating Ming Dynasty rule over China that lasts for three centuries

Shaanxi Earthquake, the deadliest ever recorded, kills 830,000 in Shaanxi Province, China



Israeli Knesset declares Jerusalem the capital of Israel

China locks down the city of Wuhan and its 9 million people in a belated but ultimately successful effort to control the city's COVID-19 outbreak

X

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TWEETS

01



Delighted to announce the extension of the @WHO-@Novartis memorandum of understanding, continuing the provision of free multidrug therapy for #leprosy treatment and expanding support to include funding for single-dose rifampicin for post-exposure prophylaxis.

@DrTedros

02



Deeply anguished by the mishap in Doda, in which we have lost our brave army personnel. Their service to the nation will be remembered forever. May the injured recover at the earliest. All possible support is being provided to those affected.

@narendramodi

03



We will not tolerate any violation. This morning, the French Navy boarded an oil tanker coming from Russia, subject to international sanctions and suspected of flying a false flag. The operation was conducted on the high seas in the Mediterranean, with the support of several of our allies. It was carried out in strict compliance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. A judicial investigation has been opened. The vessel has been diverted.

@EmmanuelMacron

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

Iran Guards chief says 'finger on trigger'

Warns US against 'miscalculations'

● Trump has repeatedly left open the option of new military action

● Iranian authorities on Wednesday said 3,117 people were killed

● Rights groups say the heavy toll was caused by security forces firing directly on protesters

● Actual number of those killed could be far higher and even extend to over 20,000

AFP | Paris, France

The commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guards yesterday warned Israel and the US against "miscalculations" in the wake of mass protests, saying the force had its "finger on the trigger".

US President Donald Trump has repeatedly left open the option of new military action against the Islamic republic after Washington backed and joined Israel's 12-day war in June.

A fortnight of protests starting in late December shook the clerical leadership under supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, but the movement has petered out in the face of a crackdown that activists say has left thousands dead.

Guards commander General Mohammad Pakpour warned Israel and the United States "to avoid any miscalculations, by learning from historical experiences and what they learned in the 12-day imposed war, so that they do not face a more painful and regrettable fate".

"The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and dear Iran have their finger on the trigger, more prepared than ever, ready to carry out the orders and measures of the supreme commander-in-chief -- a leader dearer than their own lives," he said, referring to Khamenei.

His comments came in a written statement quoted by state television marking the national day in Iran to celebrate the

Guards, a force whose mission is to protect the 1979 Islamic revolution from internal and external threats.

Pakpour took over as Guards commander last year after his predecessor Hossein Salami was one of several key military figures killed in an Israeli strike during the 12-day war, losses which revealed Israel's deep intelligence penetration of the Islamic republic.

Giving their first official toll from the protests, Iranian authorities on Wednesday said 3,117 people were killed.

The statement from the Islamic republic's foundation for martyrs and veterans sought to draw a distinction between

"martyrs", who it said were members of security forces and innocent bystanders, and what it described as "rioters" backed by the US.

Of its toll of 3,117, it said 2,427 people were martyrs.

However, rights groups say the heavy toll was caused by security forces firing directly on protesters and that the actual number of those killed could be far higher and even extend to over 20,000.

Speaking at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Israeli President Isaac Herzog said "the future for the Iranian people can only be in a regime change", adding that "the Ayatollah regime is in quite a fragile situation".



Media representatives walking past the parked buses that were burnt at a depot during recent public protests, in Tehran

Youtuber IShowSpeed hits 50 million subscribers in Nigeria on Africa tour

AFP | Lagos, Nigeria

US YouTuber IShowSpeed visited Nigeria's cultural and economic capital Lagos as part of his African tour on Wednesday, where he celebrated his 21st birthday by hitting 50 million subscribers.

The YouTube and Twitch star's tour kicked off on December 29, travelling through some 15 countries across Africa and drawing crowds at every stop.

Rolling Stone magazine named him the Most Influential Creator of 2025 while Forbes estimates his net worth at \$20 million.

IShowSpeed began his Lagos visit at the bustling Balogun Market in the Lagos Island district, where crowds heckled him and asked for money.

"What are they saying? It's



US YouTuber and online streamer Darren Jason Watkins Jr, better known as IShowSpeed (C) broadcasts to his followers during an event at the Admiralty Mall in Lagos

like they're speaking English, but a different kind of English," the influencer, surrounded by

bodyguards, remarked as he quickly left the market.

At Freedom Park, located on

the site of a former prison, he jumped at the spicy kick of his first bite of jollof rice before heading to the Nike Art Gallery -- a must-see for every celebrity and high-ranking political figure who comes to Lagos.

"IShowSpeed is showcasing the culture, relationships, cultural differences and food," Stephen Oluwafisayomi, a 24-year-old YouTuber known as Stevosky, told AFP at Freedom Park.

"He wants Americans to see Africa as a place they can also come to," he added.

At around 6:00 pm (1700 GMT) IShowSpeed, who was celebrating his birthday, stopped his security convoy at the side of the road to watch his YouTube channel hit 50 million subscribers and proceeded to shove his face into a cake for the occasion.

Oscar best picture nominees

Los Angeles, United States

The following are the nominees for the best picture Oscar, which will be handed out on March 15 in Hollywood:

"Bugonia"
"F1"
"Frankenstein"
"Hamnet"
"Marty Supreme"
"One Battle After Another"
"The Secret Agent"
"Sentimental Value"
"Sinners"
"Train Dreams"

Oscar best director nominees

Paul Thomas Anderson, "One Battle After Another"

Ryan Coogler, "Sinners"
Josh Safdie, "Marty Supreme"
Joachim Trier, "Sentimental Value"
Chloe Zhao, "Hamnet"

Oscar best actor nominees

Timothee Chalamet, "Marty Supreme"
Leonardo DiCaprio, "One Battle After Another"

Ethan Hawke, "Blue Moon"
Michael B. Jordan, "Sinners"
Wagner Moura, "The Secret Agent"

Oscar best actress nominees

Jessie Buckley, "Hamnet"

Rose Byrne, "If I Had Legs I'd Kick You"
Kate Hudson, "Song Sung Blue"
Renate Reinsve, "Sentimental Value"
Emma Stone, "Bugonia"

Oscar best international film nominees

"The Secret Agent" (Brazil)

"It Was Just an Accident" (France)

"Sentimental Value" (Norway)

"Sirat" (Spain)

"The Voice of Hind Rajab" (Tunisia)

Oscar best supporting actor nominees

Benicio Del Toro, "One Battle After Another"

Jacob Elordi, "Frankenstein"

Delroy Lindo, "Sinners"

Sean Penn, "One Battle After Another"

Stellan Skarsgard, "Sentimental Value"