

Napoleon Bonaparte's Grand Armée numbering half a million begin their invasion of Russia by crossing the Nieman River

US President Franklin Pierce signs the Gadsden Purchase, buying 29,670 square-miles (76,800 square km) from Mexico for \$10 million (now southern Arizona and New Mexico)

1st exhibition by Pablo Picasso aged 19, opens in Paris



1st radar detection of planes, Anacostia, Washington, D.C.

# Sites for disinformation

organization by the United States. The sites seized included Press TV, the Iranian government's main English-language satellite television channel, and Al Alam, its Arabic-language equivalent. Both came back online using Iranian domain addresses Alalam.ir and PressTV.ir.

The Justice Department said the 33 domains used by IRTVU are owned by a United States company and that IRTVU did not obtain a license from Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control prior to utilising the domain names.

KH also did not obtain a license. Notices appeared earlier on Tuesday on a number of Iran-affiliated websites saying they had been seized by the United States government as part of law enforcement action.

Iranian news agencies said the US government had seized several Iranian media websites and sites belonging to groups affiliated with Iran such as Yemen's Houthi movement.

The notices appeared days after a prominent hardliner and fierce critic of the West, Ebrahim Raisi, was elected as Iran's new



**US prosecutors in October seized a network of web domains they said were used in a campaign by Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) to spread political disinformation around the world.**

**The Justice Department said then it had taken control of 92 domains used by the IRGC to pose as independent media outlets targeting audiences in the United States, Europe, Middle East and Southeast Asia.**

president and after envoys for Iran and six world powers, in-

cluding Washington, adjourned high-stakes talks on reviving their tattered 2015 nuclear accord and returned to capitals for consultations.

The website of the Arabic-language Masirah TV, which is run by the Houthis, read: "The domain almasirah.net has been seized by the United States Government in accordance with a seizure warrant ... as part of a law enforcement action by the Bureau of Industry and Security, Office of Export Enforcement and Federal Bureau of Investigation."

The site quickly opened up a new, working website at www.almasirah.com.

Iran's Arabic language Alalam TV said on its Telegram channel: "US authorities shut down Al-Alam TV's website."

Notices also appeared on the website of Lualua TV, an Arabic-language Bahraini independent channel that broadcasts from Britain.

The semi-official Iranian news agency YJC agency said on Tuesday the US move "demonstrates that calls for freedom of speech are lies."

## WIDE ANGLE

# Individuals Ethics vs Corporate Ethics

JOEL INDRUPATI



"Água", he said and pushed aside the Coca-Cola bottle from his table.

With that, Cristiano Ronaldo also pushed down the market value of Coca-Cola by a shocking 4 billion dollars, overnight. And who was happy?

Everyone. Well, everyone, except the company's shareholders.

The following day, Paul Pogba too removed a bottle of alcoholic beverage placed in front of him at another Euro 2020 press conference.

Both bottles, we know, were placed by companies that had bid for and paid enormous amounts of money to get those placings in those football briefings. So that their brands can get visibility.

In fact, if it were not for such sponsorships and advertisements, we would not be enjoying many shows, sports or otherwise. TV broadcasting rights and online streaming rights are often bitterly contested for, with the sole aim of making revenue from sponsors. And we all know that, ultimately, advertising pays for all the shows we freely watch.

So, here is the question. Did Ronaldo, Portugal's soccer-team captain and the poster-boy for health and fitness, do the right thing? And did Pogba, France's midfielder and a professing Muslim, do the right thing?

By standing up for their individual beliefs, and by winning the applause of most of the world as 'excellent role models' for the young generation, did they really act in the best interest of the community?

Maybe yes. But then, wouldn't that be a breach of contract? At least between the broadcasters and the sponsoring companies? Can these individual sports persons act, brashly, to the detriment of their sponsors? If you scare away the sponsors, will they come back next time?

After all, it is the money that matters in the business of sports. Just like in the others.

Which is why - to cash-in on the controversy - Ikea has already launched a reusable water bottle called 'Cristiano'.

The real question is, therefore, about the conflict between individual ethics and corporate ethics. One's individual beliefs need not be aligned with those of one's organisation.

I remember cricket tournaments being sponsored by Wills, Rothmans, and Benson and Hedges. All cigarette companies. That contrast was so striking that some cricketers had to state they stay healthy, and they really do not smoke.

On the 'American Idol' show, I often find it odd to see paper cups of Coke on the tables of those judges. Amidst all that glitz and the glamour on those shiny and smooth sets, I find those huge red paper-cups sticking out like sore thumbs. Perhaps, some would call those organisers and judges as suckers. Of not just that drink from those cups, but for the money the sponsors put in, which pays them.

Celebrities are often wooed with large sums of money because advertisers seek endorsements of their products. But if it backfires, like in Cristiano's case now, advertisers might think twice before sponsoring again.

The fact that Cristiano himself had promoted Coca-Cola in his earlier days is overlooked. His 2006 advertising campaign for Coca-Cola has now been dug out by social media users who are sharing it and calling him a hypocrite.

But times are different. He is wealthy and wise now. And he probably regrets that old endorsement. And his individual ethical beliefs may have changed. That is understandable.

But, in the same way, organizational ethics should also be understood. After Cristiano's act, Coca Cola had responded saying "everyone is entitled to their drink preferences" and that "players are offered water, alongside Coca-Cola and Coca-Cola Zero Sugar" at these events. So, did the company take away anyone's choice? No.

Celebrities must regularly remind themselves of the adage, "with great power comes great responsibility".

*The real question is, therefore, about the conflict between individual ethics and corporate ethics. One's individual beliefs need not be aligned with those of one's organisation.*

# ke on y region

problems with ballot papers also delayed voting in two other regions.

Residents reported that TPLF forces had entered several towns north of Mekelle in the past three days, withdrawing from one of them within hours.

## Ambulances blocked

The official and two other health workers helping with the response in Togoga told Reuters on Wednesday that Ethiopian soldiers were blocking the main road from Mekelle to the town and preventing ambulances from reaching the scene.

"Patients are dying right now," said the official.

He said two ambulances had been able to reach the town via a back road late on Tuesday but did not have the necessary equipment and were not being allowed to leave.

He said the teams had counted at least 40 dead at the scene, three people had died overnight, and there were 44 critically wounded patients needing treatment.

Another medical worker said around 20 health workers in six ambulances had tried to reach the wounded on Tuesday but soldiers stopped them at a checkpoint.

# Japan top court backs ban on separate married surnames

AFP | Tokyo

Japan's top court yesterday ruled a law requiring married couples to have the same family name is constitutional, rejecting plaintiffs who sought the right to keep separate surnames, local media said.

The plaintiffs -- three couples -- submitted marriage registration documents with different surnames for wives and husbands in 2018. But municipal governments refused to accept the documents, the Mainichi Shimbun newspaper reported.

The plaintiffs argued requiring married couples to choose a single name "is against equality under the law and freedom of marriage, which are guaranteed by the constitution."

The ruling is in line with a 2015 Supreme Court decision that also found the law constitutional but urged lawmakers to discuss a bill addressing growing calls for flexibility on the issue.

Calls to allow separate surnames have been growing in recent years. The couples argued that the "reasons for the 2015 verdict are no longer valid given changes in society", Jiji Press said.

Supreme Court officials could not immediately confirm



details of Wednesday's verdict, which was widely reported by local media.

Under existing legislation, couples can choose to adopt either the husband or wife's surname when they marry. But in practice, the vast majority of couples opt for the husband's name.

The surname rule has been in place since the late 19th century as part of a family system gathering members under one head of household, usually male.

Backers say having a single family name is important to promote family ties and consider efforts to change the rules an attack on traditional values.

# lks with US would lead 'nowhere'

restart diplomacy with the nuclear-armed nation.

But US hopes for a revival of talks were rebuffed by influential official Kim Yo Jong, the sister of North Korea's leader, saying Washington had "wrong" expectations for dialogue.

Foreign minister Ri Son Gwon said yesterday he welcomed Kim's rejection of the "hasty judgment,

conjecture and expectation of the US".

"We are not considering even the possibility of any contact with the US, let alone having it, which would get us nowhere, only taking up precious time," he was quoted as having said by the state-run KCNA news agency.

Talks between Washington and Pyongyang have long been stalled

over the international sanctions imposed on the nuclear-armed state and what the North should give up in return for their lifting.

In her Tuesday statement, Kim Yo Jong derided recent comments made by US national security adviser Jake Sullivan, who called her brother's remarks an "interesting signal".



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



Developers/.../expect to extract 150 million barrels of oil — roughly equivalent to operating 16 coal-fired power stations for a year." The UK set to approve a new oilfield. The "green industrial revolution" is proving to be a huge success...

@GretaThunberg

02



This #PublicServiceDay, join me in thanking the hundreds of millions of public servants worldwide who dedicate themselves to ensuring the wellbeing of our communities. As the world continues to face the devastation of #COVID19, their work is more important than ever.

@antonioguterres

03



Schools play a vital role in the well-being of students, families and their communities. The new @WHO/@UNESCO global standards are designed to create schools that equip students with the knowledge & skills for their future health & well-being, employability & life prospects.

@DrTedros

04



We can't sit idly by while democracy is in peril — here, in America. We need to protect the sacred right to vote and ensure "We the People" choose our leaders, the very foundation on which our democracy rests. We urgently need the For The People Act.

@JoeBiden

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