

1497

John Cabot claims Eastern Canada for England (believes he has found Asia in Nova Scotia)

1509

Henry VIII is crowned King of England in Westminster Abbey, London

1793

1st republican constitution in France adopted



1901

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

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Today marks four months since Russian President Vladimir Putin sent troops across the border in what he calls a "special military operation"

mer Soviet republic, and Western groupings like the European Union and the NATO military alliance.

Diplomats say it will take Ukraine a decade or more to meet the criteria for joining the EU. But EU leaders say the bloc must make a gesture that recognises Ukraine's sacrifice.

Ukraine's move to join the EU ranks alongside applications by Sweden and Finland to enter NATO in the wake of the Russian invasion - indications that the Kremlin's military actions have backfired in its geopolitical aims.

Anna Melenchuk, a 29-year-old Ukrainian living in Brussels, was among a small crowd of her compatriots rallying outside the building where the EU leaders were meeting.

"It's a very symbolic move on the side of the European Union...it's not only the war against Ukraine, Russia waged this war also against Europe," she told Reuters.

"Ukrainians today are a shield to the European Union, we are protecting Europe from the Russian aggression, so it's so, so important to see this solidarity in action."

Lebanon's Mikati named PM, urges action to secure IMF deal



Najib Mikati arrives at the presidential palace in Baabda

Reuters | Beirut

Lebanon's Najib Mikati was named prime minister yesterday, urging fractious politicians to set aside differences to secure an IMF deal which he said was the only chance to save the country from financial collapse.

Facing a politically difficult path to agreeing on a new cabinet, the billionaire tycoon who led three previous governments said Lebanon did not have time for "drowning in conditions and demands" of rival groups over ministerial posts.

"We are facing the challenge of either complete collapse or gradual salvation," said Mikati, referring to the IMF deal that promises \$3 billion of support, contingent on reforms that have long been put off by Lebanon's political elite.

Now in its third year, the financial meltdown has sunk the currency by more than 90%, spread poverty, paralysed the financial system and frozen depositors out of their savings, in Lebanon's most destabilising crisis since the 1975-90 civil war.

Donor states want Lebanon to enact reforms to address root causes of the crisis, including decades of state waste and corruption, before aid is released. read more

Drug users need science-based treatment, not punishment



ANTONIO GUTERRES

This year's International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking shines a spotlight on the impact of drug challenges in health and humanitarian crises.

Conflicts, climate disasters, forced displacement and grinding poverty create fertile ground for drug abuse - with COVID-19 making a bad situation even worse. At the same time, people living through humanitarian emergencies are far less likely to have access to the care and treatment they need and deserve.

Meanwhile, criminals are profiting from people's misery, with cocaine production at record highs, and a five-fold increase in seizures of methamphetamines and a near-quadrupling of amphetamine seizures over the last decade.

On this International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, we renew our commitment to ending this scourge and supporting those who fall victim to it.

This includes non-discriminatory policy solutions centred around people, health and human rights, underpinned by strengthened international cooperation to curb the illicit drug trade and hold accountable those who profit from human misery.

We must also strengthen science-based treatment and support services for drug users, and treat them as victims who need treatment rather than punishment, discrimination and stigma - including treatment for those living with infectious diseases like HIV/AIDS and hepatitis.

We cannot allow the world's drug problem to further shadow the lives of the tens of millions of people living through humanitarian crises.

On this important day, let us commit to lifting this shadow once and for all, and giving this issue the attention and action it deserves.

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Daily Tribune)

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TOP
4
TWEETS

01



The world is facing the highest number of violent conflicts since 1945. Prevention is more vital than ever. We must address the root causes of conflict, protect vulnerable communities, strengthen social cohesion & invest in peace-building.

@antonioguterres

02



This is a decisive moment for the EU. I am confident that today we will grant candidate status to Ukraine and to Moldova. And express a clear and strong European perspective for Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova.

@CharlesMichel

03



I'm doing everything in my power to combat the effects of Putin's Price Hike with historic oil production.

@POTUS

04



Touched by @sbsai-jrasikh's and @soniamugabo's mental health stories and bravery. Thanks for sharing the challenges you faced and major kudos for finding the strength to overcome them. Together, let's ensure the world is listening and acting for mental health care for all. #CHOGM2022

@DrTedros

Foreign aid arrives

area where the average household size is more than 20 people.

"Seven in one room, five in the other room, four in another, and three in another have been killed in my family," Bibi Hawa told AFP from a hospital bed in the Paktika capital.

"I can't talk any more, my heart is getting weak."

Hospital director Mohammad Yahya Wiar said they were doing their best to treat everyone.

"Our country is poor and lacks resources," he told AFP. "This is a humanitarian crisis. It is like a tsunami."

Footage released by the Taliban showed people in one village digging a long trench to bury the dead, who by Islamic tradition must be laid to rest facing Mecca.

Even before the Taliban takeover, Afghanistan's emergency response teams were stretched to deal with the natural disasters that frequently strike the country.

But with only a handful of airworthy planes and helicopters left since they returned to power, any immediate response to the latest catastrophe is further limited.

Wildfire in southwest Turkey rages on, dashing hopes it was contained

Reuters | Istanbul

Firefighters battled a wildfire in southwestern Turkey from land and air yesterday, as hopes that the blazes were contained fizzled after they spread again due to high temperatures and windy conditions a day earlier.

Scenes of burning woodland near the Aegean coastal resort of Marmaris sparked fears of a repeat of last year's fires that devastated tens of thousands of hectares (acres) across the region.

Reuters footage showed smoke billowing from hills and police water cannon vehicles helping firefighters as the blaze spread through the woodlands in the sparsely populated area.

Forestry Minister Vahit Kirisci said he was hopeful that there would be positive developments regarding the fire by yesterday evening.

He said humidity was higher yesterday compared to a day earlier and that it was less windy, which he said would help efforts.



A firefighting aircraft drops water on a wildfire near Marmaris, a town in Mugla province, Turkey

But the Mugla municipality said the wind was expected to pick up pace in the afternoon and that 2,881 hectares (7,119 acres) of land were damaged so far, according to unofficial figures.

Yesterday, 45 helicopters and 12 planes were tackling the fire and dropping water on the flames after pausing overnight.

Kirisci said 274 people were evacuated as a precaution and that some 2,600 people were working to contain the fire.

He had said on Wednesday morning that the fire was contained but it later spread, fanned by strong winds and hot weather.

The cause of the fire, which began around 8 p.m. (1700 GMT) on Tuesday is not clear.

Human-induced climate change is making heat waves more likely and more severe, scientists say.

Last summer's wildfires, most of which were also near Marmaris, were the most intense

45

helicopters and 12 planes were tackling the fire and dropping water on the flames after pausing overnight

in Turkey on record, a European Union atmosphere monitor said last year, adding that the Mediterranean had become a wildfire hot spot.

President Tayyip Erdogan's government was criticised for being unprepared to fight the fires last year, especially due to a lack of planes and helicopters. It responded by saying the wildfires were the worst in Turkey's history.

Kemal Kilicdaroglu, head of the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP), said on Wednesday the government was "incompetent" and had not prepared for the fires since last year.

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