

1534

French explorer Jacques Cartier claims for France the lands around Gasp  by erecting a 30-foot cross at Pointe-Penouille

1567

Mary, Queen of Scots, is forced to abdicate; her 1-year-old son becomes King James VI of Scotland



John Hayden Bingham Discovers Machu Picchu

1832 1911

Benjamin Bonneville leads the first wagon train across the Rocky Mountains through Wyoming's South Pass

American explorer Hiram Bingham rediscovers Machu Picchu, the Lost City of the Incas

UK withdraws remaining diplomats from Iran

London, United Kingdom

Britain said on Thursday it had withdrawn remaining diplomatic staff from Iran as the conflict between Iran and the United States escalates.

“Due to the security situation, UK staff have been temporarily withdrawn from Iran. Our embassy continues to operate remotely,” the Foreign Office said on its website.

Britain in June withdrew its embassy staff from Iran, following in the footsteps of other European nations as well as Australia and New Zealand.

US House passes record \$1.15 trillion defense bill

Washington, United States

The US House of Representatives narrowly passed an annual defense policy bill on Wednesday that would authorize a record \$1.15 trillion in funding for the Pentagon, as the divisive Iran war drags on.

Though it traditionally sees significant bipartisan support, the 2027 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) passed the lower chamber in a 216-212 vote, a sign of the growing polarization under President Donald Trump.

The bill, which must still pass the Senate, provides approximately \$250 billion more than the 2026 NDAA, including a 5-7 percent pay raise for service members.

US eyes offshore nuclear reactors

Washington, United States

The United States on Wednesday announced it had created a “clear framework” for the eventual deployment of offshore nuclear reactors, as part of the Trump administration’s push to drastically ramp up atomic energy output.

Although no commercial US project is currently planned or approved, so-called floating nuclear power plants (FNPPs) are an area of growing interest, with Russia currently operating the sole plant, the Akademik Lomonosov in the country’s far east.

The Department of the Interior’s Marine Minerals Administration (MMA) said it signed a memorandum of understanding with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to advance the deployment of reactors in the Outer Continental Shelf -- 3.2 billion acres off the nation’s coastlines that fall under federal jurisdiction.



A cosplayer wearing a Star Wars-inspired mashup costume

US to make tariff announcement as 10% duty soon expires

AFP | Washington, United States

The United States is set to make an announcement on tariffs later Thursday, the White House said, hours before President Donald Trump’s 10-percent global duty is due to expire.

Asked about the upcoming deadline, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters that US trade envoy Jamieson Greer will make an announcement “very soon, later today.”

“I would just tell you to stay tuned for more details,” she said at a press briefing.

After the Supreme Court struck down a host of Trump’s

tariffs in February, the US leader swiftly replaced the blocked duties with a temporary 10 percent levy on imports.

But this can only last 150 days, meaning that it expires Friday. The Trump administration has since prepared a volley of new duties targeting 60 economies over what it has deemed forced labor concerns, moving to rebuild the president’s tariff wall.

But officials have yet to set out a timeline for the imposition of the tariffs, set between 10 percent and 12.5 percent and poised to hit goods from major trading partners including China, the European Union and India. These measures were proposed after a months-long

investigation and are considered more durable than earlier ones.

But Greer declined Wednesday to confirm to reporters if the fresh duties will be finalized by Friday’s deadline, the Wall Street Journal reported.

“We’re not focused on any particular timeline. We’re focused on fulfilling the legal and statutory requirements,” he said.

Besides the new proposed tariffs justified by alleged forced labor concerns, Greer has also previously suggested that there could be a basis to reimpose Trump’s global levies after their expiration.

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt



Modi vows punishment for exam leaks

AFP | New Delhi, India

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi vowed “stringent punishment” yesterday for anyone involved in leaking exam papers.

A series of irregularities has

stoked public anger, including a medical entrance paper being leaked -- forcing millions to retake the exam -- and a failure in an online marking system.

In a social media post on Thursday, Modi said that “nothing is more important

than the welfare and future of our youth”, promising to set up fast-track courts to punish those involved in the leaks.

“Those who try to harm the future of our youth will not

be spared,” he said.

His post did not mention Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, whose resignation has been one of the protesters’ main demands.



A French Civil Security Canadair CL-415 aircraft flies past flames burning a forest surrounding Cotignac, southeastern France during a wildfire. The fierce fire that struck the Var region and has burned across 2,500 hectares “remains stable” on July 23 morning, announced the Prefect of the Var, Simon Babre, who has authorised the 400 people who were evacuated to return to their homes to “enable the damage to be assessed”. Some 650 firefighters were still deployed in the Gros Bessillon area, a mid-altitude mountain range in central Var, one of France’s most forested departments.

Comic-Con kicks off with Marvel’s return

AFP | San Diego, United States



Cosplayers dressed as Marvel characters

Comic book fans will return to San Diego, California for the latest Comic-Con, with many convention-goers buzzing about this year’s return of Marvel.

The studio skipped last year’s

event, but will be back at the coveted Hall H on Saturday to promote “Avengers: Doomsday,” which is slated to premiere in December.

Under the Russo brothers’ direction, the latest superhero

flick will pick up where 2019’s “Endgame” left off, bringing together heroes and villains from X-Men, the Avengers, Black Panther and the Fantastic Four to duke it out once more.

The last time Marvel was in Hall H, they stunned more than 6,000 attendees by announcing Oscar-winning actor Robert Downey Jr. would return to the Marvel Cinematic Universe -- or MCU as breathless fans call it -- not as Iron Man, but as the villainous Doctor Doom.

DC Studios will also grace Hall H to preview its HBO series “Lanterns,” starring Kyle Chandler and Aaron Pierre as small-town Nebraska detectives, which debuts August 16.

The flesh-and-blood narrative offers a new take on 2011’s “Green Lantern,” a Ryan Reynolds-led space adventure movie.



TOP
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TWEETS

01



“The Civil Nuclear Deal (There will be no enrichment of material!) being made between the United States Department of Energy and Saudi Arabia, which pertains only to non-military use such as the ones that Iran and UAE (and others) already have, will be approved, but is totally subject to Saudi Arabia joining the very respected and successful Abraham Accords...” resident Donald J. Trump

@WhiteHouse

02



The situation in the Middle East is getting out of control. It's time to step back. My clear & consistent message to leaders: The fighting must stop everywhere. Freedom of navigation must be restored. Diplomacy is the only way forward.

@antonioгутерres

03



I welcome the agreement on the 21st sanctions package against Russia. At a time when Ukraine has built military momentum, our sanctions continue to weaken the economic foundations of Russia’s war effort.

@vonderleyen

04



Held a meeting with the Raytheon company team led by Vice President Joseph DeAntony. Raytheon is a very strong defense company, and Ukraine has long been using its equipment to protect our people from brutal Russian attacks.

@ZelenskyyUa

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