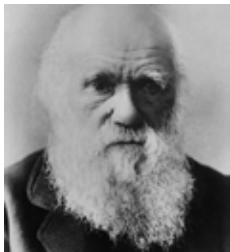


Theodosius I makes his adventus, or first formal entry, into Constantinople

1st observation of transit of Venus by Jeremiah Horrocks and William Crabtree - helped establish size of the Solar System

Dutch explorer Abel Tasman discovers Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania)

English naturalist Charles Darwin publishes "On the Origin of Species" radically changing the view of evolution and laying the foundation for evolutionary biology



UN troops begin an assault intending to end Korean War by Christmas

Russia chases off US warship in row over waters in Sea of Japan



Representative picture (Courtesy of business standard)

● The Admiral Vinogradov verbally warned USS John S. McCain

● Threatened to ram it in order to force it to leave the area

● Russia said its Pacific Fleet warship had been tracking the American destroyer

● The US Navy said its warship had been in international waters

Reuters | Moscow

Russia said yesterday one of its warships caught and chased off a US destroyer operating illegally in its territorial waters in the Sea of Japan, but the US Navy denied wrongdoing by its vessel and accused Moscow of making excessive maritime claims.

The Admiral Vinogradov, a Russian destroyer, verbally warned

USS John S. McCain, a US Navy guided-missile destroyer, and threatened to ram it in order to force it to leave the area, prompting it to return to neutral waters, Moscow said.

Russia said its Pacific Fleet warship had been tracking the American destroyer in the Peter the Great Gulf, and that the US vessel had violated Russia's territorial waters at 0317 GMT by going two kilometres beyond the sea border.

But the US Navy said its warship had been in international waters throughout as it carried out a "freedom of navigation" operation to assert its rights and challenge what it said were Russia's excessive maritime claims.

"...the United States will never bow in intimidation or be coerced into accepting illegitimate maritime claims, such as those made by the Russian Federation," said Lieutenant Joe Keiley, 7th Fleet spokesperson.

"The Russian Federation's statement about this mission is false," he said. "USS John S. McCain was not 'expelled' from any nation's territory."

The US destroyer made no further attempts to enter Russian waters after leaving the area, Mos-

YOU

KNOW WHAT

The last remaining major arms control pact between the former Cold War foes is due to expire in February despite months of talks to find a replacement.

Also, President Vladimir Putin has yet to congratulate US Democratic President-elect Joe Biden with his Nov. 3 election victory over President Donald Trump.

cow said. The Admiral Vinogradov was continuing to observe its movements and another vessel, a corvette, was dispatched to the area, it added.

Such incidents at sea are rare, but they underscore the poor diplomatic and military relations between Russia and the United States whose ties are languishing at a post-Cold War low.

Clean-up on Saudi oil facility after Houthi strike



The tank damaged in the attack. Black marks and some damage around its top rim were visible.

Reuters

One of the 13 tanks at Aramco's North Jeddah Bulk Plant is currently out of action, the official told journalists on a tour. He described the site as a "critical

facility" which distributes more than 120,000 barrels of products per day domestically to Jeddah, Mecca and the al-Baha region.

A fire caused in the incident was extinguished in around 40 minutes with no casualties, the

official said. The projectile struck the storage tank from the top, causing "major damage" to the tanks' roof, with a hole around 2 meters square, the official said. Black marks and some damage around its top rim were visible.



Social media video grab of Billie Rea rescuing a draughtboard shark

"I've got a shark"

Aus girl proves a valuable fish friend in shark rescue

Reuters | Sydney

While the words shark and Australia typically conjure up images of attacks on swimmers and surfers, 11-year-old Billie Rea didn't think twice in rescuing a shark trapped by the low tide in a rock pool and carrying it to deeper water.

"I've got a shark. Come on darling," the girl was heard answering her mother in a video shared on social media yesterday, as she plucked a draughtboard shark from a tidal pool on the edge of Kingston Beach, Tasmania, about 10 km (6 miles) south of the Australian island state's capital of Hobart.

"It's alright, it's alright," Rea cooed as she trod over mossy rocks with the brown-spotted shark in both hands before releasing it in open water.

Rea was never in danger as the draughtboard shark is a slow-moving, bottom feeder that mostly eats small shellfish.

"As soon as it came into view, I knew what it was and I knew that it couldn't hurt her," her mother Abby Gilbert, who filmed the rescue six days earlier, told the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

"You saw in the video just how calm she is, and I feel like that animal felt so safe with her," she added.

Abby was more concerned with the wet rocks that Billie clambered across to get to the open water than the live shark in her daughter's hands.

"Just be careful because it's super slippery," Abby could be heard cautioning in the video just before Billie reaches the water's edge and places the shark into the sea.

Ethiopia says 'large number' of Tigrayan fighters surrender

Reuters | Addis Ababa

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's government said yesterday that many Tigrayan militia and special forces were surrendering in line with an ultimatum before a threatened offensive against the regional capital Mekelle.

"Using the government's 72-hour period, a large number of Tigray militia and special forces are surrendering. Many have surrendered through the



Afar region, and the remaining forces are surrendering peacefully," a government taskforce said.

There was no immediate response from the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), which earlier said it had destroyed an important army division. Reuters has been unable to verify statements from either side since phone and internet connections to Tigray are down and access to the area is restricted.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Fight, and I believe we will prevail! Nevertheless, in the best interest of our Country, I am recommending that Emily and her team do what needs to be done with regard to initial protocols, and have told my team to do the same.

@realDonaldTrump

02



Pleased the Trump administration has taken the final & necessary step to formally withdraw from the Open Skies Treaty. I've been proud to lead the fight in the Senate to help deliver this blow to Putin's espionage operations & to counter efforts that weaken our national security.

@SenTedCruz

03



Vice President-elect @KamalaHarris and I spent the afternoon meeting with a bipartisan group of mayors. It was just the start of what I know will be a strong partnership in the months and years ahead. Together, we're going to beat COVID-19 and build back better.

@JoeBiden

04



We chose the most qualified, experienced, and crisis-tested national security professionals to restore our standing in the world, project leadership, and protect our country.

@KamalaHarris

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