

Battle of Crécy: Edward III's English longbows defeat Philip VI's army south of Calais in northern France; cannons are used for the first time in battle

English astronomer Edmond Halley first observes the comet named after him



The first free kindergarten in the United States is started by Susan Blow in Carondelet, a suburb of St. Louis, Missouri

General Franco's Nationalist troops conquer Santander during the Spanish Civil War



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Today, I formally rescinded Syria's designation as a State Sponsor of Terrorism. This action unlocks new potential for Syria's economic revitalization and progress. The Trump Administration continues to advance U.S. national security to achieve peace, prosperity, and security in the Middle East.

@SecRubio

02



Together with the @ICRC President Mirjana Spoljaric, and with even greater urgency, I renew my call on States to establish specific prohibitions & restrictions on autonomous weapon systems. We are now dangerously close to crossing a moral red line: the autonomous targeting of humans by machines. Innovation must serve humanity – not endanger it.

@antonioGuterres

03



We want companies that buy American, that hire American, and then invest in American communities...we are on your side because you are on the side of American workers and American patriots.

@VP

04



Digital tools can expand opportunity by supporting learning, communication, and access to health services. At the same time, many platform's algorithms are designed for users to keep us scrolling and hooked.

@DrTedros

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

Mehriban Aliyeva: A Life of Service, Culture and Leadership

TDT | Manama

Some people inspire through their skills, vision and ability to create opportunities for others. Mehriban Aliyeva, Azerbaijan's First Vice-President, is one such figure — a physician trained in ophthalmology who has become a prominent figure in the country's public, humanitarian and cultural life.

Born in Baku, Aliyeva grew up in an intellectually accomplished family. Her father, Arif Pashayev, is a prominent scientist and academic, while her mother, Aida Imanguliyeva, was a distinguished philologist and scholar. She studied at Azerbaijan Medical University before specialising in ophthalmology at the Sechenov Moscow Medical Academy.

Her career later moved beyond medicine. In 2004, she became president of the newly established Heydar Aliyev Foundation, beginning a period of extensive work in health-

care, education, humanitarian affairs and culture.

Healthcare has remained a significant focus, reflecting her medical background. Under her leadership, the Foundation has supported medical facilities, modern equipment and healthcare programmes, including initiatives benefiting children.

Education has been another major area of work, with projects supporting the construction and renovation of schools, modernisation of classrooms and educational programmes. The broader objective has been to expand opportunities for young people and contribute to Azerbaijan's social development.

Her cultural work has also become an important part of her public profile. The Foundation has supported the restoration of historical monuments, preservation of Azerbaijani cultural traditions and heritage projects beyond the country. Through these initiatives, Aliyeva has

frequently presented culture as a form of diplomacy, creating opportunities for Azerbaijan to strengthen international cultural relations.

Her humanitarian programmes have focused particularly on groups that can be vulnerable or overlooked, including children without parental care, people with disabilities, low-income families and internally displaced people. Her public initiatives have also highlighted women's participation in social and professional life and opportunities for younger generations.

In February 2017, Aliyeva took on another major role when she was appointed First Vice-President of Azerbaijan. The appointment brought her into

the highest level of executive government following years of public service through the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, parliament and other institutions.

Her responsibilities have continued to span welfare, healthcare, education, culture and international cooperation. Her role in cultural diplomacy was also evident during her October 2025 visit to the Holy See, where she met Pope Leo XIV at the Vatican. Discussions included Azerbaijan-Holy See relations, cultural cooperation, the role of the Catholic Church in Azerbaijan and lasting peace in the South Caucasus. The visit also included events connected with restoration projects involving Christian heritage supported by the Heydar Aliyev



Mehriban Aliyeva, Vice President of Azerbaijan

Foundation.

For Azerbaijan, such initiatives represent an effort to use cultural preservation and interfaith cooperation as tools of international engagement.

Beyond the official titles, Aliyeva's public career reflects a consistent combination of medicine, humanitarian work, cultural preservation and leadership. Her work has centred on long-term projects rather than a single field, from improving healthcare and education to supporting vulnerable communities and preserving heritage.

Her career has also unfolded alongside her role as a wife and mother, adding a personal dimension to an increasingly public life.

The record presents a figure whose priorities have remained visible over two decades: investing in people, supporting social development, preserving culture and using cultural engagement to build international connections.

Israeli lawmaker under army escort smashes Palestinian memorial

AFP | Ramallah, Palestinian Territories

A far-right Israeli lawmaker took a sledgehammer to a Palestinian memorial in the occupied West Bank on Tuesday while under military escort, a move that was later condemned both by the army and Israeli politicians.

Footage circulating online showed Zvi Sukkot, who is also a settler and activist, smashing a monument commemorating "martyrs" in the Palestinian village of Madama in the northern West Bank, while soldiers stood nearby.

"A few days ago, I demanded that the military take action to remove the monuments commemorating terrorists in the murderers' villages of Madama and Burin. Unfortunately, they remained in place. So I went there myself and took action to remove them," Sukkot posted on Facebook, along with a video of the act.

When contacted by AFP, the Israeli military said Sukkot and his aides had conducted a "tour" of the area "with security provided by IDF soldiers who had been diverted from their operational activities for this purpose".

"Contrary to the agreed-upon coordination, the participants acted deceptively and manipulatively, without authorisation, departing entirely from the ap-



An Israeli settler attacks a left-wing activist at an Israeli outpost in the Israeli-occupied Palestinian village of Jannatah, just south of the city of Bethlehem

proved framework, and began demolishing one of the monuments in Madama," it added.

It said soldiers reported the incident to their commanders, who told them to stop the activity and "the participants were quickly escorted out of the village".

The military said it viewed Sukkot's actions "with the utmost severity", adding they "constituted a misuse of the protection provided by security forces to act entirely outside the scope of the approved framework".

In a statement, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said

the military "is the sovereign authority in Judea and Samaria", using the Biblical term for the West Bank.

"Taking the law into one's own hands, especially when it involves public figures, is a reprehensible practice that prevents the IDF from focusing on its missions of combatting terrorism and incitement to violence," he added.

The filmed act took place as Israel prepares for elections on October 27, and also drew condemnation from Gadi Eisenkot, who has emerged as the principal challenger to Netanyahu.

"Zvi Sukkot's behaviour is a

disgrace to anyone who presumes to represent the public and be a leader," he wrote on X.

"Netanyahu... is allowing anarchists like Zvi Sukkot and his ilk to do as they please, endangering security in the settlements and damaging Israel's standing in the world," he added.

Rami Nassar, the head of Madama's village council, told AFP the memorial at the centre of the village included the names of those killed in a 1968 battle, the first and second intifadas, and up until the present day.

Oman's top diplomat in Iran for talks

Tehran, Iran

Oman's top diplomat held talks in Iran on Monday, Tehran said, as the two countries seek a way to regulate transit through the Strait of Hormuz, which has emerged as a flashpoint in the Middle East war.

"Oman's Foreign Minister Badr al-Busaidi met and talked with Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in Tehran," an Iranian foreign ministry statement said.

Washington Post ordered to rehire fired columnist

Washington, United States

The Washington Post was ordered Monday to reinstate columnist Karen Attiah, who was fired over social media posts she wrote in the aftermath of right-wing influencer Charlie Kirk's assassination.

Kirk was shot dead in September on a Utah college campus, sparking a wave of grief among conservatives and threats of a clampdown on the "radical left" from President Donald Trump.

Attiah wrote on social media afterward that she would not display sadness for Kirk's killing and shared the activist's past racist comments about Black women.

She was later fired, with the Post accusing her of "gross misconduct" and of violating its social media policies.

An arbitrator ordered the Post on Monday to rehire Attiah and compensate her with back pay, writing in the decision that the Post "did not have good and sufficient cause" for her dismissal.

CIA director Ratcliffe visiting Moscow

Washington, United States

US Central Intelligence Agency Director John Ratcliffe is visiting Moscow for meetings, US media said yesterday after flight data showed an American military aircraft flew to the Russian capital.

CBS News quoted sources familiar with the situation as



confirming Ratcliffe's trip, saying it was his first known visit

to Russia as CIA chief. Axios separately confirmed it quoting a US official.

There was no immediate comment from the CIA or the White House when contacted by AFP.

Data from Flightradar24 earlier showed a US military C-17 traveling from the United States

to Latvia and then on to Moscow.

Ratcliffe's reported visit comes as US-brokered talks aimed at ending Russia's invasion of Ukraine have stalled. But Moscow earlier this month freed a former US Marine detained since 2022 amid concerns about his health.