

Battle of Montgisard: Baldwin IV of Jerusalem defeats Saladin and a larger Ayyubid force

Cyclone slams south eastern India with high winds and a 40 foot storm surge, destroying city of Coringa. Storm waves sweep inland, destroying 20,000 ships and killing an estimated 300,000 people



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Telimco makes the 1st ever advertisement for a radio set, by advertising a \$750 set in the "Scientific American" which claimed to receive signals for up to one mile



## new COVID curbs as each 60 million



the drive-thru testing centre on the

the pandemic. Germany yesterday reported a record 410 COVID-19 deaths in the last 24 hours, before its 16 federal state leaders and Chancellor Angela Merkel were due to discuss an extension of restrictions into December and for Christmas and New Year. Italy reported 853 deaths related to COVID-19 on Tuesday, soaring from 630 the day before and the highest daily toll since March 28.

But new infections and the number of people in hospital with the virus in France dropped sharply as a national lockdown went into its fourth week.

French President Emmanuel Macron said on Tuesday people could start being vaccinated by the end of the year.

"We will very likely, and pending authorisation by health authorities, start vaccination of the most vulnerable populations, hence the elderly, as soon as the end of December, early January," he said in a televised address.

Air France-KLM is among airlines gearing up to transport millions of doses of temperature-sensitive vaccines.

"It's going to be a major logistics challenge," said Air France cargo chief Christophe Boucher.

Macron said France will start easing its COVID-19 lockdown this weekend so that by Christmas, shops, theatres and cinemas will reopen and people can spend the holiday with their families.

**The US 'each person for himself' mindset is killing hundreds of thousands of us. Devastating to watch**

DR. TATIANA PROWELL OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE.

likely to be widely available for months while scientists insist on the continued need for vigilance and politicians consider curbs for Christmas amid a second wave of

## able to spread more rapidly



ID-19), in Shanghai

making COVID-19 spread more rapidly," said Lucy van Dorp, a professor at University College London's Genetics Institute and one of the co-lead researchers on the study.

She added, however: "We need to remain vigilant and continue monitoring new mutations, particularly as vaccines get rolled out."

Viruses are known to mutate all the time, and some - such as flu viruses - change more frequently than others. to spread more rapidly, scientists said on Wednesday.

## Hundreds evacuated in Chennai as cyclone nears



A deserted Marina beach is seen during rains before Cyclone Nivar's landfall, in Chennai, India

● **Chennai's airport will remain closed until 7 a.m local time (0130 GMT) today**

● **Authorities have so far evacuated 528 people and 150 more relief shelters are being readied in the city**

Reuters | Chennai

Hundreds of people in low lying areas in Chennai were evacuated and more than 150 relief centres were on standby ahead of a "very severe cyclonic storm", government officials said yesterday.

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) said "Nivar" was likely to cross between

"midnight of 25th and early hours of 26th November" and was likely to bring very heavy rainfall.

Areas in and around Chennai witnessed intense spells of rain, accompanied by strong winds on Wednesday.

The cyclone was likely to damage houses and roads, uproot power lines and trees and destroy crops along India's south east coast, the IMD said in a statement.

Edappadi Palaniswami, Tamil Nadu state's chief minister, has declared Wednesday and Thursday as public holidays in some areas, ordered the halting of bus services, advised fishermen not venture to sea and asked people to stay indoors.

Many automobile companies in Chennai, home to a flourishing automobile industry and dubbed the "Detroit of South Asia", shut operations yester-

day, and some were likely to remain closed on Thursday, a person familiar with the matter said.

Vessels in the city's port have been moved to sea and port operations will likely remain shut until the cyclone makes landfall, a senior port official said.

Chennai's airport will remain closed until 7 a.m local time (0130 GMT) today, India's aviation minister said in a post on Twitter.

Local government officials in Chennai released water from a major reservoir, cleared fallen trees and readied relief centres as they evacuated people from low lying areas.

"Residents are shifted from low lying areas close to Adyar river. They are shifted to the neighbouring relief camps as an advance precaution," Chennai official Alby John said on Twitter.



A breach of the vessel would have disastrous results for Red Sea marine life (Courtesy of Arab news)

## UN given nod to assess decaying Yemen oil tanker

Reuters | Dubai

Houthi authorities in Yemen have given long-awaited approval for a United Nations plan to visit and assess a deteriorating oil tanker off Yemen's coast that is threatening to spill 1.1 million barrels of crude oil into the Red Sea.

Staff and equipment could be expected to arrive at the tanker

by late January or early February, UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric told reporters on Tuesday.

Hussein al-Azzi, the Houthi deputy foreign minister, said on Sunday Houthi authorities had sent a letter confirming they would welcome the UN team of experts, adding they were waiting for confirmation of an arrival date.

"It represents an important step forward in this critical work," Dujarric said, adding the letter was received on Saturday.

The United Nations has warned that the Safer, stranded since 2015, could spill four times as much oil as the 1989 Exxon Valdez disaster near Alaska, but access to the vessel has been complicated by the war in Yemen.



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



I believe America is strongest when we work with our allies. It's how we keep this country safe, counter terrorism and extremism, control this pandemic, deal with the climate crisis, and so much more.

@JoeBiden

02



Monti (aged 8) wrote to me asking if Father Christmas will be able to deliver presents this year Santa Claus-Wrapped present Christmas tree. I've had lots of letters about this, so I have spoken with experts and can assure you that Father Christmas will be packing his sleigh and delivering presents this Christmas!

@BorisJohnson

03



Today is International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. This year the pandemic has seen an appalling increase in domestic abuse. 1.6 million women are experiencing domestic abuse every day. If you or someone you know is at risk, reach out.

@jeremycorbyn

04



Pleasure to call on PM HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa. Conveyed the felicitations of PM @narendramodi on his recent appointment as the Prime Minister of Bahrain.

@DrSJaishankar

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