

1521

Emperor Charles V opens the Diet of Worms in Worms, Germany which lasts until May 25th; Produced the "Edict of Worms" which denounced Martin Luther



1807

London's Pall Mall is 1st street lit by gaslight

1813

Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice" is published by Thomas Egerton in the United Kingdom

1819

Sir Stamford Raffles lands in Singapore

# Korea fires two missiles condemns flurry of tests

weapons testing in what appears to be a resumption of its provocation and



A woman watches a TV screen showing a news program reporting about North Korea's missile launch with a file image

ing Winter Olympics next month and South Korea gearing up for a presidential election in March. Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said it detected two suspected short-range ballistic missiles fired from the Hamhung city area towards the East Sea from around 8 am (2300 GMT). "The projectiles flew 190 kilometers (118 miles) at an altitude of 20km," they said. Pyongyang fired two suspected cruise missiles on Tuesday, and tested ballistic missiles on January 14 and 17. It also fired what it said were hypersonic missiles on January 5 and 11. "I believe, if we include the two cruise missiles, this is now the most recorded North Korean missile launches in any month ever," analyst Ankit Panda wrote

on Twitter. The barrage could be part of North Korea's regular military training, or linked to ongoing celebrations of Kim's decade in power or upcoming domestic anniversaries, he added. The country is preparing to mark the 80th anniversary of the birth of Kim's father, late leader Kim Jong Il, in February, as well as the 110th birthday of the its founding leader Kim Il Sung in April. **'New capabilities'** North Korea is reeling economically from international sanctions and a two-year-long pandemic blockade, but has managed to develop an "impressive" array of offensive weaponry. Some of the recent tests aim "to

Some observers have suggested that the Kim regime's frequent launches are a cry for attention, but Pyongyang is running hard in what it perceives as an arms race with Seoul

LEIF-ERIC EASLEY, AN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS PROFESSOR AT EWHA UNIVERSITY IN SEOUL

develop new capabilities, especially for evading missile defenses," said Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at Seoul's Ewha University. "Other launches are intended to demonstrate the readiness and versatility of missile forces that North Korea has already deployed." "Pyongyang is running hard in what it perceives as an arms race with Seoul," Easley added. The distances and altitude of the yesterday tests indicate the launches are part of North Korea's regular military training, said Hong Min, a senior researcher at the Korea Institute for National Unification in Seoul. Such tests are "aimed at thwarting the deployment of US-South Korea strategic maritime assets such as an aircraft fleet," he said. "It also reflects Pyongyang's message to the global community that such training is part of its exercise of sovereignty and that the outside world has no business talking about it," he added.

**YOU KNOW WHAT**  
North Korea is reeling economically from international sanctions and a two-year-long pandemic blockade, but has managed to develop an "impressive" array of offensive weaponry

Pyongyang has repeatedly defended its weapons programs as part of the "legitimate exercise of the right to self-defence". It has not tested intercontinental ballistic missiles or nukes since 2017, but last week hinted it could restart such launches, blaming US "hostile" policy for forcing its hand. The diplomatic cost to Kim of the recent tests is minimal thanks to strong backing from Beijing, which has blocked efforts to impose new sanctions over short-range missile tests. China's ambassador to South Korea, Xing Haiming, told local radio station MBC on Wednesday that North Korea felt it was not being given sufficient credit for its four-year moratorium on long-range and nuclear testing.

## China says it questioned then returned Indian citizen at disputed border

AFP | Beijing

China said yesterday it has returned an Indian citizen who entered "illegally" into Chinese territory at the disputed border between the two Asian giants. The Indian citizen was found in recent days by Chinese border guards during a patrol, said spokesman for the Western Theater Command, Colonel Long Shaohua in a statement. The individual "illegally entered Chinese territory and then was routinely questioned, quarantined and observed in accordance with relevant border control regulations, and given humanitarian assistance," Long said in the statement posted on the official WeChat account of the Western Theater of the People's Liberation Army (PLA).

The individual was returned following discussions between the Indian military and the Chinese side after India first asked China to assist in a search, he said. Yesterday's announcement from China came after India's defense ministry said last week it had contacted China to request that it locate and return a 17-year-old Indian Miram Tarom, who had been "reportedly captured" by the Chinese military after going missing near the countries' shared border. China's announcement yesterday did not say if the returned Indian citizen was Tarom.



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



The @UN continues working for the people of Afghanistan. Today we launched our plan to extend and accelerate support to the Afghan people through this critical period.

@antoniogetterres

02



The principle of gender equality belongs in our Constitution. The President and I are calling on Congress to pass a resolution recognizing ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. The time has come.

@VP

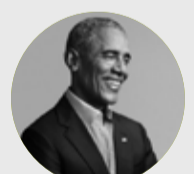
03



This #HolocaustMemorialDay it was a privilege to hear the testimony of Manfred Goldberg BEM, who survived the horrors of the Holocaust. We must conserve memories of the Holocaust, banish any complacency & take action to stamp out antisemitism in this country. #Light-TheDarkness

@BorisJohnson

04



On Holocaust Remembrance Day, we honor the victims and survivors of one of the darkest periods in our history. But it's not enough to remember — we also need to have the courage to speak out against acts of bigotry and hatred whenever we see them.

@BarackObama

## on collision course with moon



A SpaceX rocket carrying a NASA weather satellite blasts off in February 2015 from Cape Canaveral, Florida

5,500 miles per hour (9,000 kilometers per hour). Gray appealed to the amateur astronomer community to join him in observing the booster, and his conclusion was confirmed. The exact time and spot of impact may change slightly from his forecast but there is widespread agreement that there will be a collision on the Moon that day. "I've been tracking junk of this sort for about 15 years. And this is the first unintentional lunar impact that we've had," Gray said. **'Time to start regulating'** Astronomer Jonathan McDowell told AFP it's possible similar

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ASTRONOMER BILL GRAY

impacts have taken place unnoticed. "There're at least 50 objects that were left in deep Earth orbit in the '60s, '70s and '80s that were just abandoned there. We didn't track them," he said. "Now we're picking up a couple of them... but a lot of them we're not finding and so they're not there anymore," he added. "Probably at least a few of them hit the moon accidentally and we just didn't notice." The impact of the SpaceX rocket chunk weighing four tons on the Moon will not be visible from Earth in real time. But it will leave a crater that scientists will be able to observe with spacecraft and satellites like NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter or India's Chandrayaan-2, and thus learn more about the geology of the Moon.

## Twitter suspends spoiler account for 'Wordle' answer reveal

Reuters | London

Twitter suspended a bot account on Wednesday for spoiling the solution to the next day's Wordle, the wildly popular internet word puzzle. The game, which only offers one puzzle per day, has amassed millions of players since it came online last year. But the Twitter profile @wordlinator seemed determined to ruin the fun for participants posting their scores on the social media site. "The account referenced was suspended for violating the Twitter Rules and the Automation Rules around sending unsolicited @mentions," a Twitter spokesperson told AFP. The bot account automatically responded to accounts posting their Wordle scores with messages such as "Guess what. People don't care about your mediocre linguistic escapades. To teach you a lesson, tomorrow's word is" -- followed by the actual answer for the next day.



A person plays online word game "Wordle" on a mobile phone

**YOU KNOW WHAT**  
It is likely the person behind the @wordlinator account found the upcoming winning words by simply looking at the Wordle web page's source code

Twitter said it does not tolerate its platform being used to harass other users. Its policy also notes that sending unsolicited, aggressive or bulk mentions, replies or direct messages warrants suspension from the platform or deleting of the account in question. Though Wordle gives players six chances to guess a five-letter word, does not have a mobile app and is only available on a web browser, the game has quickly caught on, partly thanks to users' ability to share their scores in green, yellow and gray grids on social media.

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