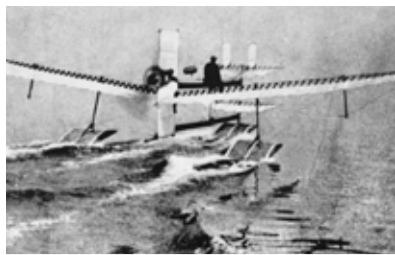


Roman Emperor Valentinian I appoints his brother Flavius Valens co-emperor

Great Britain and France declare war on Russia, expanding the Crimean War



1st seaplane to take off from water under its own power is piloted by Henri Fabre from the Étang de Berre lagoon at Martignes, France

A partial meltdown at Three Mile Island nuclear plant in the US results in the release of radioactive gas and iodine into the atmosphere but no deaths

## Put smiles back on faces of Gaza children



A Palestinian clown carries a child during a show amidst the rubble of a building destroyed in the latest round of fighting between Israel and Palestinian militants, in Rafah

group organised the show and who acted as clown Omar al-Saidi to tickle their funny bones with zany antics at the expense of another jester. Wassim Lobed, whose support

relief. "We hope to God that this war will end for the sake of our children in Gaza," he added. So deep is the mental suffering of Gaza's children that some hope to die quickly to escape the "nightmare", a spokesman for the UN child welfare agency said Tuesday. "The unspeakable is regularly said in Gaza" now, said UNICEF spokesman James Elder, who is in the territory. After meeting young people on Monday, he said several teenagers said they were "so desperate for this nightmare to end that they hoped to be killed". But Saidi, whose clown name is Uncle Zaatat, said he hoped the show had lifted some of that "burden" from the children's shoulders.

## Sri Lanka PM says China to develop strategic infrastructure

Colombo, Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka's prime minister said yesterday that China has pledged to develop the island nation's strategic deep sea port and the capital's airport after talks with his counterpart in Beijing.

Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena said China -- the island's biggest bilateral creditor -- would "assist" Sri Lanka's restructuring of external debt, a key condition to maintaining a \$2.9 billion IMF bailout.

Beijing's position on debt restructuring has not been made public, but Sri Lankan officials have said China was reluctant to take a haircut on its loans but could extend the tenure and adjust interest rates.

Sri Lanka in 2022 ran out of foreign exchange to finance essential imports and declared



Gunawardena (L) shaking hands with China's President Xi Jinping

a sovereign default on its \$46 billion foreign debt.

Months of protests forced then-president Gotabaya Rajapaksa out of office.

Gunawardena's office said Premier Li Qiang had promised China would "assist Sri Lanka's debt restructuring process continuously and help Sri Lanka to develop its economy".

# Xi tells Dutch PM Rutte 'no force can stop' China tech progress

AFP | Beijing, China

Chinese leader Xi Jinping yesterday told Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte that China's technological progress could not be held back, as they met in Beijing for talks on subjects including the crucial semiconductor industry.

Dutch chip-making machine supplier ASML is one of the world's leading manufacturers of equipment to make state-of-the-art semiconductors, used in everything from mobile phones to cars.

The sector has become a key battleground in recent years, with the United States and some European countries blocking exports

of high-tech chip technology to China over fears of military use.

ASML announced this year that it had been blocked from exporting "a small number" of its advanced machines to China, amid reports of US pressure on the Dutch government.

"The Chinese people also have legitimate development rights, and no force can stop the pace of China's scientific and technological progress," Xi told Rutte on Wednesday according to state news agency Xinhua.

Xi added that "China will continue to pursue a win-win approach (and) open wider to the outside world at a high level".

"There is no way out for 'decoupling and breaking the chain,' and opening-up and cooperation are the only choice," the report quoted him as saying.

Rutte told reporters at a press conference that he couldn't share details of what had been discussed around semiconductors. "What I can tell you about our semiconductor sector and companies like ASML is that when we have to take measures that they are never aimed at one country specifically," he said.

"We always try to make sure that the impact is limited, it's not impacting the supply chain and therefore is not impacting, let's say, the overall economic relationship."

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte (R) welcomes the president of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping (File)



## UK minister threatened with jail over Afghanistan probe



Johnny Mercer London, United Kingdom

UK government minister is on a collision course with the law over his refusal to reveal the sources of allegations that British special forces committed war crimes in Afghanistan.

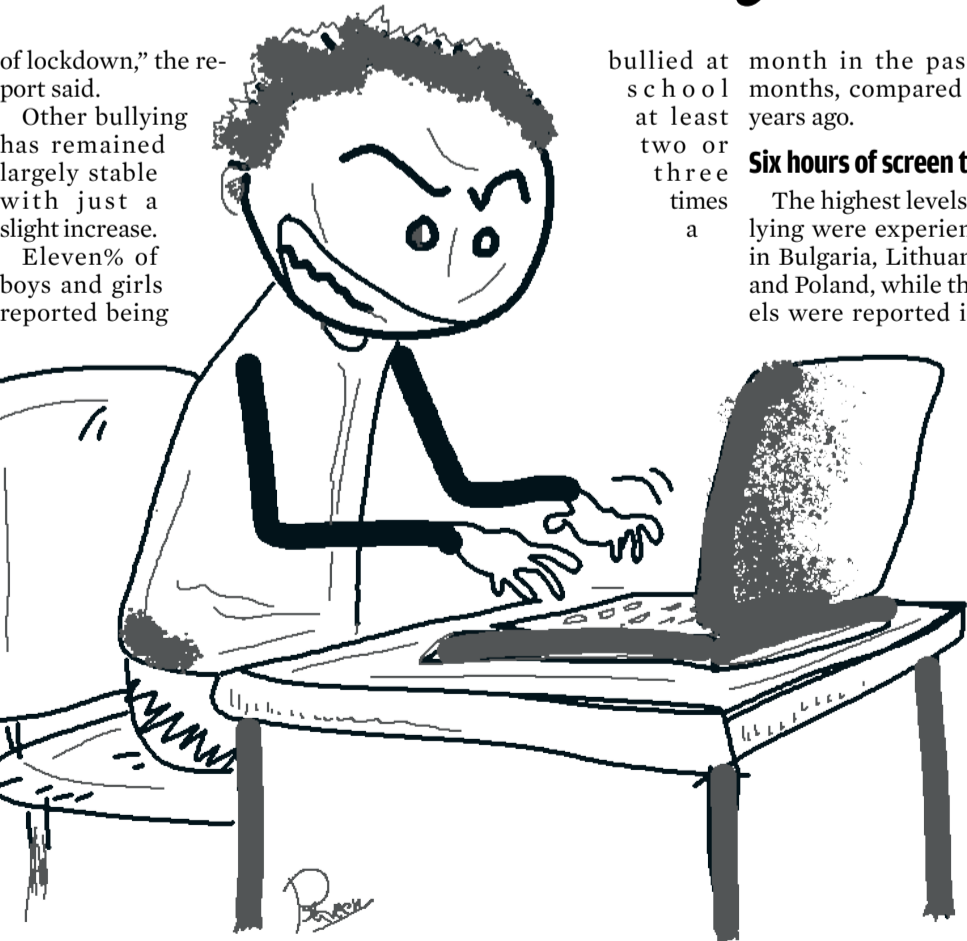
Johnny Mercer, Britain's minister for veterans, has said "multiple officers" told him about alleged murders and a subsequent cover-up during the Afghan conflict.

# One child in six is cyberbullied: WHO Europe

of lockdown," the report said.

Other bullying has remained largely stable with just a slight increase.

Eleven% of boys and girls reported being



bullied at school at least two or three times a

month in the past couple of months, compared to 10% four years ago.

### Six hours of screen time

The highest levels of cyberbullying were experienced by boys in Bulgaria, Lithuania, Moldova and Poland, while the lowest levels were reported in Spain, the WHO said without providing detailed data.

With young people spending up to six hours online every day, even small changes in the rates of

bullying and violence can have profound implications for the health and well-being of thousands," Kluge said.

One adolescent in eight admitted cyberbullying others, an increase of three percentage points from 2018, the report said.

The number of adolescents who engaged in physical fighting meanwhile remained stable over the four-year period at 10% -- 14% for boys and six% for girls.

The study was based on data from 279,000 children and adolescents from 44 countries across Europe, Central Asia and Canada.

In most places, cyberbullying peaked when children were 11 years old for boys and 13 for girls.

Parents' socioeconomic status made little difference in children's behaviour, the report found.

Canada was however an exception, where less advantaged youths were more likely to experience bullying.

There, 27% of girls belonging to the 20% least affluent families said they had been subjected to bullying at school, compared to

21% of girls among the 20% most affluent families.

Noting that the problem was widespread, the report called for greater efforts to improve awareness.

"More investment in the monitoring of different forms of peer violence is needed," it said.

"There is also an urgent need to educate young people, families and schools of the forms of cyberbullying and its implications, while regulating social media platforms to limit exposures to cyberbullying," it concluded.



Fifteen% of boys and 16% of girls reported being cyberbullied at least once in recent months



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



Garba is a celebration of life, culture and devotion. It also brings people together. It is gladdening to note that Garba's global popularity on the rise! Sometime ago, Garba found a place in the @UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list. I am glad that the Certificate of Inscription was presented a few days back in Paris. At the same time, a memorable Garba Night was also held in Paris, which was attended by the Indian community in large numbers. @narendramodi

02



Great pleasure to meet @GasolFndnUSAteam and discuss the need to scale up childhood #obesity prevention, which we agreed was a silent pandemic threatening millions worldwide. @DrTedros

03



Met today with Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein to discuss the Iraqi Prime Minister's upcoming visit to Washington, DC and the upcoming meeting of the U.S.-Iraq Higher Coordinating Committee, both of which will highlight the full range of U.S.-Iraq cooperation. @SecBlinken

04



POV: You believe health care should be a right, not a privilege, in America. @POTUS

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