

585 BC

Solar eclipse, as predicted by Greek philosopher Thales, while Lydians at war with the Medes leads to a truce. One of the cardinal dates from which other dates calculated



1431

Joan of Arc is accused of relapsing into heresy by donning male clothing again, providing justification for her execution

1936

Alan Turing submits "On Computable Numbers" for publication, in which he set out the theoretical basis for modern computers

1972

White House "plumbers" first break in at the Democratic National Headquarters and install listening devices at Watergate Complex in Washington, DC

es centre of Lyman, t of Sievierodonetsk

strategic Ukraine town Lyman



troops drive an armoured vehicle along a street past a destroyed line-Russia conflict in the town of Popasna in the Luhansk Region

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uters journalists on Thursday, was rnt-out highrise municipal build-ner military vehi-

le-strewn streets nter treads, and otors thundered dy of a dead man a courtyard. nally come up in

recent days from the cellar where she had been sheltering, to sleep amid the wreckage of her own flat. The balcony had been blown away and windows blasted off by a direct hit from a shell.

She stared out wistfully into the blasted courtyard, recounting how two people had been killed there and eight wounded by a shell when they went outside to cook. Inside her flat, her kitchen and living room were filled with rubble and debris, but she had tidied a small bedroom to sleep. She was tired of being trapped in the cellar with dogs and cats.

"I just have to fix the window somehow. The wind is still bad. Cold at night," she said. "We are tired of being so scared. So tired."

Russian ground forces have now captured several villages northwest of Popasna, Britain's Ministry of Defence said.

'What price'

Russia's advance in the east follows a

BETTER YOU KNOW

After being driven back from the capital Kyiv in March and from the outskirts of the second biggest city Kharkiv earlier this month, Russian forces are staging their strongest advance in weeks in the eastern Donbas region

Ukrainian counter-offensive that pushed Russian forces back from Kharkiv this month. But Moscow has prevented Ukrainian forces from attacking the rear of Russian supply lines to the Donbas.

On Thursday, Russian forces shelled parts of Kharkiv itself for the first time in days. Local authorities said nine people were killed. Reuters filmed as shells burst in a neighbourhood sending clouds of smoke into the sky. A busy pavement was filled with broken glass and a pool of blood. A park's coffee kiosk had been destroyed and windows were blasted out of a cafe and apartment blocks. The Kremlin denies targeting civilians.

In the south, where Moscow has also seized a swathe of territory since the Feb. 24 invasion, Ukrainian officials believe Russia aims to impose permanent rule.

The Ukrainian military's southern command said Russia was shipping in military equipment from Crimea, building a third line of defence to prepare for a potential Ukrainian counter-attack, and mining the banks of a huge reservoir behind a dam on the Dnipro River that separates the forces.

Brazil invites election observers on record scale as Bolsonaro stirs doubts

Reuters | Brasilia

Brazil is preparing to receive a record number of international observers for its October election, according to electoral authorities and participating organizations, amid a polarized presidential race in which President Jair Bolsonaro has ques-



Brazilian president Jair Bolsonaro gestures during a farmer's in Sao Paulo

tioned the reliability of electronic voting machines.

Bolsonaro's government objected to an invitation last month extended by Brazilian electoral authorities to the European Union to send observers for the first time, sinking that proposal.

But the parliament of South American trade bloc Mercosur, known as Parlasur, will send a formal observer mission for the first time, as will the US-based Carter Center and the International Foundation for Electoral

Systems (IFES).

The 34-nation Organization of American States also will send more observers than it did in 2018, when Bolsonaro was elected.

"We don't know the size of the mission yet, that will depend on the money available, but we intend to make it bigger," said a source at the hemispheric forum in Washington, requesting anonymity to comment on preliminary discussions. "In 2018, there were 40 observers and we want to exceed that number."

YOU KNOW WHAT

Bolsonaro gave vocal support to former US president Donald Trump's baseless allegations of fraud in the 2020 election. He has raised similar doubts about Brazil's electronic voting system, calling it liable to fraud, without providing evidence

Wide Angle

Another Mass Shooting: Will US Gun Laws Change?



JOEL INDRUPATI

Is it just another day in the USA, with yet another shooting at school?

From long before this Robb Elementary School shooting in Uvalde, Texas, there have been scores of incidents of gunmen going berserk in the USA. But, there is hardly anything done to prevent gun sales.

In fact, a study found that 7.5 million US adults - almost 3% of the population - became new gun owners between January 2019 and April 2021 (Firearm Purchasing during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Results From the 2021 National Firearms Survey, Annals of Internal Medicine, February 2022).

According to a BBC report, "the US ratio of 120.5 firearms per 100 residents, up from 88 per 100 in 2011, far surpasses that of other countries around the world" (America's gun culture - in seven charts, bbc.com, April 2022).

The United States, Yemen, Switzerland, Finland and Cyprus are the top five countries in the world with gun ownership. But, here's something more shocking. US gun ownership is nearly double that of Yemen's, its closest contender.

But, why should ordinary citizens have access to deadly firearms? Common-sense tells us that, even if we ignore pistols or revolvers, civilians should never own lethal automatic or semi-automatic assault guns.

But the powerful gun-lobby will cite the Second Amendment of the US Constitution, from the Bill of Rights, which gives its citizens the right 'to keep and bear arms'.

However, many fail to note that the US Constitution became effective in 1789, and its first 10 amendments, called the Bill of Rights, were ratified in 1791. It was in an era completely different from that of the 2020s.

The US founding fathers probably never imagined the shape of things to come. They may not have visualized automatic and semi-automatic assault weapons, or these extremely violent video games to which the youth are being exposed now.

The USA's National Rifle Association (NRA) argues that more guns make a country safer. They had even argued - in the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting case of Connecticut, which killed 26 people - that an armed guard would have lessened the deaths. Their logic is that if everyone is armed, as self-defence, it will reduce deaths. Citizens can even protect themselves from the government if it becomes evil.

Let's take the case of an Australian mass-shooting in 1996. In Port Arthur, Tasmania, 35 people were brutally killed by a gunman Martin Bryant. Intellectually disabled, with a history of erratic behaviour, he had later pleaded guilty, but never gave reason for his gruesome killing.

The then Australian Prime Minister John Howard soon banned almost all fully-automatic or semiautomatic firearms. And the government even instituted a gun-buyback program which made people surrender some 700,000 firearms. They were later destroyed.

The Australian shooter said he had taken inspiration from another case in Scotland, a few months earlier. A gunman had invaded a primary school in the town of Dunblane and shot to death 16 young children and their teacher.

The UK Parliament immediately passed a law banning private ownership of handguns above .22 calibre; and in a few months, the ban got extended to "all handguns".

Following mass shootings, both Australia and the UK had responded swiftly with tighter gun-laws. But the US is just not going that way.

In 2022 so far, there have already been more than 200 mass shootings in the USA - of which 27 are school shootings - according to the Gun Violence Archive, an independent data collection organization.

But, seemingly, the maximum number of mass shootings, which should invoke gun law reforms, has not been reached, yet.

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Daily Tribune)

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TOP 4 TWEETS

01

Civilians always pay the highest cost of war. Last year, the @UN recorded at least 11,075 civilian deaths across 12 armed conflicts. Civilians are #NotATarget. They must be protected, at all times.
@antonio gutierrez

02

Had a productive meeting with @CARICOMorg Health Ministers to discuss how @WHO can better support them to tackle #health-workers' migration challenges, #ClimateCrisis' impacts; to advance primary health care and health promotion to #BeatNCDs. Together, for #HealthForAll. #WHA75
@DrTedros

03

Ya know, it's pretty damn great to be able to talk to people from all walks of life and many countries on Twitter! So much to be learned, even from the harshest critics. Basically ... I'm just saying I love all you crazy people
@elonmusk

04

The ideology behind America's gun culture represents "a broad assault on the very idea of civic duty - on the idea that people should follow certain rules, accept some restrictions on their behavior, to protect the lives of their fellow citizens."
@KenRoth

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