

1389

Ottomans defeat Serbian army in the bloody Battle of Kosovo, opening the way for the Ottoman conquest of Southeastern Europe

1519

King Carlos I elected Holy Roman Catholic Emperor Charles V



Coronation of Queen Victoria in Westminster Abbey, London

1838

1919

Treaty of Versailles, ending WWI and establishing the League of Nations, is signed in France

They drank, ate or smoked

CCTV footage of the scene. "We are ruling out a stampede completely," he added, after initial media reports suggested this might be a possible cause of the deaths. Police said 21 had died, one fewer than originally thought. Eastern Cape police spokesperson Brigadier Tembinkosi Kinana told Reuters that the youngest of the victims was a 13-year-old girl. Addressing a crowd outside a mortuary in East London on Sunday, an emotional Police Minister

Bheki Cele had to pause speaking as he started weeping, triggering a chorus of cries among his audience. Pictures circulating on social media since Sunday, still unverified by the authorities, showed the bodies of youths lying scattered across the floor of the tavern, some also seen motionless on tables and couches. Authorities are expected to produce a toxicology report as part of the investigation.

Default

with Ukraine

and stand with Ukraine for as long as it takes," the statement said. After missiles rained down on Kyiv on Sunday, US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said the United States was readying a new weapons package for Ukraine that included long-range air defences and ammunition. The G7 countries said they had also pledged or were ready to grant up to \$29.5 billion for Ukraine.

A formal default would be largely symbolic given Russia cannot borrow internationally at the moment and doesn't need to thanks to plentiful oil and gas export revenues. But the stigma would probably raise its borrowing costs in future. The payments in question are \$100 million in interest on two bonds, one denominated in US dollars and another in euros, that Russia was due to pay on May 27. The payments had a grace period of 30 days, which expired on Sunday. Russia rejected claims that it had defaulted on its external debt for the first time in more than a century, telling investors to go to Western financial agents for the cash which was sent but bondholders did not receive. "Statements of a default are absolutely unjustified," Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said.

Russia's finance ministry said it made the payments to its onshore National Settlement Depository (NSD) in euros and dollars, adding it had fulfilled obligations. In a call with reporters, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said the fact that payments had been blocked by Euroclear because of Western sanctions on Russia was "not our problem".



Leaders at the G7 for talks on climate change,

iviv returns home



Archaeological centre has been inaugurated, Israel

Cannabis use has risen with legalisation and COVID lockdowns, UN report says

● Legalizing drug appears to increase regular use, UNODC says

● Cannabis on market getting stronger in terms of THC content

● Cocaine production, US opioid overdose deaths hit records

Reuters | Vienna

Places including US states that have legalised cannabis appear to have increased its regular use, while COVID lockdowns had a similar effect, raising the risk of depression and suicide, a UN report said yesterday. Cannabis has long been the world's most widely used drug and that use is increasing while the cannabis on the market is getting stronger in terms of its tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) said in its annual World Drug Report. Various US states have legal-



Highland Cafe's first customer Rittipomng Bachkul holds up a piece of cannabis at the Highland Cafe on the first day of removing it from the narcotics list under Thai law in Bangkok, Thailand

ised non-medical use of cannabis, starting with Washington and Colorado in 2012. Uruguay legalised it in 2013, as did Canada in 2018. Others have taken similar steps but the report focused on those three countries.

"Cannabis legalisation appears to have accelerated the upwards trends in reported daily use of the drug," the Vienna-based UNODC's report said. While the prevalence of can-

nabis use among teenagers "has not changed much", there had been "a pronounced increase in reported frequent use of high-potency products among young adults", it said.

"The proportion of people with psychiatric disorders and suicides associated with regular cannabis use has increased."

The report said roughly 284 million people, or 5.6% of the world's population, had used a drug such as heroin, cocaine, amphetamines or ecstasy in 2020, the most recent data available. Of those, 209 million used cannabis.

"Periods of lockdown during the COVID-19 pandemic drove increases in the use of cannabis ... in 2020," it said.

Cocaine production hit a record in 2020 and trafficking by sea is growing, it added, with 2021 seizure data suggesting an expansion outside the two main markets of North America and Europe into Africa and Asia.



Opioids remain the deadliest drugs, it said, with fentanyl driving US overdose deaths to a new record: the provisional estimate for 2021 is 107,622.

Italian eyewear tycoon Leonardo Del Vecchio dies at 87

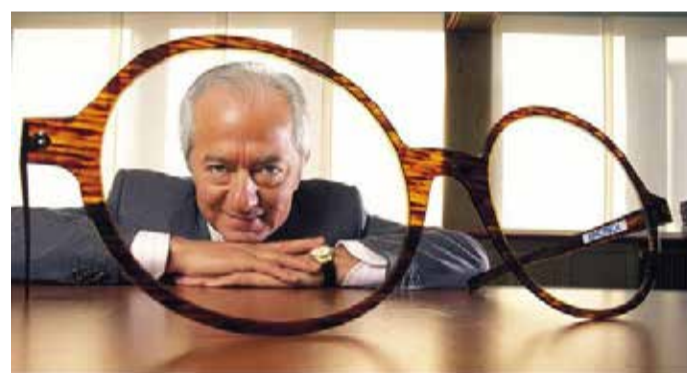
Reuters | Milan

Italy's Leonardo Del Vecchio, who rose from childhood poverty to build the eyewear empire that owns brands such as Ray-Ban and Oakley, has died at the age of 87, his company said yesterday.

Del Vecchio added a dash of Italian style to spectacles and became one of Europe's wealthiest men, investing some of his riches to build influential stakes in Italian financial companies Mediobanca and Generali.

The billionaire founded the Luxottica business in 1961, initially to supply components for glasses, and remained the chairman and major shareholder in the world's biggest eyewear group after it combined forces with France's Essilor in 2018.

Fashion designer Giorgio Armani was among those to pay tribute to Del Vecchio with whom he had worked since the



1980s.

"Together, we invented a phenomenon that did not exist: we immediately realised that glasses, from simple functional objects would become indispensable fashion accessories," Armani said.

Partly raised in an orphanage, Del Vecchio's rags-to-riches story mirrored Italy's own recovery after World War Two.

"Leonardo Del Vecchio was a great Italian. His story, from or-

phanage to leadership of a business empire, seems like a story from another time. But it is an example for today and tomorrow. RIP," European Economy Commissioner Paolo Gentiloni said on Twitter.

Del Vecchio's influence extended beyond his own business and at the end of 2021, he was Italy's second richest man behind Giovanni Ferrero of the Nutella-making group, according to Forbes.

Qatar to host indirect Iran-US talks on reviving 2015 nuclear deal

Reuters | Dubai

Qatar will host indirect talks between Iran and the United States in the coming days, Iranian media reported yesterday, amid a push by the European Union to break a months-long impasse in the negotiations to reinstate a 2015 nuclear pact.

"Iran has chosen Qatar to host the talks because of Do-

ha's friendly ties with Tehran," Mohammad Marandi, a media adviser to Iran's top nuclear negotiator, told the ISNA news agency on Monday.

In March, the pact appeared close to being secured when the EU - which is coordinating negotiations - invited foreign ministers representing the accord's parties to Vienna to finalise an agreement after 11 months of indirect talks between Tehran and President Joe Biden's administration. But the talks have

since been suspended, chiefly over Tehran's insistence that Washington remove the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), its elite security force, from the US Foreign Terrorist Organization list.

The European Union's foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, who traveled to Iran last week, said on Saturday the indirect talks were expected to resume in the coming days in a Gulf country.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



As the @G7 gathers in Germany, Prime Minister @BorisJohnson and I want to be very clear about our support for Ukrainians and for President @ZelenskyyUa: It is unwavering. We stand with you, and we are staying the course.

@IsraeliPM

02



We have taken the ocean for granted, and now we face an ocean emergency. I am urging all participants at the UN Ocean Conference to right these wrongs & do our part for the ocean. We must take action & turn the tide.

@antonioguterres

03



Reviewed the full range of the India-Argentina friendship during the very productive meeting with President @alferdez in Munich. Stronger cooperation between our nations will greatly benefit our people.

@narendramodi

04



Putin's actions in Ukraine are creating terrible aftershocks, driving up energy and food prices across the world. Global leaders need to come together to help Ukraine and make life easier for households across the world. Nothing should be off the table.

@BorisJohnson

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