

1794

French Revolutionary figure Maximilien Robespierre and 22 other leaders of “the Terror” are guillotined to thunderous cheers in Paris

1914

Austria-Hungary decides against mediation and declares war on Serbia, the first declaration of war of World War I



1917

Silent Parade organized by James Weldon Johnson, 10,000 African Americans march on Fifth Avenue in NYC to protest against lynching

1943

Operation Gomorrah: RAF bombing over Hamburg causes a firestorm that kills 42,600 German civilians

X

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TWEETS

01



I’ve just concluded a deeply meaningful visit of solidarity with Syria & its wonderful people. I’ve seen the scars left by years of conflict. I’ve heard about pain, loss, displacement & fear.

But I’ve also seen resilience, courage & determination.

I’ve felt a profound sense of hope for a future where rights are respected, equality is realized & opportunities are shared.

The @UN stands with Syria at this pivotal moment.

And I appeal to the international community to support the Syrian people as well.

@antonioгутerres

02



In these hours when the flames are severely testing our country, France reveals what it is: a united people, standing shoulder to shoulder. Thank you to our firefighters, our military personnel, the civil security forces, our gendarmes and police officers, as well as to the farmers and entrepreneurs, who through their commitment and courage, relentlessly combat the fires.

@EmmanuelMacron

03



To help with the cost of living, @andyburnham is capping buses at £2 across England - giving millions of people cheaper travel.

@10DowningStreet

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

India summons Ukraine envoy over Black Sea ship attack

AFP | New Delhi, India

India summoned Ukraine’s top envoy in New Delhi yesterday to protest against an attack on a commercial vessel transiting the Black Sea that killed an Indian national.

The Indian foreign ministry said it had summoned Ukrainian Ambassador Oleksandr Polishchuk to convey its “serious concern” over the July 18 attack on the MV Omforfi.

The ship had three Indian nationals on board, one of whom was killed.

“The ministry conveyed its serious concern over the incident and condemned such attacks on commercial shipping

in the strongest terms,” it said in a statement.

Polishchuk was asked to tell Kyiv that such actions, “which endanger the lives of innocent civilian seafarers, are unacceptable and must be avoided”.

New Delhi had also summoned the Russian envoy last week to protest against an attack on a cargo ship leaving Ukraine’s port of Odesa that killed four Indian nationals.

New Delhi has issued a string of security warnings for ships heading into the Black Sea that are locally flagged or employ its seafarers in the wake of the recent attacks.

Fourteen Indian seafarers have also been killed in attacks



on ships during the Middle East war.

France and Spain race to contain fires before new heatwave

Some 60,000 people have been forced to flee in Spain and 220,000 in France

AFP | Navaluenga, Spain

French and Spanish firefighters yesterday battled to contain raging wildfires that have reduced land and property to ashes and forced hundreds of thousands of residents and tourists to flee for their lives.

But with searing temperatures forecast to rise again, fears grew that days more of punishing heat could further fan the flames, destroying more homes and livelihoods at the peak of the summer holiday season.

Spanish Interior Minister Fernando Grande-Marlaska said the coming hours would be “absolutely decisive” to bring the fires west of the capital, Madrid, under control.

Some 60,000 people have been forced to flee in Spain and 220,000 in France, often with just minutes’ notice, some leaving pets and medicine behind.

At a sports hall just outside Madrid, displaced people sprawled on camp beds, held their heads in their hands and



Burnt-out vehicles are seen in an industrial estate following a wildfire in Chapineria, 50 kilometers west of Madrid

comforted pets as they awaited news.

Maria Angeles Canete fought back tears as she looked around the desolation that used to be her campsite near Navaluenga, west of the capital.

“We lost everything,” she said. “We had this campsite, we had another one, and we’ve lost it all. We have nothing.”

In Brussels, the European Union announced more water-bombing planes were being sent to France, in addition to those already deployed to Spain.

But EU commissioner Hadja Lahbib told AFP that its fleet

was increasingly stretched due to fears they may soon be needed elsewhere.

“Extreme conditions are looming for Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic, in addition to France, the Iberian Peninsula... where the situation is expected to worsen, including in Portugal starting today,” Lahbib said.

In France, fire has ravaged 42,000 hectares (103,000 acres) of forest -- an area larger than the US city of Detroit -- west of Bordeaux since last Wednesday.

In Spain, 77,000 hectares -- nearly the size of New York City -- has been destroyed.

‘Grumpy’ Pallas kittens on display at Japan zoo

AFP | Kobe, Japan

Five young Pallas’s cats, dubbed the world’s grumpiest feline for their sullen facial expressions, went on display at a zoo in Japan on Thursday.

Kobe Animal Kingdom put the four males and one female, all born in May at the facility, on public viewing last week.

The animals are believed to be one of the oldest living cat species and are native to the dry, rocky areas of Central Asia.

They are not commonly displayed at zoos as they are relatively more sensitive to infections, the Kobe zoo said in a written statement to AFP Monday.

The Kobe kittens weighed around 150 grams when they



A Pallas’s cat kitten, a species considered to be the world’s oldest living feline, is seen in its enclosure at Kobe Animal Kingdom in Kobe

were born but now weigh more than one kilo and are starting to eat solid food like chicken and horse meat, the zoo said.

“We hope people would come and see how healthy they are, playing wholeheartedly and sleeping soundly like kids,” the zoo said.

UK funeral director faces jail over bodies left ‘on racks’



Robert Bush (C), a funeral director guilty of defrauding and deceiving grieving families, arrives ahead of his sentencing outside the Hull Crown Court in the Lowgate area of Kingston upon Hull

AFP | Kingston Upon Hull, United Kingdom

British funeral director

Robert Bush (C), a funeral director guilty of defrauding and deceiving grieving families, arrives ahead of his sentencing outside the Hull Crown Court in the Lowgate area of Kingston upon Hull

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