

The “Invincible” Spanish Armada is sighted approaching England, and several skirmishes follow, forcing the invading fleet to make a long and costly retreat around Scotland and Ireland

Samuel de Champlain shoots and kills two Iroquois chiefs at Ticonderoga, New York, setting the stage for French-Iroquois conflicts for the next 150 years



US Secretary of War William Howard Taft makes a secret agreement with Japanese Prime Minister Katsura, agreeing to give Japan free rein in Korea in return for non-interference with the US in the Philippines

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TWEETS

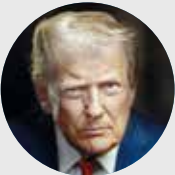
01



I have already arrived in the United States. Our schedule includes meetings with President Trump, his team, and those who can support our defense. Our number-one priority is anti-ballistic defense and strategic cooperation with America. Peace needs to be brought closer.

@ZelenskyyUa

02



To stop the massive theft of taxpayer dollars, we ended Medicaid for illegal immigrants, and we launched the war on fraud, led by our great@VP... We're finding unbelievable numbers of fraud... it's all under very serious investigation

@POTUS

03



The Refugee Convention was born 75 years ago from humanity's failure to protect people in their hour of greatest need. As we celebrate its anniversary, we must not risk repeating that failure. I call on every @UN Member State to renew its commitment to the letter & spirit of the Convention: Choose solidarity over indifference & humanity over fear.

@antoniouterres

04



El Salvador is advancing a pioneering reform that puts technology and AI at the service of learning, benefiting over 500,000 children.

@WorldBankGroup

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

‘Many people’ feared trapped in mall after **big Japan quake**



White smoke fills the parking lot of Aeon Mall Kumamoto after an earthquake in Kashima

AFP | Tokyo, Japan



A building with smoke rising from it after an earthquake in Uki City, Kumamoto Prefecture.

“Many people” were feared trapped in a stricken shopping mall in Japan late yesterday, authorities said, after a major earthquake toppled buildings, sparked fires and reportedly injured more than 100.

Private broadcaster TBS reported that a “considerable number” were feared dead inside the mall in the town of Kashima after the fire brigade said that the second floor collapsed in the 7.1-magnitude tremor.

Public broadcaster NHK cited police sources as saying that between 20 and 30 employees could not be contacted, showing footage of emergency vehicles with flashing red lights outside.

Police told AFP they could not confirm any fatalities inside the building. Kyodo News reported that four people had been taken to hospital, all of them conscious.

Multiple people were also be-

lieved to be unaccounted for at a Japan Paper Industries factory where the tip of a chimney fell down, NHK reported, citing sources.

One person was killed when a house collapsed during the quake, Kyodo reported.

Footage elsewhere in the southwestern Kumamoto region on the island of Kyushu aired by NHK earlier showed several blazes, damaged bridges, a derailed cargo train and a number of houses threatening to topple over.

Chiharu Hara, a 35-year-old recruitment agent who was in Kumamoto, told AFP that she was “terrified” when the quake struck.

“The office swayed violently side-to-side. I was afraid it would collapse. Everyone panicked,” Hara said.

The tremor at 4:27 pm (0727 GMT) had a magnitude of 7.1, the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) said, but reached the highest level of seven on Japan’s

Shindo scale of shaking.

A succession of aftershocks followed, including one with a magnitude of 6.1 at 5:08 pm.

The US Geological Survey (USGS) determined the magnitude of the quake -- one of hundreds that strike Japan every year -- at 6.8. The vast majority cause little damage.

Many roads were closed and high-speed shinkansen train services were suspended in the region. Kumamoto airport was closed before being re-opened on Tuesday evening.

Two hospitals reported taking in at least 50 injured patients each, NHK said.

“People are coming in with burns and fractures from being trapped under objects due to the earthquake, and ambulances are constantly bringing in injured people,” NHK quoted an employee at one hospital as saying.

“Inside the hospital, there are water leaks and electrical system failures.”

The broadcaster also said that

around 10 people were hurt at a nursing home for the elderly.

The Japanese military has mobilised 3,600 personnel for disaster relief operations and sent 20 aircraft to assess the damage from the air, the defence minister said.

About 45,000 households and facilities had no power in the Kumamoto region, according to local utility Kyushu Electric Power.

The firm said three nuclear reactors operating in the region at the time were functioning normally.

‘Shaking is continuing’

A local NHK staffer wearing a helmet reported live on air that the shaking was continuing around half an hour after the quake, with the newsroom rocking so violently that it was difficult to remain standing.

“Including myself, there may be some people who feel their hearts racing,” the staffer said.

Ukraine’s Zelensky hails ‘good meeting’ with Trump at White House

Washington, United States

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky welcomed his “good meeting” Tuesday with US counterpart Donald Trump at the White House, where the leaders discussed fresh American support for Kyiv’s fight against Russia.

“A good meeting with President Trump... at the Oval Office,” Zelensky posted on X, adding that he and Trump had discussed the US leader’s offer to Ukraine earlier this month of licenses to produce Patriot air defense missiles.



Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelenskyy (C-L) speaking with US President Donald Trump (C-R) during their meeting in Washington, DC, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Made by AI? EU tells firms to stick a label on it from Sunday

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

Deepfakes and other AI-generated content must be labelled from Sunday, as the European Union’s sweeping artificial intelligence transparency rules kick in.

The goal? To make sure Europeans immediately know whether the online content they see is real or fake.

The EU’s comprehensive AI law enters into force in stages. From Sunday, companies must ensure their AI systems like chatbots make it clear to users they are AI, or when an image or text has been created using AI, there must be a label saying so.

This can be done by integrating watermarks and other markers to allow the easy detection of AI-generated content. Firms

face large fines if they don’t comply. “Generative AI enables disinformation to be created at unprecedented scale, tailored to specific audiences, and disseminated with remarkable speed,” an EU official said.

Since AI is “making it increasingly difficult for all of us to distinguish what is real from what is synthetic”, the official said, the EU’s rules seek to “preserve

citizens’ ability to trust what they see, hear, and read”.

Of particular concern for the EU are deepfakes -- text, images, videos and sounds that appear to be real but are generated or manipulated by AI. The rules affect content made for professional reasons, and the EU insists individuals using AI in a purely personal capacity will not be affected.

New round of Israel-Lebanon talks set August 4: US official

Washington, United States

The US State Department confirmed Monday that the next round of talks between Israel and Lebanon will be held in Rome on August 4 through 6, as Israel prepares to withdraw from two “pilot zones” in southern Lebanon.

Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani first announced the next round of US-mediated talks last week, with a State Department official detailing the talks to AFP on the condition of anonymity.

Gang rape of two teens sparks wave of outrage in Guinea

Conakry, Guinea

The gang rape of two teenage girls in eastern Guinea has sparked an unprecedented campaign against sexual violence and calls for justice in the west African nation in recent days.

The April rapes, which were filmed and shared on social media, led to the arrest of four men in Mandiana in the country’s east, while another suspect remains at large.

The footage recently resurfaced on social media, triggering a nationwide movement against sexual violence and reviving debate on violence against women, the protection of minors and social media users’ responsibility when sharing violent content.

For several days, citizens, human rights groups, artists, journalists, religious leaders and political figures have called for the alleged perpetrators to be tried and convicted.

According to the Mandiana prosecutor’s office, the trial will get under way in the coming days.

WTO sides with China over Turkey in electric car trade case

Geneva, Switzerland

The World Trade Organization has ruled against Turkey in a dispute involving duties on imported Chinese electric cars, a report said Tuesday.

In October 2024, Beijing lodged a complaint against Turkey over the imposition of an additional 40 per cent in customs duties on electric vehicles imported from China.

The WTO’s Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) concluded in its report that the additional duties “are inconsistent” with various trade agreements dating back to 1994.