

522 BC

Darius I of Persia kills the Magian usurper Gaumâta, securing his position as king of the Persian Empire

480 BC

Battle of Salamis: The Greek fleet under Themistocles defeats the Persian fleet under Xerxes I



1567

War of Religion breaks out in France as Huguenots try to kidnap King Charles IX

1829

First units of the London Metropolitan Police appear on the streets of the British capital, the city's first modern police force

X

TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Today, science became a target for Russia. My heart goes out to the heroes searching for people trapped inside Ukraine's National Academy of Sciences. As well as to the families and loved ones of the victims of horrific attacks across the country. We stand with them. And with all Ukrainians. Europe is working harder than ever to strengthen Ukraine's defence.

@vonderleyen

02



The countries with some of the greatest renewable energy potential are receiving the least investment. Developing countries must be leaders & beneficiaries of the clean energy revolution, not spectators. The clean energy transition must reduce global inequalities — not reproduce them.

@antonioquterres

03



@WHO and @World-BankGroup are closer partners today than at any time since our establishment. We are jointly hosting a UHC Hub in #Japan, helping countries advance health financing schemes to achieve #HealthForAll, and co-managing the @Pandemic_Fund to help countries address

@DrTedros

04



The H-1B should not exist to replace American workers with low-wage foreigners. It should exist to enrich the American economy

@VP

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

Nothing to seal here: NZ police help stranded pup home



New Zealand police came to the rescue of a seal seen crossing a busy road, helping the perplexed pinniped pup back safely into the water.

AFP | Wellington, New Zealand

New Zealand police came to the rescue of a seal crossing a busy road, helping the perplexed pinniped pup back safely into the water, they said yesterday.

The slightly soggy marine mammal was spotted by locals "dangerously" crossing Hutt Road in Wellington on Sunday afternoon, police said.

The creature then attempted to get back to the water, sparking swift action from police and Department of Conservation

officials to make sure it did so unharmed. "The pup appeared grateful for the assistance," a police statement added.

"Our staff were able to uplift the seal and drive it to a safe place where it was released into the water," Senior Sergeant Miriam Bentley from Wellington Police said.

"This was collaborative problem-solving which prevented any further issues for the young seal and for road users."

"When I joined police 15 months ago they said to be ready for anything, so I guess

this demonstrates that's true!" said Constable Taylor, who escorted the pup.

The seas around New Zealand are populated with multiple species of seals, who do occasionally wander ashore.

The Department of Conservation reported this weekend a 200 percent increase in sightings on land around Wellington, local media said, describing it as "seal silly season".

Police urged the public to alert them to more runaway seals and not attempt to intervene themselves.

Fighter jets, drones in heavy Somalia fighting



Somali government forces patrol a street as residents gather following reported shelling in the Howl Wadaag district of Mogadishu

AFP | Mogadishu, Somalia

Heavy fighting involving fighter jets and drones broke out in the Somali city of Baidoa yesterday after an attack by thousands of fighters loyal to an ousted local governor.

Several states in the deeply fragmented country are opposed to control by President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, and in March, his government sent in troops to oust the head of South West State, Abdiiaziz Hassan Mohamed Laftagareen.

He has launched repeated attempts to retake the region and its main city of Baidoa.

The latest broke out early Monday, with local authorities saying they were attacked by around 2,000 to 3,000 fighters.

"There were heavy clashes all day in the city," local resident Hussein Abdifatah told AFP by phone.

"Most of the civilians have difficulties fleeing because both sides are fighting everywhere. There are a lot of ex-

plosions, but I don't know what the bombing is and who is bombing."

Mohamed Ali, a senior army commander in Baidoa, said the rebels "entered the city from several directions, using vehicles loaded with explosives, and explosive drones".

"The national army confronted them, inflicted heavy casualties and drove them out of the city," he added.

A spokesperson for the ex-governor's forces denied government claims that they were fighting alongside members of Al-Shabaab, the Islamist insurgent group that controls large swathes of central Somalia.

"We have no connection with Al-Shabaab. The fighting in Baidoa is strictly between our forces and those who invaded us while claiming to represent the federal government, along with Turkey, which is supporting them with F-16 fighter aircraft," he said.

Turkey has emerged as a key supporter of Mohamud's government, and has deployed fighter jets in the country.

Moscow seizes Russian assets of German food retailer Metro

AFP | Moscow, Russia

Russian authorities have seized the assets of German wholesaler and food retailer Metro and put them under temporary administration, under a decree published yesterday -- the latest in a series of business takeovers linked to countries that back Ukraine.

The decree, signed by President Vladimir Putin,

announced that the Russian operations of Metro Cash and Carry had been put under the "temporary management" of a company called UK Torg RUS.

This comes after Moscow earlier this month seized the businesses and assets of Swiss food giant Nestle, as well as French retailer Auchan and the former Leroy Merlin DIY chain.

Poland eases rules for fighter pilots to shoot down foreign aircraft: minister

AFP | Warsaw, Poland

Poland will allow its fighter planes and helicopters to shoot down foreign aircraft detected by radar under special wartime defence measures, its deputy defence minister said yesterday.

It is the latest step to raise the NATO and EU member state's defences as the war in neighbouring Ukraine drags on into its fifth winter and allies warn of a rising threat of Russian drones.

Such a change will allow "the pilot or the operational commander to make a decision to shoot down a foreign

aircraft on the basis of radar readings or other information that enters the system", minister Cezary Tomczyk said.

This will replace "the standard in peacetime", where opening fire requires visual identification, rather than on the basis of radar readings or other relevant information.

"We cannot remain idle when it comes to threats, and the indications are that there will only be more of them," he added.

Tomczyk said this capability is "usually reserved for a state of war or martial law".

Rising seas threaten spread of marine invaders, scientists say

AFP | Paris, France

Sea-level rise driven by climate change could help invasive marine species spread into newly flooded coastal areas, threatening biodiversity and some economic activities, researchers warned in a study published yesterday.

The findings in Nature Ecology & Evolution highlight the links between the climate and biodiversity crises, with global warming altering ecosystems and creating new opportunities

for non-native species to thrive. That could "potentially expose ecosystems and human activities that have not previously been affected by these species," said study co-author Xuan Liu of Beijing Normal University.

The researchers modelled the potential future spread of 122 established non-native marine animals, including fish, crustaceans, molluscs and sea stars, under different climate and sea-level scenarios.

Climate change causes sea levels to rise through thermal

expansion -- ocean water increases in volume as it warms -- and the melting of glaciers and ice sheets. Global sea levels are projected to rise by about 20 centimetres (eight inches) by 2050 and 56 cm by 2100 under a scenario of moderate growth in greenhouse gas emissions.

That would see around 360,000 square kilometres (139,000 square miles) of coastal land flooded by mid-century, rising to 550,000 square kilometres by the end of the century.

