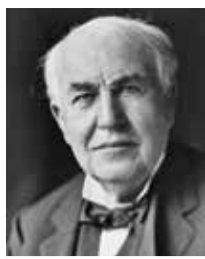


A possible date for the Antioch earthquake in present-day Syria (then the Byzantine Empire) which killed 200,000 people

US inventor Thomas Edison demonstrates his hand-cranked phonograph for the first time



Physicist Erwin Schrödinger publishes his famous thought experiment "Schrödinger's cat", a paradox that illustrates the problem of the Copenhagen interpretation of quantum mechanics

1st underground atomic explosion at Frenchman Flat in Nevada

# -mile ne

## Police bust cocaine 'super-cartel' in Europe and Dubai

● The crackdown in Dubai netted a "big fish" from the Netherlands

● The Dutch suspect had allegedly formed an alliance in Dubai with the leaders of Irish and Italian drug gangs

● Europol said Dubai had arrested two "high-value" suspects who are linked to France, two connected to the Netherlands and another two linked to Spain

● The head of the smuggling operation, a British national, fled to Dubai after an attempted arrest in Spain and was continuing to direct operations from there

### News Wires

Police have smashed a huge drugs "super-cartel" that controlled around a third of Europe's cocaine trade, arresting 49 people in various countries, including six chief suspects in Dubai, Europol said yesterday.

The international operation codenamed "Desert Light" seized 30 tonnes of the drug and led to arrests in Belgium, France, the Netherlands and Spain, the European Union's police agency said in a statement.

The crackdown in Dubai netted a "big fish" from the Netherlands, who reportedly had links to alleged Dutch crime boss Ridouan Taghi, himself seized in the Gulf emirate in 2019.

"The drugpins, considered as high-value targets by Europol, had come together to form what was known as a 'super cartel' which controlled around one third of the cocaine trade in Europe," Europol said.

"The scale of cocaine importation into Europe under the suspects' control and command was massive and over 30 tonnes



Police arrested 49 suspects, including accused drug lords.

of drugs were seized by law enforcement over the course of the investigations."

The Dutch suspect had allegedly formed an alliance in Dubai with the leaders of Irish and Italian drug gangs who had also been arrested, Dutch public broadcaster NOS said.

A video released by Europol showed agents including some from the US Drug Enforcement Administration and Spanish Guardia Civil arresting suspects and seizing luxury cars and hidden stashes of cash.

### 'Extremely big fish'

Europol said Dubai had arrested two "high-value" suspects who are linked to France,

two connected to the Netherlands and another two linked to Spain. Ten people were arrested in Belgium, six in France and 13 in Spain. Another 14 people were arrested in 2021 in the Netherlands as part of the same operation, the Hague-based organisation said.

"One of the Dutch suspects is an extremely big fish," a Europol source said on condition



The cartel was also involved in money laundering, according to Europol, which coordinated the operation

of anonymity. "He was just as important as Taghi, if not more important."

The arrests from November 8 to 19 were the latest in a series around Europe that followed a police hack of sophisticated encrypted telephones used by organised crime networks last year, Europol said.

Police secretly used the SKY ECC phone platform to listen in on what were supposed to be secure communications between drug traffickers.

Most of the drugs targeted cocaine coming from South America through the ports of Rotterdam and Antwerp, although some had passed through South Africa.

Dutch prosecutors said they would request the extradition of the two suspects from the United Arab Emirates.

One was a 40-year-old dual Dutch-Bosnian national, suspected of smuggling 1.8 tonnes of cocaine via the German port of Hamburg in 2020, and of preparing to import 8 tonnes of raw materials for producing amphetamines via Antwerp in

Belgium. Dutch media named him as Edin G. and said he was wanted by the US DEA for his links to alleged drug kingpin Ridouan Taghi.

Moroccan-born Taghi was arrested in Dubai in 2019. He is now on trial in the Netherlands on charges of murder and running a huge Amsterdam-based cocaine smuggling group.

### 'Serious criminal offences'

The other suspect is a 37-year-old dual Dutch and Moroccan national, whom Dutch media named as Zouhair B. and said had allegedly smuggled three tonnes of cocaine to the Netherlands worth more than 200 million euros. He was also suspected of money laundering and firearms possession.

The investigation into both men was launched on the basis of decrypted messages from SKY phones, the Dutch prosecution service said in a statement.

"These are serious criminal offences pertaining to international drug trafficking, mainly from South America via the ports of Antwerp and Rotterdam," it said.

Spain's Guardia Civil said a total of 13 people had been arrested in Barcelona, Madrid and Malaga on November 8 after 698 kilograms (1,539 pounds) of cocaine were found in a container in the port of Valencia.

The head of the smuggling operation, a British national, fled to Dubai after an attempted arrest in Spain and was continuing to direct operations from there, it said in a statement.

The cocaine was imported from Panama in central America and his supplier, a Panamanian, also lived in Dubai, it said.

## operation

almost fully ready," one senior official said, adding that Turkey-allied Syrian rebel fighters were ready for such an operation just a few days after the Nov. 13 Istanbul bomb.

"It won't take long for the operation to begin," he said. "It depends only on the president giving the word."

## ground farm

Energy's business unit gave it a better price than if it were taking energy from the grid-like other customers.

Farming here uses 70-90% less water and 95% less fertiliser than typical agriculture. Growing takes place all year round at faster rates.

Zero Carbon Farms reckons it has an edge over the dozens of other vertical farm projects springing up in Britain because of its sustainable credentials and its years of experience, which it hopes will translate into higher yields from the new farm space.

Seeds are sowed on carpet offsets and although there is no soil on this farm, workers do wear a uniform which includes the classic farming accessory of Wellington boots.

Slicing leaves from their stems with a huge knife, farm supervisor Riley Anderson, 27, one of the company's 35 employees, said this wasn't a typical London job.

"I didn't want to work in an office. I wanted to do something different and this certainly ticks the boxes," he said.

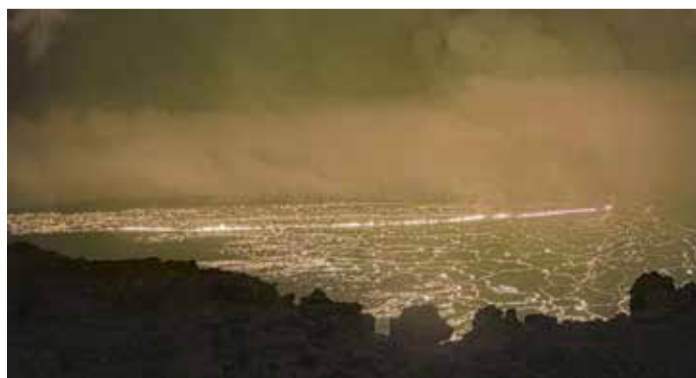
## Hawaii's Mauna Loa volcano erupts for first time in nearly 40 years

Reuters

Hawaii's Mauna Loa, the world's largest active volcano, began erupting on Sunday for the first time since 1984, ending its longest quiet period in recorded history.

The night sky above Hawaii's largest island glowed a hellish red as bright, hot lava sprang forth at the volcano's summit at around 11:30 p.m. local time on Sunday (09:30 GMT Monday).

The lava is contained within the summit and does not threaten Hawaiians living downslope for now, the US Geological Ser-



The summit caldera of Hawaii's Mauna Loa volcano

vice (USGS) said.

The service warned residents

on Monday that volcanic gases and fine ash may drift their way.

Mauna Loa rises 13,679 feet (4,169 meters) above the Pacific Ocean, part of the chain of volcanoes that formed the islands of Hawaii. It last erupted in March and April of 1984, sending a flow of lava within 5 miles (8.05 km) of Hilo, the island's largest city.

Hawaii's Emergency Management Agency said it had opened two shelters on the island as a precaution but also emphasized that there are no signs that lava will threaten populated areas and that it had not issued any evacuation orders.



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



Violence against women and girls is exacerbated by the intersecting crises of climate, conflict & economic instability. We need #ClimateAction, and a more peaceful & equitable world to ensure the well-being of women & girls everywhere.

@antonioguterres

02



I pay homage to Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Ji on the day of his martyrdom. He is universally admired for his courage and unwavering commitment to his principles as well as ideals. He refused to bow to tyranny and injustice. His teachings continue to motivate us.

@narendramodi

03



Just a note to encourage people of different political or other views to engage in civil debate on Twitter. Worst case, the other side has a slightly better understanding of your views

@elonmusk

04



We're making electric vehicles more affordable for families, jumpstarting the first national EV charging network, and bringing in historic investments for EV battery manufacturing here at home. Electric vehicles are here to stay.

@POTUS

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