

1520

Suleiman the Magnificent succeeds his father, Selim I, as Ottoman Sultan and rules until 1566

1846

Anesthetic ether is used for the first time by American dentist Dr. William Morton to extract a tooth



1946

Twenty-two Nazi leaders, including Joachim von Ribbentrop and Hermann Goering, are found guilty of war crimes and sentenced to death or prison at the Nuremberg war trials

1980

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01



The @UN is more than a meeting place. It is a moral compass. A force for peace. A guardian of international law. A catalyst for sustainable development. A lifeline for people in crisis. A light-house for human rights. The UN has never been more essential.

@antonioguterres

02



#OperationSindoor on the games field. Outcome is the same - India wins! Congrats to our cricketers.

@narendramodi

03



I addressed the Warsaw Security Forum: Ukraine proposes to Poland and all partners to build a joint, reliable shield against Russian aerial threats. Ukraine can counter all types of drones and missiles. Together, we will have enough weapons and production capacity for this.

@ZelenskyyUa

04



I have just spoken with Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen. I expressed France's full solidarity with Denmark following repeated intrusions by unidentified drones affecting operations at Copenhagen Airport.

@EmmanuelMacron

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

Madagascar protests reignite, UN says at least 22 dead

Two days of protests last week erupted in clashes with police

● Experienced frequent popular uprisings since gaining independence in 1960

● Some demonstrators held signs reading "We want to live, not survive"

AFP | Antananarivo, Madagascar

Thousands of demonstrators poured into the streets across Madagascar on Monday, as police fired tear gas to disperse the latest bout of unrest in the poor country that the UN said had left at least 22 people dead in less than a week.

Two days of protests last week erupted in clashes with police as mostly young demonstrators, called to action on social media through a movement called "Gen Z", demonstrated against persistent water and power cuts across the nation.

The Indian Ocean island nation, among the world's poorest, has experienced frequent popular uprisings since gaining independence in 1960, including mass protests in 2009 that forced former president Marc Ravalomanana from power.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk condemned Madagascar's "violent response" to the protests which his office said had left more than



A protester throws stones during a demonstration against repeated water and electricity outages in Antananarivo

a hundred injured" in the latest bout of unrest.

President Andry Rajoelina was due to speak around 1700 GMT, after protests hit several cities across Madagascar including the capital, where security forces dispersed crowds with tear gas, AFP journalists saw.

Growing crowds marched through the capital Antananarivo, many dressed in black and chanting calls for Rajoelina to resign.

He first came to power following a coup sparked by the 2009 uprising.

Some demonstrators held

signs reading "We want to live, not survive," a central slogan of the movement.

Police detained an opposition lawmaker during the march in Antananarivo, footage shared on social media showed, prompting calls from his colleagues for his release.

At least one other protester was also arrested, prompting the UN's Turk to urge the authorities to "ensure respect for freedom of expression and peaceful assembly".

A statement released by the protest movement late Sunday called for the government and

Antananarivo's prefect to resign. They have also targeted figures close to the president including Prime Minister Christian Ntsay and businessman Mamy Ravatomanga.

The movement has adopted as its rallying symbol a pirate flag from the Japanese anime series "One Piece", a logo also used recently by youth-led, anti-regime protests in Indonesia and Nepal.

'Anonymous individuals'

Thursday's protests in the capital were followed by widespread looting throughout the night, which encountered no

police response.

The Gen Z movement said in its Sunday statement that "groups of anonymous individuals were paid to loot numerous establishments in order to tarnish the movement and the ongoing struggle".

The movement was named after Generation Z, a nickname attributed to people born between the late 1990s and early 2010s.

Protests were also widespread in Antsiranana at the northern tip of Madagascar.

The demonstrations were the largest since 2023 when protests erupted ahead of the presidential elections, which were boycotted by opposition parties



Despite having natural resources, Madagascar remains one of the poorest countries in the world and is among the most corrupt, ranked 140 out of 180 countries in Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index. Nearly 75 percent of the population lived below the poverty line in 2022, according to the World Bank.

J.K. Rowling attacks 'ignorant' Harry Potter star Emma Watson

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling on Monday condemned Emma Watson as "ignorant" over her transgender rights views, in a stinging riposte to the former child star.

In a long post on X, the writer expressed her irritation that Watson, 35, and Daniel Radcliffe, 36 -- who starred in the film adaptations of Rowling's best-selling books -- "continue to assume the role of de facto spokespeople for the world I created".

Radcliffe, who played boy wizard Potter, and Watson, who played his friend Hermione Granger, have both taken issue with Rowling's stance on gender issues.

But Rowling, who has not previously been so outspoken about Watson, suggested that the star's privilege meant she was unable to properly grasp the issues at stake.

"I wasn't a multimillionaire at fourteen. I lived in poverty while writing the book that made Emma famous," she said.

"I therefore understand from my own life experience what



the trashing of women's rights in which Emma has so enthusiastically participated means to women and girls without her privileges."

Rowling has long been at the forefront of the debate about gender identity and has previously denounced trans activism, leading to accusations of transphobia.

She has defended herself saying her concern was the impact it has on women's rights and single-sex spaces for women.

'Pour petrol on flames'

Rowling, 60, also revealed her annoyance at receiving a one-line note from Watson in 2022.

Following an awards ceremony at which Watson publicly made a dig at Rowling she sent her a message saying "I'm so sorry for what you're going through".

"This was back when the death, rape and torture threats against me were at their peak, at a time when my personal security measures had to be tightened considerably and I

was constantly worried for my family's safety," the author said.

"Emma had just publicly poured more petrol on the flames, yet thought a one line expression of concern from her would reassure me of her fundamental sympathy and kindness," she said.

Rowling also hinted she had only decided to be "this honest" about the "Beauty and the Beast" and "Little Women" actress now because of comments last week in which Watson announced that she still loved and treasured the author.

This was "a change of tack I suspect she's adopted because she's noticed full-throated condemnation of me is no longer quite as fashionable as it was," Rowling said.

"Adults can't expect to cosy up to an activist movement that regularly calls for a friend's assassination, then assert their right to the former friend's love.

"Emma is rightly free to disagree with me and indeed to discuss her feelings about me in public -- but I have the same right, and I've finally decided to exercise it," she said.

British author JK Rowling (R) poses for photographers with British actress Emma Watson