

1899

Battle of Ladysmith: Boers defeat the British, leading to the Siege of Ladysmith in Natal

1905

Russian Tsar Nicholas II grants civil liberties and accepts the first Duma (Parliament) in the "October Manifesto"



1917

British government gives final approval to the Balfour Declaration

1973

The Bosphorus Bridge in Istanbul, Turkey, is completed, connecting the continents of Europe and Asia over the Bosphorus for the first time

X

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TWEETS

01



@WHO is appalled and deeply shocked by reports of the tragic killing of more than 460 patients and companions at Saudi Maternity Hospital in El Fasher, #Sudan, following recent attacks and the abduction of health workers.

@DrTedros

02



For nearly six decades, @ASEAN has stood as a beacon of cooperation. Today, ASEAN is a strategic partner of the @UN – a collaboration that rests on shared principles. Let's continue proving that cooperation is the strongest engine of peace & progress.

@antonioGuterres

03



The maritime sector is driving India's growth. Over the last decade, it has transformed significantly, boosting trade and port infrastructure. Addressing the Maritime Leaders Conclave in Mumbai.

@narendramodi

04



President Donald J. Trump is honored by South Korea with a gold crown and the Grand Order of Mugunghwa—the nation's highest civilian award and the first time it has been given to an American president.

@WhiteHouse

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

# Pakistan says peace talks with Afghanistan 'failed'

Tarar said engaged with Afghanistan in the spirit of peace



Afghan refugees along with their belongings on trucks await deportation to Afghanistan near the Pakistan-Afghanistan border in Chaman

● **Afghanistan has not commented so far**

● **It is not clear whether negotiators from both sides remain in Istanbul**

AFP | Islamabad, Pakistan

Pakistan said yesterday that peace talks with Afghanistan had failed, in a blow to hopes for a lasting truce after the South Asian neighbours' deadliest border clashes in years.

The violence, which killed more than 70 people and wounded hundreds, erupted following explosions in Kabul on October 9 that the Taliban authorities blamed on Pakistan.

Both sides had been holding talks in Istanbul aimed at securing peace.

"Regrettably, the Afghan side gave no assurances, kept devi-

ating from the core issue and resorted to blame game, deflection and ruses," Information Minister Attaullah Tarar said on X after four days of negotiations brokered by Qatar and Turkey.

"The dialogue thus failed to bring about any workable solution."

Tarar said Pakistan engaged with Afghanistan in the spirit of peace, but accused Kabul of "unabated support to anti-Pakistan terrorists".

"We will continue to take all possible measures necessary to protect our people from the menace of terrorism," he added.

Hours later, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif warned on X that "any terrorist attack or any suicide bombing inside Pakistan shall give you the bitter taste of such misadventures".

Afghanistan has not commented so far.

It is not clear whether negotiators from both sides remain in Istanbul, and the Turkish

foreign ministry did not immediately respond to AFP's request for comment.

Abdul Mateen Qani, spokesman for Afghanistan's interior ministry, told Afghan media outlet Ariana News on Tuesday that any attack would be met with a response "that will serve as a lesson for Pakistan and a message for others".

Relations between the one-time allies, who share a 2,600-kilometre (1,600-mile) frontier, have soured in recent years over accusations from Islamabad that Afghanistan harbours militant groups which stage attacks in Pakistan.

Of particular concern is the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), which Islamabad accuses the Taliban authorities of allowing to use Afghan territory as a "training-cum-logistic base and jump off point for terrorist activities".

The Taliban government has consistently denied the allegations.

# Putin defies Trump with second nuclear weapons test in days

Russian leader said there was "no way to intercept" the drone torpedo



Russia's President Vladimir Putin (C) brings a medal as he visits servicemen who were wounded during the Russian military action in Ukraine, at a military hospital in Moscow

● **Putin said no country could match Poseidon's speed and diving depth**

● **Capable of carrying a nuclear warhead of up to two megaton**

● **Trump urged Putin to focus instead on ending the war**

AFP | Moscow, Russia

Russia has successfully tested a nuclear-capable, nuclear-powered underwater drone, President Vladimir Putin said yesterday defying US President Donald Trump's warnings with Moscow's second test of a new nuclear weapons system in just a few days.

Putin on Sunday oversaw a test of another advanced nuclear-capable weapon -- the Burevestnik cruise missile, which he said had an "unlimited range". Trump called that exercise not "appropriate".

"Yesterday, another test was conducted for another prospective system -- the unmanned underwater device 'Poseidon,' also equipped with a nuclear power unit," Putin said in televised remarks while visiting a military hospital treating Russian soldiers wounded in Ukraine.

The Russian leader said there was "no way to intercept" the drone torpedo, which, according to Putin, can travel at a speed higher than conventional submarines

and reach any continent in the world.

Putin said no country could match Poseidon's speed and diving depth, adding, "it is unlikely that anything similar will appear in the near future."

The device can operate at a depth of more than one kilometre (0.6 mile) and travel at speeds of up to 70 knots while remaining undetectable, according to a source in the Russian military-industrial complex quoted by state news agency TASS.

First tested in 2018, it is capable of carrying a nuclear warhead of up to two megatons, the source told TASS.

After Sunday's cruise missile test, Trump urged Putin to focus instead on ending the war in Ukraine.

"He ought to get the war (in Ukraine) ended. A war that should have taken one week is now soon in its fourth year. That's what he ought to do instead of testing missiles," Trump said.

The US president last week scrapped a planned summit with Putin in Budapest over what he cast as the Russian leader's unwillingness to compromise to end the conflict.

Trump has been trying to secure a deal since he returned to the White House in January, but talks have yielded no progress and he has shown increasing frustration with Putin, who has rejected multiple calls for a ceasefire.

Washington last week slapped sanctions on Russia's two largest oil companies, complaining that his talks with Putin to end the Ukraine war "don't go anywhere."

# WHO highlights reports of 460-plus people killed in Sudan hospital

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

The World Health Organization said yesterday it was appalled at reports of more than 460 patients and their companions being killed at a hospital in the Sudanese city of El-Fasher.

The capture of El-Fasher on Sunday after an 18-month siege marked by starvation and bombardment has solidified the Rapid Support Forces' (RSF) control over Darfur, sparking fears of ethnically-motivated violence reminiscent of the region's darkest days.

"WHO is appalled and deeply shocked by reports of the tragic killing of more than 460 patients and companions at

Saudi Maternity Hospital in El-Fasher, Sudan, following recent attacks and the abduction of health workers," the UN health agency's chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a statement.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said it was "deeply alarmed and profoundly shocked" by growing reports of "horrifying atrocities and immense suffering to which people from El-Fasher are being subjected".

Tedros said that prior to the maternity hospital attack, the WHO had verified 185 attacks on health care in Sudan, with 1,204 deaths and 416 injuries of health workers and patients

since the conflict began in April 2023.



The conflict in Sudan stems from a power struggle between two rival military factions that were once allies – the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF).