

Around The WORLD

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USA

Longest space mission

Astronaut Frank Rubio has broken the record for the longest space mission after spending more than 355 days in low-Earth orbit. Believed to be carrying out a six-month long mission, Rubio left for International Space Station aboard Russian Soyuz capsule on Sep 21, 2022. His initial return was pushed back after the spacecraft hit a snag. He is scheduled to return on Sep 27, 2023, a return that would make him the first American to spend more than one calendar year in microgravity.



EGYPT

Face veils banned

The nation's government, on Sept 12, 2023, put a ban on wearing niqab (full-face veil) within school premises for the academic year starting from September 30. The new dress code allows students to wear a head cover that doesn't mask the face. The decision to introduce this new coordinated approach regarding dress code is aimed at striking a balance between religious expression and ensuring a unified educational environment.



JAPAN

Cabinet reshuffled

PM Kishida made major changes in the latest cabinet reshuffle, appointing former justice minister Yoko Kamikawa as foreign minister in Hayashi's stead, making her the third woman to be appointed as a top diplomat in Japan. Focusing on gender equality, the new cabinet features five women, just as it did under Koizumi in 2001 and Abe in 2014. Furthermore, to maintain stability in key positions, Kishida has also retained six cabinet officials, including finance minister Shunichi Suzuki and economy minister Yasutoshi Nishimura, among others.



FRANCE

Anti-subsidy probe into EVs

The European Commission has launched an investigation into subsidies provided to electric vehicle makers in China. With global markets being swarmed with cheap Chinese electrics, whose prices are low due to huge subsidies, EU president Ursula von der Leyen, in her annual State of the Union address, said that the market is being falsely altered and it is essential that the bloc defends itself against such practices.



LIBYA

Floods cause mayhem

The floods triggered by Mediterranean storm Daniel have wreaked havoc in the nation's eastern city of Derna, killing more than 5,300 people and displacing around 30,000 more. Due to the intense damage caused by the flood, the coastal city was inaccessible via road and aid could only reach the affected region after more than 36 hours since the disaster struck.



INDIA

Agreement with Saudi Arabia

PM Modi and SA's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman chaired a meeting of Strategic Partnership Council, discussing issues ranging from energy efficiency, trade, energy security, healthcare, and defense. As part of the meet, the two countries signed eight agreements, including one by energy ministers, expanding the partnership to include renewable energy, green hydrogen, gas grids, petroleum, and electricity.



BANGLADESH

Bilateral ties with France

In an attempt to enhance bilateral ties, the country on Sept 11, 2023, signed a deal with France, committing to buy ten A350 aircrafts worth 3.2 billion USD from European maker Airbus. During the talks held, a letter of intent was also exchanged to provide Bangladesh with an earth observation satellite through collaborative efforts of Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited (BSCL) and Airbus Defense and Space SAS.

News Flash

- ▶ **Netherlands:** Stolen Van Gogh painting recovered by art detective
- ▶ **Spain:** 24,000-year-old palaeolithic cave art discovered
- ▶ **South Korea:** BTS's Jung Kook becomes first Korean solo singer to win a major award at MTV VMAs with 'Song of the Summer'