



Japan executes man over 2008 stabbing rampage

## Northern Irish Nobel laureate David Trimble dies at 77

Page 6

Page 7



MASKWACIS, Canada: Pope Francis wears a headdress presented to him by Indigenous leaders at Muskwa Park in Maskwacis, Alberta, Canada. — AFP

# Pope apologizes for Indigenous abuse

## Justin Trudeau: Reconciliation is the responsibility of all Canadians

MASKWACIS, Canada: Pope Francis on Monday apologized for the "evil" inflicted on the Indigenous peoples of Canada on the first day of a visit focused on addressing decades of abuse at Catholic-run residential schools. The plea for forgiveness from the leader of the world's 1.3 billion Catholics was met with applause by a crowd of First Nations, Metis and Inuit people in Maskwacis, in western Alberta province—some of whom were taken from their families as children in what has been branded a "cultural genocide."

"I am sorry," said the 85-year-old pontiff, who remained seated as he delivered his address at the site of one of the largest of Canada's infamous residential schools, where Indigenous children were sent as part of a policy of forced assimilation.

"I humbly beg forgiveness for the evil committed by so many Christians against the Indigenous peoples," said the pope, citing "cultural destruction" and the "physical, verbal, psychological and spiritual abuse" of children over the course of decades. Francis spoke of his "deep sense of pain and remorse" as he formally

acknowledged that "many members of the Church" had cooperated in the abusive system. As he spoke, the emotion was palpable in Maskwacis, an Indigenous community south of provincial capital Edmonton that was the site of the Ermineskin residential school until it closed in 1975. Several hundred people, many in traditional clothing, were in attendance, along with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Mary Simon, the country's first Indigenous governor general. Many lowered their eyes, wiped away tears or leaned on and hugged neighbors, and Indigenous leaders afterwards placed a traditional feathered headdress on the pope.

Counsellors were waiting to provide support to those who may need it, and volunteers had earlier distributed small paper bags for the "collection of tears."

### 'Cry love'

"The First Nation believes that if you cry, you cry love, you catch the tears on a piece of paper and put it back in this bag," explained Andre Carrier of the Manitoba Metis Federation. Later the bags will be

burned with a special prayer, "to return the tears of love to the creator," he said. From the late 1800s to the 1990s, Canada's government sent about 150,000 children into 139 residential schools run by the Church, where they were cut off from their families, language and culture.

Many were physically and sexually abused, and thousands are believed to have died of disease, malnutrition or neglect. During a ceremony performed before the pope spoke in Maskwacis, Indigenous people carried a bright red 50-meter-long banner on which the names—or sometimes only the nicknames—of all the children known to have died were written in white. There were 4,120 of them, officials said.

Since May 2021, more than 1,300 unmarked graves have been discovered at the sites of the former schools, sending shockwaves throughout Canada—which has

slowly begun to acknowledge this long, dark chapter in its history. A delegation of Indigenous peoples traveled to the Vatican in April and met the pope—a precursor to Francis' trip—after which he formally apologized. But doing so again on Canadian soil was of huge significance to survivors and their families.

Later in the day, Francis travelled to the Sacred Heart Catholic Church of the First Peoples in Edmonton, one of the city's oldest churches, for a second speech. "I can only imagine the effort it must take... even to think about reconciliation," he said.

"Nothing can ever take away the violation of dignity, the experience of evil, the betrayal of trust. Or take away our own shame, as believers." Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who was also at the Maskwacis ceremony, said that "reconciliation is the responsibility of all Canadians." —AFP



TUNIS, Tunisia: Tunisian electoral officials count votes following a referendum on a new constitution, in the capital Tunis on July 26, 2022. — AFP

## Tunisia president hails vote set to bolster rule

TUNIS: President Kais Saied said Tunisia had "entered a new phase" on Tuesday with a new constitution almost certain to pass in a referendum, concentrating almost all powers in his office. Monday's referendum came a year to the day after Saied sacked the government and suspended parliament in a dramatic blow to the only democracy to have emerged from the 2011 Arab Spring uprisings.

There had been little doubt the "Yes" campaign would win, and an exit poll suggested that votes cast—just a quarter of the 9.3 million electorate—were overwhelmingly in favour. Most of Saied's rivals called for a boycott, and while turnout was low, it was higher than the single figures many observers had expected—at least 27.5 percent according to the electoral board, controlled by Saied.

"Tunisia has entered a new phase," Saied declared as he addressed celebrating supporters in downtown Tunis hours after polling stations closed. "What the Tunisian people did... is a lesson to the world, and a lesson to history on a scale that the lessons of history are measured on," he said.

The National Salvation Front, a coalition of Saied's main opponents, said the draft constitution would enshrine in a "coup d'etat" and that "75 percent of Tunisians have refused to approve a putschist project".

Saied, a 64-year-old law professor, dissolved parliament and seized control of the judiciary and the electoral commission on July 25 last year. His opponents say the moves aimed to install an autocracy over a decade after the fall of dictator Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, while his supporters say they were necessary after years of corruption and political turmoil.

A poll of "Yes" voters by state television suggested "reforming the country and improving the situation" along with "support for Kais Saied/his project" were their main motivations for backing the constitution. Thirteen percent cited being "convinced by the new constitution". —AFP

## Trump returns to Washington for first time since defeat

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump returns Tuesday to Washington for the first time since he left the White House after a failed attempt to overturn his election loss to Joe Biden. Trump, increasingly teasing a bid to win back the presidency in 2024, is set to address the America First Policy Institute, a think tank run by allies. He'll be appearing in a city riveted by weeks of hearings held by a Democratic-run House of Representatives committee on the January 6, 2021 riot where Trump supporters stormed Congress, trying to stop certification of the election result. The Republican continues repeatedly to push his lie in speeches that he was robbed of victory in 2020, but America First Policy Institute spokesman Marc Lotter said Trump would be looking ahead, rather than back.

"This is a policy speech he will be giving," he told CNN. However, Trump is unlikely to deviate too far from his typically incendiary blend of right-wing nationalism, anti-immigrant rhetoric and conspiracy theories about the election. The Capitol riot hearings, which revealed harrowing details of the assault on Congress and also the attempt by Trump political backers to overturn the election through manipulation of the complicated US electoral system, are believed to have damaged Trump. Biden, who at the start of his presidency went out of his way to avoid so much as mentioning Trump's name, launched a blistering broadside Monday on the Republican's failure to pull back his mob of supporters.

"Brave law enforcement officers were subject to the medieval hell for three hours, dripping in blood, surrounded by carnage, face to face with the crazed mob that believed the lies of the defeated president," Biden told the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives Conference. "For three hours, the defeated former president of the United States watched it all happen as he sat in the comfort of the private dining room next to the Oval Office," he said.

### Trump in pole position

Trump, 76, remains by far the most recognizable name in Republican politics. He is believed to retain an intensely loyal core of supporters, putting him in pole position if he decides to seek the party nomination.

Potential rivals are gaining ground as the negative publicity piles up. All eyes are on the progress of Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, who has not declared a bid for the presidency, but has growing stature on the right. And a recent New York Times/Siena College poll showed that nearly half of Republican primary voters would vote for any Republican other than Trump. Last week, the right-leaning editorial boards of two newspapers owned by the Murdoch family, the Wall Street Journal and New York Post, issued harsh critiques of Trump's behavior during the January 6 calamity. Trump showed he is "unworthy" of becoming president again, the usually friendly Post wrote. —AFP

BIG DISCOUNT

UP TO 50% OFF

27 JULY - 2 AUGUST 2022

LIMIT STOCK LAST

£3.395 £2.890	SAVE 25% £1.360 £0.995			
SAVE 30% £1.825 £1.280	£3.490 £2.990	£3.690 £3.290	£5.990 £4.890	
£3.190	£3.990 £2.890	£0.695 £0.495	SAVE 35% £0.945 £0.595	
£2.750 £2.195	SAVE 35% £0.545 £0.345	£2.495 £1.995	SAVE 60% £0.245 £0.095	

**SAMSUNG**  
SAVE 35%  
£269,900  
£174,900  
From 27 to 31.07.2022

**Apple iPhone 13 128GB**  
£290,900  
£244,900

SCAN THE QR CODE

**GET OUR WEEKLY OFFERS ON YOUR MOBILE**

**Lulu** لولو  
حيث يأتي العالم لتسوق بأمان  
Where the world comes to shop safely!

LuluHypermarketKW | luluhyperkw | luluhyperkw | luluhypermarket.com