



PICT MUN'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

THE INQUISITOR

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Featured Article:

The Twitter Acquisition Saga

By - Anushka Joshi

📍 Pune, India

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INTRODUCTION

The PICT MUN Club consists of a group of students who are passionate about social and political aspects of events that have and are taking place throughout the world. Our main goal is to enhance the spread of such awareness and information, which has a direct and imperative relevance, among the general public.

Our organization abides by the motto- 'Think. Discuss. Prosper'.

The PICT MUN team has developed Issue 14.0 of 'The Inquisitor' from scratch. It consists of In-house articles that have been written by the club's members after carrying out extensive research in order to serve reports to the readers with the maximum possible factual accuracy. We plan on expanding the outreach of this esteemed newsletter with each edition and would love to accept articles from individuals who would be interested to get their work published. Feel free to communicate with us on - newsletterpictmun@gmail.com regarding the same.

Our authors have ensured that the content is accurate up to the date on which the article was written. The views expressed in the articles reflect the author's opinions and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the organisation publishing this document.

With this, we invite you to indulge in controversial propagandas, urgent and relevant coverage of events taking place over the globe, and fresh, new perspectives on raging, intriguing topics of today's day and age.

The members of the club have poured their heart and soul into this newsletter and we hope that the readers realise and appreciate these emotions.

Happy Reading!

Regards,
The Secretariat
PICT MUN



SCOTUS Roe v Wade: A landmark judgement on abortion laws?

By Sarthak Chaudhari

A draft of the judgement of SCOTUS on Abortion got leaked a few weeks ago. The said draft has stoked controversies and a wide public debate. The leak was first reported by POLITICO and which was followed by various Media houses. This has raised concerns about the reproductive rights and also on the rights of Women.

The alleged leak has started a row of allegations and counter allegations, questioning as to who was responsible for the leak. Sources reveal that it is one of the Justices of the supreme court. Republican Senator, Josh Hawley tweeted “the left continues its assault on the Supreme Court with an unprecedented breach of confidentiality clearly meant to intimidate. The justices mustn’t give in to this attempt to corrupt the process.”

Ever since the leak, The Roe vs. Wade Judgment has come into public debate. Let us now understand what that judgement was all about. The aforesaid judgement was delivered in 1973 by a division bench of Nine Judges with a 7:2 verdict. The law at challenge was one which restricted abortion. The *prima facie* arguments made by other petitioner counsels were based on certain conditions where abortion was the last resort to tackle the inevitable conditions.

The conditions that were relied on were,

- Failure of Contraceptives, resulting in subsequent pregnancy.
- Unpreparedness for parenthood
- Impairment to the life of the mother.

The bench had overruled the said law in the view of grave infringing on women's Constitutional right of privacy and personal liberty. The



prosecution had vehemently opposed the idea of absolute freedom of abortion, saying that it has a compelling interest in the pregnant women's health. The Judgement allowed the state to regulate abortion at approximately the end of the first trimester.

In a similar matter in Southeastern Pennsylvania vs. Casey, the Court held that restrictions on abortion was unconstitutional and would be Undue Burden on the woman.

Senior Parliamentarian and Former Union Minister, Government of India, Jairam Ramesh tweets, " Abortion issue has ignited USA. In Dec '66 Shantilal Shah Committee recommended legalisation of abortion in India. After much debate, with Indira Gandhi's strongest backing, the medical Termination of pregnancy Act became a reality in Aug '71. We're more progressive in many ways!"

Prior to 1971, abortion was illegal in India. A committee headed by Dr. Shantilal Shah, was constituted which submitted its report in the year 1967. The recommendations of this committee were then formulated as the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act,1971. The provisions of this act authorises the termination of pregnancy by a medical practitioner under certain conditions.

These conditions are, the length of pregnancy must not exceed a



period of 12 weeks, exceeding which the termination has to done by taking into consideration, the opinion of two medical practitioners with a bar that the total period must not exceed a period of 20 weeks. Termination is permitted when the survival of mother or the child is at stake. The foetus has severe abnormalities wherein the very survival is difficult and surviving chances are dismal. The act has further provision that a rape survivor is entitled for termination of pregnancy and in all such conditions where termination is the final resort.

In (Civil) Special Leave Petition no 17985 of 2009, Suchita Srivastava and anr. VS Chandigarh Administration on 28 August, 2009 an appeal to the order passed by Hon'ble the High Court of Punjab and Haryana, dated 9 June, 2009 in Writ Petition no. 8760 of 2009 "ruled that it was in the best interests of a mentally retarded woman to undergo an abortion". But the petitioner wanted to continue the same, hence an appeal was moved before honourable the Supreme Court, where the noted that the Institution where the petitioner stays i.e, National trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and multiple Disabilities was ready to take care of the petitioner hence the continuation of pregnancy was allowed.

In another matter before Honourable the Gujarat High Court A rape victim had approached the court for termination of pregnancy where the total period exceeded 20 weeks, the High court did not grant the petitioner a relief since the period exceeded the prescribed period in the act. In an appeal to said order the petitioner approached Honourable The Supreme Court Where the relief was granted and subsequently termination was allowed.

Though, Abortion can perhaps be misused with certain restrictive conditions the ultra vires can be resolved but scrapping the law it self will be unfair to the vulnerable women who are left with no other option, other than Abortion, the situation will be worse for the rape survivors who will have to bear the trauma all throughout.

Indias Energy Crisis

By Kanhu Charan Sahoo

Energy Crisis means a shortage of supply of energy resources to an economy. The energy crisis is a broad and complex topic. Most people ignore it until the prices of oil go up. The energy crisis is ongoing and getting worse, despite many efforts.

As published in the Editorials of Hindustan Times on 06/05/2022: "India was recently hit by a power crisis when the daily peak power shortage rose to 10,778 MW and the energy deficit reached 5% at the national level, with some states experiencing steep deficits of up to 15%. Consequently, DISCOMS(Distributive Companies) resorted to load-shedding, resulting in long hours of outage for many households and rationed supply for economic activities." which brought the country's attention to the ongoing energy crisis in our country.

India is the third-largest producer of electricity in the world. India has a surplus power generation capacity but lacks adequate fuel supply, transmission, and distribution infrastructure. India's energy fulfillment is mostly by thermal power which comprises 60% of India's installed capacity in power generation. India imports about 20% of its thermal coal requirements.

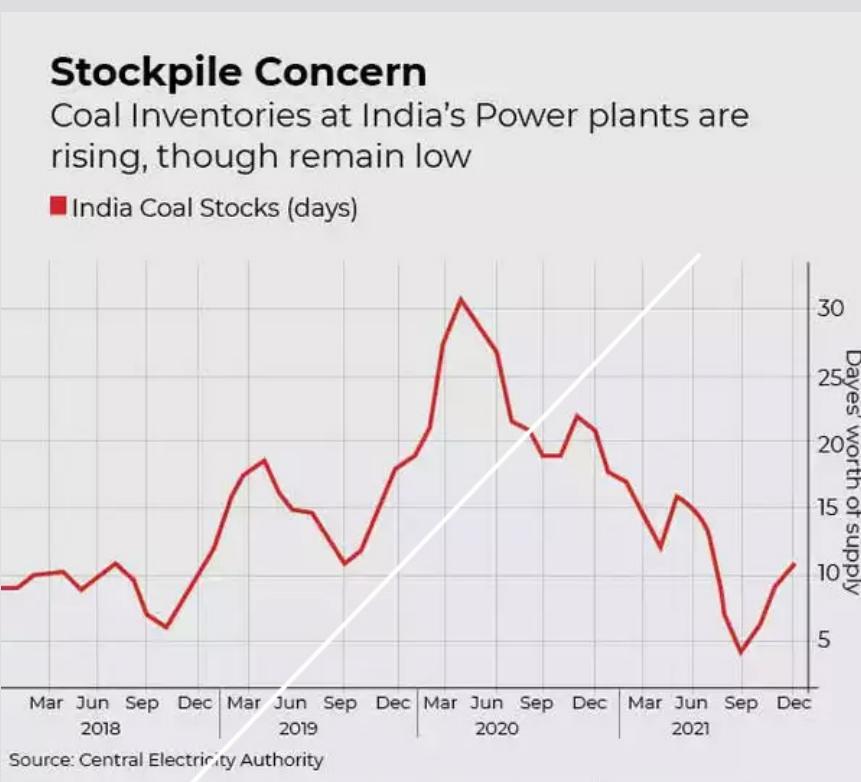
The causes of this energy crisis include the drastic after-effects of the Covid -19 Pandemic, the inefficiency of thermal power plants, and DISCOMS losses (the aggregate losses of DISCOMS stand at 21% (2019-20)). The heavy rainfall seen in South and South-East Asia has made coal mining difficult in India hence climate change is also a parameter. The reasons on the demand side include Over-consumption due to energy inefficiencies, in India's consumption of energy, is three times more than in developed countries for the same quantity of production,

overpopulation, the rise of the middle and high-class people increases the energy demand.

Due to climate change, more energy is needed for cooling and warming the home.

The ways to solve this crisis include sustainable alternatives to power generation that includes solar, wind, and different existing renewable sources of energy. The Green Grids Initiative, the one sun one world one grid concept introduced by India is also the right step in harnessing and saving energy for the future.

The DISCOMS should get support from the government to work efficiently in this sector.



We can use energy-efficient tools such as 5-star electronic items, do regular servicing of machinery, make people aware of energy importance, Find an alternative to petrol, and invest in renewable energy.

Indian Government has also taken initiatives to promote energy conservation and energy efficiency named Standards and Labelling by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Energy Conservation Building Codes (ECBC) by the Ministry of Power, National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE) under NAPCC, Promotion of Energy Efficient LED Bulbs – UJALA scheme, Promotion of Electric vehicle: – National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) which aims

a significant impact on this energy crisis.

After discussing all parameters of the energy crisis in India it is understood that the dependency on non-renewable resources of energy is very high, which has less efficiency of generation also and the performance of DISCOMS in recent times is not so good, solving these problems will help India to overcome from this energy crisis. Its high time for India to move faster toward sustainable alternatives for a better future.

The Twitter Acquisition Saga

By Anushka Joshi

The most trusted platform for self-proclaimed influencers and news analysts, Twitter, has had a significant change in the past month. The world's richest man is in the news again. This time, due to his offer to purchase Twitter- On 25th April 2022, one of the most unusual corporate takeover attempts in modern business, Elon Musk's \$44 billion deal to buy Twitter shook the internet. Musk says he has secured \$46.5 billion in funding for the deal. It includes \$25.5 billion in loan financing from Morgan Stanley and others, and \$21 billion in equity financing from himself. In addition to this, Musk procured \$7 billion more for the deal from high-profile names like Oracle founder Larry Ellison, the crypto platform Binance and VC firm Sequoia Capital. Some reports reveal Musk's Ambitious goals for Twitter from a pitch deck presented to investors. Musk aims to increase Twitter's annual revenue to dollar 26.4 billion by 2028, including strengthening revenue from subscriptions and setting up a payments business.

But, what is more interesting is that Twitter has not been very successful in the past 8 to 10 years in generating revenue. So, media economics seem to focus more on how Twitter under Musk will generate revenue that it has the potential to, that too, using the free speech spectrum. Musk states that he is primarily not concerned with the economics of Twitter; The Tesla CEO wanted to buy Twitter because he thought it is not living up to its potential



as a platform for free speech. Since Musk is an individual investor unencumbered by any board or stakes, unlike a corporate bidder—he would be able to make significant decisions on his own. This also means that Twitter, a soon-to-be private company, can act as a forum for free speech around the globe. Musk had tweeted that US technology companies shouldn't be acting "as the de facto arbiter of free speech." He had been advocating for an "uncontrolled" internet for a long time. The billionaire has been outspoken about the changes he'd like to see at the social media company.



What else does Musk's Twitter acquisition probably bring with it? The Tesla CEO has hinted at many reforms through his tweets. Musk has said he will tweak the service's policing of content, including censoring or banning certain users for spouting hate speech or inciting violence. Alongside making Twitter an online platform for unfettered speech, Musk wants to eliminate automatic spambots and authenticate all humans to ensure the former objective. Making algorithms transparent or open source to increase trust, monetizing critical tweets and soon charging fees for commercial/government users are other major expected reforms. Another significant idea proposed includes allowing longer posts and introducing an edit button to edit posts after publication. Musk also suggested changes to the platform's premium subscription service, Twitter Blue, including

slashing its price, banning advertising and giving an option to pay in the cryptocurrency dogecoin. Most likely, “open-sourcing” Twitter’s proprietary software would make some of its algorithms available for public inspection. Once others can read the code, they can use it for their own applications or could make suggestions to Twitter’s developers for changes. What might it mean for the industry? Would-be competitors might have a greater chance of getting a foothold in a market now dominated by giants because they’d be able to build upon the intellectual property of one of the biggest companies in the sector. That could eventually increase competition.

“Free speech is the bedrock of a functioning democracy, and Twitter is the digital town square where matters vital to the future of humanity are debated,” Musk said.

European Union warned the billionaire entrepreneur that his soon to be acquired online platform – Twitter, will have to comply with the new laws of Europe, curbing the power of big tech. Nevertheless, how Musk pursues his vision of getting Twitter to adhere to his free speech principles while satisfying the local resolutions and the government’s demands will be an intriguing balancing act to watch. Twitter is the trendsetter for most of the trends on social media, so changes like authenticating accounts, eliminating bots, and freedom of speech will introduce new players in information and world business affairs. Not only will the significant figures get affected by this upcoming change, but also ordinary users all over the world.

Musk’s Twitter wave will bring a new era of social media and speech for everyone across the globe. This digital turnaround is indeed going to turn the way we live our lives and perceive information, upside down because this, at last, is not just a change but the start of a reform that WE MAY PRESERVE!

Turkey's Economic Crisis

By Bismah Shaikh

Inflation is the decrease in purchasing power of money, which is represented in the increase in the cost of goods and services in an economy. Turkey's legit inflation has spiraled to almost 70 percent in April, posing a massive challenge to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, whose unconventional financial regulations are frequently blamed for the financial turmoil.

The country is now struggling with soaring inflation, officially 61.4%. This started in January when some infuriated customers began posting pictures of their electricity bills online. This quickly led to the charges being doubled by the end of January. In February, Turkey's official inflation rate broke 50%. This two-decade high record caused a huge political problem for the government of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey. Even Mr. Erdogan's allies have been critical as he struggles to lift the country out of an economic crisis. Food, fuel prices, as well as electricity charges, have already more than doubled. The fall apart of the lira has driven up the price of electricity imports and overseas traders are now turning far from the once-promising rising market.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the coronavirus pandemic have exacerbated electricity rate spikes and manufacturing bottlenecks. Since Turkey's economy relies majorly on the tourism and the hospitality industry, the pandemic accompanied by the several months of lockdown has affected the country severely. Even though the global slowdown caused by the coronavirus pandemic has added to the strains by limiting the sales of Turkish goods around the world, Turkey's economy was already in recession before the pandemic struck. Turkey's locals call this a disaster and predicted that it will be

worse in the upcoming months.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has further compounded Turkey's fiscal crisis.

Erdogan insists that sharp cuts in interest rates are necessary to drive down hovering consumer prices, Political opponents of Mr. Erdogan have been warning for months that the country is heading for economic collapse. Despite warnings from economists, Mr. Erdogan has steadfastly refused to raise interest rates, the usual tool to combat inflation, arguing that it would only hurt the poor.

Analysts say Turkey's annual price of inflation, the best on the grounds



since Erdogan's ruling AK Party stormed to strength in 2002, is related to his unconventional financial thinking. Erdogan has placed stress on the independent relevant central bank to start cutting down interest rates. In April, the central bank maintained its benchmark interest rates constant for the fourth consecutive month, bowing to stress regardless of excessive inflation.

The largest rate of the increase took place in April. It was in the transport sector, at 105.9 percent, at the same time as the charges for meals and non-alcoholic beverages skyrocketed to 89.1 percent. The Turkish currency has lost forty-four percent of its value against the dollar in the previous year, and even more than eleven percent since the beginning of January.

Treasury and finance minister Nureddin Nebati disregarded concerns on Monday. He also stated that it would "now no longer spread over a

long time and be permanent." In addition to this, the finance minister, Nureddin Nebati, insisted earlier that the surge was "temporary", while Erdoğan recently vowed to protect Turks against inflation. Spiraling inflation is tied to the government's efforts to radically overhaul the Turkish economy, keeping interest rates low in the belief that it will stimulate it, and increase production – against the advice of most experts. "We will increase the welfare and purchasing power of our citizens over the past level," he stated.

Turkey has reduced taxes on a few items and presented subsidies



for a few energy payments for susceptible families, but even this did not stem inflation. In a notable move, the Financial Action Task Force ("FATF"), the international anti-money laundering body tasked with developing policies to combat money laundering and terrorism financing, had added Turkey to its list of jurisdictions subject to increased monitoring, earlier in November 2021.

Erdogan's authorities have answered with the aid of state banks to shop for up Liras in a bid to reduce the currency's losses. A former supervisor in Turkey's nation-owned financial institution, Ziraat, said, "The central bank sells \$2.5-3bn every week through public banks," this week. Erdogan, who faces a vital presidential vote in the

next year, has additionally shifted policy to fix damaged alliances with cash-wealthy Gulf states to attract monetary support.

This has become a political issue. The government is hoping that Turks will bear hovering residing expenses for only some more months before inflation starts easing and tourists arrive, helping the economy leave a winter currency crisis behind. This may not work since protests have already started. Economists are expecting price and wage pressures to persist throughout the year.

Some believe that the root cause of Turkey's radical problem is due to the failed leadership of Erdogan. The country is moving towards a full financial turmoil. Unless the President compromises on his policies its going to be a tough year for the locals.

The Roarin' 20s

By Shrihari Tiwari

The Roaring Twenties, in layman's terms, was a brief period of economic and cultural prosperity that was unparalleled until after the end of WWII. "The Great War" had just finished, and so did the 1918 Influenza Pandemic. The Economies of nearly all nations saw a boom as they shifted from wartime to assembly-line production methods. Colonies' demands for independence fell on more tolerating ears as they received 'benefits' for contributing to the war effort. Because of the far-reaching effects of the War, Nationalism gained ground in colonies, at the same time as colonial subjects began getting rich and more powerful through production as their masters could no longer compete. Riding this wave of Nationalism



came Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, and Turkey built by him became a role model for the rest. Even if a majority of the colonies remained subjugated, they could now compete and stand up to their oppressors. For the first time in a hundred years, notions of Pax Britannica (and Europe as a whole) gave way to the rise of a newer superpower across the Atlantic and another in the making to the East. Democracy and Socialism thrived as ideas opposed to Imperialism. Not all was Shining, but it was better than in the 2020s when we are seeing Mass Military Mobilization on the scale of WWII, for the first time since WWII. Or going through another Arab Spring, this time all over the world, with mass protests in the U.S., Latin America(Peru & Chile), MENA(the Middle East & North Africa), Sub-Saharan Africa, and most recently Sri Lanka.

A lot of us might not remember that 2020 started with #WW3 trending everywhere as news came in about the targeted killing of Irani Major-General Qasem Soleimani & then conflicts would never stop even as the COVID-19 Pandemic and subsequently induced lockdowns that claimed millions of lives.

In September, the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict began which saw the first uses of Modern Warfare on a large scale in a small conflict, which enabled Azerbaijan to gain an upper hand, regain land lost decades ago, and win, for the first time; all within just 6 weeks. Not long after Ceasefire was called, Conflict erupted in Africa, when the Nobel Peace Prize-winning Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed was accused of perpetrating war crimes against the Oromo during the Tigray War.

Also, while the 1920s was a pioneering decade for nearly everything, ranging from Science and Technology in the form of rising demand and use of electrical appliances, cars, and air travel by the common man to Social Democracy, for many people and especially women it was becoming the first time that they could dictate the future of their nation at the Ballot Box.

In stark contrast, however, stand the 2020s where nearly all states are suffering glaring inefficiencies and widespread inequality significantly worsened by the onset of the pandemic. Venezuela, the most oil-rich country in the world, is undergoing a Presidential Crisis since the 2019 General Elections with the West-backed Juan Guaido opposing the incumbent and East-backed Nicolas Maduro. Peru and especially Chile saw its worst unrest after Metro prices were hiked 4% or a paltry 0.04\$(₹3). West Africa(Mali, Burkina Faso & Guinea) too, saw more hostilities break out after a slew of coups took place against the

backdrop of the already grim Boko Haram insurgency. While South Africa's Durban was up in flames after the previous president was accused of Corruption and arrested.

India and its backyard weren't entirely free either with a coup in Myanmar and protests against the Royal-Military Regime in Thailand, not to mention the chaotic Fall of Kabul on Independence Day after 20 long years of infighting. China also tried to act as Wolf Warrior again in the fall of 2020 and well into 2021 with military muscle-flexing at Galwan Valley.



The situation further escalated when Russian forces finally invaded Ukraine after nearly six months of military build-up along the border. Experts have even found a correlation between the Invasion and Chinese Aerial Incursions into Taiwan's Air Defense Identification Zone, prophesying that since Beijing cannot attack after, it will try to escalate before the 2030s, sometime in 2027.

The idea that we get from this is that the 1920s were a lot better and the 2020s a lot grimmer, but, neither is light all brightness and shadows all darkness. The cause is the worsening equality rates beginning in the 1970s when the Rich continued to grow rapidly whereas the masses were left on pretty much the same level year on

year. This was since the post-War Reconstruction came to an end and the Petro-Dollar took the place of the Bretton-Woods Institutions. (Since the Dollar was pegged to a singular resource, it became imperative to virtually inflate the dollar by securing that resource, leading to the fall in Middle Class's Purchasing Power). Protests and instability are caused by the majority experiencing unrest i.e., the poor and the Middle Class. Since the 1920s were more inclusive and 'tolerating', it is considered a successful decade for Humankind as a whole.

In the end, both the eras have their highs and lows. Today you will be certainly called out for discriminative and prejudiced comments, whereas this was not possible in the 1920s. However, it is also much more likely for one to be 'canceled' by a relatively small group of folks. There is also much more scientific curiosity in today's youth than in that era. We can think of it in the way that the 1920s world was Imperial, while the 2020s are undoubtedly Proletarian, still unequal and unjust, but on top of that one where the downtrodden have a voice.

SPECIAL SECTION

RESURGENCE OF PEPSICO

Back in the 1990s, PepsiCo was an American multinational three-legged stool consisting of Beverages, Snacks(Lays and Doritos), and 3 Food chains- Pizza hut, Taco Bell and KFC. When Mrs. Indra Nooyi, the former CEO of PepsiCo came in, she observed that the third leg had begun to shake because these food chains operated as three individual companies and hence started cannibalizing each other's businesses. So she decided to spin off these big fast-food chains and shifted the focus towards a more health-oriented product line by introducing products like Quaker and Tropicana, in addition to the zero-sugar versions of the company's staple soft-drink brands and chips without artificial preservatives.

This major strategic shift was called Performance with a Purpose which focused on achieving long-term growth while positively impacting the environment and human health, striking a balance between capitalism and consciousness.

To achieve her long-term vision, she classified the brand's products into three categories — "fun for you," "better for you," and "good for you" — to help consumers make informed choices.

She introduced Design Thinking in her organization to get away with the Shrink it or Pink stereotype. During her 12-year stint as CEO, PepsiCo saw its revenue grow by more than 80 percent and added a new billion-dollar brand almost every other year.



Asia

The two-day Indus water talks between India and Pakistan ended on Tuesday with New Delhi telling Islamabad that its hydropower projects on western rivers are compliant with the 1960 pact and that it will continue to provide Islamabad with advance flood information as envisaged under the treaty.

The Chinese military claimed on Wednesday that it had undertaken a battle readiness patrol in recent days in the sea and airspace surrounding Taiwan, which China claims as its territory.

N America

The U.S. Soccer Federation announced the decision to pay the U.S. Men's National Team and the U.S. Women's National Team equally, eliminating a contentious pay gap that saw female players earning less.

Massacre at school in Uvalde, Texas: 19 children, 2 teachers shot dead. 17 more injured. The gunman, an 18-year-old was shot down by a law enforcement agent. He was an ex-student of the same school.

Australia

High On Hopes, Aussies Pray For Queensland Allan, As He Rolls for Worlds Toughest Bike Race, Where Stopping Is Not An Option.

In Yet Another Offbeat Sensation, Australian Sportsmen Liz Cambage Spotted Provoking Nigerian Team With Racist Comments.

Europe

Second War in Europe? Turkey and Azerbaijan stimulate war on the neighboring country and practice seizing its islands.

Ukrainian refugees: A silver lining for Spain's Rural Villages.

S America

Social activists celebrate the apology of the Chilean President, Gabriel Boric to a woman named Francisca who was forcibly sterilized because of being HIV positive.

Widespread outrage has been seen in Brazil as a man was gassed to death by the police.

Africa

The 'Spider-Man' of Sudan: masked activist becomes a symbol of resistance at protests against the military regime and the subject of a new Guardian documentary.

African scientists are baffled to learn about more than 140 monkeypox cases in Europe and North America while National Institute For Communicable Diseases (NICD) confirms no cases of the virus in South Africa.