



Monday, March 18, 2024

- 1. Russian voters protested Vladimir Putin's reelection.**

How? By forming long lines at noon yesterday to vote against the president, answering the call of the late opposition leader Alexei Navalny, who died last month in a Russian prison.

The result: Putin claimed a landslide victory, extending his rule until 2030. But the election was condemned as neither free nor fair, and Putin's rivals are jailed, exiled or dead.
- 2. Donald Trump said some undocumented immigrants are "not people."**

The details: Trump used the dehumanizing language Saturday at a campaign rally in Ohio. He also warned of a "bloodbath" if he doesn't win the presidential election in November.

In other Trump news: Nathan Wade, the top prosecutor in Trump's Georgia case, resigned Friday over his romantic relationship with Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis.
- 3. A Boeing plane landed with a missing external panel.**

What to know: The panel was discovered missing after a United flight from San Francisco to Oregon on Friday. An investigation is underway.

Zooming out: Boeing is facing scrutiny for recent issues with its planes, including a January midflight blowout, a lost wheel and a nosedive that injured 50 people last week.
- 4. A dramatic volcanic eruption in Iceland forced evacuations.**

What happened? The Saturday night eruption turned the sky orange, opened a fissure and sent lava flowing toward a town. The popular Blue Lagoon spa was evacuated.

The bigger picture: This was the fourth time the volcano has erupted in three months. Recent earthquake activity awakened the volcanic system for the first time in 800 years.
- 5. Home prices are expected to drop following a Realtor settlement.**

What's happening? The National Association of Realtors agreed to settle litigation that accused the group of inflating real estate commissions, it was announced Friday.

What it would mean: Listing prices would no longer come with steep commissions that are often automatically included. That could tempt more people to buy and sell.
- 6. Selection Sunday set the stage for a potentially wild March Madness.**

For the men's NCAA tournament: Connecticut, Houston, Purdue and North Carolina are the No. 1 seeds. Conference basketball tournament upsets led to some snubs and surprises.

For the women's tournament: South Carolina, Iowa, USC and Texas are the top seeds. The unbeaten Gamecocks could see Caitlin Clark's Hawkeyes in the final if both teams win out.
- 7. Companies are racing to bring back supersonic passenger flights.**

What's happening? Two decades after the Concorde's last flight, private companies are competing to revive supersonic travel. And NASA unveiled a supersonic plane in January.

Will it happen? There are questions about affordability and climate impacts, but the companies say it's viable. One day, a New York to London flight could take 90 minutes.



1. foregone conclusion - a result that is obvious to everybody even before it happens
2. to dehumanize - to remove from a person the special human qualities of independent thought, feeling for other people, etc.:
rally - a public meeting of a large group of people
3. blowout - a sudden explosion of a tyre
5. realtor - real estate agent
litigation - the process of taking a case to a court of law
to stay put - to remain in the same place or position
6. March Madness - college basketball tournament

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