

1804

General Napoleon Bonaparte is crowned Emperor of the French at the Notre Dame de Paris in a ceremony officiated by Pope Pius VII



1823

US President James Monroe declares the "Monroe Doctrine" opposing European colonialism in the Americas, arguing any European political intervention in the New World would be a hostile act against the United States

1929

First skull of Peking man found in the caves of Zhoukoudian, 50 km outside of Peking, China. Later dated roughly 750,000 years old

1976

Communist revolutionary Fidel Castro becomes President of Cuba, replacing Osvaldo Dorticos Torrado

Letter bombs detected in Spain

After prime minister's office, five other sites receive explosive packages



Police officers stand guard as other officers in yellow vests walk back at the cordoned off area next to the Ukrainian embassy in Madrid

ta Robles, who was visiting the Ukrainian port city of Odesa yesterday and met her Ukrainian counterpart Oleksii Reznikov, said the letter bombs would not deter Spain from supporting Ukraine's "just cause".

"What must be very clear is that none of these deliveries or any other violent action will change the clear and firm commitment of Spain, NATO countries and the European Union to support Ukraine," she said.

The latest package was intercepted at the U.S. Embassy by security officials and was later detonated in a controlled explosion by Spanish police.

On Wednesday, a package addressed to the Ukrainian ambassador to Spain detonated at the country's embassy as a security official investigated it, causing him to suffer minor injuries to his hands and a concussion. Security has now been stepped up around embassies as well.

Later on Wednesday, Instalaza, an arms manufacturer in Zaragoza, northeastern Spain, that has sent more than 1,000 C90 rocket launchers to Ukraine received another package. Yesterday an air force base housing a European Union satellite centre, Spain's defence ministry and the U.S. Embassy also received packages.



It appears that they were all sent from within the country but we are basing this on early visual inspections without yet having an in-depth technical report

RAFAEL PEREZ, THE JUNIOR MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR SECURITY

Ukraine points finger at Moscow

After the package sent to the Ukrainian embassy detonated, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba ordered all of Kyiv's embassies abroad to "urgently" strengthen security.

Ukraine's ambassador to Spain, Serhii Pohoreltsev, appeared to blame Russia.

"We have instructions from the ministry in Ukraine that given the situation we have to be prepared for any kind of incident... Russian activities outside the country," he told Spanish television station TVE on Wednesday.

Russia invaded Ukraine nine months ago in what it calls a "special military operation" that Kyiv and the West describe as an unprovoked, imperialist land grab.

Spain has sent or committed to send military and humanitarian

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News of the letter bombs broke on Wednesday lunchtime after police said a security official at the Ukrainian embassy in Madrid had been slightly injured after opening a package

around major diplomatic and public buildings.

Speaking before the latest package was found at the US Embassy, Spain's deputy interior minister said early indications suggested the first five packages were sent from within Spain.

Rafael Perez, the junior minister responsible for security, told a news conference that the homemade devices were sent in brown packages containing a flammable powder and tripwire that would generate "sudden flames" rather than an explosion.

The packages were addressed to the heads of the institutions they were sent to.

One device had been kept intact for investigative purposes, Perez said, while the others were detonated by the security forces in controlled explosions.

"It appears that they were all sent from within the country but we are basing this on early visual inspections without yet having an in-depth technical report," he said.

Perez said it did not yet appear necessary to convene the security committee that would evaluate stepping up Spain's terrorist threat level, already at the second-highest level following Islamist attacks around Europe over the past decade.

Needs to find South China Sea, says Marcos



Ferdinand Marcos Jr

Ukraine says Russia pulls back forces from river towns opposite Kherson

Reuters | Beijing

Ukraine's military said yesterday Russia had pulled some troops from towns on the opposite bank of the Dnipro River from Kherson city, the first official Ukrainian report of a Russian withdrawal on what is now the main front line in the south.

The statement gave only limited details and made no mention of any Ukrainian forces having crossed the Dnipro. Ukrainian officials also stressed that Russia had intensified shelling across the river, knocking out power again in Kherson where electricity had only begun to



Ukrainian servicemen fire with a Bureviy multiple launch rocket system at a position in Donetsk region after Russian troops vacated the

city and fled across the river.

Since Russia abandoned Kherson last month, nine months into its invasion of Ukraine, the river now forms the entire southern stretch of the front.

Russia has already told civilians to leave towns within 15 km of the river and withdrawn its civilian administration from the city of Nova Kakhovka on the bank. Ukrainian officials have previously said Russia pulled back some artillery near the river to safer positions further away, but until now had stopped short of saying Russian forces were quitting towns.

Modi's home state Gujarat votes, seen as easy mid-term test for India's leader

Reuters | Ahmedabad

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state of Gujarat began voting yesterday with his party expected to win a seventh straight term, but any unexpected slip could herald a tighter contest in national polls due by 2024.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has not lost in the western industrial state since 1995 and Modi served as its chief minister for nearly 13 years before becoming prime minister in 2014 after trouncing the Congress party.

Opinion polls conducted in the lead-up to the Gujarat polls projected the BJP to comfortably retain power in the state.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP),



A woman arrives as others wait in a queue to cast their vote

which was formed only a decade ago and has claimed power in Delhi and the state of Punjab, is set to become one of the main opposition parties in Gujarat at the expense of Congress.

Early yesterday, voters in Surat, the state's second largest

city and a diamond cutting and polishing hub, lined up to cast their ballot in the first of the two-phase election.

The city is expected to witness a three-way contest with Congress and AAP also looking to make inroads in the BJP bas-

tion. The second phase of voting is on Tuesday and results are due on Dec. 8.

In the last state election five years ago, the BJP won 99 seats in the 182-member assembly while Congress got 77.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



I firmly believe now is the best time to go further still and catalyse a fundamental mindset shift, to benefit humanity as a whole. #G20India @MohamedBinZayed @AlsisiOfficial @RishiSuna @vonderleyen @narendramodi

02



As a reminder, tap the stars icon on upper right of screen to switch between latest people you follow and recommended tweets

@elonmusk

03



This #WorldAIDS-Day, let's reaffirm our commitment to end AIDS by 2030. @WHO calls on all countries to implement global health sector strategies on HIV, hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections. With bold leadership, we can deliver care for everyone!

@DrTedros

04



Peace is never easy — but it is always necessary. The @UN will continue working with the @AfricanUnion to deliver the peace, prosperity and climate justice that the people of Africa deserve.

@antonioguterres

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

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The Philippines relies heavily on imported fuel for its energy needs, making it vulnerable to supply shocks and rising oil prices, which have helped push up inflation to a near 14-year high

Harris affirmed American defence commitments to the Philippines and reiterated support for a 2016 arbitration ruling that invalidated Beijing's expansive South China Sea claims.

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Opinion polls conducted in the lead-up to the Gujarat polls projected Modi's BJP to comfortably retain power in the state