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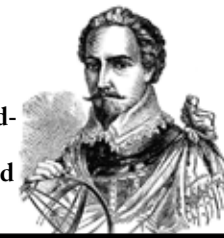
The last major Viking army to raid England is defeated at the Battle of Tettenhall by the allied forces of Mercia and Wessex, led by King Edward and Earl Aethelred

1305

William Wallace, who led Scottish resistance to England, is captured by the English near Glasgow and transported to London for trial and execution

1583

Humphrey Gilbert claims Newfoundland for the British crown, the first English colony in North America and the beginning of the British Empire



1716

Battle of Petrovaradin [Peterwardein]: Habsburgs under Eugene of Savoy defeat the Turks in a decisive victory

us China fires missiles near an in drills after Pelosi visit

ballistic missiles into Taiwan strait as exercises begin



A projectile being launched from an unspecified location in China

that happened was in 1996. Taiwan officials said the drills violated United Nations rules, invaded its space and threatened free air and sea navigation. It has been self-ruled since 1949, when Mao Zedong's communists took power in Beijing after defeating Chiang Kai-shek's Kuomintang (KMT) nationalists in a civil war, prompting the KMT-led government to retreat to the island. Pelosi's unannounced visit defied warnings from China.

Before yesterday's drills officially began, Chinese navy ships and military aircraft briefly crossed the Taiwan Strait median line several times in the morning, a Taiwanese source briefed on the matter told Reuters.

By midday, warships from both sides remained in the area and in close proximity. Taiwan scram-

bled jets and deployed missile systems to track multiple Chinese aircraft crossing the line.

"They flew in and then flew out, again and again. They continue to harass us," the Taiwanese source said.

China, which has long said it reserves the right to take Taiwan by force, says its differences with the island are an internal affair.

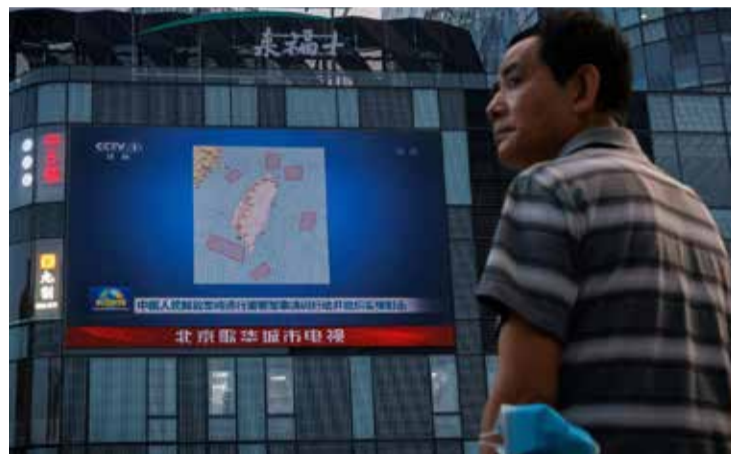
"Our punishment of pro-Taiwan independence diehards, external forces is reasonable, lawful," China's Beijing-based Taiwan Affairs Office said.

In Taiwan, life was largely normal despite worries that Beijing may even fire a missile over the main island as North Korea did over Japan's northern island of Hokkaido in 2017.

"When China says it wants to annex Taiwan by force, they

YOU KNOW WHAT

Taiwan said 11 Chinese Dongfeng ballistic missiles had been fired in nearby waters - the first time since 1996 - while Japan protested that five missiles appeared to land in its economic zone



A man stands in front of a screen showing a news broadcast, featuring a map of locations around Taiwan where the military exercises will be conducted, at a shopping center in Beijing

have actually said that for quite a while," said Chen Ming-cheng, a 38-year-old realtor. "From my personal understanding, they are trying to deflect public anger, the anger of their own people, and turn it onto Taiwan."

Taiwan said that websites of its defence ministry, foreign ministry and the presidential office were attacked by hackers, and warned of coming "psychological warfare".

'Comrade Pelosi'

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi called Pelosi's visit to Taiwan a "manic, irresponsible and highly irrational" act, state broadcaster CCTV reported.

Wang, speaking at a meeting of Southeast Asian foreign min-

isters in Cambodia, said China had made the utmost diplomatic effort to avert crisis but would never let its core interests be hurt.

Unusually, the drills in six areas around Taiwan were announced with a locator map circulated by China's official Xinhua news agency - a factor that for some analysts illustrates playing to both domestic and foreign audiences.

In Beijing, security in the area around the US Embassy remained unusually tight though there were no signs of significant protests.

"I think this (Pelosi's visit) is a good thing," said a man surnamed Zhao. "It gives us an opportunity to surround Taiwan, then to use this opportunity to take Taiwan by force. I think we should thank Comrade Pelosi."

Pelosi, the highest-level US visi-

tor to Taiwan in 25 years, praised its democracy and pledged American solidarity during her brief stopover. Chinese anger could not stop world leaders from travelling there, she said.

China summoned the US ambassador in Beijing in protest and halted several agricultural imports from Taiwan.

"Our delegation came to Taiwan to make unequivocally clear that we will not abandon Taiwan," Pelosi told Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen, whom Beijing suspects of pushing for formal independence - a red line for China.

The United States and the foreign ministers of the Group of Seven nations warned China against using Pelosi's visit as a pretext for military action against Taiwan.

er sentenced to nine years in prison in Russia



Brittney Griner, right, enters a cage in a courtroom prior to a hearing

down in tears in court. The court also fined her 1 million roubles (\$16,990).

Biden, under pressure to help free Americans held in Russia, called on Russia to release Griner immediately and said his administration would continue to work for her release.

"Today, American citizen Brittney Griner received a prison sentence that is one more reminder of what the world already knew: Russia is wrongfully detaining Brittney," Biden said in a statement.

"It's unacceptable, and I call on

Russia to release her immediately so she can be with her wife, loved ones, friends, and teammates."

Griner's defence lawyers said they would appeal. The defence team said that in sentencing the court had ignored all evidence they had presented as well as Griner's guilty plea. They said they were "disappointed" by the verdict.

The Russian prosecutor had called for Griner, a two-time Olympic gold medalist and a Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) star, to be sentenced to 9-1/2 years prison if

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JOE BIDEN

she was found guilty of bringing illegal drugs into the country.

Griner was detained at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport on Feb. 17 with the cartridges containing hashish oil in her luggage. While she pleaded guilty, she said she had neither intended to bring a banned substance to Russia nor to hurt anybody.

"I made an honest mistake and I hope that in your ruling, that it doesn't end my life here," Griner said in court yesterday before breaking down in tears.

Heavy rain hits northern Japan, 200,000 urged to evacuate



A broken bridge and power lines are seen after heavy rains in Japan

AFP | Tokyo

Bridges collapsed and rivers burst their banks as heavy rain lashed northern Japan yesterday, with 200,000 residents urged to evacuate as authorities warned of dangerous flooding.

TV footage showed a muddy mass of broken trees swept into a mountainous residential area by the downpours, which broke records in some areas.

Two people have been reported missing, top govern-

ment spokesman Hirokazu Matsuno told reporters.

Authorities have warned of an increased risk of landslides and floods.

Public broadcaster NHK said non-compulsory evacuation advisories were issued to 200,000 residents in five regions: Niigata, Yamagata, Fukushima, Ishikawa and Fukui.

Other TV footage showed homes flooded by an overflowing river and another muddy waterway reaching the height of a bridge.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Today we mark two years since the horrific explosion at the Beirut port. Two years without justice. In the name of the dead, among them the son of a UN staff member, I reiterate my call for an impartial, thorough and transparent investigation into the explosion.

@antoniouterres

02



We have to grip inflation, not exacerbate it. Liz Truss's economic guru Professor Patrick Minford, said their plans mean "yes, interest rates have to go up and it's a good thing." Really? Calculate what that could cost you and your family.

@RishiSunak

03



Fifty years ago, Canada acted swiftly and welcomed more than 7,000 South Asians who had been expelled from Uganda. Today, as we reflect on all that they have contributed to our country in the decades since, we also honour their resilience and strength.

@JustinTrudeau

04



Putin is still waging his war in Ukraine, putting pressure on global oil supply, and families can feel it. But we stepped up to release one million barrels of oil a day from our Reserve, and rallied our global partners to release from theirs. Now, prices are on a record decline..

@POTUS

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