

1523

Gustav Vasa is elected King of Sweden, marking the end of the Kalmar Union



1916

The death of Yuan Shikai, ruler of much of China since 1912, causes central government to virtually collapse in the face of pressure from warlords, and from political reformers including Sun Yat-sen

1944

Operation Overlord: D-Day begins as the 156,000-strong Allied Expeditionary Force lands in Normandy, France, during World War II

1982

30,000 Israeli troops invade Lebanon to drive out the PLO

Large-scale' Donetsk

forces did not achieve their objectives

said was a video of the battle, showing Ukrainian armoured vehicles coming under heavy fire. Putin's top commander in Ukraine, Valery Gerasimov, "was at one of the advanced command posts," the ministry said.

A high-profile Russian war correspondent, Alexander Kots, said that "battles have been going on" in the area of Ugledar, in the south of the Donetsk region, and also further north in Soledar and Bakhmut, which were occupied by Moscow's forces after months of fighting.

Kots said Ukrainian forces were "conducting offensive operations" in and around the frontline hot-spot of Bakhmut which Russian mercenary group Wagner claimed last month had fallen to Moscow.

He suggested that Kyiv had not yet "introduced the main forces into battle."

'The fight will be serious'

A Moscow-installed official also said that Ukrainian troops were on the offensive in the southern region of Zaporizhzhia, home to Europe's largest nuclear plant,

which has been under control of Russia's forces since the start of Moscow's offensive.

"It looks like the die has been cast and the next couple of months will clear up a lot. The fight will be serious, because there is a lot at stake," Rogov added.

Large parts of Donetsk have been held by pro-Moscow separatists since 2014. It is one of four eastern Ukrainian territories that Russia formally annexed in September last year, along with Lugansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson.

Speaking to reporters in New Delhi, US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin said that Ukrainian authorities would make an announcement "at the right time".

"We can talk about what we're seeing and we're seeing continued operations in and around the Bakhmut area," he added.

The Vatican said that Italian Cardinal Matteo Zuppi headed to Kiev yesterday as Pope Francis' peace envoy for talks with Ukrainian authorities on the war.

Prince Harry to make history with UK court testimony



Britain's Prince Harry looks during King Charles III's coronation ceremony (file photo) AFP | London

Prince Harry will become the first senior British royal to give evidence in court for more than a century when he testifies this week against a tabloid newspaper publisher.

Harry, 38, is expected to take the witness stand at London's High Court in a trial considering unlawful information-gathering claims against Mirror Group Newspapers (MGN).

King Charles III's younger son and other high-profile figures allege that the publisher engaged in illegal activities, including phone hacking, at its titles and are seeking damages.

The case is one of several that Harry has brought against British newspaper groups since stepping down from royal duties in early 2020 and relocating to the United States.

The MGN trial, which is expected to last up to seven weeks,

kicked off last month, days after Charles's May 6 coronation which Harry attended.

The California-based prince also made a surprise appearance at the High Court in March for a privacy claim he and others have launched against Associated Newspapers (ANL).



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Four dead in plane crash that sparked Washington alert

AFP | Washington

US officials said yesterday there were no survivors from the Virginia crash of a small plane carrying four people, a day after the unresponsive aircraft prompted the scrambling of fighter jets from Washington.

The Cessna Citation slammed into mountainous terrain Sunday afternoon some 170 miles (275 kilometers) southwest of the capital, according to the Federal Aviation Administration which was investigating the incident.

F-16s earlier chased the aircraft at high speed -- triggering a sonic boom across Washington and its suburbs, startling residents and rattling windows and walls for miles.

Virginia State Police said in a statement sent to AFP that first responders reached the site near the town of Staunton by foot some four hours after the crash.

"No survivors were located" and the search efforts were suspended, state police said.

President Joe Biden, who was at the White House and also played golf Sunday, was briefed on the incident, an official said without specifying whether any emergency precautions were



Smoke rises from the wreckage of the plane after the crash

The civilian plane had taken off from Elizabethton, Tennessee bound for Long Island MacArthur Airport in New York, the FAA said. But flight tracking website Flightradar24 indicated it turned around after flying over Long Island and headed back south over Washington and into Virginia

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But flight tracking website Flightradar24 indicated it turned around after flying over Long Island and headed back south over Washington and into Virginia.

"There were four people on board," the FAA said in a statement. "The FAA and NTSB (National Transportation Safety Board) will investigate," and a preliminary accident report was expected later yesterday, it added.

US authorities had yet to officially identify those on board, but comments by two relatives of people believed to have been on the plane provided some initial insight.

US, China join naval drills in Indonesia despite rifts

AFP | Jakarta

The United States and China have sent warships to the multinational naval drills that began in Indonesia yesterday, despite the rifts between the two powers.

Washington and Beijing are engaged in fierce competition on diplomatic, military, technological and economic fronts.

The US military has stepped up its Asia-Pacific operations to counter an increasingly assertive China, which has recently



US Navy destroyer USS Chung-Hoon observes the Chinese PLA Navy vessel Luyang III (top) while on a transit through the Taiwan Strait

staged several rounds of war drills around Taiwan.

But both dispatched warships to the 2023 Multilateral Naval Exercise (MNEK) hosted by Indonesia in its eastern waters off Sulawesi island from yesterday to Thursday.

The US Navy has sent a littoral combat ship to the exercise, a US embassy spokesperson in Jakarta said on Sunday.

The drills will allow the United States to "join together with like-minded nations, our allies and our partners to work on solving common challenges" such as humanitarian and disaster response, the spokesperson said. The Chinese defence ministry said last week that it would send a destroyer and a frigate at the invitation of the Indonesian navy.

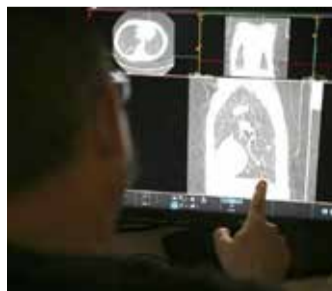
Pill halves risk of death in type of lung cancer

AFP | Paris

A pill has been shown to halve the risk of death from a certain type of lung cancer when taken daily after surgery to remove the tumour according to clinical trial results presented on Sunday.

The results were unveiled in Chicago at the largest annual conference of cancer specialists, hosted by the American Society for Clinical Oncology (ASCO).

Lung cancer is the form of the disease that causes the most deaths, with approximately 1.8 million fatalities every year worldwide.



A man looks at an image of a lung x-ray (file photo)

The treatment developed by the pharmaceutical group AstraZeneca is called osimertinib and is marketed under the name Tagrisso. It targets a particular type of lung cancer in patients suffering from so-

called non-small cell cancer, the most common type, and showing a particular type of mutation.

These mutations, on what is called the epidermal growth factor receptor, or EGFR, affect 10 percent to 25 percent of lung cancer patients in the United States and Europe, and 30 to 40 percent in Asia.

The clinical trial included some 680 participants at an early stage of the disease (stages 1b to 3a), in more than 20 countries. They had to have been operated on first to remove the tumour, then half of the patients took the treatment daily, and the other a placebo.



TOP
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TWEETS

01



Every day, the equivalent of over 2,000 garbage trucks full of plastic is dumped into our oceans, rivers & lakes. This #WorldEnvironmentDay is a call to #BeatPlasticPollution. We must work as one to break our addiction to plastic, champion zero waste & build a circular economy.

@antoniogeterres

02



This Pride Month, we celebrate the tremendous progress we have made in the fight for equality - and we dedicate ourselves to the work ahead.

@VP

03



We're taking our cooperation to the next level. Proud of the deeper relationship between @EuroparLEN and @ecb through increased transparency and accountability. Thank you President @Lagarde for your leadership and commitment to a reinforced currency and stronger eurozone.

@EP_President

04



The Earth is what we have in common, and plastic pollution is a global threat and impacts all of us across the world. We must act, commit, and set new norms now to #BeatPlasticPollution! #WorldEnvironmentDay

@KGeorgieva

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