

1941

US and Britain declare war on Japan, US enters World War II

1941

US President Franklin D. Roosevelt delivers "Day of Infamy" speech to US Congress a day after the bombing of Pearl Harbor



1966

US and USSR sign treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons in outer space

2004

Cuzco Declaration is signed in Cuzco, Peru, establishing the Union of South American Nations

# He'll face toughest invades Ukraine

concerns and we have our red lines," said Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov.

Calling for everyone to keep "a cool head", Peskov said it was vital that Putin and Biden speak given what he called the extraordinary escalation of tensions in Europe.

The Russian rouble weakened slightly yesterday, with some market analysts predicting the talks would de-escalate tensions and others saying that the U.S. sanctions threat eroded hopes of finding common ground.

Ahead of his first direct talks with Putin since July, Biden on Monday discussed the sanctions plan with European allies, seeking a strong joint stance in support of Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

He spoke to French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

They called on Russia to de-escalate tensions and return to di-

plomacy and said their teams would stay in close touch, including in consultation with NATO allies and EU partners, on a "co-ordinated and comprehensive approach," the White House said.

Biden's team has identified a set of economic penalties to impose should Russia launch an invasion, a senior Biden administration of-

ficial said.

A separate source familiar with the situation said targeting Putin's inner circle has been discussed but no decision made. Sanctions against Russia's biggest banks and curbing the conversion of roubles into dollars and other currencies were also being considered, another source said.

German Gref, the chief executive of Russia's top bank Sberbank (SBER.MM), on Tuesday called that idea "nonsense" and "impossible to execute".

CNN reported sanctions could include the extreme step of disconnecting Russia from the SWIFT international payment system used by banks around the world.

Bloomberg reported that the United States and European allies were weighing measures targeting the Russian Direct Investment Fund.

The United States could also restrict the ability of investors to buy Russian debt on the secondary market, Bloomberg said, citing people familiar with the matter.



**Ukraine and NATO powers accuse Russia of building up troops near the border, sparking fears of a possible attack. Moscow denies any such plan and accuses Kyiv of massing its own forces in its east, where Russian-backed separatists control a large part of Ukrainian territory.**

# Russia strike trade, arms deals



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russia's President Vladimir Putin wave ahead of their meeting at Hyderabad House in New Delhi, India

In addition to the deal for India to produce AK-203 assault rifles, Russia said it was interested in continuing to provide S-400 air defence missile systems.

India's Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla said

the two countries had signed 28 investment pacts, including deals on steel, shipbuilding, coal and energy. He added that a 2018 contract for the S-400 missile systems was currently being implemented.

"Supplies have begun this

month, and will continue to happen," he said, referring to the S-400.

The deal with Moscow puts India at risk of sanctions from the United States under a 2017 U.S. law aimed at deterring countries from buying Russian military hardware.

Russian oil company Rosneft said it signed a contract with Indian Oil to supply up to 2 million tonnes of oil to India by the end of 2022.

The countries also signed a memorandum of understanding for Russia to send an uninterrupted supply of coal to India to support its steel production, among other deals.

Putin and Modi also discussed the situation in Afghanistan, voicing their commitment to ensure that the country will never become a safe haven for international terrorism.

# family, then self, over faked vaccine pass



A police vehicle is parked in front of a family home after German police found two adults and three children shot or stabbed to death in Senzig, a town south of Berlin, Germany

police, the man said he forged a vaccination certificate for his wife. Her employer had found out, prompting the couple to fear they would be arrested and lose their children, prosecutor

Genrot Bantleon told Reuters.

Police were called to the house after being alerted by witnesses who had seen lifeless bodies in the house, police and prosecutors said on

Saturday.

The grisly case comes as Germany has been tightening up restrictions to try to stem a fourth wave of the coronavirus pandemic. From last month, employees have been required to show they are vaccinated, recovered or test negative for COVID-19.

German authorities agreed last week to bar the unvaccinated from access to all but the most essential businesses such as grocery stores, pharmacies and bakeries, and they also plan to make vaccination mandatory for some jobs.

# Israel announces completion of underground Gaza border barrier



Israeli security personnel gesture at an opening to the newly completed underground barrier along Israel's frontier with the Gaza Strip in Erez, southern Israel

Reuters | Jerusalem

Israel yesterday announced the completion of a sensor-equipped underground wall on its side of the Gaza border, a counter-measure developed after Hamas militants used tunnels to blindside its troops in a 2014 war.

Israel went public with the project, which also includes an above-ground fence, a naval barrier, radar systems and command and control rooms, in 2016.

"The barrier, which is an innovative and technologically advanced project, deprives Hamas of one of the capabilities it tried to develop," Israeli Defence Minister Benny Gantz said, according to a defence ministry statement.

"(It) places an 'iron wall', sensors and concrete between the terror organisation and the residents of Israel's south," he said of the project, which beefs up an existing border fence.

The ministry said the barrier,

which includes hundreds of cameras, radars and other sensors, spans 65 kilometres (40 miles) and that 140,000 tonnes of iron and steel were used in its construction, which took 3.5 years to complete.

It said the project's "smart fence" is more than 6 metres (20 feet) high and its maritime barrier includes means to detect infiltration by sea and a remote-controlled weapons system. The ministry did not disclose the depth of the underground wall.

Gaza also has a 14-kilometre-(8.7-mile)-long border with Egypt, which has also clamped down on crossings, citing security concerns. Since 2013, Egyptian forces have demolished smuggling tunnels while Hamas, on its side, has stepped up patrols.

Israel and Hamas have fought four wars since the group seized control the coastal Gaza Strip in 2007 from forces loyal to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

# Burundi prison fire kills 38 inmates, injures dozens more - vice president



A journalist, policeman and a soldier observe the damage in front of the main prison after the fire, in Gitega, Burundi

Reuters | Nairobi

At least 38 inmates were killed and dozens more injured in a fire yesterday at the main prison in Burundi's capital Gitega, the country's vice president said.

Twelve died of asphyxia as they tried to flee the burning buildings and 26 died of severe injuries, Vice President Prosper Bazombanza told reporters at the Gitega Prison after the fire.

He did not say what might have caused the blaze. Two local residents said fire broke out before dawn.

Many of those who died were elderly prisoners, a resident who arrived at the prison as the fire was still raging told Reuters. He said he saw bodies being taken by ambulance from the scene.

A fire broke out in August at the same prison that authorities said was caused by a electrical problem. There were no casualties.



TOP  
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TWEETS

01



Each year, nearly 12 million girls are married before the age of 18. Child marriage is a tragedy that often locks girls and women in a cycle of poverty and violence. We must stamp out this human rights violation once and for all.

@antonio gutierrez

02



As we mark National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, we honor the patriots who perished, commemorate the valor of all those who defended our nation, and recommit ourselves to carrying forth the ensuing peace and reconciliation that brought a better future for our world.

@Joe Biden

03



Yesterday, I had a very constructive discussion with the Global Alliance of Foundations, about the importance of not only sharing doses but also know-how and tech-transfer to ramp up #VaccinEquity. I thanked them for their support, including on the #PandemicAccord. Together!

@DrTedros

04



@IDSAIndia, Amb Sujan Chinoy participated at the Global Think-tank Summit 2021, Bahrain. @SujanChinoy also met H.E. Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al-Khalifa, Undersecretary for Political Affairs on the sidelines of #GTTS21

@IndianBahrain

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