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Battle of Didgori: the Georgian army under King David the Builder wins a decisive victory over the famous Seljuk commander Ilghazi

1851

American inventor Isaac Singer patents the sewing machine



1908

Henry Ford's company builds the first Model T car

1981

IBM introduces its first Personal Computer (PC & PC-DOS version 1.0)

# Show devastation base in Crimea

Line silent on how strike was carried out



Russia, which seized and annexed Crimea in 2014, uses the peninsula as the base for its Black Sea fleet and as the main supply route for its invasion forces occupying southern Ukraine, where Kyiv is planning a counter-offensive in coming weeks



People stand next to a residential house destroyed by a Russian missile strike in the settlement of Kushuhum targets on land.

## New phase

After weeks in which the tempo of fighting had subsided somewhat, a Ukrainian general said Russia had doubled its air strikes on Ukrainian positions since last week.

"The enemy's planes and helicopters avoid flying into the range of our air defences, and therefore the accuracy of these strikes is low," Brigadier General Oleksiy Hromov told a news conference. But he added that the intensity of Russian airborne activity in the south had reduced after the destruction at the Crimean base.

"As a result of the specified actions, the intensity of use of aviation on the southern front has somewhat decreased," he said.

Recent days have seen battles in the east in Pisky, a town on the outskirts of separatist-held

Donetsk city. The Russian-backed separatists claimed to have captured it; Ukraine denied it had fallen. Reuters could not verify either account.

Ukraine drove Russian forces back from the capital Kyiv in March and from the outskirts of the second-largest city Kharkiv in May. Russia then captured territory in the east in huge battles that killed thousands of troops on both sides in June.

Since then front lines have been largely static, but Kyiv says it is preparing a big push to recapture the southern Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions, the main slice of territory captured since the Feb. 24 invasion that Moscow still holds.

Russia has reinforced those regions, but its defence depends on supply lines to stock forces accustomed to firing thousands of shells a day.

## Brazilian woman arrested for stealing mother's artwork



Officers show artist Tarsila do Amaral's painting titled "Sol Poente" after it was seized during a police operation

Reuters | Rio de Janeiro

Brazilian authorities arrested a late art collector's daughter Wednesday for allegedly orchestrating a scam in which a supposed psychic moved into her octogenarian mother's home and stole millions, police and media reports said.

The woman from Rio de Janeiro is accused of deceiving and extorting her 82-year-old mother out of paintings, jewels and cash valued at a total 725 million reais (\$145 million) in a months-long scheme, police told AFP.

The 16 paintings stolen by the woman and five alleged accomplices -- three of whom were also arrested -- included works by Brazilian masters Tarsila do Amaral and Emiliano Di Cavalcanti, local media reports said.

The arrested woman is reportedly the daughter of Jean Boghici, a famed Brazilian art collector who died in 2015.

Her mother, Boghici's widow and heir to his collection, was allegedly tricked into believing her daughter was sick, and then persuaded to hire a woman with supposed healing powers to administer a "spiritual treatment," according to news site G1.

The scam began in 2020 when Genevieve was approached by a supposed psychic with prophecies of her daughter's imminent death. The victim was then taken to several more psychics who police say used personal information provided by her daughter to scam her distraught mother into transferring money to pay for "spiritual treatment"

The mother paid some \$970,000 from January to February 2020, but became suspicious and stopped the payments.

The "psychic" and her accomplices then allegedly threatened and attacked the widow, isolating her at home for nearly a year as they stole her artworks and jewels. The stolen paintings included "O Sono" and "Sol Poente" by Do Amaral, a master of Brazilian Modernism.

The latter, a famed 1929 oil painting, was found under one suspect's bed, according to G1.

## Kim Jong Un's sister warns Seoul of 'retaliation' over Covid



Kim Yo Jong  
AFP | Seoul

The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un accused the South of causing a Covid outbreak in the country and warned of "retaliation", as Pyongyang declared "victory" over its outbreak, state media said yesterday.

North Korea has previously said that "alien things" near the border with the South caused the Covid outbreak in the isolated country, a claim that Seoul has rejected.

Despite a ban that took effect in 2021, South Korean activists have for years flown balloons containing propaganda leaflets and US dollars over the border, which Pyongyang has long protested against.

## Blinken says he raised 'Hotel Rwanda' hero's detention with Rwandan leader

Reuters | Kigali

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Wednesday he had raised with Rwanda's president U.S. concerns over the jailing of Paul Rusesabagina, portrayed in the film "Hotel Rwanda" sheltering hundreds of people during the 1994 genocide.

Rusesabagina, 67, a US permanent resident, was sentenced last September to 25 years in prison over eight terrorism charges tied to an organization opposed to President Paul Kagame's rule.

Rwanda's foreign minister Vincent Biruta said he was convicted lawfully, but Rusesabagina has denied all the charges and refused to take part in a trial that he and his supporters have called a political sham. The United States in May determined he had been wrongfully detained.

Rusesabagina, who was feted around the world after being portrayed by actor Don Cheadle in 2004's "Hotel Rwanda," is a vocal critic of Kagame. He is being held in a Rwandan prison.

Speaking at a joint press conference with Biruta in the capi-



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, left, meets with Rwandan President Paul Kagame

tal Kigali, Blinken said Washington had been clear about its concerns related to Rusesabagina's trial and conviction, particularly what he described as "the lack of fair trial guarantees."

"We continue to urge the government to address concerns about the legal protections afforded to him and his case and establish safeguards to prevent similar outcomes in the future," Blinken said.

Blinken said he had discussed Rusesabagina's case with Kagame in his meeting earlier yesterday but declined to say how Kagame responded.

Biruta pushed back on Blinken's comments.

"He was arrested. He was tried and convicted along with 20 others, 20 other accomplices for serious crimes ... And this was done lawfully under both the Rwandan and international laws. Therefore, Rwanda will continue to abide by our laws and the decisions made by our judiciary," Biruta said.

Rusesabagina has acknowledged having a leadership role in the Rwanda Movement for Democratic Change (MRCD), but denied responsibility for attacks carried out by its armed

"We continue to urge the government to address concerns about the legal protections afforded to him and his case and establish safeguards to prevent similar outcomes in the future"

ANTONY BLINKEN

wing, the National Liberation Front (FLN). The trial judges said the two groups were indistinguishable.

Rusesabagina's family, and the families of other Americans and US permanent residents also jailed abroad, have asked US President Joe Biden to intervene to secure the release of their loved ones.

Washington's "wrongfully detained" designation means the responsibility for Rusesabagina's case will be transferred from the State Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs to the office of the Special Envoy for Hostage Affairs, effectively raising the issue's political profile.



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TWEETS

01



Attended the oath-taking ceremony of Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar Ji. I congratulate him on becoming India's Vice President and wish him the very best for a fruitful tenure. @jdhankhar1 @VPsecretariat

@narendramodi

02



Investments in the CHIPS and Science Law will create more than 1 million construction jobs alone over the next 6 years building semiconductor factories in America.

@POTUS

03



I know people are worried about the difficult winter ahead, which is why we are providing support - including a £400 energy bill discount for all households. This morning I urged electricity companies to continue working on ways to help with the cost of living.

@BorisJohnson

04



The monetary policy cycle is now increasingly synchronized around the world. The pace of tightening is accelerating in several countries, particularly in advanced economies, in terms of both frequency and magnitude of rate hikes.

@GitaGopinath

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