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Nero succeeds Claudius as Roman Emperor

1884

Greenwich in London established as the universal time meridian of longitude



1924

Mecca falls without struggle to Saudi forces led by Abdulaziz Ibn Saud

1944

US 1st army begins battle of Aachen, first German city captured during WWII

pledge more arms for Washington hails gains



The Druzhba oil pipeline from Russia to Europe

Druzhba is one of the largest oil pipelines in the world, and was built by the Soviet Union.

* It starts in central Russia and connects West Siberian oil fields to major refineries in Europe.

* It has capacity to pump more than 2 million barrels per day (bpd) but has been severely underutilised in recent months amid worsening Russia-Western ties.

* The Druzhba pipeline splits into two legs with the bigger, northern one going to Poland and Germany.

sign of a repeat of the intensive countrywide strikes of the previous two days.

The missiles have mostly targeted civilian electricity and heating infrastructure, while some hit busy roads, parks and tourist sites, including in the centre of Kyiv.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said Russia's missile attacks were a sign of weakness.

"The reality is that they're not able to make progress on the battlefield. Russia is actually losing on the battlefield," Stoltenberg said.

Since Monday's attacks, Germany has sent the first of four planned IRIS-T SLM air defence

systems, while Washington said it would speed up the delivery of a promised NASAMS air defence system.

ENERGY CRISIS

EU energy ministers were also meeting in Prague to work out ways to cope with an energy crisis caused by the war.

Yesterday, Polish pipeline operator PERN said it had detected a leak in one pipe in the Druzhba system that carries oil from Russia to Europe, though it said the cause was probably an accident.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak said the leak appeared to have been eliminated.

Global attention has been fo-

cused on the security of Russian energy pipelines to Europe since the main undersea gas pipelines were damaged by suspected sabotage last month.

Western countries have not said who they blame for huge explosions that blew holes in the two Nord Stream 1 pipelines and one of two pipes that make up the new Nord Stream 2 project, but have implied they believe it was Russia.

Putin said yesterday gas could now be delivered through the remaining undamaged Nord Stream 2 pipe, but it was up to Europe to allow it. The new pipeline, completed but never opened, has been suspended by Germany since the invasion. Gazprom boss Alexei Miller said fixing the damaged pipes would take more than a year.

As his forces have lost ground on the battlefield since September, Putin has escalated the conflict, ordering the call-up of hundreds of thousands of reservists, proclaiming the annexation of occupied Ukrainian territory and repeatedly threatening to use nuclear weapons to protect Russia.

US President Joe Biden said yesterday he doubted Putin would use a nuclear weapon.

Putin is a "rational actor who has miscalculated significantly," Biden said in a CNN interview, saying he believed the Russian



How much crude oil does the EU still import from Russia?

Russian oil imports into the European Union and United Kingdom fell 35% to 1.7 million barrels per day (bpd) in August from 2.6 million bpd in January, but the EU was still the biggest market for Russian crude, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA). On Wednesday, Poland said it had detected a leak in one pipeline in the Druzhba system that carries oil from Russia to Europe, an event that will add to concerns about Europe's energy security after the Nord Stream gas pipeline leak.

Chinese 'flying car' makes first public flight in Dubai

Reuters | Dubai

A "flying car" built by Chinese electronic vehicle maker Xpeng Inc (9868.HK) made its first public flight in the United Arab Emirates, as the company works towards launching the electric aircraft on international markets.

The X2 is a two-seater electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft that is lifted by eight propellers - two at each corner of the vehicle.

Monday's unmanned, 90-minute test flight in Dubai was described by its manufacturer as an "important base for the next generation of flying cars."

"We are making step-by-step (moves) to the international market," said Minguan Qiu, general manager of Xpeng Aerohub. "First we selected Dubai city because Dubai is the most innovative city in the world."



Guests and reporters check out the Xpeng eVTOL flying car X2 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates



Putin to meet Qatar's emir in Kazakhstan

Reuters | Moscow

Russian President Vladimir Putin will meet Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani in Kazakhstan, Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov told reporters.

"This will be the first face-to-face meeting after the outbreak of the pandemic, so it is very important," Ushakov said. "The last time we met with the Emir was in Dushanbe in 2019."

"In addition to politics and the trade and economic sphere, I would single out cooperation in the energy market, cooperation between Russia and Qatar within the framework of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum. This will also be discussed between our leaders," he said.

president wrongly expected his invading troops to be welcomed.

Asked how realistic he believed it would be for Putin to use a tactical nuclear weapon, Biden responded: "Well, I don't think he will."

NATO's Stoltenberg told reporters in Brussels on Tuesday the military alliance had not noticed any change in Russia's nuclear posture.



TOP
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TWEETS

01



The supply of electricity from clean energy sources must double within the next 8 years to limit global temperature increase. Accelerating the energy transition is an essential #ClimateAction step to ensure a greener, better future.

@antonio_guterres

02



Early in the #COVID19 pandemic, it was important for health systems to focus all of their life-saving efforts on patients presenting with acute infection. Now it's critical for governments to invest long-term in their health system & make a plan for dealing with #LongCovid.

@DrTedros

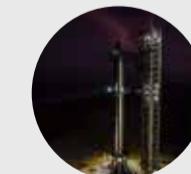
03



An important Cabinet decision, which will drive India's efforts of port-led development and becoming a hub for trade. This decision will also benefit many states which do not have access to the coastline.

@narendramodi

04



Starship 24 and Booster 7 fully stacked on the orbital launch pad at Starbase

@elonmusk

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