

1939

World's 1st practical helicopter, the VS-300 designed by Igor Sikorsky takes (tethered) flight in Stratford, Connecticut

1949

India's Constituent Assembly adopts Hindi as an official language. Celebrated today as Hindi Day.

1956

IBM introduces the RAMAC 305, 1st commercial computer with a hard drive that uses magnetic disk storage, weighs over a ton



1960

Iraq, Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela form the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries

'promise' on open questions

commitments. read more
"I did not receive any promise," Grossi told a news conference when asked about the uranium traces, the first of which were found more than two years ago at a site in Tehran that Iran has described as a carpet-cleaning facility.

"What I said there ... is that I need to have a clear conversation with the new government about this."

A joint statement by the IAEA and Iran on Sunday said Grossi would meet Iran's nuclear chief Mohammad Eslami in Vienna next week and then Grossi would "visit Tehran in the near future to hold high level consultations with the (Iranian) government".

Grossi declined to say more specifically whom he would meet in Tehran or when.

The aim of the weekend agreement was to buy time for wider diplomatic efforts aimed at bringing the United States and Iran

BETTER YOU KNOW

Then-President Donald Trump pulled the United States out of the nuclear deal in 2018, re-imposing punishing economic sanctions on Iran. Tehran responded as of a year later by breaching many of the deal's restrictions and later enriching uranium to purity levels much closer to weapons-grade.

fully back into the 2015 nuclear deal, which imposed restrictions on Iran's nuclear activities in return for the lifting of international sanctions against Tehran.

Cruise missile capability

role," said Ankit Panda, a senior fellow at the US-based Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "This is a common euphemism for nuclear-capable system."

It is unclear whether North Korea has mastered the technology needed to build warheads small enough to be carried on a cruise missile, but leader Kim Jong Un said earlier this year that developing smaller bombs is a top goal.

South Korea's military did not disclose whether it had detected the North's latest tests, but said on Monday it was conducting a detailed analysis in cooperation with the United States.

The US military's Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM) said it was aware of the reports and was coordinating with its allies and partners.

"This activity highlights (North Korea's) continuing focus on developing its military program and the threats that poses to its neighbours and the international community," INDOPACOM said in a statement.

Rodong Sinmun, the ruling Workers' Party's official newspaper, ran photos of the new cruise missile flying and being fired from a transporter-erector-launcher.

The test provides "strategic significance of possessing another effective deterrence means for more reliably guaranteeing the security of our state and strongly containing the military manoeuvres of the hostile forces," KCNA said.

It was seen as the North's first missile launch after it tested a new tactical short-range ballistic missile in March. North Korea also conducted a cruise missile test just hours after US President Joe Biden took office in late January.

The unveiling of the test came just a day before chief nuclear negotiators from the United States, South Korea and Japan meet in Tokyo to explore ways to break the standoff with North Korea. China's foreign minister, Wang Yi, is also scheduled to visit Seoul today for talks with his counterpart, Chung Eui-yong.

Pampering in Palestinian clinic

in the occupied West Bank, where a tendency among Palestinians to pamper their pets is common in the recent years, where they have designated pet-friendly zones.

There is a high demand for pet care services, and owners are increasingly turning to domestic pets for comfort in frequent conflict between militants and Israeli forces, and owners walking dogs are now a common sight.



A Palestinian child pets a cat at Royal Care Vet Clinic

turned to domestic pets for comfort in frequent conflict between militants and Israeli forces, and owners walking dogs are now a common sight.

Myanmar's Suu Kyi dizzy and drowsy, skips court appearance

Reuters

Deposed Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi was unable to appear at a court hearing yesterday for health reasons, a member of her legal team said, describing her condition as dizziness caused by motion sickness.

Suu Kyi, 76, who has been detained on various charges since her overthrow in a Feb. 1 military coup, did not have the coronavirus but felt ill having not traveled in a vehicle for a long time, lawyer Min Min Soe said.

The popular Nobel Peace Prize winner has spent about



Myanmar's State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi

half of the past three decades in various forms of detention over her non-violent struggle against dictatorship and her health is closely watched.

"It is not serious sickness ... She suffered car sickness. She

cannot stand that feeling and told us she wanted to take a rest," Min Min Soe told Reuters.

Suu Kyi's only communication with the outside world has been through her legal team, which says its access to her is limited and monitored by authorities.

She is due to appear in court on Tuesday. Contacted again on Monday evening, Min Min Soe said the legal team had no access to determine Suu Kyi's latest condition but reiterated that her sickness was only minor.

A spokesman for the ruling military did not respond to calls seeking comment.

Israeli prime minister visits Egypt in first official trip for a decade

Reuters | Cairo

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett was meeting Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi yesterday for talks on Israeli-Palestinian relations and bilateral issues, Egypt's presidency said, in the first official trip by an Israeli head of government to Egypt for a decade.

Bennett, the head of a far-right party who took office in June, was invited to visit by Sisi last month and the two were due to meet in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh on the southern tip of Egypt's Sinai peninsula.

The discussions were expected to address "ways and efforts to revive the peace process" between Israel and the Palestinians, Egypt's presidency said in a statement, as well as bilateral and regional matters.

Peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians collapsed in 2014 and analysts say there is little prospect of reviving them. Bennett, a nationalist atop a cross-partisan coalition, opposes Palestinian statehood.

One focus of Monday's talks



Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett

will be the situation in the Gaza Strip, where Egypt helped broker a ceasefire after 11 days of conflict in May between Israel and Hamas, the Palestinian faction that controls the enclave, diplomatic and security sources said. An uptick in cross-border violence since late August has tested the fragile truce. Over the past week, Palestinian militants have fired rockets into Israel for three nights in a row, drawing Israeli air strikes.

BORDER CROSSING

Bennett and Sisi were also

expected to discuss regional issues, including Iran's influence in the Middle East and the crisis in Lebanon, diplomats said.

The trip appeared to give transport links between the two countries a boost.

The Taba crossing between Israel and Sinai, an entry point for Israeli tourists, would become fully operational from Monday as restrictions put in place during the coronavirus pandemic were lifted, Israel's transport ministry said.

From October, Egyptair would begin operating several flights a week between Cairo and Tel Aviv, sources at the Egyptian national carrier said.

Egypt became the first Arab country to sign a peace treaty with Israel in 1979 but relations have remained cool, restricted to security cooperation and limited economic links.

The last official visit by an Israeli prime minister to Egypt was when Benjamin Netanyahu met former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in January 2011 in Sharm el-Sheikh, just before the uprising that toppled Mubarak.

Deal allowing Russian mercenaries into Mali is close

● Paris wants to prevent deal being enacted, sources say

● At least 1,000 mercenaries could be involved

Reuters | Paris

A deal is close that would allow Russian mercenaries into Mali, extending Russian influence over security affairs in West Africa and triggering opposition from former colonial power France, seven diplomatic and security sources said.

Paris has begun a diplomatic drive to prevent the military junta in Mali enacting the deal, which would permit Russian private military contractors, the Wagner Group, to operate in the former French colony, the sources said.



Representative picture

A European source who tracks West Africa and a security source in the region said at least 1,000 mercenaries could be involved. Two other sources believed the number was lower, but did not provide figures.

Four sources said the Wagner Group would be paid about 6 billion CFA francs (\$10.8 million) a month for its services. One security source working in the region said the mercenaries would train Malian military and

provide protection for senior officials.

France is worried the arrival of Russian mercenaries would undermine its decade-old counter-terrorism operation against al Qaeda and Islamic State-linked insurgents in the Sahel region of West Africa at a time when it is seeking to draw down its 5,000-strong Barkhane mission to reshape it with more European partners, the diplomatic sources said.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



The people of Afghanistan are facing a humanitarian calamity. This is the time for the international community to extend a lifeline and do everything we can – and everything we owe – to help them hold on to hope.

@antoniogeturres

02



"We need to ensure that our humanitarian response saves lives but also saves livelihoods. The people of #Afghanistan are facing the collapse of an entire country – all at once. Stoppag solutions are critical – but the Afghan people will need our support over the long haul."

@DrTedros

03



"Since the Paris Agreement on climate change was signed in 2015, the organisation says on average four activists have been killed each week." #DefendTheDefenders

@GretaThunberg

04



With registration in Indonesia Sputnik V is now authorized in 70 countries with total population of 4 billion people or 50% of the world's population.

@sputnikvaccine

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