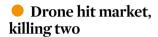
Mackenzie King retires after 21 years and 154 days as Prime **Minister of Canada**

Leonardo da Vinci's painting "Salvator Mundi" sells for \$450.3 million at auction in New York, a world record price for any artwork

'Heinous' Russian attack on Ukraine capital kills six

Drone and missile strikes pound Ukrainian capital, causing heavy civilian casualties



Azerbaijan embassy compound damaged

Officials reported 30 wounded

AFP | Kyiv

ussia struck residential parts of Ukraine's capital Kyiv yesterday, Ukraine said, killing six people in a single apartment block in attacks President Volodymyr Zelensky denounced as "heinous" and aimed at civilians.

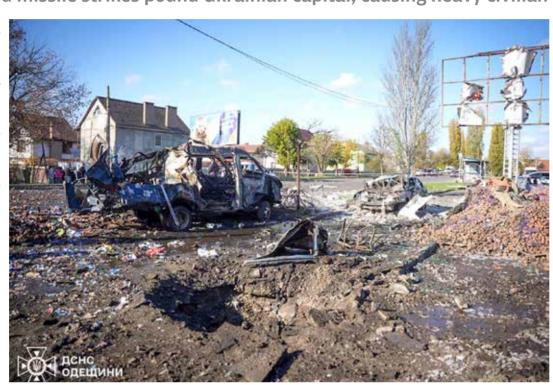
Kyiv also said a Russian drone attack on a market in southern Ukraine hours later killed two more people.

It was one of the largest attacks 2022, hitting buildings in most of the capital's districts.

The attack also damaged Azerbaijan's embassy.

missile had destroyed part of its side one of the buildings. compound and summoned Moscow's envoy.

In the east of the city, where rescue workers were clearing flames everywhere, the fire 30 people were wounded, offi-



Destroyed cars are seen at the site of an air-attack, in Chornomorsk, Odesa region

on Kyiv since Russia launched its debris, AFP reporters saw mul-spreading, the neighbours cials said. full-scale invasion of Ukraine in ti-storey buildings with dozens screaming," she told AFP. of windows and balconies blown out, their facades charred.

"My hair caught fire and I ror". started putting it out," said local Baku said an Iskander-type resident Maria Kalchenko, out-

She turned to look for her dog vilian infrastructure," he added. before a wall near her collapsed.

Zelensky said the attack was specifically aimed to cause "ter-

"This was a deliberately calculated attack aimed at causing energy and rail infrastructure. maximum harm to people and ci-

"The doors were blown out, were also damaged, and around country as temperatures plunge.

'Contempt for humanity'

Moscow has fired record missile and drone barrages at Ukraine in recent months, hitting

It has also targeted residential areas, knocking out power candescent debris falling over A hospital, shops and offices for tens of thousands across the large areas above the capital.



the embassy of Azerbaijan, prompting the country to summon Russia's ambassador after an Iskander-type missile destroyed part of its diplomatic compound

tack showed a "contempt for humanity" from Moscow.

"It is very evident and clear that (Russian President Vladimir) Putin aims to make winter as unbearable as possible for Ukraine, to destroy morale and break the resistance of the Ukrainian people," German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius said.

Overnight, AFP journalists saw Ukraine using tracer bullets and missile defence systems, and in-

The explosions lit up the night Germany said yesterday's at- sky in flashes of bright orange.



Wishing King Charles a very Happy Birthday, and sharing my appreciation for his leadership on promoting healthy lifestyles, advancing #HealthForAll and addressing the threats posed by #climatechange. @ RoyalFamily

@DrTedros



f the last 40 days tell Lus anything about the radical-left Democrats, it's that they're willing to burn the country down just to get President Trump. Troops' salaries, SNAP Benefits, Air Traffic controllers – they don't care about the cost so long as it hurts Trump.



Warmest birthday wishes to His Majesty The King. Grateful for your continued leadership and service to our country.

@RishiSunak

India's Modi celebrates as party set for big win in state vote



Supporters of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) holding a photograph of India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi celebrate vote counting results of the party's victory in the Bihar assembly elections

AFP | Patna

Tndian Prime Minister Nar-Lendra Modi yesterday hailed of good governance". a "resounding" victory for his party and its allies in a key local election in the state of Bihar.

The eastern state of 130 million people was widely seen as he said in a post on social a bellwether and a test of Modi's media. ability to translate New Delhi's its citizens.

Counting is still ongoing and until Saturday, but the election commission. commission said partial results tionalist Bharatiya Janata Party year, analysts say.

(BJP) and its allies in the state

Modi called the win a "victory

This resounding public mandate will empower us to serve the people and work with new resolve for Bihar,"

Together with smaller allies, booming economy into gains for BJP are on course to securing at least three quarters of the state legislature's 243 seats, accordthe final tally may not be out ing to figures from the election

The election outcome can and projections suggested a sol- boost Modi and his party ahead id majority for Modi's Hindu na- of other key regional polls next

US announces new military operation in Latin America



A Venezuelan navy patrol boat escorts Panamanian flagged crude oil tanker Yoselin near the El Palito refinery in Puerto Cabello. Venezuela

AFP | London

Hegseth announced Thursday a military operation to "remove narco-terrorists." amid growing concerns that a US a military campaign in the senior military officials had naval build-up in Latin American waters could presage land strikes and a wider conflict.

"Today, I'm announcing Operation SOUTHERN SPEAR," Hegseth posted on X. "This our Homeland from the drugs that are killing our people."

The post gave no details of the precise nature of Opera- gion.

what the operation would en- tion Southern Spear, a Pentagon undertaken.

President Donald Trump's administration is conducting ed multiple sources as saving Caribbean and eastern Pacific, presented Trump with updated deploying naval and air forces options for potential operations for what it calls an anti-drugs in Venezuela, including strikes offensive.

US forces have carried out strikes on about 20 vessels in in- day what it called a major, namission defends our Homeland, ternational waters in the region tionwide military deployment removes narco-terrorists from since early September, killing to counter the growing US naval our Hemisphere, and secures at least 76 people, according to presence off its coast -- includ-US figures.

tail or how it might differ from spokesperson simply referred S Defense Secretary Pete military actions already being inquiries back to Hegseth's post on X.

CBS News on Wednesday citon land.

Venezuela announced Tuesing a newly arrived US aircraft Asked for clarification on carrier strike group in the re-



Wishing His Majesty The King a very happy birthday.

@Keir_Starmer

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