Under future Emperor Nikephoros II Phokas, Byzantine troops storm the city of Aleppo and recover the tattered tunic of John the Baptist during the Arab-Byzantine wars

King James II, the last **Roman Catholic British** monarch, flees to France from William of Orange



**US General George Washington** resigns his military commission as Commander-in-Chief of the Army to Congress

Vincent van Gogh cuts off part of his left ear with a razor after an argument with fellow painter Paul Gauguin and sends it to a female courtesan for safekeepin



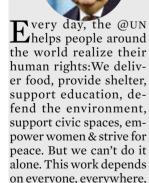
n important moment Afor India-New Zealand relations, with a strong push to bilateral trade and investment! My friend PM Christopher Luxon and I had a very good conversation a short while ago following the conclusion of the landmark India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement.

@narendramodi



There is not a single power plant in Ukraine today that has not been damaged by Russian strikes. And every functioning Ukrainian energy facility, every operating part of our energy grid, is what thousands of our energy sector workers have been able to protect, restore, and build

@ZelenskyyUa



taking a stand. @antonioguterres



n Qatar, we are proud Lof the completion of the "Doha Historical Dictionary of the Arabic Language," whose rich content reinforces our people's adherence to their identity and their confident openness to the modern age and its tools. @TamimBinHamad

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



An investigator works at the car bomb site in southern Moscow.

## Moscow car blast kills Russian general as Ukraine peace talks stall

Russian investigators suspects "Ukrainian special forces"

Top negotiators from both Russia and Ukraine were in Miami for talks

"Slow progress is being observed" in the talks, says Russia

Zelensky has expressed scepticism over whether Russia really wants to end the war

AFP | Moscow, Russia

handout

taken and released by the

Fire and Rescue Service

on the

bed of the

canal after

a sinkhole

developed along the

Union

Canal,

in the

central

England.

draining

the water,

Chemistry area of

to end the war in Ukraine.

Top negotiators from both

seeking to break the deadlock charred from the blast. on a deal to end almost four its neighbour in 2022.

Kyiv has not commented on loud bang. the blast, the latest in a string of similar incidents, but Russian it. We thought we were safe, and investigators said they suspect- then this happens right next to ed it was "linked" to "Ukrainian us," local resident, Tatiana, 74, special forces".

The attack had the hallmarks erals and pro-war figures that said Grigory, 70, who also dehave either been claimed or are clined to give his surname. widely believed to have been orchestrated by Ukraine.

Lieutenant General Fanil Sar- added. car bomb killed a sen- varov, 56, head of the Russian ern Moscow.

AFP reporters at the scene saw special services."

Russia and Ukraine were in Mi- a mangled white Kia SUV, its ami over the weekend for sepa- doors and back window blown rate meetings with US officials out. The frame was twisted and

The scene had been cordoned years of fighting, triggered by off by security forces, and inves-Moscow's all-out offensive on tigators were sifting through the debris. Eyewitnesses reported a "We absolutely didn't expect

told AFP. "The windows rattled, you of other assassinations of gen- could tell it was an explosion,"

> "We need to treat it more calmly. It's the cost of war," he

Russia's Investigative Comior Russian general in General Staff's training de- mittee, which probes major Chechnya in the 1990s, ac-A southern Moscow yespartment, was killed when the crimes, said it was "working cording to his official biograterday morning as officials re- bomb, which had been placed through various lines of enquiry phy on the defence ministry's ported "slow progress" in talks under his parked car, detonated into the murder. One of them website. with the United States on how in a residential quarter of south- involves the possible organisa-

YOU

Since Moscow sent troops into Ukraine in February 2022, Kyiv has been blamed for several attacks targeting Russian military officials and pro-Kremlin figures in Russia and in Russian-occupied parts of Ukraine.

Sarvarov fought in the Russian army's campaigns in the North Caucasus, including

He had also been one of the tion of the crime by Ukrainian figures overseeing Russian forces in Syria in 2015-16.



Paw patrol:

Britain prides itself on being a nation of dog lovers, but has a cruel practice the government wants to eradicate -- puppy farms.

The Labour administration on Sunday announced sweeping reforms designed to improve the welfare of the country's pets and other animals.

They include ending the so-called farming of puppies, where dogs are bred on a large-scale in cramped conditions, chiefly for prof-

"These inhumane practices often result in puppies suffering from long-term health issues," the environment, food and rural affairs ministry said in a statement.

According to the vet charity PDSA, in 2024 there were some 10.6 million pet dogs in the UK, which has a population of around 69 million.

Dog breeding is regulated -- anyone in England breeding and selling three or more litters of puppies in a year is required by law to have a licence.

Estimating the number of puppy farms in Britain is difficult because they are largely unlicenced and operate in the shadows, animal rights charities say.

The British Veterinary Association estimates that about one in four pet owners, or five million people, admit to doing no research before buying an animal.

Charities worry that means people are unwittingly buying man's best friend from puppy farms, where they say pups are often overbred and removed from their mother at too young an age.



Dogs in coats and caps parade during the Rescue Dogs of London Christmas jumper parade in central London

