

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 safekeeping

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TWEETS

01



An important moment for 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

02



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

03



Every day, the @UN helps people around the world realize their human rights. We deliver food, provide shelter, support education, defend the environment, support civic spaces, empower women & strive for peace. But we can't do it alone. This work depends on everyone, everywhere, taking a stand.

@antonioguterres

04



In Qatar, we are proud of 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

A car bomb killed a senior Russian general in southern Moscow yesterday morning as officials reported "slow progress" in talks with the United States on how to end the war in Ukraine.

Top negotiators from both

Russia and Ukraine were in Miami over the weekend for separate meetings with US officials seeking to break the deadlock on a deal to end almost four years of fighting, triggered by Moscow's all-out offensive on its neighbour in 2022.

Kyiv has not commented on the blast, the latest in a string of similar incidents, but Russian investigators said they suspected it was "linked" to "Ukrainian special forces".

The attack had the hallmarks of other assassinations of generals and pro-war figures that have either been claimed or are widely believed to have been orchestrated by Ukraine.

Lieutenant General Fanil Sarvarov, 56, head of the Russian General Staff's training department, was killed when the bomb, which had been placed under his parked car, detonated in a residential quarter of southern Moscow.

AFP reporters at the scene saw

a mangled white Kia SUV, its doors and back window blown out. The frame was twisted and charred from the blast.

The scene had been cordoned off by security forces, and investigators were sifting through the debris. Eyewitnesses reported a loud bang.

"We absolutely didn't expect it. We thought we were safe, and then this happens right next to us," local resident, Tatiana, 74, told AFP.

"The windows rattled, you could tell it was an explosion," said Grigory, 70, who also declined to give his surname.

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

Russia's Investigative Committee, which probes major crimes, said it was "working through various lines of enquiry into the murder. One of them involves the possible organisation of the crime by Ukrainian special services."



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 Chechnya in the 1990s, according to his official biography on the defence ministry's website.

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

This handout aerial photo taken and released by the Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service shows boats on the bed of the canal after a sinkhole developed along the Shropshire Union Canal, draining the water, in the Chemistry area of Whitchurch, Shropshire, central England.

### When the water vanished



## Paw patrol: UK govt vows to end puppy farming

London, United Kingdom

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 profit.

"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 unlicensed 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