

News in brief

◆ **The US military** yesterday said debris analysis has concluded that the same type of Iranian drone that Tehran has supplied to Russia for its invasion of Ukraine was used to attack a commercial tanker off the coast of Oman a week ago. The US Navy's Bahrain-based 5th Fleet published photos and details of its investigation into the attack on the Liberian-flagged Pacific Zircon tanker, including debris from the Shahed-136 drone itself. In a statement, the Navy said the drone ripped a 30-inch-wide (76 cm) hole into the back of the ship, and the explosive impact damaged a shipboard boiler, potable water tank and life raft. "The Iranian attack on a commercial tanker transiting international waters was deliberate, flagrant and dangerous, endangering the lives of the ship's crew and destabilizing maritime security in the Middle East," Vice Adm. Brad Cooper, the top U.S. Navy commander in the Middle East, said in a statement.



Debris analysis shows Iran-made drone attacked tanker - US Navy

◆ **British navy** frigates and destroyers will be given advanced long-range anti-ship missiles in a new deal agreed by defence minister Ben Wallace with Norway announced yesterday. The Naval Strike Missiles made by Kongsberg Gruppen ASA will be used on eleven British Type 23 frigates and Type 45 destroyers, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) said in a statement. Measuring nearly 4 metres long, the missiles can strike enemy ships and targets on land at distances of more than 100 nautical miles (115 miles) at subsonic speeds, the MoD said.

◆ **UK navy ships** to be armed with advanced long-range strike missiles

◆ **Canadian police** said on Tuesday they were investigating reports of Chinese "police service stations" operating in the Greater Toronto Area for possible interference in Canadian interests and threats to national security. Canada joins countries including the United States and the Netherlands to launch such investigations after Safeguard Defenders, a Europe-based human rights organization, published a report in September revealing the presence of dozens of Chinese police "service stations" in major cities around the world. The stations are an extension of Beijing's efforts to pressure some Chinese nationals or their relatives abroad to return to China to face criminal charges, the report by Safeguard Defenders said.

Canada probes reports of Chinese 'police service stations' in Toronto

◆ **A number of units** were shut down at the Pivdennoukrainsk nuclear power plant in southern Ukraine yesterday because of a loss of power during Russian air strikes across Ukraine, Ukraine's nuclear energy firm Energoatom said. "Everything is fine with the station. There is nowhere to generate electricity," an Energoatom spokesperson said of the plant in the Mykolaiv region. A local official said units were also not operating at the Kholmynskyi nuclear power plant in western Ukraine.

CURIOSER & CURIOSER

Cat's out the bag!

Surprised officers at a JFK International Airport discovered a cat stowed away inside a traveler's bag.



A photo of the X-ray image

Officers discovered the feline in a piece of luggage as it was passing through security at the New York airport on Tuesday morning.



A TSA agent warily opening the luggage and peering inside

They noticed a tuft of orange fur sticking out of a gap in the bag's zipper, and upon opening the suitcase discovered the ginger cat.

A spokesperson for the TSA said workers were 'shocked' by the discovery, which wasn't made until after the bag had passed through security's X-Ray.

The man who owned the bag said he did not know he had packed the cat, but noted that it belonged to someone in the home he'd just left.

The owner of the cat later told the New York Post that the feline's name was Smells, and that she likely crawled into the bag on her own accord before the passenger left for the airport.

Smells has since been returned to her owner.

"We're letting the cat out of the bag on a hiss-toric find," they wrote. "This CATch had our baggage screening officers @JFKairport saying, 'Come on

One photo showed Smell's fur sticking out of the bag, while another showed a TSA agent warily opening the luggage and peering inside.

The cat's owner, a 37-year-old Brooklyn resident named Alix, said she didn't even realize the cat was missing until she got a call from the TSA.

'An officer called and asked if I wanted to press charges' she told The Post. 'He wanted to know if there was any reason he was trying to steal my cat and go to Florida.'

Alix insisted the incident was merely an accident, and that if any were at fault it was Smells herself.

Earthquake shakes northwest Turkey, 50 people injured

Reuters | Istanbul

An earthquake of magnitude 5.9 shook northwest Turkey and was felt in Istanbul early yesterday, injuring 50 people and damaging some buildings in the province of Duzce, a government disaster agency and state media said.

There were no reports of deaths or major destruction in the tremor, which struck at 04:08 am (0108 GMT) with its epicenter in Golyaka, a district in Duzce about 200 km east of Istanbul.

"We almost completed our checks in the villages around Golyaka. There is no severe damage reported; only some barns were wrecked in these places," Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu said on broadcaster TRT Haber.

US authorises \$400 m in new military aid for Ukraine

Reuters | Washington

The United States has authorised an additional \$400 million in military aid to Ukraine, which will include weapons, munitions and air defense equipment, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said yesterday.

"The artillery ammunition, precision fires, air defence missiles, and tactical vehicles that we are providing will best serve Ukraine on the battlefield," Blinken said in a statement.

President Joe Biden has said he expects US aid to Ukraine will continue without interruption despite skepticism by Republicans, who are expected to use their new majority to more closely monitor the flow of aid.

Twin blasts in Jerusalem

● At least 14 injured in two blasts at bus stops

● Hamas praises attack, does not claim responsibility

● Explosions recall bus bomb blasts in 2000-05

Reuters | Jerusalem



A damaged bus is seen following an explosion at a bus stop in Jerusalem

Two bombs exploded at bus stops on Jerusalem's outskirts yesterday, killing a 16-year-old boy and wounding at least 14 other people, Israeli authorities said.

Police blamed the initial blast, which occurred during rush hour, on an explosive device planted at a bus station near the city exit. The second - about 30 minutes later - hit a bus stop in the vicinity of an urban settlement in the east of the city.

"There has not been such a coordinated attack in Jerusalem for many years," police spokesman Eli Levi told Israeli Army Radio.

Army Radio said the explosive devices were hidden in bags and were packed with nails to maximise the impact. Kan Radio said they appear to have been detonated from afar by mobile phone.

Security camera footage aired by N12 news showed the mo-

ment of the first explosion with a sudden cloud of smoke billowing from the bus stop. Television showed debris strewn around the site, which was cordoned off by emergency services.

Israel's ambulance service said 12 people had been taken to hospital from the first blast and three people were wounded in the second explosion. One of the wounded, a 16-year-old, died in hospital, the Shaare Zedek Medical Centre said.

The United Nations, the European Union and the United States condemned the attacks.

"Terrorism is a dead-end that accomplishes absolutely nothing," the US Embassy said on Twitter.

In Gaza, a spokesman for Hamas praised the Jerusalem explosions but stopped short of claiming responsibility.

Hamas spokesman Abdel-Latif Al-Qanoua linked the blasts to "the crimes conducted by the

Walmart Chesapeake shooting: Emp

Reuters | Chesapeake

A Walmart employee killed six people and wounded several others before fatally shooting himself at a store in Chesapeake, Virginia, authorities said yesterday, in the latest episode of gun violence in the United States.

The shooter, who has not been identified, used a pistol in the



Police are not searching for anyone else in connection with the attack.

shooting late Tuesday, wounding at least four people in addition to the fatalities, Chesapeake Police Chief Mark Solesky said at a news conference.

US President Joe Biden yesterday called the shooting "yet another horrific and senseless act of violence," vowing any federal resources needed to aid in the investigation. In addition to seven

'Good Night Oppy' about NASA's rover mission

Reuters | Los Angeles

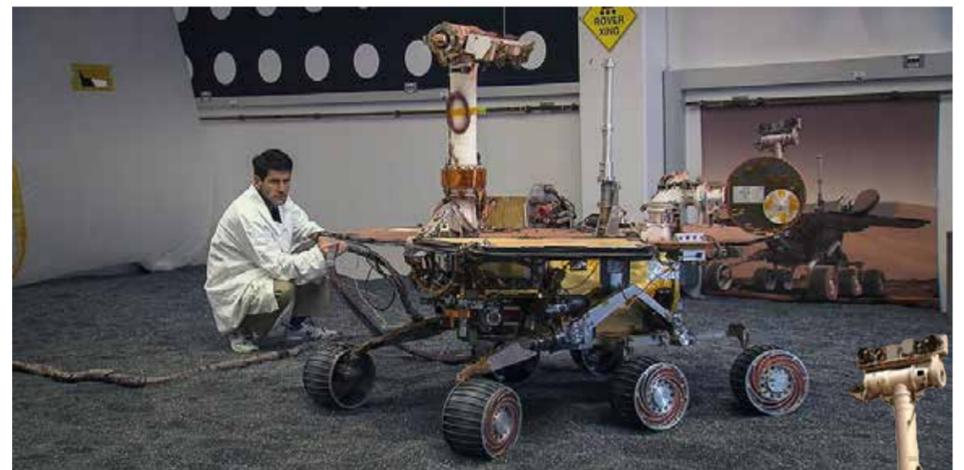
When "Good Night Oppy", which follows NASA rovers Opportunity and Spirit before and after they land on Mars, launched at a film festival in September, the documentary had an unexpected effect on audiences: they cried.

"It's funny because I promise you we were not having conversations in the edit room on how we would make people cry," director Ryan White told Reuters.

"It is kind of the shocking re-sounding response to this film seems to be people coming up to me sheepishly with their hand over their mouths saying 'I cried about a robot'."

The film, which premiered at the Telluride Film Festival in Colorado in September, looks at the Mars Exploration Rover (MER) mission, which NASA launched in 2003.

Both rovers, which were solar powered, were expected to only live for 90 Martian solar



An engineer looks at Mars rover Opportunity at NASA JPL (Jet Propulsion Laboratory) in Pasadena, California, U.S

days (SOLs) but Opportunity (or Oppy) lasted over 14 years until it transmitted its last message on June 10, 2018.

White wanted to make the film after Opportunity's last message

"My battery is low and it's getting dark" went viral.

However it is the film's human characters that evoke an emotional response.

White had assumed scientists

and engineers would be very academic and un-

