

1066

Battle of Stamford Bridge: English army under King Harold II defeat invading Norwegians led by King Harald Hardrada and Harold's brother Tostig, who were both killed

1237

Treaty of York signed between kings Henry III of England and Alexander II of Scotland which establishes a boundary between the two countries (mostly unchanged in modern times)

1513

Spanish explorer Vasco Nunez de Balboa crosses the Panama Isthmus becoming first European to see the Pacific Ocean



1926

Henry Ford announces an 8 hour, 5-day work week for workers at the Ford Motor Company

Russia stiffens penalty for surrender, replaces top general

Replaces deputy defence minister after battlefield defeats that revealed widespread logistical problems



Two boys cheer at passing vehicles from their mimicked checkpoint at the curve of a road in Chuhuiv, Kharkiv region

in charge of logistics is dubbed "Butcher of Mariupol" for his role in the siege of Mariupol and destruction of civilian targets in the city

Russia's partial mobilisation announced on Wednesday will likely be one of his first big logistical challenges with the hundreds of thousands of reservists being called up needing to be equipped and trained before deployment.

Military-age men have sought to leave, with flights full and neighbouring countries receiving an influx of Russians, including Georgia where 2,300 private vehicles were waiting to enter at one crossing, regional Russian authorities said.

Now that President Vladimir Putin has signed the legislation, servicemen who desert, surrender "without authorisation", re-

fuse to fight or disobey orders can face up to 10 years imprisonment.

'Sham'

Looting will be punishable by 15 years imprisonment.

A separate law, also signed yesterday, facilitates Russian citizenship for foreigners who enlist in the Russian army as the Kremlin seeks to bolster the ranks.

On Friday, US President Joe Biden has dismissed as a "sham" the voting on whether Russia should annex four regions of Ukraine, which ends next Tuesday.

Even Beijing, Moscow's closest ally since the war began, called for the respect of "sovereignty and territorial integrity".

The voting is being held in Russian-controlled areas of Donetsk and Lugansk in the east, and Kherson and Zaporizhzhia in the south.



Ukrainians have reported armed soldiers going door-to-door in occupied parts of the country to collect votes for self-styled "referendums" on joining Russia

For four days, authorities are going door-to-door to collect votes. Polling stations then open Tuesday for residents to cast ballots on the final day. Results are expected as early as late Tuesday or Wednesday.

"Ultimately, things are moving towards the restoration of the Soviet Union. The referendum is one step towards this," Leonid, a 59-year-old military official, said.

The snap referendums were announced just this week after the Ukrainian counter-offensive seized most of the northeast Kharkiv region -- bringing hundreds of settlements back under Kyiv's control after months of Russian occupation.

Irpin, close to the capital, was recaptured after weeks of fighting and residents have rallied to start rebuilding before winter sets in.

Over 100 apartment blocks in Irpin -- dubbed a "hero city" by



Two men pose for a photo in front of motorcade organized to support voting in a referendum in Luhansk, eastern Ukraine

President Volodymyr Zelensky for holding back Russian invaders -- were badly damaged by shelling.

Evidence of 'war crimes'

Head of his building's residents' association Mykhailo Kyrylenko looked proudly at the new roof taking shape.

"People don't have much money, but they agreed" to donate funds to gradually restore the shattered homes, he said.

Putin this week warned that Moscow would use "all means" to protect its territory -- which former Russian leader Dmitry Medvedev said on social media could include the use of "strategic nuclear weapons".

Zelensky has denounced the polls, on Friday calling them "crimes against international law

and the law of Ukraine".

G7 nations declared the polls will "never" be recognised and have "no legal effect or legitimacy".

UN investigators on Friday accused Russia of committing war crimes on a "massive scale" in Ukraine -- listing bombings, executions, torture and horrific sexual violence.

In the eastern Kharkiv region, Ukrainian officials said they had exhumed 447 bodies from a site near the city of Izyum, which was recaptured from Russian forces.

"Most of them have signs of violent death, and 30 have signs of torture," said Kharkiv regional governor Oleg Syneubov.

"There are bodies with rope around their necks, with their hands tied, with broken limbs and gunshot wounds."

migrant shipwreck off Syria: new toll



Lebanese Red Cross and Palestinian rescue team ambulances carrying dead bodies cross a border point between Lebanon and Syria, in Arida, north Lebanon

been mired in a financial crisis branded by the World Bank as one of the worst in modern times.

It has become a launchpad for illegal migration, with its own citizens joining Syrian and Palestinian refugees clamouring to leave.

As many as 150 people were on board the small boat that sank off the Syrian port of Tartus, some 50 kilometres (30 miles) north of Tripoli in Lebanon, from where the migrants set sail.

Those on board were mostly Lebanese and Syrians and Palestinians, and included both children and the elderly, the UN said.

#ChinaCoup trends on Twitter

TDI | Agencies

Rumours are doing the rounds on social media that Xi has been removed as the chief of China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) and China's capital, Beijing, is currently under the army's control.

The news comes a day after a former top security official was sentenced to life in prison by the Chinese court. He was believed to be part of anti-Xi "political clique". Another two people associated with the group were similarly given suspended death sentences and three others received lengthy prison terms this week.

Other rumours circulating on the Internet include Li Qiaoming, the General serving for the Chinese PLA, has replaced Xi Jinping as China's ruler.

However, there is no official confirmation from the Chinese Communist Party or the state media about these rumours.

A Chinese human rights activist Jennifer Zeng, who is now residing in the US, shared a video on Twitter and claimed the PLA was moving toward Beijing.

Zeng's tweet reads: "#PLA



military vehicles heading to #Beijing on Sep 22. Starting from Huanlai County near Beijing & ending in Zhangjiakou City, Hebei Province, entire procession as long as 80 KM. Meanwhile, rumor has it that #XiJinping was under arrest after #CCP seniors removed him as head of PLA."

There are also rumours that both international and domestic flights to and from Beijing have been halted and that the city has been cut off from the rest of the world. More rumours claim nearly 60 per cent of flights in China were grounded without any explanation on Friday.

Gordon Chang, a Chinese



author, also based in the US, replied to Zeng's Tweet and wrote: "This video of military vehicles moving to #Beijing comes immediately after the grounding of 59% of the flights in the country and the jailings of senior officials. There's a lot of smoke, which means there is a fire somewhere inside the #CCP. #China is unstable."



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Since the signing of the Black Sea Grain Initiative, +4.3 million metric tonnes of food have been moved, bound for 29 countries. Food prices have dropped sharply but are still almost 8% higher than last year. Shipments must increase so commodity markets can further stabilize.

@antoniogetterres

02



Both Earth & Jupiter (as do all planets) have oval orbits around the Sun. Every now and then, Earth is farthest from the Sun while passing Jupiter when it's closest to the Sun. That's what's going on next week, accounting for Jupiter's extra brightness in the night sky.

@neiltyson

03



Met with PRC Foreign Minister Wang Yi today in NYC. I reiterated the need to maintain open lines of communication and discussed ways to responsibly manage the U.S.-PRC relationship, especially during times of tension.

@SecBlinken

04



A society and an economy without young people are sad, pessimistic and cynical. We are grateful to God that you are here. I am counting on you! Do not be afraid to bother us! Be an example for us! #EconomyOf-Francesco

@Pontifex

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



Since 2020, Lebanon has seen a spike in the number of migrants using its shores to attempt the perilous crossing in jam-packed boats to reach Europe