

1888

The National Geographic Society is founded in Washington, D.C. for “the increase and diffusion of geographic knowledge”

1924

Lenin placed in Mausoleum in Red Square, Moscow

1944

Siege of Leningrad lifted by the Soviets after 880 days and more than 2 million Russians killed



1973

US & North Vietnam's William Rogers & Nguyen Duy Trinh sign cease-fire, ending longest US war and military draft

escorts tankers or investigation



a but others were being detained on coast guard ships for questioning while the investigation was under way.

Wisnu said on Monday that the ships were “caught red-handed” transferring oil from MT Horse to MT Freya and that there was an oil spill around the receiving tanker.

Iran said on Monday that MT Horse was seized over a “technical issue” and had asked Indonesia to explain the seizure.

“The ministry of foreign affairs has coordinated with the coast

guard and obtained information that two motor tanker ships ... are suspected of violating the law,” Indonesian foreign ministry spokesman Teuku Faizasyah said.

“Currently, further investigations are being carried out in order to obtain a more complete picture of the violations committed.”

The tankers were first detected at 2130 GMT on Jan. 23. Indonesia authorities said the two vessels concealed their identity by not showing their national flags, turning off automatic identification systems and failed to respond to a radio call.

Wisnu said that the ships were caught during a regular patrol.

The International Maritime Organization requires vessels to use transponders for safety and

transparency. Crews can turn off the devices if there is a danger of piracy or similar hazards. But transponders are often shut down to conceal a ship's location during illicit activities.

Iran has been accused of concealing the destination of its oil sales by disabling tracking systems on its tankers, making it difficult to assess how much crude Tehran exports as it seeks to counter US sanctions.

Wisnu said yesterday the seizure of the ships had “nothing” to do with the US sanctions, when asked.

Iran sent the MT Horse vessel to Venezuela last year to deliver 2.1 million barrels of Iranian condensate.

WHO issues new clinical advice on treating COVID-19 patients



A logo is pictured outside a building of the World Health Organization (WHO)

Reuters | Geneva

The World Health Organisation (WHO) issued fresh clinical advice yesterday for treating COVID-19 patients, including those displaying persistent symptoms after recovery, and also said it advised using low-dose anti-coagulants to prevent blood clots.

“The other things in the guidance that are new are that COVID-19 patients at home should have the use of pulse oximetry, that’s measuring the oxygen levels, so you can identify whether somewhat at home is deteriorating and would be better off having hospital care,” WHO spokeswoman Margaret Harris told a U.N. briefing in Geneva.

AThe WHO advised clinicians to put patients into the awake prone position, on their front, shown to improve the oxygen flow, she said.

“Also we recommend, we suggest the use, of low-dose anti-coagulants to prevent blood clots forming in blood vessels. We suggest the use of lower doses rather than higher doses because higher doses may lead to other problems,” Harris said.

Ashe added that a WHO-led team of independent experts, currently in the central Chinese city of Wuhan where the first human cases were detected in December 2019, is due to leave quarantine in the next two days to pursue its work with Chinese researchers on the virus origins.

She declined to comment on reports of delays in roll-out of vaccines in the European Union. She said she had no specific data and the WHO’s priority was for health workers in all countries to be vaccinated in the first 100 days of the year.

AstraZeneca , which developed its shot with Oxford University, told the EU on Friday it could not meet agreed supply targets up to the end of March.

Air pollution linked to irreversible sight loss: study

AFP News

Air pollution is likely to increase the risk of irreversible sight loss, according to the results of a long-term study published yesterday.

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is the leading cause of blindness among over-50s in richer nations, with roughly 300 million people predicted to be affected by 2040.

Known risk factors include age, smoking and genetic make-up.

Now researchers have drawn a link between AMD and air pollution, which is already known to carry a host of health risks including heart and

lung disease.

Writing in the British Journal of Ophthalmology, researchers analysed data from more than 115,000 participants who reported no eye problems at the start of the study period in 2006.

Official data on traffic and levels of nitrous oxide and small particulate matter was used to calculate the annual average air pollution levels at the home addresses of the participants.

They were asked to report formal diagnosis of AMD by a doctor and were tested on their sight performance several years later.

In all, 1,286

participants were diagnosed with AMD at the end of the study period.

After accounting for other influencing factors including underlying health conditions and lifestyle, fine particulate matter exposure was associated with an eight-percent higher risk of an individual contracting AMD.

“Overall, our findings suggest that ambient air pollution, especially fine (particulate matter) or those of combustion-related particles, may affect AMD risk,” said the study authors.

“Our findings add to the growing evidence of the damaging effects of ambient

air pollution, even in the setting of relative low exposure.”

The World Health Organization estimates air pollution is responsible for at least seven million deaths every year.

Last week, a separate study estimated that reducing air pollution to WHO-recommended levels could prevent more than 50,000 deaths annually across Europe.

Tuesday’s study was observational and so could not establish a causal

link between air pollution and AMD.

But experts said it provided further evidence for the health risks of poor air quality.

“The association of macular degeneration with smoking is well recognised, but this new finding of an environmental link related to atmospheric pollution will add further to the climate change debate,” said Robert MacLaren, professor of ophthalmology at the University of Oxford.



**TOP
4
TWEETS**

01

Wishing all the people of India a Happy #RepublicDay. Jai Hind!
@narendramodi

02

“I look forward to visiting India later this year, strengthening our friendship, and striving for the quantum leap in our relationship that Prime Minister @narendramodi and I have both pledged to achieve”
@BorisJohnson

03

The Exp 64 crew is gearing up for the first spacewalk of 2021 on Wednesday while continuing science and maintenance aboard the station. More... <https://go.nasa.gov/3sTl2TD>
@Space_Station

04

To help get vaccines to more people, Google is providing \$150M to promote vaccine education & equitable access, and opening up our spaces for vaccination sites as needed. On Search & Maps, we're making it easy to find when + where to get a vaccine.
@sundarpichai

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