

1095

Pope Urban II preaches the west to wrestle control of the Holy land the Seljuk Turks at the Council of Clermont, triggering the First Crusade

1295

English King Edward I calls what later became known as "The Model Parliament" extending the authorities of its representatives

1807

Portuguese Royal Family and its court of nearly 15,000 people leave Lisbon for their colony of Brazil to escape invading Napoleonic troops



1895

Swedish chemist Alfred Nobel's will establishes the Nobel Prize

leader alleges Russia-coup planned next week

Volodymyr Zelenskiy says plotters tried to rope in Ukraine's richest man



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy attends a news briefing

"The information made public by Volodymyr Zelenskiy about attempts to draw me into some kind of coup is an absolute lie. I am outraged by the spread of this lie, no matter what the president's motives are."

"As a Ukrainian citizen, the country's biggest investor, taxpayer, and employer, I will continue to defend a free Ukraine, a free economy, democracy, and freedom of speech."

Ukraine's sovereign dollar bonds tumbled to their lowest level in more than a year yesterday and the cost of insuring exposure to the country's debt soared amid rising security concerns.

Ukraine prepared for escalation

Zelenskiy did not give full details of the coup plot. Asked explicitly whether he thought the Kremlin was involved, he said: "I'm sorry, I can't talk about it."

But he also spoke at length at the news conference of a threat of Russian military escalation, and said Ukraine would be ready for it.

"We are in full control of our borders and are fully prepared for any escalation," Zelenskiy said.

The head of Ukraine's military intelligence told the Military Times outlet last week that Russia had more than 92,000 troops massed around Ukraine's borders and was preparing for an attack by the end of January or beginning of February.

Ukraine, which wants to join the NATO military alliance, has blamed Moscow for supporting separatists in a conflict in its east since 2014. It received a large consignment of US ammunition and Javelin missiles earlier this year, prompting criticism from Russia.

US officials were in touch with Ukraine to get additional information on the plot, said Assistant

"We have challenges not only from the Russian Federation and possible escalation - we have big internal challenges. I received information that a coup d'etat will take place in our country on Dec. 1-2"

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKIY

Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Karen Donfried.

Ministers from NATO member states, including US top diplomat Antony Blinken, would also meet Ukrainian officials during a summit in Latvia next week, Donfried told reporters in a telephone briefing.

Zelenskiy also said his chief of staff Andriy Yermak would soon be contacting representatives of Russia about the standoff between the two countries. Separately, Yermak said he would be contacting senior Kremlin official Dmitry Kozak.

Russia has said it suspects Ukraine of wanting to recapture separatist-controlled territory by force. Zelenskiy said Ukraine had no such plans and added that Russia's rhetoric opposing Ukraine's bid to join NATO was a worrying signal.

A former actor who once played a fictional president in a popular sitcom, the 43-year-old Zelenskiy came to power by a landslide in 2019 promising to end the war in eastern Ukraine, which Kyiv says has killed 14,000 people.

French fishermen block Channel ferries in post-Brexit row



French fishermen block the 'Normandy Trader' boat at the entrance of the port of Saint-Malo

Reuters | London

French fishermen yesterday began a day of action to disrupt cross-Channel traffic in protest at the post-Brexit fishing rights granted by Britain, blocking ferries seeking to access the northern port of Calais.

Half a dozen fishing boats blocked access to the port as part of a protest due to last one-and-a-half hours, an AFP correspondent said. On land, fishermen were also expected later to disrupt freight traffic seeking to enter the Channel Tunnel.

"We want our licences back," read an English-language banner brandished on one of the boats, the Marmouset II.

The regional chief of the CN-PMEM fishing union, Olivier Lepretre, said the action was intended to "put pressure on the British government", and threatened other actions including on products imported from the UK.

A similar action also took place at the port of Saint-Malo to the west, although it did not affect ferries as that morning's traffic was cancelled due to

"If we don't get anywhere ... believe me, the English will not have a magic Christmas. We'll ruin the party"

JEAN MICHEL FOURNIER, A FISHERMAN FROM NEAR BOULOGNE

bad weather.

A spokesman for British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said Thursday he was "disappointed by threats of protest activity", adding that it was "a matter for the French to ensure that there are no illegal actions and that trade is not affected."

Britain has been struggling with major supply problems due to post-Brexit trade disruption and a lack of qualified truck drivers, resulting in fuel shortages and worries about Christmas.

The UK is highly dependent on French ports, particularly for fresh food imports, and any extended blockade would have the potential to cause significant costs.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Nearly 1 in 3 women have been physically or sexually abused in their lifetime. Ending violence against women is everyone's business. As we mark #16Days of Action against Gender-based Violence, @UN_Women explains 10 ways we can all make a difference.

@antoniofutterres

02



Looking forward to next week's #WHASpecial Session on the merits of a binding global accord to prevent and protect the world against future pandemics. We have an historic chance to learn from #COVID19 and keep the world safe.

@DrTedros

03



Today is Native American Heritage Day. We celebrate the contributions of Native peoples and honor their influence on our nation. We will continue to uphold our treaty responsibilities, strengthen Tribal sovereignty, and advance Tribal self-determination.

@VP

04



Based on the strong foundations of 'Separation of Powers', it is important to work together with a spirit of 'Collective Responsibility.'

@narendramodi

es ancient road connecting Luxor and Karnak



Opening ceremony for the restored Avenue of the Sphinxes or Road of the Rams

The oldest ruins along the pathway are six structures built by Queen Hatshepsut, Egypt's only woman pharaoh, that date to 1400 BC

years many have been eroded or destroyed.

The road has undergone several restoration efforts since being discovered in 1949, and the latest began in 2017.

Tourism is a crucial source of jobs and hard currency for Egypt, which has made a concerted effort to lure back the travellers kept away by the coronavirus pandemic.

In April, 22 ancient royal mummies from Luxor and the nearby Valley of the Kings were borne in procession from Cairo's Egyptian Museum to the new National Museum of Egyptian Civilisation, read more

Egypt's tourism revenues plunged to about \$4 billion in 2020, down from \$13 billion in 2019.

Tunisian police shoot man trying to attack Interior Ministry

AFP | Washington

Police in the Tunisian capital shot and wounded a man who tried to storm the Interior Ministry yesterday, local media and witnesses said.

Local Mosaïque FM radio said police shot the man in the leg and brought him under control. He was taken to hospital, the radio said.

Witnesses said they saw police running after the man before shooting him.

"I am at the crime scene and I cannot give any details now," a ministry spokesman told Reuters.

In a post on their official Facebook page, police unions called the man an extremist and published pictures of a knife and cleaver that they said the man had carried.

A video posted on social media showed policemen shooting and pedestrians running on Habib Bourguiba Street.

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