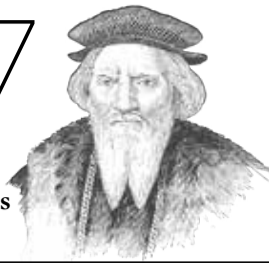


612 BC

Killing of
Sinsharishkun, King
of Assyrian Empire.
Destruction of Nineveh

1497

John Cabot
tells King
Henry VII of his
trip to "Asia"



1675

King Charles II and John
Flamsteed lay the foundation
stone of the Royal Observatory
in Greenwich, London

1846

US Act of Congress passes
establishing the Smithsonian
Institution, now world's largest
museum and research complex

Ukraine incursion

Ukraine, Russia retaliates with deadly missile strikes



the town of Sudzha

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky said in an address Thursday that Russia needed to "feel" the consequences of its invasion.

Both sides also stepped up aerial attacks behind the frontlines yesterday.

A Russian missile strike on a supermarket in the east Ukrainian town of Kostyantynivka in the middle of the day killed at least 11 people and wounded 44, Ukraine's State Emergency Service said.

The town is about 13 kilometres (eight miles) from the nearest Russian positions.

**YOU
KNOW WHAT**

Ukraine's unexpected offensive in Kursk is one of the boldest moves since the war began. Analysts believe it aims to divert Russian military resources and relieve pressure on key battlefronts

"Russia will be held accountable for this terror," Zelensky said in a post on Telegram.

AFP journalists on the scene saw dozens of people fleeing as police officers warned of a potential second strike.

'The war has come to us'

Ukraine's surprise offensive into the Kursk region appeared

to catch Russia off guard, with some analysts suggesting Kyiv was hoping to divert resources and relieve pressure on parts of the frontline where Moscow is advancing.

Influential Russian military bloggers have blasted army leaders for failing to spot or quash the incursion.

Senior Kyiv officials have stayed largely tight-lipped, although Zelensky alluded to the attack on Thursday.

"Everyone can see that the Ukraine army knows how to surprise and knows how to achieve results," he said.

Moscow has not presented detailed information on the extent of the Ukrainian advance.

It said yesterday it had struck Ukrainian positions on the western edge of Sudzha, a town around eight kilometres (five miles) from the border that appeared to be the focus of Kyiv's offensive.

Several Russian media outlets shared a video purporting to show residents from the town appealing to President Vladimir Putin for help, warning that many were unable to evacuate.

Turkey bus crash kills 9, injures 26



Wreckage of the bus is seen after the crash

AFP | Istanbul

A bus traveling between cities in Turkey swerved off a highway and slammed into an overpass pillar yesterday, killing nine people on board and injuring at least 26 others, the provincial governor said.

The crash occurred near the town of Polatli, some 80 kilometres (50 miles) from the capital, Ankara, Gov. Vasip Sahin told HaberTurk television station. The bus was traveling from Izmir in western Turkey to Agri in the east of the coun-

try, he said.

A deputy chief prosecutor was assigned to oversee an investigation into the cause of the crash, which led to the closure of one side of the highway, the state-run Anadolu Agency reported.

Sahin told reporters at scene of the crash that there were no skid marks on the road, suggesting the driver might have dozed off.

There was no information on the conditions of the injured passengers, who were taken to hospitals in Polatli and Ankara.

Two Sri Lankan ministers sacked over defection

AFP | Colombo

Two government ministers who defected from Sri Lanka's main opposition were sacked from the cabinet yesterday, after the Supreme Court upheld disciplinary ac-

tion against them.

The decision came ahead of presidential elections next month, the first vote since the unprecedented economic crisis of 2022, when months of protests toppled then-president Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

Trump offers three September debates against surging Harris

AFP | Washington

Donald Trump proposed three September debates against Kamala Harris Thursday as he sought to wrest back some of the attention lavished on his rival since her blockbuster entry into the US presidential election.

Harris has ignited the Democratic ticket in the last 18 days, pulling in record fundraising and obliterating the Republican ex-president's polling lead to open up a much broader path to victory than her party would have dared to hope for just a month ago.

The country's first female, Black and South Asian vice



Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump speaks during a press conference at his Mar-a-Lago estate

president heads into the Democratic National Convention in Chicago later this month on the back of a series of packed

rallies that have won plaudits for a positive message that has reenergized the base.

Meanwhile Trump -- who

addressed journalists at his oceanfront estate in Florida -- has found himself on unfamiliar ground as something of a bystander, eclipsed by Harris's rise as he has scaled back his own campaigning.

"I hope she agrees," Trump told journalists, after he said he had arranged debates with television networks on September 4, 10 and 25.

Harris responded Thursday that she would "look forward" to facing off on ABC News on September 10, a previously scheduled debate that the two campaigns had sparred over after Trump temporarily backed out.

US envoy skips Nagasaki memorial after Israel snub



A view of the Nagasaki memorial
AFP | Tokyo

The US ambassador to Japan skipped a ceremony yesterday marking the 79th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki in protest at Israel not being invited.

Rahm Emanuel instead attended a prayer meeting at a Tokyo temple with Israeli ambassador Gilad Cohen and Britain's Julia Longbottom, who also boycotted the Nagasaki event.

On August 9, 1945, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on Nagasaki, killing 74,000 people including many who survived the explosion but died later from radiation exposure.

The bomb fell three days after the first nuclear bomb hit Hiroshima and killed 140,000 people. Japan announced its surrender in World War II on August 15, 1945.

Former US ambassador John Roos in 2010 became the first American representative to attend the Hiroshima commemoration and followed suit in Nagasaki two years later.

Harris doesn't back Israel arms embargo, aide says

AFP | London

Kamala Harris does not support an arms embargo on US ally Israel, a top aide said Thursday, in one of the first substantive statements on her Gaza war policy since her July entry to the 2024 White House race.

The comment came a day after the US vice president was heckled by pro-Palestinian protesters at a rally for the first time since she became the Democratic candidate less than three weeks ago.

Harris also met with groups opposed to the war after the rally in Detroit, Michigan. Participants reportedly said they brought up the issue of halting US arms supplies to Israel.



US Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris speaks during a campaign rally in Romulus, Michigan

"She does not support an arms embargo on Israel," Harris's national security advisor Phil Gordon said on X.

He added that the vice president "has been clear: she will always ensure Israel is able to defend itself against Iran and

TOP
4
TWEETS

01



My number one priority is to make sure our communities are safe. Thanks to our police forces, those who participate in violence online and offline will face the full force of the law.

@Keir_Starmer

02



Too many lives have been lost in Gaza. The destruction must stop, and hostages must be released. The region is on the brink of a terrible conflict. We urgently need a ceasefire. Full support to the U.S., Egypt, and Qatar in their mediation efforts.

@CharlesMichel

03



We need a ceasefire in Gaza now. That's the only way to save lives, restore hope for peace, and secure the return of hostages. Thus I strongly support the efforts led by the U.S., Egypt, and Qatar to help achieve the peace and stability the region needs.

@vonderleyen

04



In Kursk, Ukraine shows Putin's vulnerabilities, while treating Russian civilians with respect. Putin's army isn't capable of... meanwhile Putin continues to bomb ordinary civilians in grocery stores... The international community must #Stand-WithUkraine

@guyverhofstadt

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