

Nika riots begin in Constantinople, revolt against Emperor Justinian I, prompted by chariot racing

John Walter publishes 1st issue of "The Times" of London

Adolf Hitler declares "Total War" against the Allies

Microsoft chairman Bill Gates steps aside as chief executive and promotes company president Steve Ballmer to the position

Johnson apologises for Downing lockdown party

... and says he attended Downing Street party for about 25 minutes on 20 May 2020



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson pauses during a coronavirus media briefing in Downing Street, London

man without shame."

Even some on his own side want Johnson to go, but in response to Starmer, he urged all sides to await the findings of an internal inquiry he has commissioned by a senior civil servant.

There have been a flurry of accusations about Downing Street parties held during lockdowns in 2020 which have dogged Johnson since late last year, sparking widespread public anger and sinking poll ratings.

Lisa Wilkie was forced to film her brother dying of Covid in intensive care in May 2020, because her mother was not allowed to visit the hospital under the restrictions.

"People died sticking to the rules, and they broke those rules to have a bottle of wine," a tearful Wilkie told the BBC.

The prime minister had stonewalled the issue since an email was leaked late Monday in which a senior aide invited more than 100 colleagues to the event on May 20, 2020, encouraging them to "bring your own booze".

Both Johnson and his wife Carrie attended the gathering, according to anonymous witnesses quoted in the media, intensifying anger even among party colleagues.

"If the prime minister knowingly attended a party I don't see how he can survive, having accepted

"I know the rage they feel with me over the government I lead when they think that in Downing Street itself the rules are not being properly followed by the people who make the rules"

BORIS JOHNSON

resignations for far less," Conservative lawmaker Nigel Mills told the BBC earlier.

The event occurred when the government was ordering members of the public not to meet, even outdoors, and tight restrictions were in place on social mixing, including at funerals.

Police at the time fined those breaching the rules, and had the option to prosecute repeat or egregious offenders.

Hannah Brady, whose father's death certificate was being signed on May 20, 2020, penned an open letter with other bereaved families Johnson has personally met, urging him to "do the right thing" and explain what happened.

Even the front pages of newspapers that normally back Johnson and the Tories were damning.

"Is the party over for PM?" asked the best-selling Daily Mail, while the Daily Telegraph's headline said: "Johnson losing Tory support."

"It's my party and I'll lie low if I

YOU KNOW WHAT

Numerous people, including some law-makers, have described how the rules kept them from the bedsides of dying loved ones last May in contrast to the events in Downing Street

want to," mocked The Sun tabloid.

Johnson had hoped to start the new year afresh, leaving behind the accusations of lockdown-breaking parties and separate claims of cronyism and corruption that contributed to a shock by-election defeat for the Tories before Christmas.

Meanwhile, London's Metropolitan Police have said they have been in contact with the Cabinet Office about the May 2020 gathering, raising the possibility of a more serious, criminal probe.

The ongoing furor appeared to be proving increasingly unbearable for Conservative lawmakers.

"How do you defend the indefensible? You can't!" Tory MP Christian Wakeford tweeted yesterday. "It's embarrassing and what's worse is it further erodes trust in politics when it's already low."

Wreck of Taiwan's most advanced fighter jet found after crash



An F-16 fighter jet takes off during a military drill at Zhi-Hang Air Base in Taitung, Taiwan

AFP | Seoul

Taiwanese rescuers yesterday located the wreckage of a F-16V jet that crashed into the sea a day before, less than two months after the island launched the first squadron of its most advanced fighters.

The jet disappeared from radar screens around half an hour after taking off for a routine training mission from its base in southwest Taiwan on Tuesday.

The air force said the jet plunged into the sea with no sign of the 28-year-old pilot ejecting in time.

The national rescue centre said wreckage of fuselage had been found but there were no signs of the pilot following an all-night search involving multiple helicopters, coastguard vessels and over 60 officials.

The incident has dealt a blow to the new squadron of US-made F-16Vs that was commissioned in November as Taiwan upgraded its ageing fleet amid rising tensions with China.

The airforce has temporarily grounded its entire F16 fleet.

Beijing claims self-ruled Taiwan as part of its territory and has vowed to take it one day, by force if necessary.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



12 years ago, a devastating earthquake claimed hundreds of thousands of lives in Haiti, including 102 members of the @UN family. Today and every day, we remember the victims & honour their legacy through our work. They will never be forgotten.

@antonioquterres

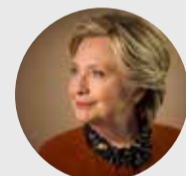
02



We must speed up our efforts to expand production, remove trade barriers, and share doses to vaccinate 70% of populations in ALL countries by mid-2022. #VaccinEquity will save countless lives.

@DrTedros

03



"Will we choose democracy over autocracy, light over shadow, justice over injustice?" @POTUS asked in Georgia. The debate over voting rights legislation truly comes down to those choices. The Senate must act.

@HillaryClinton

04



The Senate has a job to do. Pass the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. We need to ensure that all Americans can exercise their fundamental right to vote. If we are not vigilant, democracy will not stand.

@VP

Attendees of US COVID-19



... 2022 in Las Vegas, Nevada

Hyundai Heavy Industries said six of its employees who attended CES tested positive while in the United States and were quarantined, and some have been released since.

"Multiple" Hyundai Motor and Hyundai Mobis employees who attended CES also tested positive after arriving back in South Korea, South Korean newspaper JoongAng Ilbo reported, citing an unidentified industry source without specifying the exact number of cases.

Several killed in jihadist-claimed blast in Somali capital

AFP | Mogadishu

Several people were killed yesterday in a suicide car bomb blast in Somalia's capital Mogadishu, officials said.

The attack was claimed by the Al-Shabaab jihadist group, which said in a brief statement that it was targeting "foreign officers".

It took place only days after Somali leaders had agreed on a new timetable for long-delayed elections in the troubled Horn of Africa country.

The government said in a statement on Twitter that it condemned the "cowardly" suicide attack, and gave a toll of four dead and six injured.

"Such acts of terrorism will not derail the peace & the ongoing development in the country. We must unite in the fight against terrorism."

Local government security officer Mohamed Abdi had earlier told AFP that at least six people were killed.

"It has also caused devastation in the area," he said, warning that the toll could be higher because a large number of people were in the area.



Rescuers carry away the body of a civilian who was killed in a blast in Mogadishu

'Destroyed buildings'

Witnesses said a multi-vehicle private security convoy escorting foreigners was passing by the area in southern Mogadishu when the explosion hit.

"I saw some of the passengers injured and being carried after the blast," said one witness, Osman Hassan.

Another witness, Hassan Nur, said: "The blast was so huge that it has destroyed most of the buildings nearby the road and vehicles passing by the area."

"I saw several dead and wounded people strewn in the

road."

Somalia has been in the grip of a political crisis since February last year after it failed to reach agreement on holding new elections.

The impasse set off a bitter power struggle between President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, better known as Farmajo, and his Prime Minister Mohamed Hussein Roble.

Under a deal announced late Sunday after talks between Roble and state leaders, parliamentary polls that should have wrapped up last year are now

YOU KNOW WHAT

The Al-Qaeda-linked jihadists have been waging a deadly campaign against the weak central government since 2007 but were driven out of Mogadishu in 2011 after an offensive by an African Union force

due to be concluded by February 25.

The agreement appeared to ease the standoff between Roble and Farmajo, who said in a statement late Monday that he applauded the "positive result" on the election timetable.

The crisis had set alarm bells ringing in the international community, which fears it threatens the stability of a fragile country still battling a violent insurgency by Al-Shabaab.

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