

William the Conqueror's troops set sail from Normandy for conquest of England

John Adams negotiates Revolutionary War peace terms with Great Britain



French scholar Jean-François Champollion announces he has deciphered Egyptian hieroglyphics using the Rosetta Stone

Henry Ford's first Ford Model T automobile leaves the Piquette Plant in Detroit, Michigan

Ukraine with US after Washington warning

have branded a sham. They say the outcomes are pre-determined and they will not recognise the results.

But by incorporating the four regions - Luhansk and Donetsk in the east and Zaporizhzhia and Kherson in the south - Moscow could portray Ukraine's efforts to retake them as attacks on Russia itself.

President Vladimir Putin said last week Moscow was ready to use nuclear weapons to defend any of its territory as he announced a mobilisation drive that threatens to significantly escalate the seven-month-old conflict in Ukraine.

US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said on Sunday the United States would respond "decisively" to any Russian use of nuclear weapons against Ukraine, without elaborating. He said Washington had privately told Moscow "exactly what that would mean".

Asked on Monday about Sulli-

van's comments, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said: "There are channels for dialogue at the proper level, but they are of a very sporadic nature. At least they allow for the exchange of some emergency messages about each other's positions."

DOOR-TO-DOOR VOTING

The exiled mayor of Russian-controlled Melitopol in the Zaporizhzhia region condemned the referendums - which are due to end on Tuesday - as "a fake and a farce".

"The voting takes place in front of assault rifles, men with weapons... People are grabbed right on the street and are forced to vote

not only for themselves but for their whole families," he said via videolink from an undisclosed location.

Fedorov also accused Russia of forcibly enlisting Ukrainian men in occupied areas into its armed forces.

PROTESTS

Kremlin spokesman Peskov said on Monday Russia had taken no decisions on closing its borders, amid an exodus of military-age men since Putin's announcement, which aims to enlist some 300,000 reservists.

Almost 17,000 Russians crossed the border into Finland over the weekend, Finnish authorities

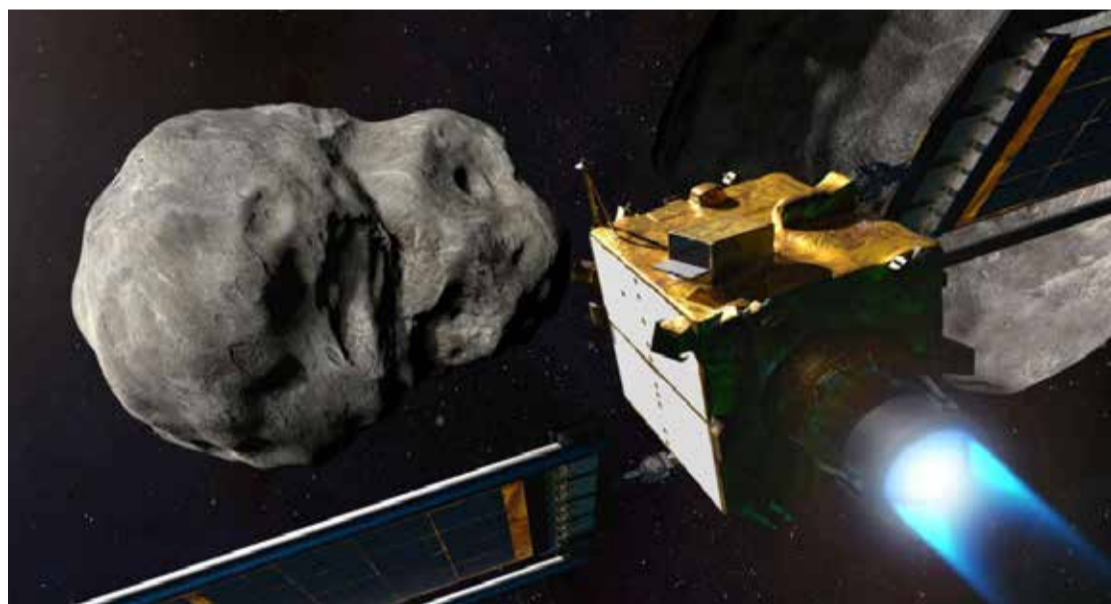
said, while Russian state media said the estimated wait to enter Georgia hit 48 hours at one point on Sunday, with more than 3,000 vehicles queuing.

More than 2,000 people have been detained across Russia for protests at the draft, says independent monitoring group OVD-Info. With criticism of the conflict banned, the demonstrations were among the first signs of discontent since the war began.



Ukraine, bolstered by sophisticated Western weapons, has recaptured swathes of territory over the past month, prompting Putin last week to order Russia's first military mobilisation since World War Two to enlist 300,000 additional troops.

asteroid-deflecting DART spacecraft planned impact with its target



NASA's Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) spacecraft prior to impact at the Didymos binary asteroid system showed in this undated illustration handout.

rocket in November 2021, has made most of its voyage under the guidance of NASA's flight directors, with control to be handed over to an autonomous on-board navigation system in the final hours of the journey.

Monday evening's planned impact is to be monitored in real time from the mission operations center at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) in Laurel, Maryland. DART's celestial target is an as-

teroid "moonlet" about 560 feet (170 meters) in diameter that orbits a parent asteroid five times larger called Didymos as part of a binary pair with the same name, the Greek word for twin. Neither object presents any ac-

tual threat to Earth, and NASA scientists said their DART test cannot create a new existential hazard by mistake.

Dimorphos and Didymos are both tiny compared with the cataclysmic Chicxulub asteroid that struck Earth some 66 million years ago, wiping out about three-quarters of the world's plant and animal species including the dinosaurs.

Smaller asteroids are far more common and pose a greater theoretical concern in the near term, making the Didymos pair suitable test subjects for their size, according to NASA scientists and planetary defense experts.

Also, their relative proximity to Earth and dual-asteroid configuration make them ideal for the first proof-of-concept mission of DART, short for Double Asteroid Redirection Test.

ROBOTIC SUICIDE MISSION

The mission represents a rare instance in which a NASA spacecraft must ultimately crash to succeed.

The plan is for DART to fly directly into Dimorphos at 15,000 miles per hour (24,000 kph), bumping it hard enough to shift its orbital track closer to its larger companion asteroid.

Cameras on the impactor and on a briefcase-sized mini-spacecraft released from DART days in advance are designed to record the collision and send images back to Earth.

DART's own camera is expected to return pictures at the rate of one image per second during its final approach, with those images streaming live on NASA TV starting an hour before impact, according to APL.

The DART team said it expects to shorten the orbital track of Dimorphos by 10 minutes but would consider at least 73 seconds a success, proving the exercise as a viable technique to deflect an asteroid on a collision course with Earth - if one were ever discovered. A small nudge to an asteroid millions of miles away could be sufficient to safely reroute it away from the planet.

Congress party likely to get first non-Gandhi chief in 25 years



A supporter waves a flag of India's main opposition Congress party at a massive rally organised by the party against inflation, at Ramlila Ground, in New Delhi, India

or to join the BJP, blaming the weak Congress leadership of Rahul Gandhi, the son of ailing party president Sonia Gandhi, who took charge temporarily in 2019.

The party has ruled the country for much of India's independent history, mostly led by a member of the Gandhi family.

Around 9,000 party delegates will vote for a new president. Gandhi family loyalist Ashok Gehlot, the chief minister of Rajasthan state, and Shashi Tharoor, a lawmaker from the southern state

of Kerala and a former top UN official, could file nominations this week, party sources said.

"The election authority of the party started the election process on Sept. 22 for which polling will happen on Oct. 17 if there is more than one candidate," said Pranav Jha, secretary at the Congress's Election Authority.

The party has unanimously elected a president for a term of five years, except in 1937, 1950, 1997 and 2000, when elections were held as there was more than

one candidate, Jha said.

Sonia Gandhi, the widow of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, led the party uninterrupted for nearly two decades until 2017.

Rahul Gandhi, who took over from her but resigned in 2019 following the drubbing by Modi's party, has declined to stand in the party election.

He is currently leading the party's five-month-long protest march against rising prices and what it calls Modi's divisive politics.



TOP
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TWEETS

01



Nuclear disarmament is not a utopian dream. I urge all countries to ease tensions, reduce risk & forge a new consensus around defusing the nuclear threat for good. Eliminating these devices of death is possible, and necessary.
@antoniogeterres

02



I am traveling to Tokyo tonight to participate in the State Funeral of former PM Shinzo Abe, a dear friend and a great champion of India-Japan friendship.
@narendramodi

03



"Of course, there's no way to prove we're living in a simulation."

@elonmusk

04



Senator Lindsey Graham has proposed a national ban on abortion that would put criminal penalties on doctors. This November, if Republicans win control, they will vote for a nationwide ban on abortion. But if you give me two more Democrats in the Senate, I will codify Roe.
@JoeBiden

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