



killed in airstrike by Turkey in northern Syria, including Syrian government soldiers



City	Temp	Cond	City	Temp	Cond
Beijing	32	TDS	Los Angeles	32	LC
Colombo	29	LC	Melbourne	16	HR
Dhaka	34	TDS	Moscow	30	HR
Dubai	39	LC	New York	26	LC
Houston	37	LC	Singapore	30	TDS
Istanbul	32	LC	Toronto	24	LC
London	23	LC	Washington	28	LC

TIRUNELVELI

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# Blasts rock Crimea ammo depot

Russia blames the explosions in Mayskoye on an 'act of sabotage' without naming anyone

KYIV

EXPLOSIONS and fires ripped through an ammunition depot in Russia-annexed Crimea on Tuesday in the second suspected Ukrainian attack on the peninsula in just over a week, forcing the evacuation of more than 3,000 people.

Russia blamed the blasts in the village of Mayskoye on an 'act of sabotage' without naming the perpetrators.

Separately, the Russian business newspaper *Kommersant* quoted local residents as saying plumes of black smoke also rose over an air base in Crimea's Gvardeyskoye.

Ukraine stopped short of publicly claiming responsibility for any of the blasts, including those that destroyed nine Russian planes at another Crimean air base last week. Russia seized Crimea from Ukraine in 2014 and has used it to launch attacks against the country.

If Ukrainian forces were, in fact, behind the explosions, they would represent a significant escalation in the war. The Kremlin has demanded that



File photo of rising smoke at the beach at Saky after explosions were heard from the direction of a Russian military airbase near Novofedorivka, Crimea | AP

Kyiv recognise Crimea as part of Russia as a condition for ending the fighting, while Ukraine has vowed to drive Moscow's forces from the peninsula on the Black Sea.

Videos posted on social media showed thick columns of smoke rising over raging flames in Mayskoye, and a series of explosions could be heard. The Russian Defense Ministry said the fires damaged a power plant, power lines, railroad tracks and apartment build-

ings. Crimea's regional leader, Sergei Aksyonov, said two people were injured.

Ukrainian officials warned on Tuesday that Crimea would not be spared the ravages of war. Rather than a travel destination, "Crimea occupied by Russians is about warehouses explosions and high risk of death for invaders and thieves," Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak said on Twitter.

Russia blamed last week's ex-

## Putin blames US for trying to prolong conflict

Russian President Vladimir Putin accused Washington on Tuesday of drawing out the war in Ukraine, as explosions rocked a Russian military facility on the Kremlin-controlled peninsula of Crimea. "The situation in Ukraine shows that the US is trying to prolong this conflict," Putin said, addressing the opening ceremony of a security conference in Moscow. Washington is "using the people of Ukraine as cannon fodder", he said, lashing out at the United States for supplying weapons to Ukraine

plussions on an accidental detonation of munitions, but satellite photos and other evidence—including the dispersed blast sites—pointed to a Ukrainian attack, perhaps with anti-ship missiles, according to military analysts.

A British Defense Ministry intelligence update said vessels in Russia's Black Sea Fleet are in an extremely defensive posture in the waters off Crimea, with ships barely venturing out of sight of the coastline. AP

# US, South Korea to begin military drills

SEOUL

UNITED States and South Korea will begin their biggest combined military training in years next week in the face of an increasingly aggressive North Korea, which has been ramping up weapons tests and threats of nuclear conflict against Seoul and Washington, the South Korean military said on Tuesday.

The allies' summertime drills, named Ulchi Freedom Shield, will take place from August 22 to September 1 in South Korea and include exercises simulating joint attacks, front-line reinforcements of arms and fuel, and removals of weapons of mass destruction.

The drills underscore Washington and Seoul's commitment to restore large-scale training after they cancelled some of their regular drills and downsized others to computer simulations in recent years to create space for diplomacy with North Korea.

While the United States and South Korea describe their ex-

ercises as defensive, Ulchi Freedom Shield will almost surely draw an angry reaction from North Korea, which describes all allied training as invasion rehearsals and has used them to justify its nuclear weapons and missiles development.

China, North Korea's main ally, expressed concern over the expansion of US military exercises with its Asian allies, saying they could worsen tensions with the North. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin didn't offer a specific answer when asked whether Beijing believes the trilateral drills in Hawaii were in some way directed at China.

"North Korea has repeatedly expressed its concern" over the joint drills, Wang said in a briefing in Beijing on Tuesday.

"The negative impact of the military exercises on the situation on the Korean Peninsula is worth paying attention to. All parties should act prudently and stop any actions that may increase tension and confrontation and damage the mutual trust," he said. AP



File photo: A missile is fired during a joint training between the United States and South Korea at an undisclosed location in South Korea | AP

MORE EXPOSURE

# Sunak pledges civil service overhaul if elected UK PM

LONDON

RISHI Sunak, the British Indian former Chancellor on Tuesday pledged a major overhaul of the country's civil service to create a sharper, leaner bureaucracy if he takes charge at 10 Downing Street on September 5.

Contesting against Liz Truss, Sunak wants civil servants to spend at least a year of their career outside government roles in industry to widen their experience.

"I'll press ahead with cuts to back office Civil Service headcount, recruiting and retaining the brightest and best. I'll strengthen civil servants' experience beyond Whitehall, allow ministers to bring in more external expertise, and bring in performance pay so we have a truly Rolls Royce service delivering for and accountable to the British people," he said.

"The future of the United Kingdom is bright but our union must work together, each nation shoulder to shoulder, to get there. We must defeat the collective challenges threatening the health of our public services. Under my plans, the UK government will play its part, but the same must be reciprocated by Hollywood," said Sunak.

Speaking ahead of hustings in Perth, Scotland, to convince Tory members who will be voting in the postal and online votes to elect a new party leader, Truss said she was "absolutely passionate about Scotland and the United Kingdom" and committed to delivering jobs, growth as well as opportunity. PTI

EXPRESS READ

## New Scottish law makes period products free

London: A law has taken effect in Scotland to ensure period products are available free of charge to anyone who needs it. Under the new law, schools, colleges and local government bodies must make a range of period products such as tampons and sanitary pads available for free in bathrooms. Government invested millions of pounds since 2017 to fund free period products in edu institutions, but the law makes it a legal requirement.

# China slaps sanctions on Taiwan leaders

BEIJING

CHINA imposed visa bans and other sanctions on Tuesday on Taiwanese political figures as it raises pressure on the self-governing island and the US in response to successive congressional visits.

The sanctions come a day after China announced more military exercises in the seas and

skies surrounding Taiwan because of what it called collusion and provocation between the US and Taiwan. There's been no word on the timing and scale of the Chinese exercises.

The targets of China's latest sanctions include Taiwan's de facto ambassador to the US, Bihim Hsiao and legislators Ker Chien-ming, Koo Li-hsiung, Tsai Chi-chang, Chen Jiau-hua

and Wang Ting-yu, along with activist Lin Fei-fan.

They will be barred from traveling to mainland China, Hong Kong and Macao, and from having any financial or personal connections with people and entities on the mainland, according to the ruling Communist Party's Taiwan Work Office. The measures were designed to resolutely punish those considered die-hard elements supporting Taiwan's independence, reported China's official *Xinhua News Agency*. Premier Su Tseng-chang was already on China's sanctions list. AP

MALAYSIA

## Court grants final appeal hearing for ex-PM Najib

Malaysia's highest court said it would hear former leader Najib Razak's final bid to overturn his 12-year jail sentence for corruption, with an acquittal potentially clearing the way for his return to power. The appeal is the last high stakes court gambit left open to Najib—but if he is unsuccessful he will have to start serving his jail sentence after years of legal wrangling. The Federal Court's decision to proceed with an appeal, which will begin on Thursday, came after it rejected the former prime minister's plea for a retrial. The former prime minister and his associates were accused of stealing billions of dollars from the country's investment vehicle and spending it on everything from high-end real estate to pricey art. Following a lengthy trial, Najib was found guilty of power abuse, money laundering, criminal breach of trust over the transfer of \$10.1 million to his bank account

ASIA MATTERS



SINGAPORE

## German fighter jets to make debut in Indo-Pacific

A group of German air force fighter jets landed in Singapore on Tuesday as part of a marathon bid to fly them some 12,800 km from their home base to Southeast Asia in just 24 hours. The exercise comes at a time of heightened tensions between China and the US and its allies and demonstrates the ability for a European nation to move air power quickly to the region. The fleet will take part in training exercises in Singapore and Australia before stopping off in Japan and South Korea

INDONESIA

## President calls for unity, braces for global crises

Indonesia's president called on all citizens to remain united, vigilant and alert as they face crises fueled by the war in Ukraine and coronavirus pandemic in his State of the Nation address on Tuesday. After two years of remote meetings amid pandemic restrictions, more than half of Indonesia's Parliament was in attendance as President Joko Widodo told them and top officials on the eve of Independence Day that regional tensions are threatening security. "We must always remain vigilant, cautious and alert," Widodo said. "The challenges are not easy for the world and for Indonesia. We must face those challenges with prudence and vigilance," he said. Russia's war in Ukraine has exacerbated rising prices in Indonesia amid ongoing supply chain disruptions from the pandemic, causing cooking oil prices to increase

LEGAL OPTIONS

# Kenya's Odinga TO challenge his election loss

NAIROBI

KENYAN opposition figure Raila Odinga said on Tuesday he'll challenge the results of the close presidential election with all constitutional and legal options after Deputy President William Ruto was declared the winner.

"Let no one take the law into their own hands," Odinga said to his often passionate supporters. In Kisumu, a city in his western Kenya stronghold, some residents said they were tired of going into the street and being tear-gassed.

"What we saw yesterday was a travesty and blatant disregard of the constitution," Odinga said, calling the election results null and void.

The 77-year-old Odinga has pursued the presidency for a quarter-century. His campaign has seven days after Monday's declaration to file a petition with the Supreme Court,



Raila Odinga | AP

which would then have 14 days to make a ruling.

On Tuesday, the local Elections Observation Group announced that its highly regarded parallel voting tally "corroborates the official results" in an important check on the process.

But Odinga asserted that only the electoral commission chairman could see the final results before the declaration. "The law does not vest in the chairperson the powers of a dictator," he said, and insisted that decisions by the commission must be taken by consensus.

There was no immediate statement from the electoral commission or its chairman. A screen at its tallying center that had been showing cumulative presidential election results stopped being updated Saturday and was later turned off. AP

Women make history with record wins

Kenya's women have elected a record number of women to positions of power in this month's polls, with the list including seven governors, three senators and 26 MPs. Linet Chepkorir, 24, became the youngest female parliamentarian in history after her election as woman representative in Rift Valley

# Australian ex-PM Morrison took on extra powers in secret

CANBERRA

AUSTRALIAN Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on Tuesday accused his predecessor Scott Morrison of trashing democracy after revealing that while Morrison was in power, he took on five ministerial roles without the knowledge of most other lawmakers or the public.

Albanese said Morrison had been operating in secret, keeping the Australian people in the dark and misleading Parliament over who was in charge of what portfolios.

"This has been government by deception," Albanese said.

Adding to revelations first detailed over the weekend by News Corp. media, Albanese said that between March 2020 and May 2021, Morrison was appointed minister of health, finance, home affairs, treasury and industry—moves which



Scott Morrison, Former Prime Minister of Australia | AP

appeared to have given Morrison equal powers to the ministers already appointed to those positions.

"It is completely extraordinary that these appointments were kept secret by the Morrison government from the Australian people," Albanese told reporters in Canberra.

**ICICI Home Finance** | Corporate Office: ICICI Home Finance Company Limited ICICI HFC Tower, Andheri - Kurla Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400059, India  
Branch Office: ICICI Home Finance Company Limited, Lion Arcade, 1A, 1st floor, Madurai Road, West Street, Sindupondarai, Tirunelveli - 627001

[See proviso to rule 8(6)]  
**Notice for sale of immovable assets**

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Physical Possession** Stage of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd., will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Co Borrowers / Legal Heirs, Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price / Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Selva Muthukrishnan B (Borrower) Jayasankar K (Co-Borrower) Loan Account No. NHTV100000848520	S.No 1059/1, Kulavanikarpuram Village, Melapalayam S.R.O, Tirunelveli Municipal Corporation, Tirunelveli District-627801	Rs. 15,02,296/- 05th August 2022	Rs. 11,44,266/- 1,14,427/-	14th Sept, 2022 11:00 AM- 02:00 PM 03:00 PM	20th Sept, 2022 03:00 PM

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link - / [https:// BestAuctionDeal.com](https://BestAuctionDeal.com)) of our auction agency GlobeTech. The Mortgagors' notice are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till 19th Sept, 2022 before 5.00 PM else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) RTGS/ Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Home Finance Company Limited, ICICI Home Finance Company Limited, Lion Arcade, 1A, 1st floor, Madurai Road, West Street, Sindupondarai, Tirunelveli-627001 on or before 19th Sept, 2022 before 04:00 PM. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer as per above mentioned time then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Home Finance Company Limited, ICICI Home Finance Company Limited, Lion Arcade, 1A, 1st floor, Madurai Road, West Street, Sindupondarai, Tirunelveli-627001 on or before 19th Sept, 2022 before 05:00 PM. Earnest Money Deposit Demand Draft (DD) should be from a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank in favor of "ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd.-Auction" payable at Tirunelveli.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Home Finance Company Limited on 7021072869 or our Sales & Marketing Partner NexZen Solutions Private Limited.

The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit <https://www.icicifhc.com/>

Date : August 17, 2022  
Place : Tirunelveli  
Authorized Officer  
ICICI Home Finance Company Limited

**SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA**  
TIRUNELVELI TOWN BRANCH, TIRUNELVELI

**POSSESSION NOTICE - FOR PROPERTY U/S 13 (4) OF SARFAESI ACT 2002 (For Immovable Property)**

Notice is hereby given under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, a demand notice was issued on the dates mentioned against each account and stated hereinafter calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice.

The Borrower and Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of power conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said Act on the dates mentioned against each account.

The Borrower and Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the STATE BANK OF INDIA for an amount and interest thereon.

Name of Account of Borrower & Address	Demand Notice Date	Possession Notice Date	Outstanding Amount
Legal Heirs' of Mr. C. Muralitharan, Mrs. C. Karpagam, W/o. (Late) Chandran, Five houses Compound, Parvatha Singaraja South Street, Tirunelveli, Guarantor: Mr. P. Muthu Pillai, S/o. Mr. M. Pungalingam Pillai, 116, Kanchi Kamatchi Nagar, 3rd Cross Street, Magarajanagar, Tirunelveli,	02.06.2022	12.08.2022	Rs. 9,00,745/- (Rupees Nine Lakhs Seven Hundred and Forty Five only) as on 11.08.2022

**DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY MORTGAGED / CHARGED**

In Palayamkottai Registration District, within Palayamkottai Sub Registrar's Saragam, in Keelanatham Village, in Survey No. 95 part, the Plot with house MIG-1, 36 with plinth area Measuring East West 10 meter, South North 15 meter, having 150 square meter, 3.70 cents.

**Boundaries:**  
North : Plot No. MIG B.35  
South : Plot No. MIG B.37  
Date : 12.08.2022  
Place : Tirunelveli

East: 7.00 Meter Road  
West: Plot No. MIG B.30

Authorized Officer  
State Bank of India