



A farmer touches his horse in front of his damaged household in Majske Poljan village after an earthquake in Croatia, yesterday. Fresh tremors shook Croatia on Wednesday as the Adriatic country was still picking up the pieces of a deadly earthquake that claimed seven lives and reduced buildings to rubble the day before.

PHOTO: REUTERS

NEWS IN BRIEF

China jails 10 Hong Kong democracy activists

A Chinese court yesterday jailed 10 Hong Kong democracy activists for up to three years over a bid to flee the city by speedboat to Taiwan, as a crackdown on dissent in the territory intensifies. The group were arrested by the Chinese coastguard on August 23 en route to the self-ruled island, which has quietly opened its doors to Hongkongers seeking sanctuary. The sentencing follows the imposition of a sweeping new security law in Hong Kong this year that has given the government broad powers to prosecute political dissidents.

Yemen airport blasts kill 13 as new government arrives



At least 13 people were killed yesterday as explosions rocked Yemen's Aden airport moments after a new unity government flew in, in what some officials charged was a "cowardly" attack by Iran-backed Huthi rebels. Although all government ministers were reported to be unharmed, more than 50 people were wounded, medical and government sources told AFP in the southern city, with the casualty toll feared likely to rise. Sporadic gunfire was heard soon after. It was not immediately clear what had caused the explosions. Yemen's internationally recognised government and southern separatists formed a power-sharing cabinet on December 18, forging a joint front against the Huthi rebels who have seized the capital Sanaa and much of the north.

Border talks with China yet to make progress: India

Talks between India and China have yet to make headway to end a standoff on a disputed section of their Himalayan border, India's defence minister said yesterday, as thousands of troops from both sides faced a freezing winter in the mountains. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said there had been "no meaningful result" from several rounds of diplomatic and military talks aimed at de-escalating the worst border confrontation between the nuclear armed neighbours in decades. Tensions soared in June, after troops clashed in hand-to-hand combat in the Galwan valley in Ladakh.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

Indonesia bans hardline popular Islamist group

REUTERS, Jakarta

Indonesia has banned the controversial and politically influential hardline group the Islamic Defender's Front, the chief security minister announced yesterday.

Minister Mahfud MD said the group, widely known by its acronym FPI, was prohibited with immediate effect.

"The government has banned FPI activities and will stop any activities carried out by FPI," Mahfud said. "The FPI no longer has legal standing as an organisation."

The ban follows the November return of the group's spiritual figurehead, Rizieq Shihab, from three years of self-exile in Saudi Arabia, which was celebrated with events attended by thousands.

Rizieq's return to the world's largest Muslim-majority country had fuelled concern within government that he could be angling to harness opposition forces. The 55-year-old cleric was arrested this month and charged with violating health protocols and remains in custody, while a clash between police and his supporters – in which six of his bodyguards were shot dead – is being investigated by the national human rights body.

The deputy justice minister, Edward Omar Sharif Hiariej, said the FPI was banned because nearly 30 of its leaders, members and former members had been convicted on terrorism charges, and because the group conflicted with the nation's state ideology, Pancasila, which emphasises unity and diversity.

Formed soon after the 1998 fall of former strongman Suharto, the FPI were notorious for raiding bars and brothels and intimidating religious minorities. It is also known for offering assistance during natural disasters.

'Republicans have a death wish' Trump lashes out at GOP leaders over looming veto override

AFP, West Palm Beach

Donald Trump, facing a humiliating first veto override of his presidency, lashed out at Republican leaders in Congress on Tuesday as relations soured ahead of a crucial pair of runoff elections in Georgia that could determine control of the Senate.

The 74-year-old Trump, in a series of tweets from his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida, where he is on vacation, took aim at erstwhile close ally Senator Mitch McConnell, the powerful Republican Majority Leader.

"Weak and tired Republican 'leadership' will allow the bad Defense Bill to pass," Trump said of the looming override by the Senate of his veto of the National Defense Authorization Act.

"A disgraceful act of cowardice and total submission by weak people to Big Tech," said Trump, who vetoed the defense bill in part because it does not repeal Section 230, a federal law that provides liability protection to internet companies.

"Negotiate a better Bill, or get better leaders, NOW!" he said. "Senate should not approve NDAA until fixed!!!"

McConnell shrugged off Trump's tweets and

scheduled a vote to override the president's veto of the defense bill for Wednesday. But Senator Bernie Sanders filed a procedural objection that could end up delaying the vote until at least Friday.

Trump also criticized McConnell's refusal to allow a vote in the Senate to increase coronavirus relief payments to Americans to \$2,000 from \$600, a move approved by the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives already with wide bipartisan support.

"Unless Republicans have a death wish, and it is also the right thing to do, they must approve the \$2000 payments ASAP," Trump said. "\$600 IS NOT ENOUGH!"

In a twin rebuke to the president, McConnell objected to holding a vote on increasing the direct payments while also calling for the White House veto of the fiscal 2021 defense bill to be rejected.

The House voted 322 to 87 on Monday to override Trump's veto of the \$740.5 billion defense bill, with 109 Republicans breaking ranks and siding with the Democrats.

The motion will also have to gain two-thirds support in the Senate to override the president's veto.

Final hurdles to Brexit clear EU leaders sign trade deal as UK MPs debate ratification

AFP, London

EU leaders signed their post-Brexit trade deal with Britain and dispatched it to London on an RAF jet yesterday, setting their seal on a drawn-out divorce just hours before the UK brings its half-century European experiment to an end.

EU chiefs Ursula von der Leyen and Charles Michel, the heads of the European Commission and European Council, smiled at a brief televised ceremony to put their names to the 1,246-page Trade and Cooperation Agreement.

"It has been a long road. It's time now to put Brexit behind us. Our future is made in Europe," von der Leyen said.

Britain will leave the European single market and customs union at 11:00pm (2300 GMT) on Thursday, the end of a difficult year and of a post-Brexit transition period marked by intense and tortuous trade



negotiations.

But first the hefty document will be flown by the Royal Air Force to London for Prime Minister Boris Johnson to add his signature, as the UK parliament began a rushed debate to clear the decks before the looming deadline.

Introducing the legislation to ratify the deal, Johnson told lawmakers it heralded "a new relationship between Britain and the EU as sovereign equals, joined by friendship, commerce, history, interests and values".

"With this bill we are going to be a friendly neighbour, the best friend and

ally the EU could have," he said.

Johnson's government only published the accompanying UK legislation on Tuesday afternoon -- less than 24 hours before the debate is to start in parliament and an hour after the signing in Brussels.

The government intends to ram all stages of the 85-page European Union (Future Relationship) Bill through the Commons and the House of Lords in one day.

The agreement averted the prospect of a cliff-edge separation which would have seen quotas and tariffs slapped on all cross-Channel trade, exacerbating strains in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic, which has hit Britain harder than most.

A faction of arch-Brexiteers in Johnson's ruling Conservatives gave their blessing to the EU agreement on Tuesday, and the main opposition Labour party signalled its reluctant backing, ensuring the legislation will pass.



Anti-abortion demonstrators react after the senate passed an abortion bill, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, yesterday. Argentina Wednesday became one of only a handful of South American nations to legalize abortion, a landmark decision in a country where the Catholic Church has long held sway.

PHOTO: REUTERS

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2,170 migrants died trying to reach Spain

AFP, Madrid

Nearly 2,200 migrants died trying to reach Spain by sea this year, the vast majority of them on their way to the Canary Islands, a migrant rights group said Tuesday.

Migrants arrivals in the archipelago have increased this year as they looked for alternative routes to reach Europe due to increased patrolling off the Mediterranean coast of southern Spain, posing a logistical strain for authorities in the Canaries.

A total of 2,170 migrants perished in attempts to get to Spain by boat this year, compared to 893 in 2019, according to the report by the NGO Caminando Fronteras. The shortest route to the islands is more than 100 kilometres from the Moroccan coast, but it is notoriously dangerous because of the strong currents in the Atlantic.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
সরঞ্জাম নিয়ন্ত্রক (পূর্ব) এর দপ্তর
বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, সিআরবি, চট্টগ্রাম

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সংশোধনী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

অত্র দপ্তর হতে জারিকৃত আন্তর্জাতিক দরপত্র বিক্রয় বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-২০২০-২১/০৪ তাং-০৮-১২-২০২০ইং এর অন্তর্ভুক্ত ক্রমিক ১ হতে ৯ এর দরপত্র খোলার সময় অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ আদিষ্ট হয়ে নিম্নবর্ণিত ভাবে সংশোধন করা হলো।

সংশোধনী বিবরণী	যা হইবে	পরিবর্তে
দরপত্র দলিল ক্রয়ের তারিখ ও সময়	১৪-১২-২০২০ হতে ১২-০১-২০২১ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত (সকল কর্মদিবসে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে)।	১৪-১২-২০২০ হতে ০৬-০১-২০২১ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত (সকল কর্মদিবসে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে)।
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দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে।

মোঃ এমদাদুর রহমান
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