

NEWS IN
briefIrish senate calls for
recognition of
Palestine

AFP, Dublin

Ireland's upper house of parliament Wednesday passed a motion calling on the Dublin government to recognise the state of Palestine in a symbolic move that is unlikely to change policy. The vote is the latest boost for Palestinian authorities campaigning for international recognition, coming after a similar vote by the British House of Commons.

Gunmen kill 30 in new
C Africa attacks: UN

AFP, Bangui

Gunmen have killed at least 30 people in fresh attacks this week in the strife-torn Central African Republic, UN peacekeepers said yesterday. Several dozen people were also wounded in the attacks on the central village of Yamale on Tuesday and Wednesday, with the gunmen pillaging and burning down houses, UN force MINUSCA said.

Sweden to rule on
Assange's case today

AFP, Barcelona

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange said Wednesday he was "confident" his asylum status will be resolved, as he awaits an imminent ruling on his case by a Swedish court. A court in Stockholm is expected to rule today on an appeal by Assange's lawyers against the arrest warrant hanging over him for allegations of rape and sexual molestation.

New Japan minister hit
by S&M bar scandal

AFP, Tokyo

Japan was stung by its third political scandal in a week yesterday after the country's new industry minister -- whose predecessor resigned in disgrace over misspending -- admitted that his underlings had spent office cash at a sex bar. On Tuesday, Miyazawa was tapped to replace industry minister Yuko Obuchi, who stepped down over claims she misspent political funds, while Justice Minister Matsushima also quit over allegations of vote buying.



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (2R) shares sweets with Indian Army personnel during an unannounced visit to Siachen, yesterday, to rally the morale of troops after recent deadly clashes with Pakistan. Modi spent time with forces at Siachen Base Camp in Kashmir region to mark the Hindu festival of Diwali.

PHOTO: AFP

China, Iran seek closer
military ties: Officials

REUTERS, Beijing

China wants to have closer military ties with Iran, the Chinese defence minister told the visiting head of the Iranian navy yesterday, state media reported, reaffirming diplomatic links despite controversy over Iran's nuclear plans.

Chinese Defense Minister Chang Wanquan told Iranian Navy Commander Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari that the two armed forces have seen "good cooperation on mutual visits, personnel training and other fields in recent years", China's official Xinhua news agency reported.

"Exchanges between the two navies have been fruitful and their warships have paid successful visits to each other," it cited Chang as saying.

"Chang ... stressed China is willing to work with Iran to further pragmatic cooperation and strengthen military-to-military ties."

Xinhua cited Sayyari as saying Iran attached great importance to its ties with China and was "ready to enhance bilateral exchanges to push forward cooperation between the two armed forces, especially in naval cooperation".

For the first time ever, two Chinese warships docked at Iran's Bandar Abbas port to take part in a joint naval exercises in the Gulf, Iranian state media reported on Sept. 20.

Naval cooperation between Iran and China is aimed at reinforcing Iran's military capability in the Gulf, analysts say, as

well as displaying China's plan to exert greater influence and presence beyond East Asia.

"The (port) call reflects China's military-to-military relationship with Iran," said Christian Le Miére, a naval expert at the International Institute for Strategic Studies think-tank.

"It is the most explicit sign of Beijing's acknowledgment of this relationship, which has remained relatively covert until now."

China's People's Liberation Army Daily separately reported that Sayyari had been given tours of a Chinese submarine and warships, where he "listened to an introduction on equipment ability and weapons systems".

Sayyari said he hoped Iran and China could cooperate on anti-piracy operations, the newspaper said.

China is Iran's top oil buyer and has been the most aggressive in raising its crude purchases after an easing of the Western sanctions aimed at ending Tehran's disputed nuclear program.

Iran and the United States said last week they made some progress in high-level nuclear talks aimed at reaching a final resolution to the decade-old dispute but that much work remained to clinch a deal by a late-November deadline.

China, a participant at the nuclear talks with Iran, has consistently urged a negotiated solution and decried efforts to place sanctions which have not been endorsed by the United Nations on Iran.

Sectarian
attack kills 8
Shias in
Pakistan

REUTERS, Quetta

Eight Shia members of Pakistan's ethnic Hazara minority were killed, and one wounded, yesterday, after gunmen opened fire on a bus in the volatile province of Baluchistan, police said.

No one immediately claimed responsibility. Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, a radical Sunni militant group, has carried out many gun and bomb attacks on Hazaras in the past.

The men were returning from a vegetable market when gunmen intercepted the bus.

"Two gunmen boarded the bus and shot the men," police officer Imran Qureshi told Reuters. All the victims were Shi'ite Hazaras, said Asad Raza, another senior police officer.

The attack on the Hazaras was followed by an explosion targeting a car used by security forces. A bomb planted in a nearby motorcycle killed two people and injured 12, police said.

Don't malign Muslims
for wrongdoing of a few
Says Mamata

THE HINDU ONLINE

The Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee has made use of Diwali by disseminating messages that she perhaps was waiting to deliver following reports of sporadic incidents of communal disturbance in the State.

On Wednesday, she inaugurated Kali Puja in various areas and said that her government will not tolerate any attempt to "malign" the Muslims of Bengal. She also announced a gigantic public welfare project the same day.

All the government hospitals will treat the patients free of cost, Mamata said. An order was also passed on the same day.

While inaugurating a Puja, she said that the policy of her government is to honour all religions, castes and creed and any attempt to disturb harmony in the State will be dealt with firmly.

There are reports of minor communal disturbances in central and south Bengal over last couple of weeks. While both the communities blamed each other for the minor flare-up, Mamata said that the administration is alert and is capable of preventing any kind of "wrongdoing".

"Just as you do not target the entire Marwari society for the folly of a person from Rajasthan and just as you do not blame the entire Bihari population for the wrongdoing of a single Bihari, you have no right to malign the entire Muslim community for the wrongdoing of a few persons," she said.

"There are attempts being made to disturb the communal harmony and that will not be tolerated," said the chief minister.

A press release issued by All India Trinamool Congress has quoted the chief minister to say that "a criminal is a criminal irrespective of the community he belonged to and an entire community cannot be demonised because of his crime."

Pakistan court
lifts ban on
ARY News

AFP, Karachi

A Pakistani court yesterday ordered the media regulatory authority to restore transmission of a news channel supportive of anti-government protests organised by cricketer-turned politician Imran Khan and a populist cleric.

ARY News, a popular station, was ordered off the air for 15 days on Monday by the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) for "maligning honourable courts and judiciary".

The channel's management approached the Sindh High Court on Tuesday to lift the suspension and a judge issued a stay order, allowing cable providers to resume broadcast.

"Yes, the court has given us relief and PEMRA has issued notification to all the cable operators in compliance of the court orders," Ammad Yousa, the senior vice president of ARY News told AFP.

"In response to the PEMRA orders, 70 percent transmission of the channel has been restored across the country till now," he said.

Colossal volcanic eruption
could destroy Japan: Study

AFP, Tokyo

Japan could be nearly destroyed by a massive volcanic eruption over the next century, putting almost all of the country's 127 million-strong population at risk, according to a new study.

"It is not an overstatement to say that a colossal volcanic eruption would leave Japan extinct as a country," Kobe University earth sciences professor Yoshiyuki Tatsumi and associate professor Keiko Suzuki said in a study publicly released on Wednesday.

The experts said they analysed the scale and frequency of volcanic eruptions in the archipelago nation over the past 120,000 years and calculated that the odds of a devastating eruption at about one percent over the next 100 years.

The chance of a major earthquake striking the city of Kobe within 30 years was estimated at about one percent just a day before a 7.2-magnitude quake destroyed the Japanese port city in 1995, killing 6,400 people and injuring nearly 4,400 others, the study noted.

"Therefore, it would be no surprise if such a colossal eruption occurs at any moment," it added.

The new research comes weeks after Japan's Mount Ontake erupted without warning -- killing 57 people and leaving at least six others missing in the country's deadliest volcanic eruption in almost 90 years.

The Kobe University researchers said their study was critical because Japan is home to about seven percent of the volcanoes that have erupted over the past 10,000 years.

A disaster on the southernmost main island of Kyushu, which has been struck by seven massive eruptions over the past 120,000 years, would see an area with seven million people buried by flows of lava and molten rock in just two hours, they said.

Volcanic ash would also be carried by westerly winds toward the main island of Honshu, making almost all of the country "unliveable" as it strangled infrastructure, including key transport systems, they said.

Foreign maids
endure abuse
in UAE: HRW

AFP, Manila

Foreign maids from impoverished countries endure physical, sexual and emotional abuse in the United Arab Emirates, trapped by a system that denies them protection, an international rights group said yesterday.

Human Rights Watch called on the UAE to reform a restrictive visa system and pass a labour law for domestic workers to stop the abuses.

"We already bought you. You don't have the right to complain," Filipina Marelle Brua said in a video interview with HRW, recounting her former employer's words.

Brua said she was paid 800 dirhams (\$218) per month instead of 1,000 dirhams (\$272) as stated in her contract.

At 800 dirhams, Brua's pay is roughly equivalent to the Philippines' minimum wage. Brua is one of 99 domestic workers who shared her harrowing experiences for a multimedia HRW report on the abuse, released in Manila.

The UAE hosts 146,000 female maids mostly from the Philippines, Indonesia, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Ethiopia, according to HRW.

The rights group said the UAE must reform its visa system to allow maids to transfer employers without penalty. Under the current system, domestic workers face being banned from future employment if they try to switch jobs.

RELIANCE INSURANCE LIMITED								
QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UN-AUDITED)								
CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION as of September 30, 2014				CONDENSED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME for the period from January 01 to September 30, 2014				Cash Flows From Operating Activities
Sep 30, 2014 BOT mn	Dec 31, 2013 BOT mn			Jan-Sep 2014 BOT mn	Jan-Sep 2013 BOT mn	Jul-Sep 2014 BOT mn	Jul-Sep 2013 BOT mn	
Non Current Assets				Gross Premium Income				
Property, plant & equipment	1,380.37	1,378.88		541.84	1,334.10	579.83	512.10	220.34
Fixed assets under construction	7.92	6.02		477.70	126.51	105.45		415.49
Long term investment, loan & advances	1,800.77	1,301.27		195.45	149.63	70.86	53.53	2,042.57
Deferred tax assets	12.15	12.15					60.01	(1,508.02)
Total Long-Term Assets	3,201.21	2,698.32		Total Income	876.00	766.03	248.81	218.99
Current Assets								
Inventories (stock of stationery, postage & insurance etc)	9.48	7.54		Allocable mgt. expenses (including claims & Commission)	503.97	476.67	218.77	133.48
Debtors (including advances, deposits & prepayments)	811.69	531.22		40.01	38.84	12.50	12.48	(1,801.34)
Cash & cash equivalents	1,766.18	1,559.30		9.56	(3.21)	(18.26)	(1.28)	(1,131.64)
Total Current Assets	2,587.35	2,098.06		Total Expenses	643.54	512.29	213.00	144.67
Less : Current Liabilities				Net Profit Before Tax	232.46	253.73	35.81	74.32
Bank loans, overdraft, credits, creditors & accruals	1,935.77	1,425.38		63.00	75.00	6.00	22.50	1,169.46
Total Current Liabilities	1,935.77	1,425.38		Net Profit After Tax	169.46	178.73	29.81	51.82
Net Working Capital	651.58	672.68		Profit & Loss Appropriation	(54.18)	(47.77)	(12.65)	(10.55)
Net Assets	3,852.79	3,371.00		Reserve for exceptional loss	115.28	130.96	17.16	41.28
Financed by :				Transferred to Statement of Financial Position	390.25	(135.58)	487.32	(299.88)
Shareholders Equity				Other Comprehensive Income/(Loss)	559.72	43.15	517.13	(248.06)
Share capital								