

NEWS IN
brief

Argentina navy chief sacked over sub tragedy
AFP, Buenos Aires

Argentina dismissed its naval chief on Saturday, the most high-profile officer to be fired a month after a submarine went missing with 44 crew members on board. "The defense minister asked him to retire. It's a political decision," a navy officer told AFP on condition of anonymity about the decision to remove Admiral Marcelo Srur during an ongoing investigation into the sub's disappearance.

Heavy air pollution shuts schools in Iran
AFP, Tehran

Iran shut primary schools in the capital and other parts of the country yesterday due to choking levels of air pollution. Local authorities late Saturday announced the closure of all primary schools in the province of Tehran, which is home to 14 million residents, except in two towns. A blanket of smog has covered neighbourhoods in the capital in the past few days. Every year, Tehran suffers some of the worst pollution in the world when cool temperatures cause an effect known as "temperature inversion".

32 Turks rescued in Greek waters
AFP, Athens

Thirty-two Turkish nationals, reportedly opponents of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government, were rescued by a patrol boat in the Aegean Sea, the Greek coastguard said Saturday. The group was spotted in an rubber dinghy off the Greek island of Oinousses, overnight Thursday to Friday, the coastguard told AFP. Greek media said the 32 Turks are opponents of Erdogan's Islamic-rooted Justice and Development Party (AKP) and would be seeking asylum in Greece.



Korean People's Army (KPA) soldiers bow before statues of late North Korean leaders Kim Il-Sung and Kim Jong-II to mark the sixth anniversary of the death of Kim Jong-II, at Mansu hill in Pyongyang yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

26 dead in landslides after Philippine storm

AFP, Manog

Landslides triggered by Tropical Storm Kai-Tak have killed 26 people and 23 more are missing in the eastern Philippines, authorities said yesterday.

The deaths were reported in the small island province of Biliran, a day after the storm pounded the east of the archipelago nation.

Kai-Tak tore across the major islands of Samar and Leyte on Saturday, toppling power lines in 39 towns or cities and damaging roads and bridges, the national disaster agency said.

Some 87,700 people were forced from their homes in the region. But the previous death toll had stood at just three.

Sofronio Dacillo, provincial disaster risk reduction and management officer, told AFP the deaths occurred in four towns in Biliran at the weekend.

"Rocks as big as cars fell on concrete houses after three days of continuous, heavy rain," chief inspector Libeth Morillo, Biliran police information officer, told AFP as she described a landslide in the mountainous district of Lucsoon.

"There were six families living there but they did not evacuate," she said, adding seven bodies were recovered in the area.

Gerardo Espina, governor of the island province just east of Leyte, gave the same overall death toll of 26 in an interview on ABS-CBN television. He said 23 people were missing.

The national disaster risk reduction agency could not immediately confirm if the 26 deaths included the initial three fatalities it announced on Saturday.

Kai-Tak weakened yesterday afternoon, with gusts of up to 80 kilometres (50 miles) an hour, and was downgraded to a tropical depression, state weather forecasters said.

WMD SALE PLOT IN AUSTRALIA

N Korea 'agent' charged

AFP, Sydney

A Sydney-based "loyal agent of North Korea" has been charged with trying to sell missile parts and technology on the black market to raise money for Pyongyang in breach of international sanctions, Australian police said yesterday.

The 59-year-old naturalised Australian citizen of Korean descent, named in local media as Chan Han Choi, was attempting

to broker illicit deals that could have generated "tens of millions of dollars" for North Korea, the Australian Federal Police (AFP) said.

Choi was involved in discussions to set up a ballistic missile production facility and the supply of missile construction plans in addition to components, software and the transfer of technical expertise from Pyongyang, police alleged.

AFP Assistant Commissioner Neil Gaughan told reporters the case was "like nothing we have ever seen on Australian soil", alleging that the man was in contact with high-ranking North Korean officials.

"This man is a loyal agent of North Korea, believing he was acting to serve some higher

patriotic purpose."

The alleged agent's plans did not involve other governments or officials, police said. Authorities did not reveal which individuals or entities the man was allegedly trying to trade with.

North Korea is under tough United Nations sanctions aimed at choking off revenue to Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programmes.

Choi was involved in talks to set up missile production facility

This is a very important arrest: PM Turnbull

"This is a very important arrest, the charges laid are of the greatest nature," Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull told reporters in Sydney.

"North Korea is a dangerous, reckless, criminal regime threatening the peace of the region. It supports itself by breaching UN sanctions."

"It is vitally important that all nations ... enforce those sanctions because the more economic pressure that can be brought on North Korea, the sooner that regime will be brought to its senses."

Choi was refused bail yesterday after being arrested in the Sydney suburb of Eastwood on Saturday. He faces a total of six charges, with maximum penalties of up to 10 years in jail.

HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

Pak, India race to tap the Himalayas

AFP, Muzaffarabad

Several hundred metres underground, thousands of labourers grind away day and night on a mammoth hydroelectric project in contested Kashmir, where India and Pakistan are racing to tap the subcontinent's diminishing freshwater supplies.

The arch rivals have been building duelling power plants along the banks of the turquoise Neelum River for years.

The two projects, located on opposite sides of the Line of Control -- the de facto border in Kashmir -- are now close to completion, fuelling tensions between the neighbours with Pakistan particularly worried their downstream project will be deprived of much-needed water by India.

The Himalayan region of Kashmir is at the heart of a 70-year conflict between the nuclear-armed foes, with both sides laying claim to the conflict-riven territory.

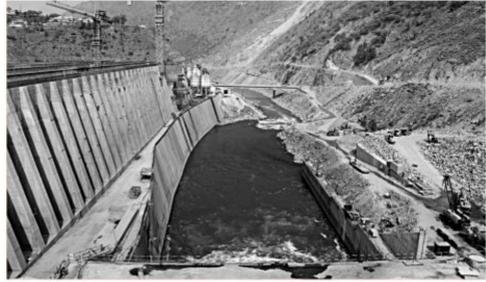
The rivalry on the Neelum is underlined by both countries' unquenchable need for freshwater, as their surging populations and developing economies continue to stress already diminished waters tables.

This situation represents a serious challenge to Pakistan's food security and long-term growth, its central bank recently warned in a report.

The geography of the wider region only exacerbates the problem.

The Indus River -- into which the waters of the Neelum

The arch rivals have been building duelling power plants along the banks of the turquoise Neelum River for years.



ultimately flow -- is one of the longest on the continent, cutting through ultra-sensitive borders in the region.

It rises in Tibet, crosses Kashmir and waters 65 percent of Pakistan's territory, including the vast, fertile plains of Punjab province -- the country's bread basket -- before flowing into the Indian Ocean.

The Indus Water Treaty, painfully ratified in 1960 under the auspices of the World Bank, theoretically regulates water allocation between the countries and is considered a rare diplomatic success story amid a bitter history.

It provides India with access to three eastern rivers (the Beas, Ravi and Sutlej) and Pakistan with three in the west (the Indus, Chenab and Jhelum), while setting the conditions for water usage.

As a tributary of the Jhelum River, the Neelum theoretically falls into Pakistan's sphere, which launched the Neelum-Jhelum power plant project a quarter of a century ago to counter the legal, but competing Kishanganga project in Indian Kashmir.

At the confluence of the Neelum and Jhelum, the gigantic underground cathedral of concrete and steel is near completion -- the four generators are in place, waiting for the transformers and the network to be connected.

Pentagon study of UFOs revealed

The hush-hush programme ran from 2007 to 2012

REUTERS, Washington

The Pentagon acknowledged on Saturday that its long-secret UFO investigation program ended in 2012, when US defense officials shifted attention and funding to other priorities.

But as to whether the Advanced Aviation Threat Identification Program has continued to investigate UFO sightings since its funding ended five years ago could rank as an unexplained phenomenon.

The New York Times reported on Saturday that the hush-hush programme, tasked with investigating sightings of unidentified flying objects, or UFOs, ran from 2007 to 2012 with \$22 million in annual funding secretly tucked away in US Defense Department budgets worth hundreds of billions of dollars.

Its initial funding came largely at the request of former Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid, the Nevada Democrat long known for his enthusiasm for space phenomena, the newspaper said.



Yet according to its backers, the program remains in existence and officials continue to investigate UFO episodes brought to their attention by service members, the newspaper said.

The Pentagon openly acknowledged the fate of the program in response to a Reuters query.

"The Advanced Aviation Threat Identification Program ended in the 2012 timeframe," Pentagon spokeswoman Laura Ochoa said in an email.

"It was determined that there were other, higher priority issues that merited funding and it was in the best interest of the DoD to make a change," she said.

But the Pentagon was less clear about whether the UFO program continues to hover somewhere in the vast universe of the US defense establishment.

"If you've talked to Harry Reid for > 60 seconds then it's the least surprising thing ever that he loves UFOs and got an earmark to study them," former Reid spokeswoman Kristen Orthman said in a message on Twitter.

Or as Reid himself said in a tweet that linked to the Times' story: "The truth is out there. Seriously."

Taliban attacks kill 11 Afghan police officers

AFP, Kandahar

At least 11 Afghan police officers were killed yesterday when Taliban fighters assaulted their checkpoints in volatile Helmand province in southern Afghanistan, authorities said.

The assaults on two police post are the latest in a series of deadly attacks on Afghan security forces claimed by the Taliban.

Taliban insurgents launched the attacks in the early morning in the Qalai Sang area of the provincial capital Lashkar Gah.

"Our police fought them back, but unfortunately 11 of our police were martyred and two wounded," provincial governor Hayatullah Hayat told AFP, adding that the militants fled after the attack.

Provincial police chief Ghafar Safi said 15 Taliban fighters were also killed during the skirmish.

After 16 years of war the resurgent militants show no signs of fatigue, ramping up their campaign against beleaguered government forces, underscoring rising insecurity in the war-torn country.

Afghan police and troops -- beset by a high death toll, desertions and non-existent "ghost soldiers" on the payroll -- have been struggling to beat back the insurgents since US-led Nato troops ended their combat mission in December 2014.

Also yesterday, a suicide car bomb attack targeting Nato forces in neighbouring Kandahar province killed at least one woman and wounded four other Afghan civilians, General Abdul Razeq, the provincial police chief, told AFP.

A Nato spokesman in Kabul told AFP they were still checking reports concerning the attack.



A crew member of MV Open Arms, the search and rescue ship of Proactiva Open Arms, carries a migrant baby before passing it to crew members of MV Aquarius, a search and rescue ship run in partnership between SOS Mediterranee and Medecins Sans Frontieres, during a mid-sea transfer of migrants in the central Mediterranean off the coast of Libya on Saturday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

এসেনসিয়াল ড্রাগস্ কোম্পানী লিমিটেড
৩৯৫-৩৯৭, তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা, ঢাকা- ১২০৮

সংক্ষিপ্ত স্থানীয় দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ইডিসিএল নিম্নোক্ত আইটেমগুলি প্রকৃত স্থানীয় প্রস্তুতকারী/ সরবরাহকারীদের (সংক্ষিপ্ত ব্যবসার সাথে জড়িত) নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহবান করছে:

ক্রম নং	দরপত্র নং ও তারিখ	বিবরণ	পরিমাণ	আনুষ্ঠানিক মনি	দরপত্র শিডিউলের মূল্য (অক্ষেরযোগ্য)	দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়
০১।	ইডিসিএল/ক্রয়/স্থানীয়/ দরপত্র/২০১৭/৩২২ তারিখঃ ১৭/১২/২০১৭ইং	১৮ (আঠারো) প্রকার প্রিন্টেড এ্যালুমিনিয়াম ব্লিস্টার ফয়েল, ০২ (দুই) প্রকার প্রিন্টেড/আনপ্রিন্টেড স্ট্রিপ ফয়েল এবং প্রিন্টেড এ্যালুমিনিয়াম ও আরএস ফয়েল { 18 (eighteen) kinds of Printed Alu. Blister Foil, 2 (Two) Kinds Printed/ Unprinted Alu. Strip Foil and Printed Alu ORS Foil } (সিডিউল মোতাবেক)	ব্লিস্টারঃ ১২,৯৬৮.০ কেজি প্রিন্টেড ৭১৮০.০০ কেজি আনপ্রিন্টেড ৭০৫০.০ কেজি ও আরএস ১৬,৮০০.০ কেজি	২.৫%	টাকা ২৫০০.০০ (দুই হাজার পাঁচশত) মাত্র।	২৮/১২/২০১৭ইং বেলা: ১২.০০ ঘটিকা	২৮/১২/২০১৭ইং বেলা: ১২.১৫ ঘটিকা
০২।	ইডিসিএল/ক্রয়/স্থানীয়/ দরপত্র/২০১৭/৩২৩ তারিখঃ ১৭/১২/২০১৭ইং	০২ (দুই) প্রকার গ্লাস বোতল। { 02 (Two) Kinds of Glass Bottle } (সিডিউল মোতাবেক)	৩৬,০০,০০০ পিস	২.৫%	টাকা ১,৭৫০ (এক হাজার সাতশত পঞ্চাশ) মাত্র।	২৮/১২/২০১৭ইং বেলা: ১২.০০ ঘটিকা	২৮/১২/২০১৭ইং বেলা: ১২.১৫ ঘটিকা

সকল কার্যদিবসে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে উপরোক্ত কার্যালয় হতে শর্ত ও নিয়মাবলীসহ দরপত্র শিডিউল ক্রয় করা যাবে।
উল্লেখ্য যে, যাদের ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন নাই তাদের দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণ করার প্রয়োজন নাই।
দরপত্র খোলার দিনে কোন দরপত্র শিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হবে না।

মহাব্যবস্থাপক
প্রকিউরমেন্ট
পক্ষেঃ ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক