

Fireworks explosions kill 24 in Mexico

At least 24 people were killed in a series of explosions Thursday at fireworks warehouses in the town of Tultepec in central Mexico...

Record heavy rain hits Japan, 3 more killed

Three people were found dead near rain-swollen rivers in Japan yesterday, officials said, as record downpours prompted authorities to order more than 210,000 people to evacuate their homes...



A Palestinian carries a wounded protester away from the scene of clashes with Israeli forces during a weekly demonstration against the expropriation of Palestinian land by Israel, east of Gaza City, yesterday.

World powers back Iran oil exports

Iran's remaining partners in the 2015 nuclear deal yesterday vowed to keep the energy exporter plugged into the global economy despite the US withdrawal and sanctions threat. Three European nations along with Russia and China met with Iran to offer economic benefits and assurances that would lessen the blow of sweeping US sanctions...

'BIGGEST TRADE WAR' IN HISTORY US, China fire first shots

The US and China yesterday launched tit-for-tat tariffs on each other's imports, the opening shots in what Beijing called "the largest trade war in economic history" between the world's top two economies. At the stroke of midnight Washington time, the US pulled the trigger on 25-percent duties on about \$34 billion in Chinese machinery, electronics and high-tech equipment...

US President Donald Trump has vowed to hit as much as \$450 billion in Chinese goods, the vast majority of imports. Months of dialogue between the two economic superpowers appeared to have failed, with Trump warning just hours before the tariffs came into effect that Washington was ready to impose duties on hundreds of billions of dollars more in Chinese imports. Trump has for years slammed what he describes as Beijing's underhand economic treatment of the United States...

US officials accuse China of building its emerging industrial dominance by stealing the "crown jewels" of American technological know-how through cyber-theft, forced transfers of intellectual property and state-sponsored corporate acquisitions. And despite dire warnings about the impact on the US, Trump believes the robust American economy can outlast its rivals in the current battle. But China also believes that its economy, with a greater focus on domestic demand and a reduced dependence on exports, can ride out the storm. Beijing has accused the US of "firing on the whole world" with the measures, pointing out that most of the Chinese exports under attack are largely made by companies with foreign investment -- including from America. Under the banner of his "America First" policy, Trump has also targeted other traditional trade partners of the US, such as the European Union, Japan, Mexico and even Canada.

THAI TOURIST BOAT TRAGEDY Dozens feared dead

Thai rescuers pulled 37 bodies from waters off the coast of the holiday island of Phuket yesterday after a tourist boat went down in heavy seas with dozens of Chinese passengers on board. Many of the dead were found drifting face down in the water, still wearing life jackets, several kilometres (miles) from where the Phoenix sank after being hit by five-metre (15-foot) high waves in a storm on Thursday evening. "The death toll today is 37, with 18 still unaccounted for," said a Thai navy official late Friday, requesting anonymity. In a grisly development earlier, divers reported seeing "over 10 bodies" floating inside the hull of the submerged boat, according to Thai navy Rear Admiral Charoengphon Khumrasee, who said they would try to retrieve them later Friday. The three-decker boat was carrying 105 passengers, mostly Chinese tourists, when it sank. "The skies were clear when we went out, we had no idea the weather could change so fast," said Wu Jun, 28, from the hospital bedside of his wife Long Hai Ning. The pair, who were on their honeymoon, were on different decks as the boat started to list, but both managed to escape. A total of 56 passengers were reported missing as of Friday morning before the recovery effort began, with the Phoenix looking set to be one of the worst boat disasters in recent Thai history.



DENUCLEARISATION DRIVE Pompeo arrives in North Korea

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo arrived in Pyongyang yesterday to press Kim Jong Un for a more detailed commitment to denuclearisation following the North Korean leader's historic summit with President Donald Trump. Pompeo was greeted in the North Korean capital by Kim's right hand man Kim Yong Chol and Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho. Since meeting Kim in Singapore last month, Trump has been bullish about hopes for peace, boasting that the threat of nuclear war is over. But the statement the leaders signed was short on clear commitments. Kim agreed to the "complete denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula" -- a stock phrase favoured by Pyongyang that stops short of longstanding US demands for North Korea to give up its atomic arsenal in a "verifiable" and "irreversible" way. Pompeo has been tasked with negotiating a plan that Washington hopes would involve Kim declaring the extent of his nuclear weapons programme and agreeing a timetable for it to be dismantled. The top US diplomat, who will be staying overnight in the North Korean capital for the first time, said he looked forward to a "very productive" encounter. In a tweet before he landed in Pyongyang, Pompeo said he was "looking forward to continuing our work toward the final, fully verified denuclearisation of #DPRK, as agreed to by Chairman Kim".

Do your Brexit duty PM May tells her divided govt

Prime Minister Theresa May called on her government to do its duty and agree a plan for Britain's future outside the European Union, a last-ditch appeal to ministers to put Brexit rows behind them and take a "step forward". Just hours before hosting a meeting at her Chequers country residence that she hopes will overcome deep rifts that have hampered Britain's Brexit plans, May urged her cabinet to agree a way to push on with all-but-stalled talks with the EU. A united stance from the government cannot come soon enough for an increasingly frustrated EU and for many companies, which have stepped up their warnings of the risk to tens of thousands of jobs if Britain leaves the bloc without a deal. But the first details of May's new plan for close customs ties with the EU - a "facilitated customs arrangement" - won mixed reviews, with one Brexit campaigner saying it could leave the country out of Europe, but still run by Europe. Her foreign minister, Boris Johnson, held a meeting of pro-Brexit ministers to plan a counter-attack to May's plans, and it was not clear whether the customs proposal, which critics say relies on unproven technology, would win support in Brussels. Her effective deputy, cabinet office minister David Lidington, said he was confident that ministers, who have long been at odds over how close Britain's future relationship with the EU should be, would reach a "concrete position".



Maya Meri, 8, who lost her legs in a blast in Syria, waits at a prosthetic center in Istanbul, Turkey. South Syrian rebels yesterday said they have agreed to lay down arms in a Russian-brokered deal that appeared to surrender Deraa province to the government in another major victory for President Bashar al-Assad.



Trump's environment chief resigns

US President Donald Trump on Thursday announced the departure of his environment chief, Scott Pruitt, who faced ever-growing ethics scandals over his spending and conduct in office. Trump tweeted that Pruitt's deputy, the former coal lobbyist Andrew Wheeler, would take over Monday as acting head of the agency. Pruitt is multiple investigations.

Japan executes sarin attack cult leader, six followers

The leader of the Japanese doomsday cult that carried out a deadly 1995 sarin attack on the Tokyo subway was executed yesterday along with six of his followers, decades after the horrific crime. Shoko Asahara, the charismatic near-blind leader of the Aum Shinrikyo sect, had been on death row for more than ten years for crimes including the nerve agent attack, which shocked the world and prompted a massive crackdown on the cult. Japan's Justice Minister Yoko Kamikawa confirmed the seven executions, saying the Aum members were responsible for "extremely atrocious and grave acts that were unprecedented and should never happen again". The hangings are the first executions in connection with the attack, which killed 13 people and injured thousands more. A further six cult followers remain on death row. Japan is one of the few developed nations to retain the death penalty, and public support for it remains high despite international criticism.

Relatives of those killed in the attack, and others who were injured welcomed the executions. The attack during the capital's notoriously crowded rush hour paralysed Tokyo, turning it into a virtual warzone. Members of the group released the chemical in liquid form at five points through the subway network, and soon commuters began struggling to breathe, staggering from trains with their eyes watering. Others keeled over, foaming at the mouth, with blood streaming from their noses. Panic soon set in, with subway workers screaming at people to evacuate and passengers convulsing on carriage floors. Japanese Self-Defense Force members dressed in hazmat suits and gas masks descended into the depths to help the injured and deal with the poison. Though concerns about the Aum had already been raised, the attack prompted a massive crackdown on the cult's headquarters in the foothills of Mount Fuji, where authorities discovered a plant capable of producing enough sarin to kill millions.



18th DEATH ANNIVERSARY Today is the 18th Death Anniversary of our beloved father Mr. Musharraf Hussain Chowdhury. He was a Vanguard soldier of language movement of 1952 and in recognition for this contribution he was awarded Ekushe Padok. He was also the former Managing Director of Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution Co. Ltd. The family members of late Musharraf Hussain Chowdhury have requested all his relatives, friends, former colleagues and well-wisher to pray for the salvation of the departed soul. Rumea, Jamee, Sadee, Shapna, Mitu, Neetu 07-07-2018

Where others see Brick and Building, We see your DREAM HOME and a life well lived. On Time Handover Quality Construction LAND WANTED শেল্টেক SHELTAK Since 1988 01713091721, 01713091719