

**SYRIA WAR**

**Landmines killed 41 kids in 2019**

AFP, Beirut

At least 173 civilians, including 41 children, have been killed in Syria by landmines and explosive remnants of war since the start of the year, a monitor said yesterday.

Syria's warring parties have all planted landmines in urban as well as rural areas since the conflict started in 2011.

Across the country, more than 10 million people live in areas contaminated by explosive hazards, the United Nations says.

"Since early 2019, 173 civilians, including 41 children, have been killed by landmines and explosive remnants of war," said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Of the victims, at least 40 have been killed while digging for truffles, the Britain-based monitor said.



**An Iraqi protester carries a wounded comrade during a demonstration against state corruption, failing public services and unemployment at Tayaran square in Baghdad; Inset, A protester shows casings of live rounds and a spent tear gas canister reportedly fired by riot police at central Tahrir Square in Baghdad.**

PHOTO: AFP

**India shelves plan to ban single-use plastic**

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's bold plan to tackle single-use plastics has been scrapped. In a sweeping Independence Day address on August 15, Modi suggested that he would ban single-use plastic across the country from Wednesday, the 150th anniversary of the birth of independence leader Mahatma Gandhi. The prohibited single-use items potentially included plastic bags, cups, plates, small bottles, straws and certain sachets. But those plans now appear to have been shelved. An official announcement was expected Wednesday to coincide with the anniversary of Gandhi's birth, but rather than a blanket ban, the move is now being touted as an awareness campaign. With its 1.3 billion population, India consumed an estimated 15.5 million tons of plastic in 2016-17. That number is predicted to increase to 20 million tons by 2019-20.

**New EU president to sleep in her office**

The EU's incoming president Ursula von der Leyen plans to live in a tiny flat attached to her Brussels office rather than rent an apartment, her staff told AFP yesterday. The president of the European Commission has no official residence -- a fact that irked von der Leyen's predecessor Jean-Claude Juncker, who complained to a German newspaper that he was forced to live in a hotel suite at a cost of 3,250 euros (\$3,560) a month. Instead von der Leyen is having a 25-square-metre (270-square-foot) room next to her office on the 13th floor of the commission's Berlaymont building converted so she can sleep there during the week. She followed a similar practice as German defence minister, staying in her Berlin office and returning to her family home near Hanover at weekends.

**Climate activists spray UK ministry with fake blood**



Members of the environmental activist group Extinction Rebellion yesterday used a decommissioned fire engine to spray fake blood over the front of Britain's finance ministry in London. Protesters, who sprayed 1,800 litres of the fake blood outside the Treasury, also held up banners at the site demanding Britain "stop funding climate death". Extinction Rebellion said it staged the protest to show "the inconsistency between the UK government's insistence that the UK is a world leader in tackling climate breakdown, and the vast sums it pours into fossil fuel exploration and carbon-intensive projects". London's Metropolitan Police said four people -- three men and one woman -- were arrested on suspicion of criminal damage following the incident.

SOURCE: AFP

**KNIFE ATTACK AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN PARIS**

**Four police killed**

Attacker shot dead; workplace dispute suspected behind the deadliest attack on French cops in yrs

AFP, Paris

A man wielding a knife stabbed and killed four officers at the police headquarters in the heart of central Paris on Thursday, before being shot dead.

The premises were cordoned off after the lunchtime attack in the historic centre of Paris, usually thronged with tourists, and a dozens of police and emergency vehicles had converged at the scene, AFP journalists reported.

At least one metro station in the vicinity of the building, which is close to Notre-Dame cathedral and other major tourist attractions, was closed.

Sources told AFP the attacker was shot dead by police in the courtyard of the building, where he was employed. The man worked in an administrative capacity but it was not immediately clear what his precise work role was.

Investigators suspect a workplace dispute sparked the deadliest attack on police in France in years, sources said, but there were no immediate further details. The Paris prosecutor is at the scene, but anti-terror agencies have not been involved at this stage.

"Did he snap, or was there some other reason? It's still too early to say," Loic Travers, head of the Alliance Police union for the Paris region, told BFM television. There was no immediate indication of the possible motives of the attacker.

France has been rocked since 2015 by a succession of attacks blamed on jihadists, which have included both large synchronised assaults and isolated knife and gun attacks, killing more than 250 people.

The country remains on high alert after these attacks.

**Iraq protests turn deadly**

AFP, Baghdad

Several thousand Iraqi protesters faced off against security forces in central Baghdad on Thursday, the third day of mass rallies that have left 19 dead as they engulf the country's south.

Defying a curfew in place since dawn, they arrived by truckfuls at the capital's oil and industry ministry to protest against corruption, unemployment and poor services.

The apparently leaderless movement has posed the biggest challenge yet to Prime Minister Adel Abdel Mahdi, who has been in power for less than a year.

The embattled premier ordered a ban on all movement in Baghdad starting at 5:00 am (0200 GMT) Thursday, but it was almost immediately defied by small groups of protesters.

The crowds swelled in the afternoon and pledged to march to the capital's emblematic Tahrir (Liberation) Square.

Most demonstrators carried the Iraqi tricolour while others brandished flags bearing the name of Hussein, the Prophet Mohammed's (pbuh) grandson and a revered figure in Shia

Islam, an AFP photographer said.

Riot police and army troops linked arms around ministries and other government buildings, firing tear gas and live rounds into the air in a bid to push the crowds back.

"We will sacrifice our souls and our blood for you, Iraq!" demonstrators chanted.

The protests began Tuesday in

19 killed as protesters defy curfew, more than 1000 wounded

Anger over graft, unemployment spread to country's south

Approximately 75 percent of Iraqis offline

have remained relatively calm.

Approximately 75 percent of Iraq is "offline" after major network operators "intentionally restricted" access, according to cybersecurity monitor NetBlocks.

The three days of demonstrations have left 19 people dead including one police officer, a toll confirmed by Iraq's Human Rights Commission. More than 1,000 protesters and security personnel have been wounded.

The grievances echo those of mass demonstrations in Iraq's south a little over a year ago which were prompted by a severe water shortage that caused a widespread health crisis. Since then, southern provinces have accused the central government of failing to address profound infrastructural gaps, chief among them is youth unemployment.

Abdel Mahdi came to power in October 2018 with a promise to reform inefficient institutions, eradicate corruption and fight unemployment.

In particular, anger has boiled over at the staggering level of youth unemployment, which stands at around 25 percent or double the overall rate, says the World Bank.

Baghdad but have since spread across the mainly Shia south, including the provinces of Dhi Qar, Missan, Najaf, Basra, Wasit and Babylon.

Several cities have imposed curfews, but protesters flooded the streets regardless.

The Kurdish northern regions and Sunni western provinces, meanwhile,



A devotee dressed as the Hindu deity Maha Kali performs during Navratri festival celebrations in Ajmer in Rajasthan state, yesterday.

**HATE SPEECH**

**FB suffers legal blow in EU court**

AFP, Luxembourg

Facebook on Wednesday was dealt a major blow in the EU's top court, which ruled that national courts in Europe can order online platforms to remove defamatory content worldwide.

The decision will be seen as a victory for EU regulators, who are ambitious to see US tech giants meet tightened European standards over hate speech and offensive content.

Last week, the same court decided that Google was not legally compelled to apply the EU's strict "right to be forgotten" rules globally, in a victory for the search giant.

In a closely watched judgment, the European Court of Justice said EU law "does not preclude" courts from ordering "the removal of information or to block access worldwide," a statement said.

The latest case was brought originally to an Austrian court by Greens party politician Eva Glawischnig-Piesczek, who requested the removal of Facebook posts that the judges found defamed her and could be seen by users of the social network around the world.

The complaint also concerned messages from fictitious accounts, which according to the Greens, had called Glawischnig-Piesczek a "corrupt" person and which the social network refused to delete.

A higher Austrian court referred the case to the EU's top court for an opinion and the judgment, which cannot be appealed, will now be used as a reference Europe-wide.

With the decision, Facebook and similar platforms such as Twitter, face a greater obligation to monitor their content and take down content found to be offensive or hateful, even from fake accounts.

**Israel's parliament sworn in without new govt**

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel's parliament was sworn yesterday without a new government formed as a deadlocked general election left Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu scrambling to find a path to extend his long tenure in power.

Members of parliament elected in September 17 polls took their oaths of office in a ceremony that was to a large degree hollow due to deadlocked coalition talks.

The stalemate has even raised the risk that the new parliament's term will be extremely short since it could cause yet another election. It would be the third in the space of a year after April polls too ended inconclusively, with Netanyahu unable to form a coalition afterwards.

The prime minister faces even longer odds this time, and as a result has been seeking to form a unity government that would include his main opponent Benny Gantz and his centrist Blue and White alliance.

hearing that began at the attorney general's office on Wednesday.

His unity government efforts have failed so far, with the two sides at odds on a range of issues, including who would be prime minister first in a rotation arrangement.

Blue and White finished with the most seats in the election -- 33 compared to right-wing Likud's 32.

Neither has a clear path to a majority coalition, but Netanyahu received one more endorsement for prime minister than Gantz from MPs, resulting in Rivlin tasking him with forming a government last week. He has 28 days to do so, but has signalled he may inform Rivlin before that he is unable to form a government -- a political tactic, not a sign he is throwing in the towel.

Rivlin would then decide whether to ask Gantz to try to form a government or demand that parliament agree on a candidate with a vote of at least 61 out of 120 members.

The president has set out a unity government compromise that could see Netanyahu remain prime minister, but step aside if indicted while retaining the title.

Gantz would then take over on an interim basis.



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Walton Group, the largest Multinational Electrical, Electronics and Home Appliance products manufacturer in Bangladesh is now aggressively expanding its global presence, thus seeking application for its International Business Unit (IBU) from the qualified and interested candidates in the following positions for immediate appointment.

**Position**

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- To develop business strategy and yearly business plan
- To maintain overall business management and development as Country Representative
- To set up country business infrastructure: Sales/SVC Infra as well as channel development
- To develop local marketing campaigns in line with brand visions and profit targets
- To implement marketing strategies and campaigns
- To identify new business avenues
- To implement sales, marketing, financial and operational plan
- Make accurate forecasts and demand plans
- New product development initiatives based on market insight
- Key initiatives of sales, marketing and branding
- To analyze data or insights to determine industry and consumer trends

**Requirements**

- Minimum 05 years' experience in Electronics or IT companies, overseas experience as company representative or global commercial as well as SCM experience
- International business experience will get preference
- Degree from overseas recognized University in Economics/Business/Engineering would be added advantages
- Excellent PR skills
- A TEAM Player, Hard Worker, Agressive, Self-motivated
- Both Bangladeshi and foreign nationals are encouraged to apply

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- India
- Kenya
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- Middle East: UAE/KSA
- Nepal
- Nigeria
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- Sri Lanka
- UK
- USA

**Language Efficiency**

**Mandatory** : Fluency in English  
**Others** : Arabic, Spanish, Hindi, German, French, Russian, Portuguese

If you are eligible & confident then you are the person we are looking for, please forward your resume to [jobs@waltonbd.com](mailto:jobs@waltonbd.com) stating the position applied for in the subject line by 15 October, 2019

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