

NEWS IN BRIEF

**Gang ransacks Hong Kong newspaper critical of China**

A Hong Kong newspaper that is critical of Beijing said yesterday its printing presses were ransacked by a gang of men wielding sledgehammers. The assault on the Epoch Times was captured on CCTV and comes as China overseas a sweeping crackdown against critics in Hong Kong following huge and often violent democracy protests in 2019. Footage released by the paper showed four masked men storming into the printing plant in the early hours of yesterday morning and smashing up equipment. They are seen throwing concrete rubble into machinery as a terrified female staff member looked on, and in an accompanying report the Epoch Times said the gang threatened those inside with violence.

**Egypt jails man for 8 years in #MeToo case**

An Egyptian court Sunday sentenced a man to eight years in prison for sexually harassing three minors and drug possession, in a case that sparked outrage on social media. Ahmed Bassam Zaki, a former student of some of Egypt's most elite schools and the American University in Cairo, was sentenced to seven years in jail for sexually harassing three underage girls and one year for drug possession, a judicial source said. He can appeal the verdict, the source added. Zaki, who is in his 20s, had already been sentenced in December to three years in



prison for sexually harassing two young women by Egypt's economic court, which tries cyber crimes. The court found he had sent sexual photos to one of the women and repeatedly contacted the other without her consent.

**Austrian files climate lawsuit against government**

An Austrian multiple sclerosis sufferer has sued his government in the European rights court for failing to protect the climate, saying global warming worsened his condition, an activist group said yesterday. The man, whose name was only given as Mex M., suffers from a temperature-dependent form of multiple sclerosis, said the Austrian branch of the Fridays for Future movement initiated by Swedish activist Greta Thunberg. "From 25 degrees Celsius (77 degrees Fahrenheit) I sit in a wheelchair. That means: I'm already affected by the climate crisis and in the future even more so," the 40-year-old energy consultant said. "A success would enable me to demand effective climate measures and to claim this in court." The suit was filed at the Strasbourg-based European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) on Friday. "The climate law is weak and does not give you the opportunity to do anything against it," his lawyer Michaela Kroemer told AFP.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



Protesters stand on top of a police car as they clash after an officer shot and killed a black man in Brooklyn Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota, US on Sunday. Hundreds of people gathered outside a police station in Brooklyn Center, northwest of Minneapolis, with police later firing teargas and flash bangs to disperse the crowd. PHOTO: AFP

**SABOTAGE AT NATANZ NUCLEAR SITE**

**Iran blames Israel, vows revenge**

REUTERS, Dubai

Iran yesterday accused arch-foe Israel of sabotaging its key Natanz nuclear site and vowed revenge for an attack that appeared to be latest episode in a long-running covert war.

Iran's semi-official Nournews website said the person who caused an electricity outage in one of the production halls at the underground uranium enrichment plant had been identified. "Necessary measures are being taken to arrest this person," the website reported, without giving details about the person.

The incident occurred amid diplomatic efforts by Iran and the United States to revive Tehran's 2015 nuclear deal with major powers, an accord Israel fiercely opposed, after former US President Donald Trump abandoned it three years ago.

Last week, Iran and the global powers held what they described as "constructive" talks to salvage the deal, which has unravelled as Iran



has breached its limits on sensitive uranium enrichment since Trump reimposed harsh sanctions on Tehran.

Iranian authorities described the incident a day earlier as an act of "nuclear terrorism".

Yesterday, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif explicitly blamed Israel. "The Zionists want to take revenge because of our progress in the way to lift sanctions... We will not fall into their trap... We will not allow this act of sabotage to affect the nuclear talks," Zarif was quoted by state TV as saying.

"But we will take our revenge against the Zionists."

Multiple Israeli media outlets have quoted unnamed intelligence sources as saying the country's Mossad spy service carried out a successful sabotage operation at the underground Natanz complex, potentially setting back enrichment work there by months.

Iranian nuclear energy chief Ali Akbar Salehi said an emergency power system had been activated at Natanz to offset the outage.

Russia's foreign ministry said yesterday it hoped the power outage at Natanz uranium plant would not "undermine" progress on nuclear talks.

The European Union also warned against attempts to derail talks aimed at returning the US to the nuclear deal.

EU spokesman Peter Stano said the reported incident "could have been an act of sabotage" but insisted that there had been no official attribution over who was responsible.

**WB POLLS CAMPAIGN IN BARDHAMAN**

**Mamata 'clean bowled': Modi**

NDTV ONLINE

Mamata Banerjee has been "clean bowled" and her entire team has been asked to leave the field, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared yesterday.

"...if you want to unload your anger, I am here. Abuse me all you want. But don't insult Bengal's dignity and tradition. Bengal won't tolerate your arrogance, tolabaz (extortion), cut money syndicate because people want 'Asol Poribartan (real change)' now," Modi said, campaigning in Bardhaman for the Bengal election that is half-way through.

This was the first of packed rallies the PM addressed in Bengal yesterday amid rocketing Covid cases across the country, especially in states where elections are being held. People in masks as well as without them were seen at various public meetings.

PM Modi used the Trinamool's "Ma, Mati Manush (Mother, motherland, people)" slogan to attack the party, saying: "Tormenting 'Ma', looting 'Mati' and bloodshed of 'Manush' is the reality."

Making cricket references, Modi remarked that the people of Bengal had hit so many boundaries in the first four rounds of voting that the BJP had "already completed its century".

"The people of Bengal hit so many fours and sixes that BJP has already completed a century (of seats) in the first 4 phases of assembly polls. They have wiped out the Trinamool in half the match," he said.

**MIGRANT BOAT CAPSIZE**

**34 die off the coast of Djibouti: IOM**

AFP, Djibouti

Thirty-four migrants drowned yesterday after their boat capsized off the coast of Djibouti, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said, the second such accident in just over a month.

Survivors reported that the boat capsized in rough seas at around 4:00 am (0100 GMT) after leaving Yemen with around 60 passengers on board, an IOM official in Djibouti told AFP, asking not to be named.

"The migrants were being transported by people smugglers," Mohammed Abdiker, the IOM's regional director for East Africa and the Horn of Africa, added on Twitter.

"Apprehending and prosecuting people traffickers and smugglers who exploit the vulnerabilities of migrants must become a priority. Too many lives needlessly lost."

There were "many children" among the bodies found, the first official said, adding that survivors were receiving treatment from the IOM and local authorities. The boat capsized in seas north of the Djibouti port town of Obock, a major transit point for thousands of African migrants in the region trying to reach the Gulf.

It follows a similar accident on March 4 when 20 people drowned after smugglers threw dozens of migrants overboard during a journey across the Gulf of Aden. At least 200 migrants were packed aboard that vessel when it left Djibouti. But about 30 minutes into the voyage the smugglers panicked about the weight on board, and threw 80 people into the sea before turning back towards land.

**COUP IN MYANMAR**

**Suu Kyi faces new criminal charge**

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar's ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi was hit with a fresh criminal charge yesterday, as the junta's tough crackdown on dissent rolls on.

The 75-year-old Nobel laureate has not been seen in public since being detained in the early hours of February 1 as the military deposed her government and seized power.

The generals have used increasingly brutal methods to try to quell a growing protest movement against their rule, while Suu Kyi faces a raft of criminal charges that could see her barred for life from office.

"Aung San Suu has been charged again under section 25 of the natural disaster management law," lawyer Min Min



Soe told AFP after a court hearing in the capital Naypyidaw, where Suu Kyi appeared by videolink.

"She has been charged in six cases altogether -- five charges in Naypyidaw and one in Yangon."

The most serious charge Suu Kyi faces falls under Myanmar's official secrets laws.

Min Min Soe said Suu Kyi, who

is under house arrest in Naypyidaw, appeared in good health but it is not clear if she has any idea of the turmoil that has unfolded in Myanmar over the past two months.

Near-daily protests seeking her release and the restoration of democracy have been met with rubber bullets, live rounds and even grenades by the security forces.

More than 700 civilians have been killed in the space of just 70 days since the coup, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners monitoring group, which says more than 3,000 have been arrested.

In Tamu, near Myanmar's border with India, a six-year-old girl was shot dead while walking to the shop to buy snacks yesterday morning, a local in the city told AFP.



Devotees gather to take a holy dip in the waters of river Ganges during Kumbh Mela, or the Pitcher Festival, amidst the spread of the coronavirus disease, in Haridwar, India yesterday. India overtook Brazil as the country with the second-highest number of coronavirus infections.

PHOTO: REUTERS

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD  
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E-mail: eesyl@rhd.gov.bd  
Memo No. 35.01.9162.473.00.000.21/1312 Date- 12/04/2021

**e-Tender Notice 20 (Twenty) 2020-2021**  
(Open Tendering Method)

e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer, RHD, Sylhet Road Division, Sylhet. For the procurement of following work.

Tender/Proposal ID No & Package No.	Name of work	Tender/Proposal Document last selling/downloading Date and Time	Tender/Proposal Closing/Opening Date and Time
568327 eGP-43/2020-2021/ EE/RHD/Sylhet	Construction of Boundary Wall of Golapganj, Beanibazar, Zakingaj Inspection Banglow & Lamakazi Stackyard under Sylhet Road Division Sylhet during the year 2020-2021.	27/04/2021 15:00	28/04/2021 14:00
568328 eGP-44/2020-2021/ EE/RHD/Sylhet	Repairing Different Work Sheds of RHD under Sylhet Road Division, Sylhet during the year 2020-2021	27/04/2021 15:00	28/04/2021 14:00

This is online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).  
The fee's for downloading the e-Tender documents from the national e-GP portal have to be deposited on line through any member of schedule bank for e-GP.  
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Md. Mostafizur Rahman**  
ID No-602158  
Executive Engineer, RHD  
Sylhet Road Division, Sylhet

GD-750

**ADVERSE-EVENT**  
**EMA issues post-jab alert for medics**  
TNN, New Delhi

The safety committee of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) has asked those receiving the AstraZeneca vaccine (called Covishield in India) and medical professionals to look out for cases of unusual blood clots with low platelets, a rare adverse event with the vaccine.

It warned that though the chances of occurrence were very low, people ought to be aware of the symptoms so that they could seek prompt medical treatment to help recovery and avoid complications.

The EMA has categorised thrombocytopenia (drop in platelet level) alone as "common", which means the occurrence could be from one in 100 persons to lesser than one in 10 and the occurrence of thrombocytopenia in combination with thrombosis (clotting) as "very rare", which means it may affect less than one in 10,000 vaccinated persons.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Development of Selected Madrasahs Project  
Directorate of Madrasah Education  
Technical and Madrasah Education Division  
Education Ministry  
28-J, Shegun Bagicha, Ramna, Dhaka-1000  
Memo No.: DME/DSMP/e-GP(Furniture)/2020-1220 Date: 11/04/2021

**Re-Tender Notice No-02/2020-21 (OTM)**

An e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following goods:

Sl. No.	Package No.	Tender ID No.	Description of goods	Tender document last selling date & time	Tender closing & opening date & time
01	GD-5.1 Lot-01	565935	Manufacturing and supplying of furniture for academic building to selected Madrasahs.	27/04/2021 16:00	28/04/2021 12:00
02	GD-5.1 Lot-03	566123	Manufacturing and supplying of furniture for academic building to selected Madrasahs.	27/04/2021 16:00	28/04/2021 13:00
03	GD-5.1 Lot-04	565831	Manufacturing and supplying of furniture for academic building to selected Madrasahs.	27/04/2021 16:00	28/04/2021 14:00

This is online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.  
To submit e-Tender, registration in the national e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.  
The fees for downloading the e-Tender Document from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to banking hours on 27 April 2021.  
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd), 01762625528-31). For more details please contact e-GP support desk number (01712- 126295 or <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

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GD-732