

NEWS IN BRIEF

200 endangered species threatened by conflict: IUCN

Civil unrest and military exercises pose heightened risk to more than 200 threatened species, including elephant populations and the critically-endangered Eastern gorilla, conservationists warned yesterday. A report from the International Union for Conservation of Nature examined the close interplay between the environment and armed conflict, warning that human violence and unrest were taking a devastating toll on nature. The report also stressed that the sustainable management of natural resources should be seen as a tool to help preserve peace. Looking at more than 85,000 armed conflict events over the past 30 years, which have been responsible for the deaths of more than two million people, the report determined they more likely to erupt where there is less productive agricultural land available and when droughts are frequent. "These findings suggest that conservation, restoration and sustainable management of natural resources can help reduce the pressures that drive conflict by improving the condition and productivity of the landscape," IUCN chief economist Juha Siikamäki said in the statement.

UN: 29m in Sahel need humanitarian assistance

The United Nations and NGOs said Tuesday that a record 29 million people need humanitarian assistance in the Sahel, noting "unparalleled" insecurity and hunger across six countries in the war-torn African region. In Burkina Faso, northern Cameroon, Chad, Mali, Niger and north-eastern Nigeria, five million more people than last year are in need of aid, according to a statement. Much of the semi-arid Sahel -- a vast region that stretches along the southern rim of the Sahara from the Atlantic to the Red Sea -- has been plagued by violence for years.

Apartment refurbishment: UK PM faces formal probe



Britain's Electoral Commission began an investigation yesterday into the refurbishment of Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Downing Street apartment, saying there were grounds to suspect an offence may have been committed. Johnson's opponents say he may have broken British rules by letting party donors secretly contribute tens of thousands of pounds to a luxury renovation of his living quarters. In a hot-tempored appearance in parliament yesterday, Johnson repeatedly insisted he had covered the cost of the renovation himself. If it finds sufficient evidence of an offence, the commission can issue a fine of up to 20,000 pounds or refer the matter to the police.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

ADDRESS TO CONGRESS ON THE EVE OF 100 DAYS IN OFFICE

Biden eyes to end inequality

Set to unveil reversal of Trump's tax cuts for most wealthy

AFP, Washington

President Joe Biden was scheduled to use his first address to Congress yesterday to call for an epic effort to make the United States fairer, funded in part by reversing Donald Trump's tax cuts on the wealthy.

Speaking to a joint session of Congress on the eve of his 100th day in office, Biden will likely hail what on Tuesday he called "stunning" success in vaccinating Americans -- a national effort that has transformed the country from coronavirus catastrophe to leader in global recovery.

But with solid approval ratings and a Democratic majority -- albeit razor thin -- in Congress, Biden feels he has momentum on his side to take on new challenges.

Speaking on primetime television, he will promote what he touts as a plan of massive government spending to get the United States not just back on its feet but striding forward.

In the foreign policy segment, Biden "will talk about his commitment to



reengaging with the world, taking America's seat back in the world," White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said.

At the center of his domestic agenda will be the unveiling of the \$1.8 trillion American Families Plan, funded by closing loopholes used by the wealthiest and imposing a top income tax rate of 39.6 percent, administration officials said.

"The president will be proposing a set of measures to make sure the wealthiest Americans pay the taxes that they owe, while also ensuring that no one making less than \$400,000 a year will see their taxes go up," one official, who asked not to be identified, told reporters.

The spending plan, which will need approval by a deeply divided Congress, would pour money into early education, childcare, higher education and other building blocks in what the Biden administration argues will be reconstruction of the country's battered middle class.

But this comes after Congress already approved a \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan, injecting stimulus into almost every corner of the US economy, and is now debating a proposed \$2 trillion-plus American Jobs Plan aimed at rebuilding national infrastructure.

The speech will also run through the rest of a lengthy Democratic wish list, including police reform, pro-immigrant reforms and gun control -- some of the most sensitive issues in US politics and ones where Biden insists he can deliver.

Today, on his 100th day, Biden will follow the speech by launching what Psaki called a "Getting America Back on Track" tour, starting with trips to Georgia and Philadelphia.

US orders staff to leave Kabul due to threats

AFP, Washington

The United States has ordered non-essential staff to leave its Kabul embassy, citing increased threats as Washington prepares to end its 20-year war in Afghanistan.

The State Department said in a travel advisory that it had "ordered the departure from US embassy Kabul of US government employees whose functions can be performed elsewhere."

Ross Wilson, the acting US ambassador in Kabul, said the order affected an unspecified "relatively small number" of employees and that the embassy would remain operating.

Earlier this month Biden said he would withdraw all troops from Afghanistan by September 11.



People stand near bodies of Covid-19 coronavirus victims lined up before cremation at a cremation ground in New Delhi, yesterday. India's coronavirus death toll shot past 200,000 yesterday as a relentless wave of new cases swamped hospitals and sent desperate families out into the streets of the capital in search of oxygen supplies and medicine.

PHOTO: AFP

Brexit saga completes

European Parliament ratifies trade deal

AFP, Brussels

The European Parliament yesterday overwhelmingly ratified the EU's post-Brexit trade deal with Britain, but promised to keep a close eye on London with cross-channel hostility still high.

A big majority of MEPs approved the bare bones trade deal with the bloc's third-biggest trading partner that was sealed on Christmas Eve after nine months of tough negotiations.

The agreement provides the framework for London's new relationship with the 27-member union, five years after British voters shocked the world by voting to end its 47-year membership.

In the final tally, 660 MEPs voted in favour of the trade deal, five against with 32 abstentions, results released yesterday showed.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson hailed the "final step in a long journey" that brought "stability to our new relationship with the EU as vital trading partners, close allies and sovereign equals."

"Now is the time to look forward to the future and to building a more Global Britain," he added.

The vote comes amid multiple feuds over the UK's implementation of Brexit agreements and angry finger-pointing about the supply of the Covid-19 vaccine from AstraZeneca.

Deepening tensions further, France has threatened to block UK financial firms doing business in the EU if the London does not respect its commitments on fishing, a key part of the deal.

EU chief Ursula von der Leyen "warmly welcomed" the approval, but in a final debate in parliament on Tuesday, assured MEPs that the agreement had "real teeth" and the legal means to keep the UK in check.

Panic as strong quake hits Assam

AFP, Guwahati

A strong earthquake and nerve jangling aftershocks cracked walls and sent inhabitants pouring onto the streets in several towns across northeastern India yesterday.

There have been no reports of casualties so far, with residents saying the main human toll was stress, minor cuts and bruises.

The US Geological Survey said the epicentre of the 6.0 magnitude quake was in a hilly region in Assam state near India's border with Bhutan. The quake's relatively shallow depth of 34 kilometres ade the impact more powerful.

Both the main tremor and aftershocks were felt hundreds of kilometres away in the northern state of Bengal, as well as in Bhutan and Bangladesh.

Residents near the epicenter told AFP that the tremor lasted for more than 20 seconds. They said many buildings suffered cracked walls and broken windows. Fissures spread across roads.

At least two big aftershocks were felt.

The Himalayan region is notorious for big earthquakes. A 1950 quake killed about 4,800 people in Assam and Tibet. The Great Assam Earthquake of 1897 is said to be one of the most powerful to have hit India, leaving hundreds dead in the remote hills.

PFIZER OR ASTRAZENECA JABS

Single dose halves transmission: study

AFP, London

One dose of the Pfizer or AstraZeneca vaccines reduces the chances of someone infected with coronavirus from spreading it to other household members by up to 50 percent, according to a English study published yesterday.

The Public Health England (PHE) research found that those who became infected three weeks after receiving their first jab were between 38 and 49 percent less likely to pass the virus on to their household contacts than those who were unvaccinated.

"This is terrific news -- we already know vaccines save lives and this study is the most comprehensive real-world data showing they also cut transmission of this deadly virus," said British Health Secretary Matt Hancock. "It further reinforces that vaccines are the best way out of this pandemic as they protect you and they may prevent you from unknowingly infecting someone in your household," he added.

The study drew data from over 57,000 contacts in 24,000 households in which there was a lab-confirmed case that had received a vaccination, compared with nearly one million contacts of unvaccinated cases.

Previous studies have already shown that being vaccinated reduces the risk of a person developing symptomatic infection in the first place by up to 65 percent, four weeks after one dose.

Households are deemed as "high-risk" settings for transmission, and "similar results could be expected in other settings with similar transmission risks, such as shared accommodations and prisons," said the PHE study.

Previous PHE studies have estimate that Britain's successful vaccine rollout had prevented 10,400 deaths in the over-60s by the end of March.

No dialogue until all prisoners are freed

Myanmar unity government tells Asean; military launches more air strikes on Karen rebels

AGENCIES

Myanmar's pro-democracy unity government, formed to oppose the military junta that seized power nearly three months ago, yesterday ruled out talks on the crisis until all political prisoners are released.

The 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) has been trying to find a path for Myanmar out of the bloody turmoil that followed the Feb. 1 coup and has called for an end to violence and talks between all sides.

But the junta has already declined to accept proposals to resolve the crisis that emerged from an Asean summit last weekend that was attended by Myanmar's Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

The pro-democracy National Unity Government (NUG), which includes members of parliament ousted by the coup, said all political prisoners including President U Win Myint and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi must be release to pave the way for any dialogue .

Pro-democracy protests have taken place in cities and towns across the country since

the coup. The military has cracked down with lethal force on the protesters, killing more than 750 people, an activist group says.

The coup has also exacerbated old conflicts between the military and ethnic minority insurgents.

Fighting has flared between the army and Karen insurgents in the east near the Thai border, and between the army and Kachin insurgents in the north, near the border with China. Clashes have also broken out in Chin State, which is on the border with India, between anti-coup activists and security forces. Myanmar Now reported 30 government soldiers were killed in four days of clashes there.

Karen insurgents captured Myanmar army posts near the Thai border on Tuesday in some of the most intense clashes since the coup which included air strikes by the military.

The military launched more air strikes in the area yesterday with both jets and helicopters, Thai authorities monitoring the fighting said, but there was no immediate word on casualties.



Ethnic minority Karen troops are seen after setting fire to a building inside a Myanmar army outpost near the Thai border, which is seen from the Thai side on the Thanlwin, also known as Salween, riverbank in Mae Hong Son province, Thailand yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS



বাংলাদেশ সিকিউরিটিজ অ্যান্ড এক্সচেঞ্জ কমিশন
সিকিউরিটিজ কমিশন ভবন
ই-৬/সি আগারগাঁও, শের-ই-বাংলা নগর প্রশাসনিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১২০৭
www.sec.gov.bd



মুজিব
১৫ বৈশাখ ১৪২৮
তারিখঃ ২৮ এপ্রিল ২০২১

স্মারক নং-বিএসইসি/প্রশাসন/২০:০১/১৯৯৩/খন্ড-১৩/৩৬৭

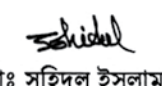
বিষয়ঃ চাকরি'র আবেদনের সময়সীমা বর্ধিতকরণ।

চলমান কোভিড-১৯ এর সংক্রমণ পরিস্থিতির কারণে বিভিন্ন পক্ষের অনুরোধ বিবেচনায় নিয়ে বাংলাদেশ সিকিউরিটিজ অ্যান্ড এক্সচেঞ্জ কমিশন এর লোকবল নিয়োগের আবেদনের সময়সীমা ৩০ এপ্রিল ২০২১ হতে ২৩ মে ২০২১ পর্যন্ত বৃদ্ধি করা হলো। উল্লেখ্য, উক্ত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি নিম্নোক্তভাবে প্রকাশিত হয়েছেঃ

ক্রমিক	পত্রিকার নাম	প্রকাশের তারিখ
১	দৈনিক বনিকবার্তা	২৭/০৩/২০২১
২	দি ফিন্যান্সিয়াল এক্সপ্রেস	২৮/০৩/২০২১
৩	দৈনিক প্রথম আলো	২৮/০৩/২০২১
৪	দি ডেইলি স্টার	২৯/০৩/২০২১
৫	দৈনিক আমাদের অর্থনীতি	২৯/০৩/২০২১
৬	দৈনিক ইত্তেফাক	৩১/০৩/২০২১
৭	দৈনিক ইনকিলাব	৩১/০৩/২০২১
৮	দৈনিক যুগান্তর	০১/০৪/২০২১

প্রকাশিত বিজ্ঞপ্তির অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে।
আবেদনের জন্য নিচের QR কোডটি স্ক্যান করুন।





মোঃ সহিদুল ইসলাম
সহকারী পরিচালক (প্রশাসন)

GD-854

'We want Iran to grow'

Saudi prince strikes conciliatory tone with Iran

AFP, Riyadh

Saudi Arabia's crown prince on Tuesday struck a conciliatory tone towards the kingdom's arch-nemesis Iran, saying he sought "good" relations, after sources said the rivals held secret talks in Baghdad.

The two countries, locked in a fierce struggle for regional dominance, cut ties in 2016 after Iranian protesters attacked Saudi diplomatic missions following the kingdom's execution of a revered Shiite cleric.

"Iran is a neighbouring country, and all we aspire for is a good and special relationship with Iran," Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said in a TV interview broadcast late Tuesday.

"We do not want Iran's situation to be difficult. On the contrary, we want Iran to grow... and to push the region and the world towards prosperity."

He added that Riyadh was working with regional and global partners to find solutions to Tehran's "negative behaviour".

That marks a change in tone compared to Prince Mohammed's



previous interviews, in which he lashed out at Tehran, accusing it of fuelling regional insecurity.

The prince did not mention any negotiations with Tehran. Riyadh has officially denied the talks in its state-backed media while Tehran has stayed mum, asserting only that it has "always welcomed" dialogue with Saudi Arabia.

The initiative comes at a time of shifting power dynamics, as US President Joe Biden is seeking to revive the tattered 2015 nuclear deal that was abandoned by Donald Trump.

Saudi Arabia and Iran have backed opposite sides of several regional conflicts, from Syria to Yemen, where a Saudi-led coalition is fighting the Huthi rebels.