

NEWS IN BRIEF

Chinese rocket to crash on Earth this weekend

A large segment of a Chinese rocket is expected to make an uncontrolled re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere on the weekend, but Beijing has downplayed fears and said there is a very low risk of any damage. A Long March-5B rocket launched the first module of China's new space station into Earth's orbit on April 29. Its 18-tonne main segment is now in freefall and experts have said it is difficult to say precisely where and when it will re-enter the atmosphere. Re-entry is expected to be around 2300 GMT on Saturday, according to the Pentagon, with a window of nine hours either side. Chinese authorities have said most of the rocket components would likely be destroyed on re-entry.

Nasheed feeling 'good' after surviving bomb blast

Former Maldives president Mohamed Nasheed is conscious after life-saving surgery, his family said yesterday, as police made two arrests in connection with a blast they said was being treated as a terror attack. Nasheed, the president of the ruling Maldivian Democratic Party and the current parliament speaker, was critically injured after a bomb exploded as he left his family home in the capital Male on Thursday. Police gave no details on the arrests. Nasheed, the Maldives' first democratically-elected president, is an outspoken critic of Islamic extremism in the Sunni Muslim island archipelago, and has been instrumental in investigating graft allegations against opposition leaders.

'Small time flu which got too much press'



Indian controversial actress Kangana Ranaut has tested positive for Covid-19, she announced yesterday. The actress, who was recently suspended permanently from Twitter for hate speech, wrote dismissively of the virus that has devastated the country. "It is nothing but a small time flu which got too much press," Kangana Ranaut wrote on social media. Don't give the virus power over you, the actress added, in a somewhat tone-deaf manner. India, battling a brutal second wave compounded by a shortage of oxygen, hospital beds and vaccines, has seen over 4,000 reported deaths from Covid in the last 24 hours and over 4 lakh new infections. In her post, Kangana Ranaut explained that she had been feeling tired and weak and had herself tested in order to travel to her hometown in Himachal Pradesh.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



Stun grenades burst in the air amid clashes between Palestinian protesters and Israeli security forces at the al-Aqsa mosque compound in Jerusalem, on Friday night.

PHOTO: AFP

EAST JERUSALEM LAND DISPUTES

Clashes wound over 200

Arabs condemn aggression; US, EU urge authorities to deescalate tensions

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel braced for more protests yesterday after clashes at Jerusalem's flashpoint Al-Aqsa Mosque compound wounded more than 200 people and as the US, EU and regional powers urged calm after days of escalating violence.

In the unrest following Muslim prayers on Friday, Israeli riot police fired rubber bullets, tear gas and stun grenades at Palestinians who hurled rocks and fireworks at Islam's third-holiest site which is also revered by Jews.

Israeli police said 17 officers were wounded while the Palestinian Red Crescent reported that 205 Palestinians were injured in the violence at Al-Aqsa and across annexed east Jerusalem.

Video footage showed Israeli forces storming the mosque's sprawling plaza and firing sound grenades inside the building, where throngs

of worshippers including women and children were praying on the last Friday of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

The clashes came after tensions soared in recent weeks, over Israeli restrictions on access to parts of the Old City during Ramadan and the threat of eviction hanging over four Palestinian families in east Jerusalem to make way for Jewish settlers.

The United States said it was "extremely concerned" by the events and urged both sides to "avoid steps that exacerbate tensions or take us farther away from peace".

"This includes evictions in east Jerusalem, settlement activity, home demolitions and acts of terrorism," the State Department said.

The European Union called on the authorities "to act urgently to de-escalate the current tensions in Jerusalem,"

saying "violence and incitement are unacceptable and the perpetrators on all sides must be held accountable".

Jordan condemned Israel's "barbaric attack" in Jerusalem, calling on the international community to stop the "escalation and violations" at Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Saudi Arabia, UAE, Egypt, Turkey, Qatar and Bahrain also blasted Israeli forces for the confrontation.

Iran called on the United Nations to condemn the Israeli police actions, arguing that "this war crime once again proved to the world the criminal nature of the illegitimate Zionist regime".

The Al-Aqsa mosque compound has an explosive history. In 2000, the second Palestinian intifada broke out after then Israeli opposition leader Ariel Sharon made a high-profile visit that Palestinians viewed as an intolerable provocation.

Blasts at Kabul school kill 40

Most victims are females; dozens hurt

REUTERS, Kabul

Multiple blasts at a school in the Afghan capital Kabul on Saturday killed at least 40 people and wounded dozens more, mostly female students, officials said.

A senior interior ministry official told Reuters on condition of anonymity that most of the casualties were students coming out of the Sayed ul Shuhada school.

Footage on TV channel ToloNews showed chaotic scenes outside the school, with books and school bags strewn across a bloodstained road, and residents rushing to help victims.

A spokesman for the interior ministry, Tariq Arian, put the death toll at least 25 but did not specify the cause or the target.

Ghulam Dastagir Nazari, spokesman for the health ministry, said 46 people had been taken to hospitals so far.

Kabul is on high alert since Washington announced plans last month to pull out all U.S. troops by Sept. 11, with Afghan officials saying the Taliban have stepped up attacks across the country.

No group has claimed responsibility for yesterday's attack. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid denied the insurgent group's involvement and condemned the incident.

The explosions took place in western Kabul, a heavily Shia Muslim neighbourhood that has frequently been attacked by Islamic State militants over the years.

The school is a joint high school for girls and boys, who study in three shifts, the second of which is for female students, Najiba Arian, spokeswoman for the Ministry of Education, told Reuters.

Trump admin 'obtained phone records of journos'

AFP, Washington

The Trump administration secretly obtained the phone records of Washington Post journalists who reported on allegations of Russian meddling in the 2016 election, the newspaper reported Friday, prompting concerns over freedom of speech.

The Justice Department sent letters to three reporters -- Ellen Nakashima and Greg Miller, and former Post reporter Adam Entous -- saying that it had received work, cell or home phone records "for the period from April 15, 2017 to July 31, 2017," according to the Post.

The newspaper was "deeply troubled by this use of government power to seek access to the communications of journalist," Post acting executive editor Cameron Barr was quoted as saying.

"The Department of Justice should immediately make clear its reasons for this intrusion into the activities of reporters doing their jobs, an activity protected under the First Amendment," he continued.

The letters did not specify why the records were seized.

But, near the end of that period, the three wrote a story about US intelligence which suggested that Jeff Sessions, who later became attorney general under Donald Trump, had discussed the Trump campaign with the Russian ambassador.

They also wrote a story on the Obama administration's efforts to counter Russian interference in the 2016 election.

US intelligence agencies have concluded Russia hacked into the computer servers of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) during Trump's campaign against Democratic rival Hillary Clinton.

Drone attack targets US forces in Iraq

AFP, Baghdad

A drone packed with explosives hit an Iraqi base housing US troops early yesterday causing damage but no casualties, the Iraqi military and the US-led coalition said.

The attack on the Ain Al-Asad air base was the fourth targeting US troops in Iraq in less than a week, as an armed campaign blamed on pro-Iranian groups intensifies.

It was only the second time authorities publicly confirmed a drone had been used in an attack on a target inside Iraq.

In the meantime, there has been no let-up in rocket and other attacks carried out by the coalition's foes over the past 18 months. Since last Sunday, they have fired two rockets at Ain al-Assad, six at the Balad air base and two at Baghdad airport, all of which host coalition troops.

Leaders vow to reset ties

AFP, Jeddah

Saudi Arabia and longstanding ally Pakistan signed several agreements yesterday and vowed to reset ties strained by months of disagreement over policy on the Kashmir dispute.

On his seventh visit to the wealthy kingdom since his 2018 election, Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan was given a warm welcome by Saudi officials in the western coastal city of Jeddah.

He was greeted by Saudi Arabia's de-facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman at the airport, before holding talks with Saudi officials at Jeddah's Al-Salam Palace.

Although the kingdom was the first foreign country Khan visited after taking office, Riyadh appeared frustrated with Islamabad last year.

In a sharply worded statement in August, Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi called on the Saudi-based Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to convene a high-level meeting on Kashmir. The call raised eyebrows in Riyadh, where it was widely seen as a warning that Pakistan was preparing to call for a session outside OIC auspices.

Saudi Arabia prides itself on its role as guardian of Islam's holiest sites and is particularly sensitive about any move that

might undermine its leadership of the 57-member pan-Islamic body.

Observers say the kingdom is also keen not to upset India, a key business partner and importer of Saudi oil.

The kingdom recalled \$1 billion of a \$3 billion loan to cash-strapped Pakistan, and an expired multi-billion-dollar oil credit facility to Islamabad has not been renewed, a diplomatic source told AFP in September.

Prior to that, Pakistan rebuffed calls to send ground troops to support the troubled Saudi-led military campaign against Yemen's Huthi rebels.

But Khan's visit appeared to have restored cooperation between the two countries.

The official Saudi Press Agency said the two sides signed agreements addressing the treatment of criminals, and crime. They also agreed two memorandums of understanding on combating drug trafficking, and on financing energy, water and infrastructure projects.

The two countries also agreed to establish a Saudi-Pakistan Supreme Coordination Council (SPSCC). "During the meeting, it was agreed to further strengthen, deepen and diversify the existing bilateral political, economic, trade, defence and security ties," a Pakistani statement said.

PAK PM IN SAUDI ARABIA

Russia, US offer opposing visions of multilateral world at UN

AFP, United Nations

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Friday attacked US and European approaches to multilateralism, including Washington's suggestion of a "Summit for Democracy," saying they risked creating new rifts on the international stage.

Speaking at a virtual ministerial session of the UN Security Council organized by his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi, the veteran Russian diplomat said that developing multilateralism should "be done on a collegial basis."

But he said that "in recent times, we have witnessed attempts to establish an international order... to impose upon everyone new rules that have been drawn up in non-inclusive bodies and circles."

"It is in this context that the US administration wishes to organize a 'Summit for Democracy,'" he said, referring to a proposal made by US President Joe Biden, which Washington says would aim to rally international support to fight corruption, combat authoritarianism



and promote human rights.

"But that risks making international relations even more strained and create fault lines in the world, when what we need is a common and united purpose," said Lavrov.

Washington has not yet revealed details or even a possible date for such a gathering.

"Of course, it will be Washington that puts together the list of states to be invited to this summit," said Lavrov, speaking after US Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

Without explicitly referring to either Russia or China, Blinken had earlier promised that Washington would "continue to push back forcefully when we see countries undermine the

international order, pretend that the rules we've all agreed to don't exist, or simply violate them at will."

"Some argue that what governments do within their own borders is their own business, and that human rights are subjective values that vary from one society to another," he said.

"Asserting domestic jurisdiction doesn't give any state a blank check to enslave, torture, disappear, ethnically cleanse their people, or violate their human rights in any other way," he told the videoconference gathering, in a veiled allusion to the repression of China's Uyghur Muslims.

Blinken referred to the UN founding principle of "sovereign equality," noting that "a state does not respect that principle when it purports to redraw the borders of another" -- a possible reference to Russia's seizure of Crimea from Ukraine.

Wang said that Beijing believes "dividing the world into ideological camps goes against multilateralism," and called on UN members to "seek equality and justice, not hegemony."



A handout picture provided by the Saudi Royal Palace yesterday, shows Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (R), receiving Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan, in Saudi Arabia's Red Sea city of Jeddah.

PHOTO: AFP

“মুজিববর্ষের আহ্বান
দক্ষ হয়ে বিদেশ যান”

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Wage Earners' Welfare Board
Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare & Overseas Employment
Probashi Kallyan Bhaban
71-72 Eskaton Garden, Ramna, Dhaka-1000.

Memo No: 49.04.0000.009.07.001.20(22)-105 Dated: 04.05.2021

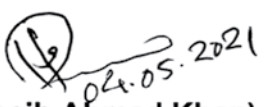
Re-e-Tender Notice (OTM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of works as mentioned in the following table:

Tender ID No	Name of Work	Last Selling Date & Time	Tender Closing Date and Time
576458	Internal Renovation & Decoration Work Including Civil, Sanitary, Electrical and Supply of Furniture for Making Conference Room In The Extended Space of The Wage Earners' Welfare Board at Level-10 of Probashi Kallyan Bhaban.	23-05-2021 5.00 PM	24-05-2021 12:00 PM

This is an 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 documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).


(Shoaib Ahmad Khan)
Joint Secretary
Director (Finance & Welfare)
Wage Earners' Welfare Board
Email: d.fw@wewb.gov.bd

GD- 909