

NEWS  
IN *brief*

Big win for BJP in UP  
local body polls

The India's ruling BJP clinched a massive victory in local body elections in Uttar Pradesh, in a big setback for Akhilesh Yadav's Samajwadi Party. The BJP took 67 seats in the zila panchayat chairperson election where 75 seats were at stake. Yadav's party won only five seats. The Rashtriya Lok Dal, Jansatta Dal and an independent candidate won a seat each. In comparison, back in the same election in 2016, Yadav's party took 60 of the 75 seats. Those analysing the elections, however, say the local body polls are unlikely to be any indicator of which direction the wind will blow in the assembly election next year.

Palestinian killed in West Bank, airstrike hits Gaza

Israel's military Saturday said that its aircraft launched retaliatory air strikes in the Gaza Strip and that its troops in the occupied West Bank shot a suspected Palestinian assailant, whom Palestinian officials said had been killed. An Israeli military spokesperson said that soldiers had been trying to disperse confrontations that erupted between Israeli settlers and Palestinians from a nearby village in the West Bank. The troops then saw a man throw an explosive device at them from a rooftop and "responded with fire against the suspect in order to eliminate the danger," the spokesperson said. In Gaza, Israeli jets struck a weapon manufacturing facility and a rocket launcher in response to incendiary balloons sent from the Palestinian enclave into Israel on Saturday, the military said. One man was critically wounded, Gaza medics said.



Chinese astronauts  
complete first spacewalk

Chinese astronauts successfully performed the country's first tandem spacewalk yesterday, working for seven hours on the outside of the new Tianong station in orbit around Earth. Three astronauts blasted off last month to become the station's first crew, where they are to remain for three months. Yesterday morning, two of them exited the station for tasks which involved elevating a panoramic camera outside the Tianhe core module, as well as testing the station's robotic arm which will be used to transfer future modules around the station, state media said.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



MILITARY  
PLANE CRASH  
IN PHILIPPINES

First responders work at the site after a Philippines Air Force Lockheed C-130 plane carrying troops crashed in Patikul, Sulu province, Philippines, yesterday. At least 45 people were killed and dozens injured when the military aircraft crashed and burst into flames after missing the runway in the country's south, officials said. Nearly 100 people, most of them recent army graduates, were on the military transport plane which was trying to land on Jolo island in Sulu province around midday. A search was still under way for at least 5 missing people.

PHOTO: REUTERS

CLASHES BETWEEN ARMY AND ANTI-JUNTA FIGHTERS

25 killed in Myanmar

AFP, Yangon

Twenty-five anti-junta fighters and civilians were killed during clashes with the military in central Myanmar, villagers said yesterday, as locals increasingly take up arms against the regime in the coup-wracked country.

Myanmar has been in turmoil since a February coup that ousted Aung San Suu Kyi's government, with 890 people killed in a junta crackdown on dissent, according to a local monitoring group.

In some areas civilians have formed "defence forces" to combat the State Administration Council, as the junta dubs itself, often using hunting rifles or makeshift weapons cobbled together from household items.

The central Sagaing region has been the site of multiple skirmishes between defence forces and the military, and on Friday fighting broke out in Depayin township.

Residents told AFP that military trucks entered their area and opened fire on a village near the jungle hoping to flush out members of the local defence force.

"We heard the shooting of artillery 26 times," said a villager, who added that anti-junta fighters tried to retaliate but could not fend off the attack.

"They shot everyone who they saw on the road and in the village. They did not just have one target," he said.

Civilians were among the dead, he added.

Villagers waited until Saturday to venture out of their homes to assess the casualties, said a member of the local defence force who helped to organise the collection of bodies.

"We firstly got nine dead bodies and buried them," he told AFP, adding that eight more were found by a different team and also buried the same day.

On Sunday, they found eight more bodies.

"I noticed from their bodies that most of them were shot in the head," he said -- an observation that another man who helped move the dead confirmed to AFP.

BBC News Burmese -- the BBC's Myanmar language service -- reported a similar death toll.

Despite the threat of crackdowns, protesters in Myanmar are still taking to the streets daily in defiance of the military regime. Yesterday, residents across Sagaing held short demonstrations, flashing a three-finger salute of defiance during rapid marches through the streets.

Families flee as Taliban  
seize key Afghan district

AFP, Kandahar

The Taliban have captured a key district in their former bastion of Kandahar after fierce night-time fighting with Afghan government forces, officials said yesterday, sending scores of families fleeing from the area.

The insurgents have pressed on with their campaign to capture territory across Afghanistan's rural areas since early May when the US military began its final pullout of troops from the violence-wracked country.

The fall of Panjwai district in the southern province of Kandahar comes just two days after US and Nato forces vacated their main Bagram Air Base near Kabul, from where they led operations for two decades against the Taliban and their al-Qaeda allies.

Over the years, the Taliban and Afghan forces have regularly clashed in and around Panjwai, with the insurgents aiming to seize it given its proximity to Kandahar city, the provincial capital.

The leader of the Taliban, Hibatullah Akhundzada, hails from Panjwai. The province of Kandahar is the birthplace of the Taliban, who went on to rule Afghanistan with a harsh version of Islamic sharia law until being overthrown by a US-led invasion in 2001.

Kandahar provincial council head Sayed Jan Khakriwal confirmed the fall of Panjwai, but accused government forces of "intentionally withdrawing".

Scores of families of Panjwai fled their homes after the Taliban captured the district, an AFP correspondent reported.

Panjwai is the fifth district in Kandahar province to fall to the insurgents in recent weeks. Fighting has raged across several provinces of Afghanistan and the Taliban claim to have seized more than 100 out of nearly 400 districts in the country.

Experts say that one of the main reasons for government forces to lose dozens of districts is the lack of US air support in recent weeks.

Quote  
of the day



“They’ve mobilized every power of government to come after me, my family, my wonderful employees and my company solely because of politics. ... It’s really called prosecutorial misconduct. A terrible, terrible thing.

FORMER US PRESIDENT  
DONALD TRUMP ON TAX  
FRAUD CHARGES AGAINST HIS  
COMPANY AND ITS CFO



Riot police clash with demonstrators during a protest against the Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro's handling of the Covid-19 pandemic in Sao Paulo, Brazil on Saturday evening.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Four killed  
in Cyprus  
forest fire

AFP, Vavatsinia

A huge forest blaze in Cyprus has killed four people, destroyed homes and forced evacuations of villages as Greece, Israel and other countries deployed fire-fighting planes to the Mediterranean island.

The fire began Saturday afternoon and has swept through districts in the southern foothills of the Troodos mountains as the country grapples with a blistering heatwave with temperature hovering around 40 degree celsius.

Firefighters were successful in bringing the main fire under control yesterday morning, authorities said, while warning that strengthening winds could yet propel a resurgence.

A 67-year-old man was arrested and remanded in custody on suspicion of starting the blaze.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



Bangladesh Police  
Police Headquarters  
6, Phoenix Road, Dhaka



Invitation for Re-Tender

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the Medicine manufacturer companies in their official pad for the purchase of the following items for AIG (Health Services), Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka for the financial year 2021-2022.

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Home Affairs/Public Security Division.
2	Agency	Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka.
3	Procuring entity name	AIG (Health Services), Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka.
4	Invitation for	Purchase of Medicines.
5	Invitation Ref No.	44.01.0086.600.07.019.2021
6	Date	04/07/2021

7	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).
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8	Budget and source of funds	Revenue Budget (GOB).
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9	Tender publication date	05/07/2021
10	Last date of selling tender schedule	01/08/2021
11	Closing date and time of tender	14:30 hrs on 02/08/2021
12	Opening date and time of tender	15:00 hrs on 02/08/2021

NAME & ADDRESS OF THE OFFICE(S)			
13	Place of selling tender documents	Office of the AIG (Health Services), Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka.	
	Place of receiving tender documents	Office of the AIG (Health Services), Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka.	
	Opening tender document	Office of the AIG (Health Services), Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka.	
14	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting. Bidder must remain present in the meeting to avoid any future ambiguity	Office of the AIG (Health Services), Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka	Date 28/07/2021 Time 11.00

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

15	Eligibility of tenderer	(1) Up-to-date trade licence (2) Up-to-date income tax certificate (3) VAT registration certificate and (4) Other documents described in tender document.
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Brief Description of Goods				
Sl. No.	Name	Tender security in Taka	Price of tender document	Completion time in days
01.	Medicine	3,25,500	Tk 1000	The whole lot must be delivered in four installments; August/21, October/21, February/22 & April/22.

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

17	Name of official inviting tender	Shorif Mostafizur Rahman.
18	Designation of official inviting tender	AIG (Health Services).
19	Address of official inviting tender	Police Headquarters, Dhaka.
20	Contact detail of official inviting the tender	Tel & Fax: 88-02-55101621

21	<b>Special instructions</b>
a)	No tender will be received after the deadline for submission of time date.
b)	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender process without assigning any reason.
c)	The procuring entity also reserves the right to omit increase or decrease the quantity of any item(s) from the tender.
d)	If not possible to receive/open the tender on the schedule date for any unavoidable circumstance, the same will be received/opened on the next working date at the same time & same venue.
e)	Evaluation will be on item by item basis.
f)	The tender must comply will all requirements as per the tender data sheet provided with the tender schedule.
g)	Bangladesh Police will establish framework agreement with the successful tenderer for supply of goods.
h)	The procurement will be performed according to The Public Procurement Act-2006 and Public Procurement Rules-2008.

08/09/2021  
Shorif Mostafizur Rahman  
BP 7605104564

AIG (Health Services), Bangladesh Police  
Police Headquarters, Dhaka  
Tel & Fax: 88-02-55101621  
aighealth@police.gov.bd

GD-1310



JULY 05

1945 - US General Douglas MacArthur announced the liberation of the whole of the Philippines in World War Two.

1948 - The state-run National Health Service came into being in Britain.

1994 - Yasser Arafat travelled to the West Bank after 27 years in exile, determined to turn Palestinian-ruled areas into a state with its capital in East Jerusalem.

2016 - NASA's Juno space probe enters orbit of Jupiter.

SOURCE: REUTERS

S Africa's health system 'buckling'

Ramaphosa warns of massive resurgence of infections driven by Delta variant; Russia posts highest number of cases since early Jan

AGENCIES

The health system in South Africa's Johannesburg is being overwhelmed by a massive wave of infections driven by Delta variant, as Russia yesterday counted more than 25,000 new infections.

The Delta variant is now dominant in Africa's most developed country, where the official death toll is now more than 60,000.

The new variant is fuelling an aggressive third wave of infections across the African continent, with case numbers climbing faster than all earlier peaks, according to the World Health Organization.

Authorities in South Africa have been unable to stem the spread of the new variant, only moving to impose new restrictions after a massive wave of infections ravaged the country's economic heartland.

President Cyril Ramaphosa said that the country's health system was "buckling" as he imposed a two-week

ban on all gatherings, indoors and outdoors. An extended curfew was also imposed, and schools shut early for holidays.

"We have overcome two decisive waves but now we have a new hill to climb, a great challenge, a massive resurgence of infections... a devastating wave," he said.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The coronavirus has killed nearly four million people worldwide, forcing numerous nations to reimpose restrictions well over a year after the outbreak of the pandemic.

Moscow has so far ruled out a new lockdown, but yesterday's 25,142 infections were the biggest figure since January 2. Record virus deaths were registered five days in a row rising to 697 on Saturday, before dropping to 663 for yesterday.

Indonesia imposed a partial

lockdown on Saturday, a day after also reporting more than 25,000 cases and 539 deaths, both new daily records.

Mosques, restaurants and shopping malls were shuttered in the capital Jakarta, across the main island of Java and on Bali after the daily caseload quadrupled in less than a month.

The Delta variant accounts for more than 80 percent of new cases in some areas, Indonesia's health ministry said.

In South America, Brazil has suffered more than 500,000 Covid-19 fatalities and thousands took to the streets again Saturday to protest against President Jair Bolsonaro.

Meanwhile, the US State of Vermont is laying claim to be the safest place in the world.

The second-least populated state in the United States recently became the first to partially vaccinate 80 percent of eligible residents.

"It makes us probably the safest place in the country and maybe the world," said health commissioner Mark Levine.