

RUSSIA PLANE CRASH

All 28 on board die

REUTERS, Moscow

There are no survivors after a plane carrying 28 people crashed in the far east of Russia yesterday, Russian news agencies cited rescue officials as saying.

The Antonov An-26 twin-engined turboprop was en route from the regional capital Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky to Palana, a village in the north of the Kamchatka peninsula, when it lost contact with air traffic control, the emergency ministry said.

Citing sources, Interfax reported that the plane was thought to have crashed into a cliff as it was preparing to land in poor visibility conditions.

Russia's civil aviation authority confirmed that the plane's crash site had been found after the emergency ministry dispatched a helicopter and had deployed teams on the ground to look for the missing aircraft.

There were 22 passengers and six crew on board, the ministry said. Olga Mokhiteva, the mayor of Palana, was among the passengers, the TASS agency quoted local authorities as saying.

The weather in the area was cloudy at the time the plane went missing, Russian news agencies reported.

TASS said the aircraft involved had been in service since 1982.

Russian aviation safety standards have improved in recent years but accidents, especially involving ageing planes in far-flung regions, are not uncommon.

The Soviet-era plane type, still used for military and civilian flights in some countries, has been involved in dozens of deadly crashes since it entered service around 50 years ago.

An Antonov-28, a similar plane, slammed into a Kamchatka forest in 2012 in a crash that killed 10 people along the same route. Investigators said both pilots were drunk at the time of the crash.



Congress Party activists shout slogans next to an effigy of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (C), Home Minister Amit Shah (L) and Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas and Steel Dharmendra Pradhan during a protest against the recent hike of fuel in Kolkata, India yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

NEWS
IN brief

Child sex racket: Maldives, Lanka politicians arrested

A former Maldives minister and several politicians from Sri Lanka's ruling party were among dozens of people arrested after a child sex racket was busted, police said in Colombo Monday. Sri Lanka Police said two websites were used to sell underage girls for sex, adding that they found the phone records of at least one 15-year-old who was allegedly repeatedly raped. The owners of the two websites, as well as the Maldives' former state minister for finance and treasury, Mohamed Ashmalee, were detained. Others arrested included a ruling party politician in Sri Lanka's north-central region, a Buddhist monk, a prominent gem dealer and a merchant navy captain. Those arrested have yet to be charged by police.

Russia backs Asean plan on tackling Myanmar crisis

Russia strongly supports the Southeast Asian diplomatic effort to end the crisis in Myanmar and has conveyed similar messages to the country's military leadership, its foreign minister said yesterday. The five-point consensus agreed by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) bloc should be the basis by which the situation can be resolved, Sergei Lavrov said during a visit to Jakarta. Lavrov's comments are significant and come amid deepening engagement between Russia and Myanmar's military, as major global powers sanction its businesses and top leaders and call for a global ban on arms sales to the country. Myanmar has been in crisis since the military ousted Aung San Suu Kyi's elected government on Feb. 1.



Modi greets Dalai Lama on his 86th birthday

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi let the world know yesterday that he had rung Tibet's spiritual leader the Dalai Lama to wish him a happy 86th birthday, disregarding any potential disapproval from China, who regards him as a dangerous "splittist", or separatist. "Spoke on phone to His Holiness the @DalaiLama to convey greetings on his 86th birthday. We wish him a long and healthy life," Modi tweeted. Chinese troops seized Tibet in 1950 in what Beijing calls a "peaceful liberation", and the Dalai Lama fled into exile in 1959, following a failed uprising against Chinese rule.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

Pandemic 'isn't over'

WHO warns against easing Covid restrictions too soon as UK, Germany move to lift curbs

AGENCIES

The World Health Organization (WHO) has warned governments around the world against easing Covid-19 restrictions too soon, saying countries that did so risked paying a heavy price for rushing back to normality.

Speaking at a press briefing on Monday, the UN health agency's top emergency expert Mike Ryan said a new wave of infections could be round the corner and noted that for much of the world, the pandemic was just getting started.

"All of the countries of the Americas, we still have nearly one million cases a week," he said. "And the same in Europe...with half a million cases a week. It's not like this thing has gone away," Ryan added. "It isn't over."

Last week, the WHO's Africa director had warned that "the speed and scale" of the continent's third wave "is like nothing we've seen before".

In Russia, meanwhile, coronavirus deaths hit another daily record yesterday, with authorities reporting 737 more fatalities. The daily tally of confirmed infections has more than doubled in the past month, soaring from about 9,000 in early June to more than 23,000 this week.

The warnings come amid renewed concerns over the new coronavirus Delta variant, first detected in India in April. The new strain, which is considered to be the most transmissible variant yet, has now spread to nearly 100 countries worldwide.

Experts say more than 80 percent of a country's



- » Russia again posts record coronavirus deaths
- » Germany relaxes curbs on travellers from UK and India
- » Israel data shows Delta variant can bypass vaccine
- » Experts say at least 80pc of population needs to be vaccinated to contain pandemic

population would need to be inoculated in order to contain it – a challenging target even for nations with advanced vaccination programmes. The variant is now responsible for more than 90 percent of all new infections in the United Kingdom and about 30 percent in the United States.

On the same day the WHO issued its warning, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced that most Covid-19 restrictions in the country will be lifted in two weeks.

The prime minister acknowledged there will be more

infections, but people need to learn to live with the virus.

However, the British Medical Association (BMA) has expressed concerns about removing all coronavirus-related curbs on July 19 given the surge in the Delta variant and a 74 percent increase in infections in the last week alone.

Experts in Israel, which led the way in mass vaccination against the coronavirus, expressed concern Monday that rising cases there suggested the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine might be less effective in preventing mild illness.

The Israeli health ministry said Monday that their analysis suggested the vaccine's efficacy had dropped to 64 percent during the time the Delta variant had spread across the country. But it was still 93 percent effective in reducing serious Covid illness and hospitalisations, it added.

Germany, meanwhile, has begun easing restrictions, including softer quarantine rules, on travellers from India, Nepal, Portugal, Russia and the UK after the country's public health institute declared these five nations are no longer areas of "variant of concern".

Yesterday, Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said Germany should lift all remaining coronavirus-linked social and economic curbs as soon as everyone has been offered a vaccine.

About 56.5 percent of people in Germany have received at least one dose and almost 39 percent are fully vaccinated, according to health ministry data.

CONTROVERSIAL ANTI-TERRORISM LAW IN INDIA

Outcry as activist-priest dies in custody

REUTERS, New Delhi

A top UN human rights official has deplored the death in custody of an 84-year-old Indian Christian priest who campaigned for the rights of tribal people and was detained under an anti-terrorism law and denied bail.

Father Stan Swamy was arrested last year on suspicion of ties to a banned radical leftist group that police accused of instigating violence in Maharashtra state in 2018.

Swamy, who suffered from Parkinson's and also contracted Covid-19 while in prison, died in a Mumbai hospital on Monday.

"The news from India today is devastating. Human Rights Defender & Jesuit priest Fr Stan Swamy has died in custody, nine months after his arrest on false charges of terrorism," UN special rapporteur for human rights defenders, Mary Lawlor, said on Twitter.

"Jailing HRDs is inexcusable," she added, referring to human rights defenders.



The National Investigation Agency, which was pursuing the case against Swamy, did not respond to requests for comment. The federal home ministry and the foreign ministry also did not respond to a request for comment.

The government has previously in court hearings denied accusations of mistreatment of Swamy and said the law must be allowed to take its course. Swamy was the oldest of a dozen

people, most of them academics and human rights activists, accused of violence in 2018 and imprisoned under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, which allows for prolonged detention for questioning.

His death will revive criticism of the increasing use of the anti-terrorism law under Modi's government. Opponents of the law say it is used to unfairly hound people critical of the government.

Swamy, who denied any links to any outlawed group, had repeatedly asked for bail, recently telling the court in a video conference his health had deteriorated in prison and that he would soon die.

A leader of the main opposition Congress party, Jairam Ramesh, criticised the government for the death of "such a passionate crusader for social justice".

"Who in the apparatus of the Indian state will be held responsible for this tragedy? Make no mistake — it is the Indian state that killed Fr. Stan Swamy," Ramesh said.

Twitter loses immunity over user-generated content in India

REUTERS, New Delhi

Twitter Inc no more enjoys liability protection against user-generated content in India as the US microblogging giant has failed to comply with new IT rules, the Indian government said in a court filing.

The statement is the first time Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration has officially said Twitter has lost its immunity after repeatedly criticising the company for non-compliance.

The dispute and the public spat has raised concern that American firms will find it difficult to do business amid a more stringent regulatory environment.

India's IT ministry told the High Court in New Delhi that Twitter's non-compliance amounted to a breach of the provisions of the IT Act, causing the US firm to lose its immunity, according to the filing dated July 5.

The filing came in a case filed by a Twitter user who wanted to complain about some allegedly defamatory tweets on the platform, and said the company was not complying with the new law that requires appointment of certain new executives.

Twitter declined to comment. The company has previously said it was making all efforts to comply.

India's new IT rules which became effective end-May are aimed at regulating content on social media firms and making them more accountable to legal requests for swift removal of posts and sharing details on the originators of messages.

KASEYA RANSOMWARE ATTACK

Hackers demand \$70m

AFP, Paris

Hundreds of Swedish supermarkets remained shut yesterday after a major cyberattack that has crippled hundreds of companies worldwide for the past four days, with the perpetrators demanding \$70 million in bitcoin to undo the damage.

Kaseya, the Miami-based IT company at the centre of the hack, said late Monday that up to 1,500 businesses had been affected by Friday's attack, which has been blamed on Russian-speaking hackers.

Experts believe this could be the biggest "ransomware" attack on record -- an increasingly lucrative form of digital hostage-taking in which hackers encrypt victims' data and then demand money

for restored access.

The Kaseya attack has ricocheted around the world, affecting businesses from pharmacies to gas stations in at least 17 countries. Kaseya provides IT services to some 40,000 businesses globally.

Revil, a group of Russian-speaking hackers who are prolific perpetrators of ransomware attacks, are believed to be behind Friday's assault. A post on Happy Blog, a site on the dark web associated with the group, claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it had infected "more than a million systems".

The group was responsible for around 29 percent of ransomware attacks in 2020, according to IBM's Security X-Force unit, looting an estimated \$123 million.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Heatwave hits Nordic countries

34C recorded in Arctic; New Zealand sees warmest June

AFP, Stockholm

Meteorologists across the Nordic countries have registered near-record temperatures over the weekend, including highs of 34 degrees Celsius (93.2 degrees Fahrenheit) in some places, news agencies reported Monday.

The latest figures came as New Zealand yesterday recorded its hottest June on record as temperatures continued to soar in a pattern consistent with global warming, a government scientific agency said.

Finland's national meteorological institute also registered its hottest temperature for June since records began in 1844. Kevo, at the far north of Finland, recorded heat of 33.5 degrees Celsius on Sunday, the hottest since 1914 when authorities registered 34.7 degrees Celsius, said the SIT agency.



Several parts of Sweden also reported record highs for last month. At a national level, June 2021 was the third-hottest ever recorded in Sweden.

And Norway's meteorological institute registered 34 degrees Celsius in Saltdal, a county near the Polar Circle. That is the highest temperature measured in the country this year, and just 1.6 degrees Celsius short of Norway's all-time record.

Several parts of the world have already experienced crushing

heatwaves this year.

Canada is battling a string of forest fires in the western province of British Columbia after sweltering under temperatures of up to 49.6 degrees Celsius, a new national record.

On Thursday, the United Nations confirmed a new record high temperature for the Antarctic continent -- measured last year -- of 18.3 degrees Celsius.

In New Zealand, daily temperatures averaged 10.6 Celsius -- 1.9C above average despite a cold snap late in the month, the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) said.

"It's huge. There's only been 13 times since 1909 that we've had such an anomaly," NIWA scientist Chris Brandolino told public radio. "What's alarming is that over the past 10 years that's happened six times."

Dockyard & Engineering Works Ltd.	
Bangladesh Navy	
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E-mail: commercial@dewbn.gov.bd, www.dewbn.gov.bd	
Ref: 06.02.6758.165.07.193.21.35 Date: 06 July 2021	
Invitation for International Tender	
01	Procuring entity name: Dockyard & Engineering Works Ltd, BN, Narayanganj.
02	Invitation for: Diesel Generator (DG) Industrial Canopy type (Auto Start) 54 KW, 67.5 KVA, 415VAC±10%, 50Hz, 03 Phase 04 Wire, 01 (one) complete set Brand New.
03	Procuring method: Open tender.
04	Budget & source of funds: Own finance.
05	Tender selling date: 06 July 2021 to 08 August 2021.
06	Tender closing date and time: 09 August 2021 Time: 12:15pm.
07	Tender opening date and time: 09 August 2021 Time: 12:30pm.
08	Name & address of the office: a. Selling tender document: Cash Section, Account Department, Dockyard & Engineering Works Ltd, Bangladesh Navy, Sonakanda, Bandar, Narayanganj or Account Name: Dockyard & Engineering Works Ltd, Bank name: Trust Bank Ltd, Account No. 00350320000056, Branch: Narayanganj, deposit slip submitted by tender document. (If tender schedule document download from website). b. Receiving tender document: Dockyard & Engineering Works Ltd, Bangladesh Navy, Sonakanda, Bandar, Narayanganj. c. Opening tender document: Dockyard & Engineering Works Ltd, Bangladesh Navy, Sonakanda, Bandar, Narayanganj. Tenderers and their authorized representative are allowed to attend.
09	Price of tender document: Tk 800.00 (Taka eight hundred only) (non-refundable).
10	Contact details official: Mobile: 01769719887 Web: www.dewbn.gov.bd E-mail: commercial@dewbn.gov.bd
11	Eligibility and tender: 1. Tenderer must be OEM/distributor/local agent. 2. Experience of supply, supply of goods as mentioned. 3. Document required: a. Trade license b. TIN certificate c. VAT registration d. Bank statement e. Experience certificate if any.
12	Earnest money: All bidders must submit earnest money 03% (three percent) of the actual quoted total value of the stores either by Bangladesh currency or equivalent to any international trading currencies favoring the Dockyard & Engineering Works Ltd, in Bank Draft/Pay Order/Bank Guarantee/which will be issued by any scheduled bank of Bangladesh. (Not applicable to enlisted suppliers).
13	Special instructions: The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all or any part of the tender prior to acceptance without showing any reason.

GD-1319

For Managing Director