

NEWS
IN brief

Biden decries Republicans' attacks on voting rights

President Joe Biden on Tuesday called it a "national imperative" to pass sweeping voting rights legislation that has stalled in Congress and attacked Republicans for their opposition. At least 17 states this year have enacted laws that restrict voting access, with more being considered. Critics say these restrictions are aimed at Black, Hispanic and younger voters. Many Republicans have justified new restrictions as a means to combat voter fraud. In a passionate speech in a city, Biden slammed the widespread voting fraud claims by Donald Trump and some Republicans. Republicans must "stand up, for God's sake," and oppose voting restrictions, Biden said, adding a challenge: "Have you no shame?"

Malaysia cabinet backs PM

Malaysian cabinet ministers yesterday unanimously pledged their support for Muhyiddin Yassin to continue as prime minister, amid a new round of political uncertainty after the premier lost the backing of the country's biggest party. The United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), a key ally in the ruling coalition, withdrew support for Muhyiddin last week and called on him to resign for failing to manage the country's Covid-19 crisis. Parliament is scheduled to hold a five-day special meeting from July 26. Muhyiddin has a slim two-seat parliamentary majority, with UMNO comprising 37 of its 113 lawmakers.

Cuba calm after protests

Cuba has restricted access to social media and messaging platforms including Facebook and WhatsApp, global internet monitoring firm NetBlocks said on Tuesday, in the wake of the biggest anti-government protests in decades. Thousands of Cubans joined demonstrations throughout the Communist-run country on Sunday to protest against a deep economic crisis that has seen shortages of basic goods and power outages. The protests, rare in a country where public dissent is tightly controlled, had largely ended by Sunday evening, as security forces took control of the situation. Activists say at least one person died and more than 100 people have been arrested.

China furious as blast kills 9 workers in Pakistan

Beijing said nine Chinese workers were among 12 people killed yesterday morning by a bomb attack on a bus in northwestern Pakistan and called for severe punishment, but Islamabad blamed the explosion on a "gas leak". The bus was carrying around 40 Chinese engineers, surveyors and mechanical staff to a hydropower dam construction site in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. China's foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian urged Pakistan to "severely punish" those responsible and "earnestly protect" Chinese nationals and projects. Around 28 people were also injured. Pakistan authorities said an investigation was under way.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



Alpha jets from the French Air Force Patrouille de France fly past Carrousel du Louvre during the Bastille Day celebrations in Paris, France, yesterday. France's National Day commemorates the storming of the Bastille, the medieval fortress which represented royal authority, during the French Revolution.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Quotes of the day



“Afghan women and girls are going to suffer unspeakable harm. This is a mistake... They're just going to be left behind to be slaughtered by these very brutal people, and it breaks my heart.”

FORMER US PRESIDENT
GEORGE W BUSH



“The climate problem is one of the areas where Russia and the United States have common interests and similar approaches.”

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT
VLADIMIR PUTIN



“This risk is not worth taking. Allow me to be clear. If you take the sea, you will not come to the United States.”

US HOMELAND SECURITY SECRETARY ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS WARNS HAITIANS, CUBANS



JULY 15
1961 - Spain accepts equal rights for men and women
2006 - Social media site Twitter launches.
2016 - Military coup attempt in Turkey.

SOURCE: REUTERS

Taliban back to old ways

Fears grow as insurgents impose harsh Sharia law in newly acquired territories

AGENCIES

Days after the Taliban captured a remote district in Afghanistan's north, they issued their first orders in the form of a letter to the local imam.

“It said women can't go to the bazaar without a male companion, and men should not shave their beards,” said Sefatullah, 25, a resident of Kalafgan district.

The Taliban are making huge advances across the country as they capitalise on the final withdrawal of foreign troops -- capturing districts, seizing key border crossings, and encircling provincial capitals.



bolster their ranks.

The crossing also gives the Taliban the opportunity to access Pakistan's commercial capital Karachi and its sprawling port on the Arabian Sea, which is considered a linchpin for Afghanistan's billion-dollar heroin trade that has provided a crucial source of revenue for the Taliban's war chest over the years.

In some areas they are again introducing the harsh interpretation of Islamic rule that earned them notoriety until being overthrown by the US-led invasion that followed the September 11 attacks.

Last month they took Shir Khan Bandar, a northern customs post that connected the country to Tajikistan over a US-funded bridge that spanned the Panj river.

“After Shir Khan Bandar fell, the Taliban ordered women not to step out of their homes,” said Sajeda, who told AFP she worked in a local factory at the time.

Taliban claim control of key border crossing with Pakistan
UK says may work with Taliban if they join Afghan govt
Russia tells Kabul to negotiate with Taliban

Yesterday, the Taliban said they had captured the strategic border crossing of Spin Boldak on the frontier with Pakistan.

The border crossing is one of the most strategically valuable for the Taliban. Kabul claimed the crossing remained under its control.

It provides direct access to Pakistan's Balochistan province -- where the insurgents' top leadership has been based for decades -- along with an unknown number of reserve fighters who regularly enter Afghanistan to help

SYSTEMIC RACISM

UN Rights Council orders global probe

AFP, Geneva

The UN Human Rights Council on Tuesday highlighted the global "scourge" of systemic racism and ordered an independent investigation into racially-fueled police violence around the world.

In a resolution brought by a group of African countries, the council harshly condemned "continuing racially discriminatory and violent practices perpetrated by many law enforcement officials against Africans and people of African descent."

The text, which was adopted without a vote, decried "systemic racism in the law enforcement and criminal justice systems," and highlighted the need to bring offenders to justice.

It ordered the creation of an "international independent expert mechanism" to "advance racial justice and equality in the context of law enforcement in all parts of the world."

The resolution follows a damning report published last month by UN rights chief Michelle Bachelet calling for systemic racism against black people to be immediately dismantled.

In her report, Bachelet called on countries to confront colonial pasts and racially discriminatory policies and systems, and to seek "reparatory justice".



PROMISES BY MYANMAR'S ANTI-JUNTA COALITION

Rohingyas skeptical

AFP, Sittwe

A shadow government is breaking taboos in Buddhist-majority Myanmar by welcoming Rohingya into its anti-junta coalition, but many in the long-persecuted Muslim minority are wary after living through decades of discrimination and deadly violence.

Myanmar has been in turmoil since the military overthrew the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi on Feb. 1, but street protests have become rarer after they were suppressed by the army with the killing hundreds of people.

During a virtual meeting with members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), US Secretary of State Antony Blinken urged its members to take joint action to help end violence, restore a democratic transition and release those "unjustly detained" in Myanmar, State Department spokesperson Ned Price said.

Blinken also urged Asean, which includes Myanmar, to hold the military accountable on what Asean called a five-point peace consensus, agreed in April, with Myanmar's military ruler.

Myanmar's security forces have killed more than 900 people since the coup and detained thousands, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, an activist group. The junta has previously disputed the death toll and said the army had also suffered casualties.

“Giving a promise and then getting support from abroad -- it's like putting bait for fish,” said Wai Mar, who has been living in a displacement camp for almost a decade.

Reached by a bumpy, potholed road from the western city of Sittwe, the wooden huts of Thet Kay Pyin camp shelter Rohingya chased or burnt out of their homes during earlier clashes with ethnic Rakhine Buddhists in 2012.

“We're worried we exist only to be human shields or scapegoats,” Wai Mar added.

Mother of four San Yee, who struggles to provide for her children even with the remittances her husband sends from Malaysia, agrees.

“We can't put all our trust and expectations in them because we've been oppressed for so long.”

Despite the overtures, there are no Rohingya representatives among the National Unity Government's current 32-member cabinet.

The Myanmar public was largely unsympathetic to the Rohingya's plight, while activists and journalists reporting on the issues faced vitriolic abuse online.

For many in Thet Kay Pyin, after almost a decade of limbo, political allegiance comes second.

“If they will give our rights, we will cooperate with the military, NLD or NUG,” said Ko Tun Hla.

“If our rights will be given, we will cooperate with anyone.”

MYANMAR COUP

Take action to restore democracy

US urges Asean

REUTERS

About 100 opponents of military rule in Myanmar marched through the centre of its biggest city of Yangon yesterday, as the United States called on Southeast Asian nations to take action to restore democracy and end violence in their neighbour.

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Bangladesh Police
Police Staff College Bangladesh
Memo No. 44.01.0400.062.31.001.2021-1374
Date: 13/07/2021

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh	
1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. Agency	Police Staff College (PSC).
3. Procuring entity name	Rector, Police Staff College.
4. Expression of interest for selection of	Conduct Research and Publication of Book.
5. Eoi Ref. No.	44.01.0000.324.32.003.20.152
6. Date	06 July 2021.
KEY INFORMATION	
7. Procurement method	Quality and Cost Base Selection (QCBS) Method.
FUNDING INFORMATION	
8. Budget and source of funds	Revenue Budget Research head.
9. Development partners (if applicable)	NA.
PARTICULAR INFORMATION	
10. Project/programme name (if applicable)	Title: 1. An Evaluation of Beat Policing Activities: A Case Study of Range Police Sylhet. 2. An Analysis of Using GIS in the Robbery & Dacoity Cases: A Study on Selective District of Bangladesh. 3. National Emergency Service 999: An Evaluation.
11. Eoi closing date and time	12 August 2021, Time: 12:30.
12. Eoi submission place	Police Staff College Bangladesh.
13. Eoi pre-submission meeting and place	05 August 2021, Conference Room 3rd Floor, PSC, 11:00am.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS	
14. Name of official inviting expression of interest	Mohammad Shahjahan, ppm (Bar), Ph.D.
15. Designation of official inviting expression of interest	Director, Research and Publication.
16. Address of official inviting expression of interest	Room Number 111, Admin Building, Police Staff College, Section 14, Mirpur, Dhaka-1206.
17. Contact details of official inviting expression of interest	01755975720, dc_shahjahan@yahoo.com
18. The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all Eois.	

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