

MORE NEWS

Asean envoy to Myanmar in talks with junta for visit

The Brunei diplomat appointed by a Southeast Asian regional bloc as its special envoy to Myanmar said he is still negotiating with the military on the terms of a visit to the country and he has sought access to ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

US judge rejects bid for patent by AI 'inventor'

A US judge has ruled that artificial intelligence can't get a patent for its creations, ruling that such a privilege is reserved for people. District court judge Leonie Brinkema backed a decision by the US patent office to turn away applications made on behalf of a "creativity machine" named DABUS.



Thai PM Prayuth survives no confidence vote

Thailand's Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha and five cabinet ministers comfortably survived a vote of no confidence in parliament yesterday as activists planned more protests against the government.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



People stand on a queue outside a bank to withdraw money at Shar-e-Naw neighborhood in Kabul, yesterday. Inset, An Afghan vendor prepares weapons and ammunition to display for sale while waiting for customers in his shop at a market in Panjwai district of Kandahar province yesterday.



Quotes of the day



Washington must understand that it has no other choice but to abandon its addiction to sanctions and show respect, both in its statements and in its behaviour, towards Iran.

IRAN FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN SAEED KHATIBZADEH TELLS REPORTERS A DAY AFTER THE US TREASURY ANNOUNCED SANCTIONS AGAINST FOUR IRANIANS ACCUSED OF PLANNING THE KIDNAPPING IN THE US OF AN AMERICAN JOURNALIST OF IRANIAN DESCENT

When Biden sounded like Trump

After debacle, Biden says Afghan exit to end US global cop role

AFP, Washington

"America is back," goes President Joe Biden's catchphrase, but his unapologetic exit from Afghanistan shows America won't be back to business as usual. Beyond the trauma of the Kabul evacuation, Biden is pitching a much broader retreat: a halt to using vast military resources to impose order and US values around the planet.

internationalism by any US president in the last decades." For those Americans fond of imagining their country to be a unique, invincible superpower -- winner of the Cold War, then awesome military interventionist everywhere from Iraq to Africa ever since -- this is a shock. For most, though, polls show Biden's pivot is likely to be popular. Biden's presidency is usually seen as a repudiation of the Donald Trump administration.

Marquette Law School professor and director of the Marquette opinion poll. Today "the public is not committed to a large international role, certainly not of the sort the US played in the 1950s-1990s," Franklin told AFP. Regarding Afghanistan in particular, polls show strong backing for exiting -- 77 percent, according to a new Washington Post-ABC News poll -- even if Biden is taking a battering for the chaotic manner of the withdrawal. Where Biden differs sharply from isolationist Trump is in enthusiasm for building alliances. The United States may not be a swaggering global cop, the Biden theory goes, but it can be a friendly community leader.

Biden orders release of secret 9/11 documents

AFP, Washington

US President Joe Biden on Friday ordered declassification over the next six months of still secret documents from the government investigation into the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Biden is responding to pressure from families of some of the approximately 3,000 people killed by Al-Qaeda on September 11, 2001. They have long argued that the classified documents might contain evidence that the government of Saudi Arabia, a close US ally, had links to the hijackers who flew into the World Trade Center and Pentagon.



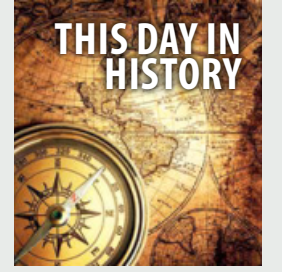
Demonstrators take part in a protest over the Thai government's handling of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and to demand Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha's resignation, in Bangkok, Thailand, yesterday.

STUDY ON COVID-19'S EFFECT ON CHILDREN Delta variant doesn't cause more severe illness

AFP, Washington

US pediatric Covid hospitalizations have surged since Delta became predominant, but a new study that offers a first look at the relevant data suggests that fears the variant causes more severe disease are unfounded. The paper by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also found that between June 20 and July 31, 2021, unvaccinated adolescents were more than 10 times more likely to be hospitalized than those who were vaccinated.

all-time peak of 1.5 per 100,000 in the week leading up to January 9, when the US experienced its winter wave that was driven by the Alpha variant. Consistent with prior research, children aged 12-17 and 0-4 are at higher risk of Covid hospitalization than those aged 5-11. After examining 3,116 hospital records from the period before Delta, and comparing them to 164 records during the Delta period, the percentage of children with severe indicators was found to not differ greatly. Specifically, the percent of hospitalized patients admitted to intensive care was 26.5 pre-Delta and 23.2 post; the percent placed on ventilators was 6.1 pre-Delta and 9.8 post; and the percent who died was 0.7 pre-Delta and 1.8 post.



- SEPTEMBER 0
1905 - The Treaty of Portsmouth (New Hampshire) was signed, ending the Russo-Japanese War. Russia ceded Port Arthur to Japan.
1972 - During the Olympic games, Arab guerrillas attacked an Israeli dormitory in the Olympic village at Munich, killing two members of the Israeli team. Nine more Israelis, five guerrillas and a West German policeman later died in a shoot-out at Munich airport.
1997 - Mother Teresa, 87, died of a heart attack in Calcutta.

SOURCE: WEBSITES

MALL STABBING ATTACK

New Zealand to criminalise terror attack planning

REUTERS, Wellington

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern yesterday vowed to tighten counter-terrorism laws this month after a knife-wielding militant known to the authorities stabbed and wounded seven people in a supermarket. Police shot dead the 32-year-old attacker, a Sri Lankan national who had been convicted and imprisoned for about three years before being released in July, moments after he launched his stabbing spree on Friday.

conference. The Counter Terror Legislation Bill criminalises planning and preparation that might lead to terror attack, closing what critics have said has been a loophole allowing plotters to stay free. But Ardern said it would not be fair to assume that the tighter law would have made a difference in this case. Ardern said the attacker came to the attention of the police in 2016 because of his support for a violent ideology inspired by Islamic State. Police were following the man when he went into the Countdown supermarket in New Lynn mall in Auckland. They said they had thought he had gone in to do some shopping but he picked up a knife from a display and started stabbing people. Police said they shot him within a minute of the start of the attack.

Facebook mistakenly labels black men 'primates'

AFP, San Francisco

Facebook on Friday said it disabled its topic recommendation feature after it mistook Black men for "primates" in video at the social network. A Facebook spokesperson called it a "clearly unacceptable error" and said the recommendation software involved was taken offline. Facial recognition software has been blasted by civil rights advocates who point out problems with accuracy, particularly it comes to people who are not white. Facebook users in recent days who watched a British tabloid video featuring Black men were shown an auto-generated prompt asking if they would like to "keep seeing videos about Primates," according to the New York Times. The June 2020 video in question, posted by the Daily Mail, is titled "White man calls cops on black men at marina." While humans are among the many species in the primate family, the video had nothing to do with monkeys, chimpanzees or gorillas. A screen capture of the recommendation was shared on Twitter by former Facebook content design manager Darci Groves. "This is egregious," he said.

Advertisement for 'SHANG-CHI' movie featuring a quiz contest with 10 winners every day and 2 premium tickets for each winner. The quiz question is 'Who is Shang's father?'.