MORE NEWS

India to probe late J&K leader's family under anti-terror law

TThe family of a separatist icon from Indianadministered Kashmir has been booked for police investigation under a sweeping anti-terrorism law for chanting anti-New Delhi slogans and wrapping his body with Pakistan's flag after he died, officials said. Tensions in the Himalayan territory, which is disputed between India and Pakistan, have been heightened since Syed Ali Geelani died on Wednesday at the age of 92 in the main city of Srinagar. Police in Kashmir said a case under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) -- which effectively allows people to be held without trial indefinitely -- was registered on Saturday against Geelani's family. They have not yet been detained by police.

IS attack kills 13 Iraqi cops

Thirteen Iraqi policemen were killed in an Islamic State group attack against a checkpoint in the country's north early yesterday, security and medical sources said. mThe attack, in the region of Al-Rashad around 65 kilometres south of Kirkuk city, took place just after midnight, a senior Iraqi police officer told AFP. There was no immediate claim of responsibility. IS seized swathes of Iraq in a lightning offensive in 2014, before being beaten back by a counter-insurgency campaign supported by a US-led military coalition. The Iraqi government declared the Sunni extremists defeated in late 2017, but they retain sleeper cells which continue to hit security forces with asymmetric attacks.



Japan's Covid vaccine minister favoured for PM

Japan's minister in charge of Covid-19 vaccinations is seen as the most suitable candidate to become the next prime minister, media reported yesterday. Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga announced on Friday that he was stepping down, throwing a spotlight on a ruling party leadership election due on Sept. 29, with the winner of that taking over as prime minister. The minister in charge of vaccinations, Taro Kono, was named by 31.9% of respondents in the Kyodo poll as the most suitable person to succeed Suga, trailed by former defence minister Shigeru Ishiba with 26.6%, and former foreign minister Fumio Kishida with 18.8%.

Hurricane Ida death toll in Louisiana rises to 12

Hurricane Ida's toll rose to 12 storm deaths in Louisiana on Saturday, still far outpaced by the dozens killed in flooded Northeast US states where President Biden is heading next week to assess damage. New York and New Jersey were among the four northern states that started the Labor Day holiday weekend digging through debris left by the deadly deluge that killed more than 44 people and caused public transportation in New York City to grind to a halt. Transportation operators promised to restore some lines before the start of the workweek on Tuesday.

TTP kills four Pakistani troops

Four Pakistani paramilitary guards were killed yesterday when a suicide bomber on a motorbike blew himself up in the southwestern city of Quetta, police said. The bomber targeted Frontier Constabulary guards in the Mian Ghundi neighbourhood of the city -- around 140 kilometers from the frontier with Afghanistan -- where Hazara Shia merchants were trading vegetables. The militant Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed responsibility for the attack. The group, which is separate from the Afahan Taliban, renewed its allegiance to that group after the fall of Kabul last month and has recently stepped up its campaign against the Pakistani army. Islamabad fears a rise in militant attacks along the Afghan-Pakistan border as the Afghan Taliban tries to fill a vacuum left by the collapse of the Westernbacked administration in that country.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



MELTING GLACIERS IN GREENLAND

Melting glacier ice is pictured at the west coast close to Nuuk, Greenland, on Saturday. Greenland's ice is melting faster than any time in the past 12,000 years, scientists have calculated, with the ice loss running at a rate of around one million tons a minute in 2019. Greenland and the earth's other polar region of Antarctica have together lost 6.3tn tons of ice since 1994. If all the ice in Greenland melted, the global sea level would jump by about 6 meters (20ft), and although this is unlikely to happen on any sort of foreseeable timescale, scientists have warned that the world's largest island is reaching a tipping point due to the pressures exerted upon it by global heating. PHOTO: REUTERS

'Yemen rebels' fire missiles into Saudi oil region

Two children hurt; buildings damaged

REUTERS, Dubai

Two children were injured and buildings were damaged when a ballistic missile was intercepted over Saudi Arabia's oil-rich eastern region on Saturday, the ministry of defence said.

The missile was intercepted over a suburb of the city of Dammam, with scattered shrapnel injuring two Saudi children and causing light damage to 14 houses, the statement carried by state news agency SPA said.

Photos on state media showed broken glass and damaged entrances of a few residential buildings.

The coalition blamed the attack on the Iranaligned Houthi forces. There was no immediate claim of responsibility in Houthi-run media.

The coalition also said it intercepted and destroyed ballistic missiles heading towards Jazan and Najran in the southern part of the country. It earlier reported the interception of three explosive-laden drones headed towards the kingdom.

Eastern Saudi Arabia is home to significant oil infrastructure that has previously been targeted by aerial attacks. An attack in September 2019 on two Aramco plants in the east temporarily knocked out half the country's oil production.

CHAOS IN AFGHANISTAN

Europe can no longer rely on US for protection

Says France, urges the EU to be more ambitious on defence and on global leadership

The challenges to security emerging from the upheaval in Afghanistan should be a wake-up call for the European Union, French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said, urging the EU to be more ambitious on defence and on global leadership.

"Europe has to become No. 3 superpower besides China and the United States. Let's open our eyes, we are facing threats and we cannot rely anymore on the protection of the United States," Le Maire told reporters during an annual business conference in Cernobbio on Lake Como on Saturday.

"Afghanistan is a wake-up call," he said, adding Europe also faced security threats in



Europe has to become No. 3 superpower besides China and the United States. Let's open our eyes, we are facing threats and we FRENCH cannot rely anymore FINANCE on the protection MINISTER of the United States. **BRUNO LE** Afghanistan is a

The French minister said Paris had decided to invest 1.7 billion euros (\$2.02 billion) more in defence this year and would like to see other European countries

MAIRE wake-up call.

to do the same. The minister also called other EU member states to invest and to deepen their single market to achieve technological independence from big overseas companies and third countries.

"EU member states have to build the single market for finance and also they need to reach a political agreement on the banking union, in order to have more funds for new technologies," Le Maire said.

He added that France will work toward these goals when it takes the rotating presidency of the EU Council, in the first half of 2022.

You cannot be sovereign on the political point of view if you depend from foreigners for semiconductors, electric batteries, satellites..." he said, echoing similar comments from Italy's Innovation Minister Vittorio Colao, who was also in Cernobbio. Europe should invest to win the

leadership in sectors including hydrogen, digital cloud, artificial intelligence, semiconductors, space exploration, satellites and bio-technologies, Le Maire said.

Meanwhile, European Commissioner Margaritis Schinas said in a newspaper interview that events in Afghanistan could be a catalyst for the European Union to forge a common migration policy. EU is concerned that the Taliban takeover

could trigger a replay of the crisis of 2015/16, when the arrival of more than a million migrants, predominantly from the Middle East, stretched security and welfare systems and fuelled support for far-right groups.

"It is true that we are now in a major crisis, but the EU did not cause the situation, yet we are once again called upon to be part of a solution," the Greek commissioner, whose brief includes migration policy, told Austrian daily Wiener Zeitung.

The UN's refugee agency (UNHCR) has said up to 500,000 Afghans could flee their homeland by year-end.

Migration has undermined the unity of the 27-member EU, with proposals to legally oblige all states to host their share of refugees rejected by several former Communist Bloc states as well as Austria.

NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY

FARM LAW PROTESTS Indian farmers stage 'biggest' demonstration

REUTERS, Muzaffarnagar

More than 500,000 farmers gathered in India's most populous state Uttar Pradesh yesterday, police said, the biggest rally yet in a months-long series of demonstrations to press government to repeal three new agricultural laws.

The laws, introduced last September, allow farmers to directly sell their produce, outside government-regulated wholesale markets, to big buyers. The government says this will help farmers get better prices. Farmers, however, say the legislation will hurt their livelihood and leave them with scant bargaining power against big private retailers.



SEPTEMBER 06

1901 – US president William McKinley was shot by an anarchist in New York.

1970 - Palestinian querrillas hijacked four planes heading for New York from Europe. One jumbo jet was blown up the next day in Cairo and two Boeing 707s that landed in Jordan were blown up on Sept. 12. The fourth plane landed in London, hijacker was arrested.

SOURCE: WEBSITES

Iran ready for talks but not under 'pressure'

Says Iran President Raisi

REUTERS, Dubai

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said Iran was ready to hold talks with world powers to revive its 2015 nuclear accord but not under Western "pressure", adding Tehran was seeking negotiations leading to a lifting of US sanctions.

France and Germany have urged Iran to return to negotiations after a break in talks following Iranian elections in June, with Paris demanding an immediate restart amid Western concerns over Tehran's expanding atomic work.

Last month, France, Germany and Britain voiced concern about reports from the UN nuclear watchdog confirming Iran has produced uranium metal enriched up to 20 percent fissile purity for the first time and lifted production capacity of uranium enriched to 60 percent.

Iran says its nuclear programme is peaceful, that it has informed the watchdog about its activities, and that its moves away from the 2015 deal would be reversed if the United States returned to the accord and lifted sanctions

"The Westerners and the Americans are after talks together with pressure ... What kind of talks is that? I have already announced that we will have talks on our government's agenda but not with ... pressure," Raisi told state television.

"Talks are on the agenda ... We are seeking goal-oriented negotiations ... so unjust sanctions on the Iranian people are lifted ... and their lives can flourish," he added.



An Afghan woman sells pen to the commuters at a traffic intersection in Kabul, yesterday. The new rulers of Afghanistan, the Taliban, have promised more rights for women this time, but experts say only time will tell if they can keep their promisews to international community.

