

MORE NEWS

Google suing India antitrust watchdog for report leak

Alphabet Inc's Google yesterday said it was suing the Competition Commission of India (CCI) following the leak of a confidential CCI report into an antitrust investigation of the US tech giant. The Times of India newspaper, and then Reuters, reported on Saturday that a CCI investigation had found Google abused the dominant position of its Android operating system in India, using its "huge financial muscle" to illegally hurt competitors. Google said last week it looked forward to working with the CCI to "demonstrate how Android has led to more competition and innovation, not less."

Macron, Biden have 'friendly' talk to defuse submarine row

US President Joe Biden and his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron had a "friendly" phone call Wednesday to defuse a deep row over submarine sales to Australia, promising to meet in person to repair the transatlantic relationship. The call, which the White House said lasted about 30 minutes, was the first between Biden and Macron since France recalled its ambassador over the surprise US announcement of a deal to build nuclear submarines for Australia -- scuppering a previous French deal to sell conventional submarines. Paris called the US-Australian plan, which was launched as part of a new Indo-Pacific security group along with Britain, a stab in the back and also pulled its ambassador from Australia.



India's SC to set up panel to probe Pegasus snooping row

India's Supreme Court yesterday observed that it would set up a committee of technical experts to inquire into the Pegasus snooping matter and an order will be passed next week on a batch of pleas seeking an independent probe into the issue, reports our New Delhi correspondent. A bench, headed by the chief justice, said the order will now be delivered next week. "We will be able to finalise the members of technical expert team by next week and then pronounce our orders," it said. The top court had on September 13 said it only wanted to know whether or not the government used the Pegasus spyware through illegal methods.

Nobel ceremonies marred by pandemic for second year

Nobel Prize winners in science and literature will receive their awards in their home countries rather than Sweden for the second year running because of the pandemic, organisers said yesterday. The Nobel Foundation said a decision on the Peace Prize had not been made yet. The winners are announced in early October and lavish ceremonies in the two Scandinavian capitals usually follow on December 10, the anniversary of the death founder Alfred Nobel. Last year, the foundation gave out science and literature prizes in laureates' respective home countries because of Covid travel restrictions.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



A firefighter watches flame and smoke rise into the air as trees burn during the Windy Fire in the Sequoia National Forest near Johnsondale, California on Wednesday. As the globe has warmed, fire seasons in US have gotten longer, with greater potential for more intense fires and more land burned. PHOTO: AFP

Quote of the day



“At the same time, the international community has to realise: What is the alternative? What are the options? This is the reality, and can they turn away from this reality?... But we are saying, be more realistic in your approach. Try an innovative way of engaging with them [Taliban]. The way that they were being dealt with has not worked.”

PAK FM SHAH MAHMOOD QURESHI ON TALIBAN'S RECOGNITION

Risk of 'civil war' escalating

Says UN rights chief as uprising against junta widens

AGENCIES

Myanmar is facing the alarming prospect of an escalating civil war as an uprising against the military junta widens, the UN's human rights chief warned yesterday.

Michelle Bachelet told the United Nations Human Rights Council that time was running out for other countries to step up efforts to restore democracy and prevent a broader conflict.

Myanmar has been in turmoil since Aung San Suu Kyi's government was ousted by the military in February, sparking a nationwide uprising that the junta has tried to crush.

Attacks on troops have increased since lawmakers ousted by the generals called for a "people's defensive war" earlier this month.

Bachelet said the human rights situation had deteriorated significantly as the effects of the coup "devastate lives and hopes across the country".

"Conflict, poverty and the effects of the pandemic are sharply increasing, and the country faces a vortex of repression, violence and economic collapse," she said.

Faced with the "overwhelming repression of fundamental rights",

POST-COUP MYANMAR

Human rights situation deteriorated significantly as effects of the coup devastate lives: Bachelet

US judge orders Facebook to release anti-Rohingya content for genocide case

the armed resistance movement was growing.

"These disturbing trends suggest the alarming possibility of an escalating civil war," she said.

Bachelet urged countries to support a political process that would engage all parties, saying the Asean regional bloc and influential powers should use incentives and disincentives "to reverse the military coup and desperate spiral of violence".

"Myanmar's stability and path to democracy and prosperity have been sacrificed over these last months to advance the ambitions of a privileged and entrenched military elite," she said.

"The national consequences are terrible and tragic -- the regional

consequences could also be profound. The international community must redouble its efforts to restore democracy and prevent wider conflict before it is too late."

Bachelet said more than 1,100 people had now reportedly died at the hands of the security forces since the coup, while over 8,000 others, including children, had been arrested and more than 4,700 still in detention, reports AFP.

Meanwhile, a US judge has ordered Facebook to release records of accounts linked to government-backed violence against the Rohingya in Myanmar that it had shut down, the Wall Street Journal reported.

In his ruling yesterday, Washington DC district court Magistrate Judge Zia Faruqi criticized the social media giant for refusing to provide the records to countries pursuing a case against Myanmar in the International Court of Justice, the Journal said.

Facebook had resisted releasing the information on the grounds of US privacy law.

But the judge ruled that the deleted posts would not be covered under the protections for users' personal communications.

Humanity needs to 'grow up': UK PM

Makes passionate appeal to global leaders to deal with climate change

CNN ONLINE

Humanity needs to "grow up" and deal with the issue of climate change, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson told world leaders at the United Nations General Assembly in New York on Wednesday.

Johnson, a last-minute addition to the speakers' list that day, slammed the world's inadequate response to the climate crisis and urged humanity to "listen to the warnings of the scientists," pointing to the Covid-19 pandemic as "an example of gloomy scientists being proved right."

"We still cling with parts of our minds to the infantile belief that the world was made for our gratification and pleasure," he said. "And we combine this narcissism with an assumption of our own immortality."

"We believe that someone else will clear up the mess, because that is what someone else has always done," he added. "We trash our habitats, again and again, with the inductive reasoning that we've gotten away with it so far, and therefore, we'll get away with it again."

"My friends, the adolescence of humanity is coming to an end and must come to an end."

Johnson highlighted the UN Climate Change Conference -- known as COP26 -- in Glasgow in November as a "turning point for humanity."

World leaders need to arrive in Scotland ready to make necessary commitments, he said. It's already "too late" to stop the rise in global temperatures, but the world can still "restrain that growth" to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The 1.5-degree marker has been identified by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change as a key tipping point beyond which the risk of extreme drought, wildfires, floods and food shortages will increase dramatically.

World powers agree at UN on inclusive Afghan govt

AFP, United Nations

The five permanent UN Security Council members found common ground Wednesday on Afghanistan with officials saying all the powers would press the Taliban to be more inclusive after their military takeover.

China and Russia have described last month's Taliban victory as a defeat for the United States and moved to work with the insurgents, but no country has moved to recognize a government that includes international pariahs.

The Security Council powers all want "a peaceful and stable Afghanistan where humanitarian aid can be distributed without problems and without discrimination," Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told reporters after the meeting during the annual General Assembly.

They seek "an Afghanistan where the

rights of women and girl are respected, an Afghanistan that is not a sanctuary for terrorism, an Afghanistan with an inclusive government representing all sections of the population," he said.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and the foreign ministers of Britain, France and Russia met in person while their Chinese counterpart Wang Yi joined them virtually for the talks of just over an hour.

A US official described the meeting called by British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss as "constructive" and with "a lot of convergence," including hopes that the Taliban respect the rights of women and girls.

Speaking to AFP before the meeting, China's ambassador to the United Nations, Zhang Jun, agreed that the five powers all wanted an inclusive government.

"Unity is everywhere," he said.



SEPTEMBER 24

1932 - Indian activist Mahatma Gandhi agrees Poona Pact to end fast.
2002 - Britain published a dossier on Iraq's weapons programme which suggested Saddam Hussein could launch a weapon of mass destruction.
2014 - Mars Orbiter Mission successfully inserted into planet's orbit by ISRO.

SOURCE: REUTERS

'Wash 2,000 women's clothes'

Bihar court's bail condition for rape accused

AFP, Patna

An Indian man accused of attempted rape has been given bail on condition that he wash and iron the clothes of all women in his village for six months.

Lalan Kumar, 20, will have to buy detergent and other items needed to provide six months of free laundry services to about 2,000 women in the village of Majhor in Bihar state, under the ruling made Wednesday.

Kumar, who washes clothes for a living, was arrested in April on charges including attempted rape, Santosh Kumar Singh, a police officer in Bihar's Madhubani district, told AFP.

No date has been set for his trial. "All the women in the village are happy with the court decision,"



Nasima Khatoun, the head of the village council, told AFP.

"It is historic. It will boost respect for women and help to protect dignity," added Khatoun, one of the village dignitaries who will monitor Kumar.

Women in the village said the order had made a positive impact by making crime against women

a subject of discussion in their community.

"This is a remarkable step and a different kind of punishment that sends a message to society," said Anjum Perween.

Lalan Kumar has six months to complete his task after which he needs to take a report from the village head over his service and from the local police station before submitting it to the court.

India's rape laws were overhauled after a 2012 gang rape in New Delhi but the number of offences remains high, with more than 28,000 rapes reported in 2020.

Police have long been accused of not doing enough to prevent violent crime and failing to bring sexual assault cases to court.

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Commonwealth Scholarships in the United Kingdom (UK) -2022.

- Applications are invited from Bangladeshi nationals for higher study under the Commonwealth Scholarships in the United Kingdom (UK) -2022 following the mentioned terms and conditions below.
- Category:** (a) One year Taught Masters (MS) course. (b) Doctoral (PhD) degree of up to three year's duration.
- Applications are invited under six themes (mentioned below) for MS/PhD Program:
 - Science and technology for development
 - Strengthening health systems and capacity
 - Promoting global prosperity
 - Strengthening global peace, security and governance
 - Strengthening resilience and response to crises
 - Access, inclusion and opportunity.
- Candidates must mention the Broad Subject under the Six Themes (The Broad Subject means on which the applicant has obtained his/her first degree (Hons./Bachelor)/terminal degree (Masters).
- (a) Qualification for Master's program:** Holding a first degree (Honours) of at least upper second class (2:1) honours standard/CGPA, or a second class degree (2:2) honours standard/CGPA and a relevant postgraduate Master's degree (terminal degree) in the same condition.
(b) Qualification for PhD program: Holding a first degree of at least upper second class (2:1) honours standard/CGPA, or a second class (2:2) honours standard/CGPA degree and a relevant postgraduate qualification (a Master's degree) in the same condition.
- (a) For Master's Application:** Not have commenced and be currently registered for a Master's Degree or equivalent course leading to MPhil or PhD in the home country or abroad.
(b) For PhD Application: Not have commenced and be currently registered for a PhD, or an MPhil leading to a PhD, in the home country or elsewhere.
- Applicant/s must mention total and obtained marks/GPA/CGPA at the time of filling the Application Form. (If the result of any degree of an applicant is Distinction, Excellent, Very good, Good and Passed, the applicant must mention the total number and the obtained number in the form)
- Candidates for Medicine or Dentistry must show the year of passing of each part of MBBS/BDS, marks obtained, total and average marks in the application form.
- Incomplete or faulty applications will be rejected automatically.
- All the information (including the soft copy of the Application Form, direction/s, short list/s, interview date/s, selection/s, result/s and relevant all other information etc.) will be uploaded at UGC website (www.ugc.gov.bd) under the heading of "Notice Board" or "Scholarship". The applicant must check and collect all the information from the UGC website by his/her own responsibility. No communication will be done with the applicant/s from UGC side.**
- This Application Form is editable and must be typed (not hand written) in the prescribed directions. Additional papers can be attached with the Application Form for the description of the publications (if necessary).
- The applicant/s in service must submit the Application Form through proper channel or with the prior approval of the proper authority.
- Attested copies of certificates, mark sheets of examinations passed, result sheets of IELTS (if any) examination and 1 (one) copy of passport-size attested photograph must be enclosed with the Application Form.
- Completed Application Form (Hard Copy) must be submitted to "**The Secretary, University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207**" within 14 October, 2021. No application form will be received after the last date of submission.
- Name of Scholarship and category of scholarship will have to be mentioned on the top of the envelop.

Dr. Ferdous Zaman
Secretary (A.C)
UGC

GD-1709