

MORE NEWS

Myanmar's biggest cities hit by brief power outages

A power blackout briefly hit Myanmar's main urban centres and far-flung towns yesterday, including commercial hub Yangon and parts of the capital Naypyidaw, authorities and AFP correspondents said. Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation reported a "temporary power outage in Yangon region today at 13:35" (0705 GMT), adding that it was working to restore power. Myanmar's second-biggest city of Mandalay, the eastern town of Hpa-an, southern Mon state and parts of Rakhine state in the west also lost power, residents told AFP. Parts of the military-built capital Naypyidaw also experienced outages.

Phones of 5 French ministers targeted by malware

The mobile phones of at least five French ministers and a diplomatic advisor to President Emmanuel Macron were infected by the Israeli-made Pegasus spyware, sources told AFP yesterday, confirming a report by the Mediapart investigative website. French security services detected the software while inspecting the phones, with the intrusions believed to have taken place in 2019 and 2020, according to the report from Mediapart yesterday. Pegasus, made by the Israeli firm NSO Group, can switch on a phone's camera or microphone and harvest its data, and was at the centre of a storm in July after a list of about 50,000 potential surveillance targets worldwide was leaked to the media.



Google, India antitrust watchdog tussle in court

Google accused India's antitrust regulator in court yesterday of being a "habitual offender" by leaking confidential information of cases it was examining, an accusation the watchdog rejected. The Times of India and Reuters reported on Saturday that an investigation by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) had found that Alphabet Inc's Google abused the dominant position of its Android operating system in India, using its "huge financial muscle" illegally to hurt competitors. In an unusual move on Thursday, Google sued the CCI in the Delhi High Court, saying in a statement it was "protesting against the breach of confidence" and "to prevent any further unlawful disclosures of confidential findings".

House committee subpoenas four Trump aides

Four members of Donald Trump's inner circle on Thursday received subpoenas to appear before a congressional committee to shed light on what exactly the former president said and did on the day rioters stormed the US Capitol earlier this year. Congressional investigators are closing in on the Republican billionaire, whom Democrats accuse of being responsible for the deadly attack on the seat of US democracy in Washington on January 6. The Democratic-controlled special investigatory committee is particularly interested in Mark Meadows, Trump's chief of staff at the time.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



Israeli security forces stop a Palestinian man from the village of Susya during scuffles with Jewish settlers from the settlement of the same name, as a group of representatives of the European Union visit the area C (under Israeli administration) of the West Bank, on the outskirts of the village of Yatta yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Executions will return: Taliban

AP, Kabul

One of the founders of the Taliban and the chief enforcer of its harsh interpretation of Islamic law when they last ruled Afghanistan said the hard-line movement will once again carry out executions and amputations of hands, though perhaps not in public.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Mullah Nooruddin Turabi dismissed outrage over the Taliban's executions in the past, which sometimes took place in front of crowds at a stadium, and he warned the world against interfering with Afghanistan's new rulers.

"Everyone criticized us for the punishments in the stadium, but we have never said anything about their laws and their punishments," Turabi told The Associated Press, speaking in Kabul. "No one will tell us what our laws should be. We will follow Islam and we will make our laws on the Quran."



Since the Taliban overran Kabul on August 15 and seized control of the country, Afghans and the world have been watching to see whether they will re-create their harsh rule of the late 1990s. Turabi's comments pointed to how the group's leaders remain entrenched in a deeply conservative, hard-line worldview, even if they are embracing technological changes, like video and mobile phones.

Turabi, now in his early 60s, was justice minister and head of the so-called Ministry of Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice — effectively, the religious police — during the Taliban's previous rule.

At that time, the world denounced the Taliban's punishments, which took place in Kabul's sports stadium or on the grounds of the sprawling Eid Gah mosque, often attended by hundreds of Afghan men.

Executions of convicted murderers were usually by a single shot to the head, carried out by the victim's family, who had the option of accepting "blood money" and allowing the culprit to live. For convicted thieves, the punishment was amputation of a hand. For those convicted of highway robbery, a hand and a foot were amputated. Trials and convictions were rarely public and the judiciary was weighted in favor of Islamic clerics, whose knowledge of the law was limited to religious injunctions.

800 migrants die trying to reach Canary Islands this yr Says UN agency

AFP, Geneva

The first eight months of the year saw 785 migrants die trying to reach Spain's Canary Islands, more than double than in the same period of 2020, a UN agency said yesterday.

Among the dead were 177 women and 50 children, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) announced.

The worst month was August when 379 perished trying to cross from northwest Africa to the Atlantic archipelago to enter Europe, the IOM added in a statement.

The total death toll from January to August is already the highest since records began in 2014, even for a full year.

In 2020, 320 migrant deaths were registered on the route from Africa to the Canaries.

Frank Laczko, director of the IOM's global migration data analysis centre, said the figures were almost certainly beneath the real total.

Biden hosts Quad summit

AFP, Washington

President Joe Biden yesterday deepened his bid to cement US leadership of the Indo-Pacific against a rising China with the first in-person summit of the regional Quad group.

Meeting in the White House, Biden and the leaders of Australia, India and Japan were set to discuss a Covid vaccines drive, regional infrastructure, climate change and securing supply chains for the semiconductors used in computer technology.

While China is not officially on the agenda, the Quad was set to stress backing for a "free and open Indo-Pacific," a senior US official told reporters. That's a phrase often standing in for ensuring that communist

China will not end up dominating the region, including vital international sea lanes.

For Washington, the Quad meeting marks another step to reviving a US focus on diplomatic efforts, following its dramatic exit from the 20-year Afghanistan war.

And "the Biden administration understands that the challenges of the 21st century will largely play out in the Indo-Pacific," a senior administration official, who asked not to be named, said. "We are doubling down on our efforts."

Of three regional groupings that Washington leads in its strategic chess game to manage China's ascent, the Quad is deliberately the most open.



US Border Patrol agents on a raft help a migrant woman as seen from Ciudad Acuna, Mexico on Thursday. Mexican officials are urging Haitians on the Texas border trying to reach the US to give up and return to Mexico's frontier with Guatemala to request asylum, even as discontent grows over the treatment meted out to the beleaguered migrants.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Quotes of the day



Some EU Member States have observed malicious cyber activities, collectively designated as 'Ghostwriter', and associated these with the Russian state."

EU FOREIGN POLICY CHIEF JOSEP BORRELL



SPANISH PM PEDRO SANCHEZ

'Death sentence'

Low-lying nations implore faster action on climate

REUTERS, United Nations

Faced with what they see as an existential threat, leaders from low-lying and island nations implored rich countries at the United Nations General Assembly this week to act more forcefully against a warming planet.

The failure by developed economies to effectively curb their greenhouse gas emissions contributes to rising sea levels and especially imperils island and low-lying nations at the mercy of water.

"We simply have no higher ground to cede," Marshall Islands President David Kabua told leaders in a pre-recorded speech at the high-level gathering on Wednesday. "The world simply cannot delay climate ambition any further."

Countries agreed under the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change mitigation to attempt to limit the rise in global temperatures to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit), the threshold scientists say would head off the worst

impacts of warming. To do that, scientists say, the world needs to cut global emissions in half by 2030, and to net-zero by 2050.

"The difference between 1.5 degrees and 2 degrees is a death sentence for the Maldives," President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih told world leaders on Tuesday.

Guyana President Irfaan Ali criticized large polluters for not delivering on promises to curb emissions, accusing them of "deception" and "failure" and warning that climate change will kill far more people than the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We hold out similar hope that the world's worst emitters of greenhouse gases that are affecting the welfare of all mankind will also come to the realization that, in the end, it will profit them little to emerge king over a world of dust," Ali told world leaders on Thursday.

He said small island states and countries with low-lying coastlines, like Guyana, will bear the full brunt of the impending disaster despite being among the lowest emitters of greenhouse gases.

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Memo No: 25.45.0000.000.14.051.17.234

Date: 22/09/2021

e-GP Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of the following work described below:

Name of Work	Tender ID	Tender/Proposal Document last selling/Downloading Date & Time	Tender/Proposal Closing/Opening Date & Time
Rental of Site Office at Amtali Upazila for "Payra-Kuakata Comprehensive Development Plan focusing on Eco-Tourism Project" of Urban Development Directorate (UDD).	611512	06-Oct-2021 11:00	06-Oct-2021 12:00
Supplying of One Microbus on Monthly Rent basis for "Payra-Kuakata Comprehensive Development Plan focusing on Eco-Tourism Project" of Urban Development Directorate (UDD)	611511	05-Oct-2021 11:00	05-Oct-2021 12:00
Supplying of Good and Arrangement of 252 PRA for Payra-Kuakata Comprehensive Development Plan focusing on Eco-Tourism Project" of Urban Development Directorate (UDD	611514	07-Oct-2021 15:00	07-Oct-2021 16:00

1. This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

2. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

3. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited through any branch of the registered Bank.

4. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd))

22/09/2021

(Sharif Mohammad Tariquzzaman)

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