

MORE NEWS

Asean envoy may not get permission to meet Suu Kyi

Myanmar's junta has said it was unlikely an Asean special envoy tasked with facilitating dialogue in the coup-hit country would be allowed to meet ousted pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations has been under global pressure to help resolve the crisis in member state Myanmar. Brunei Second Foreign Minister Erywan Yusof, who was selected as the bloc's envoy in August after lengthy wrangling, has called for full access to all parties when he visits. But a junta spokesman told AFP on Thursday it would be "difficult to allow for meetings with those who are facing trial."

India-Australia to reach trade deal by end 2022

Australia and India hope to reach a long-pending landmark trade deal by the end of 2022, according to a joint statement released yesterday announcing the formal relaunch of stalled negotiations. Bilateral trade was around Aus\$24 billion (US\$17 billion) last year, with India exporting its key services sector and Australian coal going the other way. Both are members of the Quad alliance with the United States and Japan, and are looking to deepen strategic ties to counter China as well as economically and in other areas. India was Australia's seventh-largest trading partner and sixth-largest export market in 2020.

China likens Taiwan foreign minister to a 'shrilling' fly

China has launched a vituperative attack on Taiwan's foreign minister, evoking the words of revolutionary leader Mao Zedong to denounce him as a "shrilling" fly for his efforts to promote Taiwan internationally. Taiwan Foreign Minister Joseph Wu is an outspoken supporter of the island's efforts to push back against pressure from China, which claims Taiwan as its own. In a lengthy denunciation of Wu late on Thursday, China's Taiwan Affairs Office said he was a "diehard" supporter of Taiwan independence who peddled lies that Taiwan is a sovereign country. It quoted a poem written by Mao in 1963, *The River All Red*, which was a denunciation of the Soviet Union and United States. "All forms of comments on Taiwan independence are but flies 'humming, with a burst of shrilling and a fit of sobbing,'" the Beijing's Taiwan Affairs Office said. Taiwan's foreign ministry said the attack was "not worthy" of commenting on.



Les Paul's personal Gibson up for auction

A guitar that helped launch rock'n'roll will be for sale on Oct. 13, when Christie's in New York auctions inventor Les Paul's own personal guitar bearing his name. The "Number One" guitar, the earliest approved production model of the famed Gibson Les Paul electric guitar, is being sold by his son Gene. It is estimated to be worth between \$100,000 and \$150,000, Christie's says. "I'd have to say, what's the Wright brother's first plane worth? What's Thomas Edison's first light bulb worth? The Paul guitar, the Les Paul Number One, was his crowning achievement," Gene said on Thursday. As acoustic guitars were losing their dominance, Gibson and Les Paul got together in the early 1950s to come up with a solid-body electric guitar. The instrument he produced became one of the most iconic electric guitars, played by the likes of Jimmy Page, Pete Townshend, Jeff Beck and Duane Allman.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

BLINKEN ON IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL

'The runway getting shorter'

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken renewed warnings Thursday that time was running out for Iran to return to a nuclear deal, saying it was up to Tehran to act. "The ball remains in their court, but not for long," Blinken told reporters in Pittsburgh where he took part in US-EU trade talks. "There is a limited runway on that, and the runway is getting shorter." Blinken reiterated that President Joe Biden was willing to return the United States to a 2015 accord in which Iran drastically scaled back nuclear work in return for promises of economic relief. Former president Donald Trump trashed the deal known formally as the JCPOA and reimposed sweeping sanctions, which Iran wants removed before it undoes a series of steps out of compliance that it took to protest the pressure campaign. "Simply getting back to the terms of the JCPOA



at some point will not be sufficient to recapture the benefits of the agreement because of the progress Iran has made," Blinken said. On a visit to France, which remains in the nuclear deal, Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said that analytical work by Tehran will end soon. "I assume that in a few weeks we are in a position to set a date with our friends in Europe," he told a gathering in Caen.

NOBLE PEACE PRIZE

Is this Greta Thunberg's year?

The Nobel Peace Prize will be announced just three weeks before world leaders gather for a climate summit that scientists say could determine the future of the planet, one reason why prize watchers say this could be the year of Greta Thunberg. While the winner often seems a total surprise, those who follow it closely say the best way to guess is to look at the global issues most likely to be on the minds of the five committee members who choose. With the COP26 climate summit set for the start of November, that issue could be global warming. That could point to Thunberg, the Swedish climate activist, who at 18 would be the second youngest winner in history by a few months, after Pakistan's Malala Yousafzai. Another big issue the committee may want to address is democracy and free speech. That could mean an



award for a press freedom group or a prominent political dissident, such as exiled Belarus opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya or jailed Russian activist Alexei Navalny could get the coveted prize. The medicine prize opens the season on Monday, followed by the awards for physics on Tuesday, chemistry on Wednesday, literature on Thursday and peace on Friday. The economics prize wraps up the Nobel season on October 11.

Quotes of the day



It is essential for all humanity that we fulfil the promise of the Paris Agreement. I cannot emphasise enough that time is running out. Irreversible climate tipping points lie alarmingly close. We can either save our world or condemn humanity to a hellish future.

UN CHIEF ANTONIO GUTERRES

South Korean Marine amphibious assault vehicles sail to shore during media day for the 73rd anniversary of the Armed Forces Day, which falls on October 1, in Pohang, South Korea. North Korea fired a newly developed anti-aircraft missile on Thursday, state media KCNA reported, the latest in a recent series of weapons tests that has come as denuclearisation talks with the United States have been in deadlock. It was North Korea's second known weapons test this week after the launch of a previously unseen hypersonic missile on Tuesday. Picture was taken on Thursday.



PHOTO: REUTERS

Russia sees record deaths, Australia to ease curbs
India slaps reciprocal travel curbs on vaccinated UK nationals

AGENCIES

Amid surging infections, Russia yesterday reported a high for coronavirus deaths for a fourth day running as Australia said it will begin to reopen its borders next month.

A government tally reported 887 fatalities over the past 24 hours. Over the same period there were 24,522 new cases -- the highest total since late July. The new figure brings the country's total deaths from Covid-19 to 208,142 -- the highest in Europe.

As of Friday, just 29 percent of the population had been fully vaccinated, according to the Gogov website, which tallies Covid data from the regions. Meanwhile, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said vaccinated Australians would be able to return home and travel overseas "within weeks" as 80 percent vaccination targets are met.

On March 20 last year Australia introduced some of the world's toughest border restrictions in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

In Sri Lanka, officials yesterday lifted a near six-week lockdown to contain the spread of coronavirus but maintained a night curfew and a ban on public gatherings and parties.

Meanwhile, UK nationals visiting India this month will have to undergo mandatory quarantine even if they are fully vaccinated against Covid-19 in retaliation for UK curbs on Indian citizens, a senior government source in New Delhi said yesterday.

The new rules, which take effect from Monday, follow the UK decision to require Indians vaccinated with AstraZeneca's Covishield to quarantine.

On Thursday, the World Health Organization lamented poor vaccination rate in Africa, where just two percent of the population, or less, have been fully vaccinated against coronavirus.

MYANMAR CRISIS

Number of people needing aid triples: UN

AFP, United Nations

Myanmar is facing a "severe crisis" with the number of people needing aid tripling to three million in the eight months since the military launched a coup, the UN humanitarian coordinator to the country said has said. Andrew Kirkwood described the situation as "very concerning."

"The people of Myanmar are really living in a severe crisis at the moment," he said in a virtual meeting with reporters. "The United Nations was supporting a million people affected by the conflict here inside the country," he said.

But that number "now is three million, that's a tripling in over the last eight months" since the February 1 coup. In a recent report UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for an "urgent" international response to the political crisis created by the coup in Myanmar. The military has carried out a bloody crackdown on opponents, with more than 1,100 civilians killed and 8,400 imprisoned.



UK PETROL STATIONS RUN DRY: Panic-buying by motorists has left fuel pumps dry across major cities in one of the worst energy disruptions facing Britain in decades. Fights have broken out at filling stations as the government urged calm. But the problem is not a lack of gasoline, it is a lack of trucks to get it from refineries to retailers -- one of the odd side-effects of Britain's EU exit and a hangover from postponed trucker certification and training during the pandemic. The fix? Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government has been issuing temporary visas to thousands of foreign truck drivers to get fuel to market, and hopes to restore order at the pumps before the holidays.

Global energy shortage or a regional crises?

REUTERS

British gasoline stations running dry, surging power costs in the European Union ahead of winter, forced restrictions on energy use in China and rising oil, natural gas and coal prices.

You could be forgiven for thinking the world had suddenly been hit by an energy shortage, but you would be mostly wrong.

While the squeezes slamming consumers and businesses is acute, the disruptions have less in common than you may think.

CHINA CRUNCH: Beijing has begun rationing electricity to energy-hungry businesses because of a crunch in coal supply triggered by stepped-up safety checks at Chinese mines which dragged output below year-ago levels for much of the first half of the year. The lower coal production in turn fuelled a steep climb in local thermal coal prices, which have scaled successive record highs this year and are up over 80% year-to-date. Because Beijing sets power prices, coal-fired power plants have been unable to operate economically with such high coal costs, and are shutting down. Goldman Sachs estimated that as much as 44% of China's industrial activity has been hit by the power shortages. The China Electricity Council, which represents power suppliers, said on Monday that coal-fired power companies were now "expanding their procurement channels at any cost" in order to guarantee winter heat and electricity supplies.

EUROPE'S POWER BILLS: The price of keeping the lights on in Spain has tripled, reflecting a broader spike in power bills across the EU in recent weeks. The surge in electricity costs has raised fears of a difficult winter ahead as households demand heat and push consumption to a seasonal peak.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
High Commission for the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Canberra, Australia
Request for Expression of Interest (Eoi)

1.	Ministry	Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA)
2.	Agency	High Commission for the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Canberra, Australia
3.	Procuring Entity Name	High Commission for the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Canberra, Australia
4.	Expression of Interest for Selection of	Consulting firm for all the designs and construction supervision of Bangladesh Chancery Building in Canberra, Australia
5.	Invitation Reference No	19.01.6101.102.14.001
6.	Date of publication	02/10/2021
7.	Procurement Method	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)
8.	Source of Funds	Government of Bangladesh (GoB)
9.	Project Name	Construction of Bangladesh Chancery Building in Canberra, Australia
10.	Eoi closing Date and Time	30/10/2021 up to 12:00 PM
11.	Brief Description of the Assignment	(a) Preparation of all preliminary and detailed designs of Chancery Building in Canberra, Australia and their approval following local rules in Australia (b) Preparation of working drawing, and all Bill of Quantities & Tender documents (c) Detailed supervision of construction work, supply, installation and commissioning of fixtures and equipment (d) Advise the High Commission on all aspects of designs, approval, construction, payment and settlement of dues to the Contractor, sub-contractors and suppliers
12.	Eligibility of Applicant (Bidder)	(a) Having experience in the relevant field for not less than 15 (fifteen) years with at least 3 completed projects of similar nature in Australia as on date of publication of this Eoi; (b) Up-to-date Trade License and Income Tax Clearance Certificate; (c) The Consulting firm has to provide information to demonstrate that they are qualified to perform the job by submitting the firm's brochure, firm's registration with relevant professional bodies and authorities, summarizing the firm's facilities and areas of experiences, availability of appropriate professionally qualified staff, etc.; (d) Knowledge or understanding of Bangladesh's culture and tradition and ability to blend these considerations with local Australian architectural and engineering considerations.
13.	Other Details	(a) Total floor area of the 2 (two) storied building is approximately 1700 sq. meter. It will also have a basement of 900 sq. meter (b) Total land area: 4965 sq. meter (c) Location of the project: Block 18, Section 86, Division of Yarralumla, Turranna Street, Canberra, Australia (d) Applying firm will not participate in the tender for contractor (e) RFP document (Request for Proposal) will be issued to the short-listed firms from the office of the undersigned (f) Eoi in two sets (original and duplicate) must be submitted in sealed envelope and delivered to the address of the undersigned (g) Association, Consortium or Joint Venture is allowed; capacity to mobilise other specific technical competence in design and implementation; firm linkages with prospective sub-consultants in Bangladesh or Australia (h) All staffs of the lead consultant and its partner(s) must have permission to work in Canberra (i) All submitted documents must be in English
14.	Name and Designation of the Official Inviting Eoi	Mohammad Sufur Rahman, High Commissioner, High Commission for the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Canberra, Australia
15.	Address of the Official Inviting Eoi	High Commission for the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Canberra, Australia 57 Cullgoa Circuit, O'Malley, ACT 2606
16.	Contact Details of the Official Inviting Eoi	Tel- +61-2-6290-1657, Fax- +61-2-6290-0544, email- hc.canberra@mofa.gov.bd
17.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any/all Eois	

Signed
(Mohammad Sufur Rahman)
High Commissioner and Project Director

GD-1760 High Commission for the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Canberra, Australia