

MORE NEWS

India sells Air India back to Tata conglomerate

Tea-to-software Indian giant Tata is buying back Air India, 89 years after founding it as Tata Air and half a century following its nationalisation, the government said yesterday. The 180-billion-rupee (\$2.4-billion) deal marks the end of a lengthy effort to privatise the heavily-indebted flag carrier that according to the government has eaten up 1.1 trillion rupees (\$14.7 billion) in public money since 2009. The airline was founded in 1932 with the first flight piloted by Tata's eponymous chairman himself JRD Tata, flying mail and passengers in a single-propeller de Havilland Puss Moth from Karachi to Bombay, as the city was known then. The airline was nationalised in the 1950s and in the decades that followed the "Maharaja of the Skies" became synonymous with the hopes and ambitions of the newly independent country.

S Korea to raise emissions cut goal to 40pc by 2030

South Korea's government yesterday said it would raise its greenhouse gas reduction goal from 26.3 percent to 40 percent by 2030, as part of efforts to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. The revised nationally determined contribution (NDC) was proposed by the ruling party in June and will be officially introduced at the 26th UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow in November, with a government plan presented to the United Nations in December. Seoul-based Solutions for Our Climate said the provisional target is still insufficient to meet Paris Agreement goals and irresponsibly relies on overseas reductions.

Saudi talks on 'right track': Iran

Discussions between Iran and Saudi Arabia are on the right track but it will take more time to restore bilateral ties, Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said in Beirut yesterday. Shia-majority Iran and Sunni kingdom Saudi Arabia, on opposing sides in multiple regional conflicts, have been engaged in talks since April with the aim of improving relations, for the first time since cutting ties in 2016. "We have achieved results and agreements, but we still need more dialogue," Abdollahian said. "The two parties will announce these agreements at the appropriate time. We welcome the continuation of the talks and the results that benefit both sides and the region," he added.

US special forces quietly training Taiwanese: official

US special operations forces have been quietly training Taiwanese troops for months, a move which China yesterday warned could cause "serious harm" to relations between Washington and Beijing. A contingent of around 20 special operations and conventional forces has been conducting the training for less than a year, the Pentagon official, who declined to be identified, told AFP Thursday, adding that some of the trainers rotate in and out. The US supplies weapons to Taiwan, including missiles for defense and fighter jets, in a bid to counter Beijing, which views Taiwan as its own territory and has threatened to forcibly retake control of the island. Washington also maintains an ambiguous commitment to defend Taiwan.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



People shout slogans during the funeral procession of slain government school principal Supinder Kour in Srinagar yesterday, a day after suspected anti-India militants shot dead two school teachers in Indian-administered Kashmir.

PHOTO: AFP

Unequal Covid-19 jabs roll-out 'immoral', stupid

Says UN chief, appeals for \$8b to equitably vaccinate 40pc of world in 2021; daily cases rising again in UK

AGENCIES

UN chief Antonio Guterres on Thursday branded rich nations' vaccine hogging as immoral and stupid, saying choking off poorer countries' access to jabs risked undermining their own defences against the pandemic.

The World Health Organization said every country that had fully immunised more than 40 percent of its population was doing too little to stop the Covid-19 crisis, as they should be ensuring doses go to nations left wide open to the virus.

The WHO wanted 10 percent of the population in every country fully jabbed by the end of September -- a target missed in 56 countries, "through no fault of their own", said the organisation's chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

The UN health agency said 1.5 billion vaccine doses were now being manufactured every month -- with less than one week's production needed to reach the 10 percent target.

"Vaccine inequality is aiding and abetting the Covid-19 pandemic," Guterres told a virtual press conference alongside Tedros.

"It is allowing variants to develop and run wild,

condemning the world to millions more deaths, and prolonging an economic slowdown that could cost trillions of dollars."

"All the vaccination effort made in developed countries to vaccinate the whole of the population, one, two or three times -- all that effort will fall apart. And these people will not be protected.

"So not to have equitable distribution of vaccines is not only a question of being immoral: it is also a question of being stupid."

He appealed for \$8 billion to help equitably vaccinate 40% of people in all countries by the end of the year, reports Reuters.

Tedros said more than 6.4 billion vaccine doses had now been administered, and almost a third of the world's population was fully vaccinated against Covid-19.

Meanwhile, Britain recorded 40,701 new cases of Covid-19 on Thursday, up 12% on a week ago and marking the biggest total since September 6, government data showed.

The figures also showed an additional 122 people had died within 28 days of a positive Covid-19 test, compared with 143 a day earlier.



'A tribute to journalism' Congratulations pour in for Nobel Peace Prize winners

AGENCIES

Maria Ressa and Dmitry Muratov, journalists from the Philippines and Russia respectively, have received congratulations from around the world on winning the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts to protect freedom of expression.

The United Nations human rights office yesterday said the award was "recognition of the importance of the work of journalists in the most difficult circumstances".

"Throughout the years we've seen an increase in attacks in journalists during the Covid lockdown as well," spokesperson Ravina Shamdasani told journalists at a UN briefing in Geneva.

"I think I'd speak for the High Commissioner [Michelle Bachelet] when I say congratulations to all journalists out there who are doing their job to keep us informed and to amplify the voices of victims everywhere," she added.

Media rights group Reporters Without Borders celebrated the announcement, expressing "joy and

urgency" in reaction to the news.

"Joy because this is an extraordinary tribute to journalism, an excellent tribute to all journalists who take risks everywhere around the world to



defend the right to information," the group's director Christophe Deloire said from its Paris headquarters.

The group, known as RSF, has worked with Ressa and Muratov to defend journalism in their countries, and comes under regular criticism from authoritarian governments.

"And also urgency because it will be a decisive decade for journalism. Journalism is in danger, journalism is weakened, journalism is threatened," Deloire said. "Democracies are weakened by disinformation, by

rumours, by hate speech."

"This prize is a great signal a very powerful message to defend journalism everywhere."

The award will give both journalists greater international visibility and may inspire a new generation of journalists, said Dan Smith, director of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

Muratov co-founded the Russian newspaper, Novaya Gazeta, in 1993 and has been its editor-in-chief for 24 years. It is today one of the very few independent media outlets in Russia and has seen six of its journalists murdered during that time.

Ressa, who founded investigative journalism website Rappler, has focused much of her work on Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's controversial and violent war on drugs. The former CNN correspondent is on bail pending an appeal against a conviction last year in a cyber-libel case, for which she faces up to six years in prison. Two other cyber-libel cases were dismissed earlier this year.

Quote of the day



Taiwan does not seek military confrontation. It hopes for a peaceful, stable, predictable and mutually-beneficial coexistence with its neighbours. But Taiwan will also do whatever it takes to defend its freedom and democratic way of life.

TAIWAN PRESIDENT TSAI ING-WEN

**NO TIME TO DIE**

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**QUIZ - 01**

How many movies were released before "No Time To Die" in the James Bond series?

James Bond's Aston Martin goes electric

REUTERS, Silverstone

Daniel Craig may be saying goodbye as James Bond, but his iconic Aston Martin is about to be given a new lease of life, for an ultra-cool \$1 million.

Bond actually drove a DB5, which features again in the latest Bond movie, "No Time To Die". But the DB6 is regarded by many as the epitome of British motoring style since it was first unveiled in 1965.

In a modern twist, the DB5 and DB6 are now being retrofitted to reappear in limited numbers as electric cars.

"For the women and men of tomorrow this, electrified, is what you should be driving," said David Lorenz, CEO and founder of Lunaz, which specialises in making classic cars electric, at the wheel of a DB6.

"You've got the aesthetic beauty which you will never get in a modern vehicle yet the aesthetics can now be combined with a modern powertrain," Lorenz said.

Lunaz, based near Silverstone, home of the British Grand Prix, is producing limited numbers of an electric DB6. Each electrified Aston Martin DB6 will undergo an exhaustive bare-metal restoration that Lunaz calls 're-manufacturing'.

The electric powertrains give the car a range of 255 miles.

SHORTAGES OF ESSENTIAL FOODS

Crisis-hit Sri Lanka ends price controls

AFP, Colombo

The Sri Lankan government yesterday ended price controls on essential foods in a bid to end black market trading as food shortages worsen amid a foreign currency crisis.

The cabinet decided to free prices for milk powder, wheat flour, sugar and liquified petroleum gas hoping it would increase supplies.

"Prices could go up by as much as 37 percent across the board, but it is hoped dealers will not make unconscionable profits," a trade ministry official told AFP.

A shortage of foreign currency caused by a pandemic recession has unleashed the shortages of food, medicines and other essential items for the island nation of 21 million.

The government declared a state of emergency over the food shortages on August 31 and imposed rationing.

It forced farmers to sell their rice to a state agency and seized some from private warehouses. But the shortages worsened and last week authorities lifted controls on rice hoping to get supplies into markets.

During rationing, state stores sold only one kilogramme (2.2 pounds) of rice for each person. Sugar and lentils were similarly rationed. Virtually all private traders withdrew from the market.

With price controls removed from yesterday, a kilo of imported milk powder was increased by more than a third to 1,300 rupees (\$6.5), traders said. The price of gas is also due to go up by about 35 percent.

Sri Lanka was already suffering from heavy foreign debt repayments. Sri Lanka's foreign reserves stood at \$3.55 billion at the end of August. It has to repay about \$2 billion in foreign debts before the end of the year.

Some analysts and opposition politicians say it may be forced to seek a bailout.

MILITARY BUILD-UP IN MYANMAR'S CHIN STATE

UN fears 'imminent attack'

REUTERS, Geneva

The United Nations human rights office yesterday said it is concerned the military in Myanmar could be preparing an imminent attack aimed at its opponents amid a build-up of heavy weapons and troops in areas of the country where the internet has also been shut down.

Ravina Shamdasani, UN human rights spokeswoman, said that it had documented intensifying attacks by the army in the past month in Chin state and other areas, with killings and burning of houses, in an apparent attempt to seek out armed resistance.

"What has happened now over the past few days, we have seen a real reinforcement,

a substantial deployment of heavy weapons and troops in these areas," Shamdasani told a UN briefing in Geneva, referring to townships in Chin, Sagaing and Magway.

The violence and build-up have led to the office of UN rights chief Michelle Bachelet becoming "very alarmed and concerned that there may be an imminent attack, a very serious attack against the civilian population".

Two high-level commanders have been deployed to the area, she said.

Myanmar has been in turmoil since a Feb. 1 coup led by military chief Min Aung Hlaing that ended a decade of tentative democracy. The return of military rule has prompted outrage at home and abroad.

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Office of Jail Super  
Faridpur District Jail

Memo No. 58.04.2900.104.04.009.2021-3628

Date-07.10.2021

**e-Tender Notice**

This is to notify all concern that the following tender is invited in the national e-GP portal:

SL No	Tender ID No.	Name of work	Publishing, Closing Date & Time
2.	618271	Supply of Unnatamaner Mashur Dal (Mota) for the period of October/21 to September/22	07-October-2021 08:00:00, 20-October-2021 11:30:00
	618272	Supply of Unnatamaner Cholar Dal for the period of October/21 to September/22	07-October-2021 08:00:00, 20-October-2021 11:45:00

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

(Al Mamun)  
Jail Super  
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GD-1805