

MORE NEWS

Several wounded in knife attack on German train

Several people were wounded yesterday in a knife attack on a high-speed train in southern Germany, local police said, adding the alleged perpetrator had been arrested.

Pak Taliban want prisoner release as condition for talks

The Pakistani Taliban have demanded that the government of Pakistan release a number of prisoners as a condition for talks aimed at laying the ground for full ceasefire negotiations, multiple sources in the group said.



At least 8 dead after crush at Texas music festival

A crush caused by a crowd surge killed at least eight people and wounded several others at rap star Travis Scott's Astroworld music festival in Texas on Friday night, authorities said.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



(From left, clockwise) People take part in Global Day of Action for Climate Justice rallies in London, Melbourne and Seoul, yesterday, to put pressure on world leaders to deliver on climate promises.



PHOTO: REUTERS, AFP

Quote of the day



I've received countless notes of congratulations after being blacklisted and sanctioned, for life, by the #CCP (Chinese Communist Party). Many are jealous for not being recognized; some ask where they can apply for it.

TAIWAN FOREIGN MINISTER JOSEPH WU AFTER CHINA'S WARNING THAT IT WILL HOLD THOSE WHO SUPPORT 'TAIWAN INDEPENDENCE' CRIMINALLY LIABLE FOR LIFE

UN: Attacks on civilians in 'crimes against humanity'

AGENCIES

The head of the United Nations body investigating the most serious crimes in Myanmar has said that preliminary evidence collected since the military seized power on February 1 shows a widespread and systematic attack on civilians "amounting to crimes against humanity".

will be brought to account". In determining that the crimes against civilians appear to be widespread and systematic, he said investigators saw patterns of violence - a measured

POST-COUP MYANMAR

response by security forces to demonstrations in the first six weeks or so after the military takeover followed by "an uptick in violence and much more violent methods used to suppress the demonstrators".

"And, also, we saw that particular groups were targeted, especially for arrests and detentions that appear to be without due process of law. And this includes, of course, journalists, medical workers and political opponents."

Since the military takeover, Myanmar has been racked by unrest, with peaceful demonstrations against the ruling generals morphing first into a low-level armed uprising in many urban areas after security forces used deadly force and then into more serious combat in rural areas, especially in border regions where ethnic minority militias have been engaging in heavy clashes with government troops.

Four women killed in Afghanistan

AFP, Kabul

Four women have been killed in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif, a spokesman for Afghanistan's Taliban government said yesterday, as local sources identified at least one of the victims as a rights activist.

Two suspects have been arrested after the four bodies were found at a house in the city, interior ministry spokesman Qari Sayed Khosti said.

"The arrested people have admitted in initial interrogation that the women were invited to the house by them. Further investigations are under way and the case has been referred to court," he said.

Khosti did not identify the victims, but sources in Mazar-i-Sharif told AFP that one of the dead was a women's rights activist and university lecturer, Frozan Safi.

Three sources in Mazar-i-Sharif told AFP that they had heard the women received a call that they thought was an invitation to join an evacuation flight and were picked up by a car, only to be found dead later.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

US to convene foreign ministers next week

Pledges to talk vaccine equity; cases surge in parts of the globe

AGENCIES

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said he would convene a virtual meeting of foreign ministers from around the globe to discuss the Covid-19 pandemic next week, pledging to work to address global inequalities in access to vaccines.

"Despite progress in worldwide vaccination, we are not where we need to be," Blinken said in a statement announcing the meeting on Nov 10.

The US, where people are being offered booster vaccine shots ahead of winter, has been under pressure to share more of its vaccine supply with the rest of the world.

"We will discuss efforts to accelerate toward vaccine equity and impact," Blinken said of the foreign ministers' summit.

The coronavirus has killed at least 5,028,536 people since the outbreak emerged in China in December 2019, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP.

Though hope that the worst of the pandemic is behind, new record cases have been recorded in many parts of the world in last couple of weeks.

Russia yesterday reported a record 41,335 new cases in the past 24 hours as the country reaches the end of a nationwide paid holiday introduced to curb the spread of infections. The country also reported 1,188 coronavirus deaths during the same period.

New Zealand's 206 new daily community infections yesterday carried it past the double-hundred mark for the first time during the coronavirus pandemic.

Germany's federal and regional health ministers called for Covid booster jabs for all as the country registers a record rise in new infections for the second day running on Friday.

In France, lower house of parliament voted to allow the government to make use of a health pass to fight against Covid-19 till July 31, 2022.

Iceland also said it will tighten its Covid rules in the battle against a rise in new cases, including capping gatherings and wearing masks in crowded areas.

'Sacrifice' to save Ethiopia

Urges PM Abiy as rebels join forces to oust him; US urges Americans to leave crisis-hit country urgently; UNSC calls for end to conflict

AFP, Addis Ababa

Ethiopia must be ready to make "sacrifices" to "salvage" the country, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said yesterday, as fighting in the north intensifies between government forces and Tigrayan rebels who threaten to advance on the capital.

His announcement came a day after nine rebel groups said they would join forces in an alliance built around the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), which has been locked in a year-long war against Abiy's government.

TPLF representative Berhane Gebre-Christos said Friday the alliance aimed to "remove the regime," as he signed the nine-party agreement in Washington.

The US embassy in Addis Ababa on Friday urged Americans to leave Ethiopia "as soon as possible".

"There are sacrifices to be made, but those sacrifices will salvage Ethiopia,"

Abiy tweeted.

"We have seen the tests and obstacles and it made us stronger," he said, adding: "We have more allies than the people who turned their backs on us."



Last weekend, the TPLF said it had taken two strategic cities in the region of Amhara, where its fighters had advanced after retaking their Tigray bastion in June.

It said Wednesday it had reached the town of Kemissie in Amhara, 325 kilometres (200 miles) northeast of the capital.

The TPLF added it was running

"joint operations" with the Oromo Liberation Army, another rebel group which predicted Addis Ababa could fall in a matter of weeks.

The government, which on Tuesday declared a nationwide emergency, has denied any major rebel advance or threat on the capital, vowing to press on to victory in "an existential war".

Faced with the recent escalation in fighting, the United Nations' Security Council on Friday called for a ceasefire in a rare joint declaration on the issue.

Abiy sent troops into Tigray in November 2020 to topple the TPLF, which he accused of having attacked military bases, promising a swift victory.

But by late June the rebels had retaken most of Tigray and expanded into the neighbouring regions of Afar and Amhara.

Thousands have been killed and hundreds of thousands forced into famine-like conditions, according to the UN.

India Covid hospital fire kills 11

AFP, Mumbai

Fire tore through a hospital in western India yesterday killing at least 11 coronavirus patients, officials said.

The blaze was the latest to hit pandemic wards across India.

There were about two dozen patients at the intensive care unit in the hospital in Ahmadnagar district, Maharashtra state, when the fire broke out, officials said. Most of the dead were aged over 60.

The hospital ward, which was left a charred wreck, had been newly built for coronavirus patients.

Maharashtra state chief minister Udhav Thackeray ordered a formal investigation into the blaze and safety conditions at the hospital 250 kilometres from the regional capital Mumbai.

PHOTO: REUTERS



An injured supporter of an Iraqi Shia armed group is seen after clashes with security forces last night during a protest against the election results in Baghdad, Iraq, yesterday. An Iraqi protester was killed and more than 100 people injured Friday in the clashes.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Advertisement for Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation (BHBFC) mobile app. The ad features a smartphone displaying the app interface and lists various services like mobile banking, bill payments, and loan applications. It includes logos for Google Play and the App Store, and contact information for the BHBFC.