

Quote of the day



“We do share the view that we are at the beginning of a new era. Our cooperation is absolutely critical for this era.”

FRENCH PRESIDENT **EMMANUEL MACRON** TELLS VISITING US VICE PRESIDENT **KAMALA HARRIS** THAT COOPERATION BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE UNITED STATES IS “ABSOLUTELY CRITICAL” FOLLOWING A ROW OVER THE CANCELLATION OF AN AUSTRALIAN SUBMARINE CONTRACT.



Pictures taken on Wednesday and yesterday show migrants warming themselves by a bonfire in a camp on the Belarusian-Polish border in the Grodno region. Belarus's strongman leader Alexander Lukashenko yesterday vowed to respond to any new sanctions imposed over the migrant crisis on the country's border with Poland, including by potentially cutting off the transit of natural gas to Europe.

PHOTO: AFP

MORE NEWS

41 killed as heavy rains hit India, Sri Lanka

Heavy rains across southern India and Sri Lanka have killed at least 41 people, authorities said yesterday, with weather forecasters expecting the downpours to ease in the next few days as stricken communities pumped out the deluge. The Indian Meteorological Department forecast light to moderate rain in most affected areas, with occasional flooding of some roads and low-lying areas. Counterparts in neighbouring Sri Lanka said rain there was expected to ease from yesterday as the low pressure that brought the bad weather moved away, that had been stranded waist deep.

S Africa's last apartheid president Klerk dies

FW de Klerk, South Africa's last white president, who freed anti-apartheid icon Nelson Mandela from jail, died yesterday aged 85, his foundation announced. De Klerk and South Africa's first black president Mandela shared the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993 for leading the "miracle" transition from white rule over the country. He died after a battle with cancer, his foundation said in a statement. De Klerk had announced his diagnosis on his 85th birthday, on March 18 this year. "It is with the deepest sadness that the FW de Klerk Foundation must announce that former president FW de Klerk died peacefully at his home in Fresnaye earlier this morning following his struggle against mesothelioma cancer," it said. He is survived by his wife Elita, children Jan and Susan, and grandchildren.



Blinken 'hopeful' for 'window' to stop Ethiopia war

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken voiced hope Wednesday that diplomacy would succeed in halting a deadly war in Ethiopia after major rebel advances. "I believe that all sides see the dangers of perpetuating the conflict," Blinken told reporters amid efforts by former Nigerian president Olusegun Obasanjo as well as US envoy Jeffrey Feltman. "We are hopeful that, given the important work that president Obasanjo is engaged in -- the efforts that we're making and others are engaged in -- that there is still a window to pull back and to move this to a better place," Blinken said. He hoped for negotiations to halt the violence and "ultimately use the ceasefire to have access for humanitarian assistance and, over time, to negotiate a more durable political resolution."

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

FORCED DISPLACEMENT  
More than 84m living as refugees globally: UN

AFP, Geneva

The number of people fleeing war, conflict and persecution rose significantly during the first half of 2021, driven especially by the millions more displaced inside their own countries, the UN said yesterday.

In a fresh report, the United Nations refugee agency estimated that by the end of June, more than 84 million people worldwide were living as refugees, asylum seekers, or in so-called internal displacement within their own countries.

That marks a hike of about two million people from an already record high at the end of 2020.

"The international community is failing to prevent violence, persecution and human rights violations, which continue to drive people from their homes," UN refugee chief Filippo Grandi said in a statement.

In its mid-year trends report, the agency warned that many of those fleeing their homes were facing additional challenges due to Covid-19, extreme weather and other effects of climate change.

Some 26.5 million people were living as refugees by the end of June, including some 6.6 million Syrians, 5.7 million Palestinians, and 2.7 million Afghans.

Some 3.9 million Venezuelans were also displaced beyond their borders without being considered refugees, while 4.4 million people were registered worldwide as asylum seekers.

More than 4.3 million people were estimated to have become newly internally displaced across dozens of countries between January and June.

Active conflicts and violence also pushed up internal displacement in places like Myanmar, Afghanistan, Congo, Ethiopia, Mozambique and South Sudan, UNHCR said.

Xi says attempts to draw ideological lines will fail

Warns Cold War era tensions must not return to Asia-Pacific

REUTERS, Wellington

The Asia-Pacific region must not return to the tensions of the Cold War era, Chinese President Xi Jinping said yesterday, ahead of a virtual meeting with US President Joe Biden expected as soon as next week.

Xi, in a recorded video message to a CEO forum on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit hosted by New Zealand, said attempts to draw ideological lines or form small circles on geopolitical grounds were bound to fail.

"The Asia-Pacific region cannot and should not relapse into the confrontation and division of the Cold War era," Xi said.

Xi's remarks were an apparent reference to US efforts with regional allies and partners including the Quad grouping with India, Japan and Australia, to blunt what they see as China's growing coercive economic



and military influence.

China's military said on Tuesday it conducted a combat readiness patrol in the direction of the Taiwan Strait, after its Defense Ministry condemned a visit by a US congressional delegation to Taiwan, the democratically governed island claimed by Beijing.

Combative US diplomatic exchanges with China early in the Biden administration unnerved allies, and US officials believe direct engagement with Xi is the best way to prevent the relationship between the world's two biggest economies from

spiraling toward conflict.

CNBC yesterday reported that Xi Jinping was likely to invite Biden to attend the Beijing Winter Olympics in February next year.

The week-long annual forum, culminating in a meeting of leaders from all 21 APEC economies today, is being conducted entirely online by hosts New Zealand.

Xi has only appeared by video, and has not left China in about 21 months as the country pursues a zero-tolerance policy towards Covid-19.

Taiwan's bid to join a regional trade pact, the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), is expected to raise tensions at the APEC leaders' meeting later in the week.

A 15-nation regional trade pact backed by China, the Regional Comprehensive Partnership Agreement (RCEP), will also take effect from Jan. 1.

Afghanistan 'at brink of collapse'

Warns Pakistan as US, Chinese, Russian, Taliban diplomats meet

AFP, Islamabad

Afghanistan is "at the brink of economic collapse" and the international community must urgently resume funding and provide humanitarian assistance, Pakistan's foreign minister warned yesterday at a meeting with US, Chinese, Russian and Taliban diplomats in Islamabad.

Shah Mehmood Qureshi spoke at the opening of the so-called "troika plus" meeting, which included Thomas West, the new US special envoy for Afghanistan. The delegates are also expected to meet later Thursday with Taliban foreign minister Amir Khan Muttaqi.

"Today, Afghanistan stands at the brink of an economic collapse," Qureshi said in remarks opening the meeting, adding that any further downward slide would "severely limit" the new Taliban government's ability to run the country.

"It is, therefore, imperative for the international community to buttress provision of humanitarian assistance on an urgent basis," he said.

That included enabling Afghanistan to access funds frozen by Western donors since the Taliban took control



of the country in August, he said.

Resuming the flow of funding "will dovetail into our efforts to regenerate economic activities and move the Afghan economy towards stability and sustainability", Qureshi said.

Doing so would benefit Western countries also, he argued in later comments to state media.

"If you think that you are far, Europe is safe and those areas you imagine will not be affected by terrorism, don't forget the history," he said. "We have learned from the history and we don't want to repeat those mistakes made in the past."

The United Nations has repeatedly warned that Afghanistan is on the brink of the world's worst humanitarian crisis, with more than half the country facing "acute" food shortages and winter forcing millions to choose between migration and starvation.

The troika plus meeting represents envoy West's first trip to the region since taking over from Zalmay Khalilzad, the long-serving diplomat who spearheaded the talks that led to the US withdrawal from Afghanistan earlier this year.

Impacts will be 'irreversible'

Scientists appeal for immediate climate action

AFP, Glasgow

More than 200 scientists told the COP26 summit yesterday to take immediate action to halt global warming, warning in an open letter that some climate change impacts were "irreversible" for generations.

The central task of the Glasgow meeting is to implement the Paris Agreement, with its goal of limiting temperature rise to between 1.5 and 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

But as negotiations enter their final days, commitments made so far could still lead to "catastrophic" warming of as much as 2.7C by 2100, according to the UN.

"We, climate scientists, stress that immediate, strong, rapid, sustained and large-scale actions are necessary," to keep warming within the Paris target, said the letter, signed by researchers across the world.

In August, a bombshell "code red" report from the world's top climate science body,

the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), warned that Earth's average temperature will hit the 1.5C threshold around 2030, a decade earlier than projected only three years ago.

To keep from overshooting that temperature target the IPCC says emissions must fall 45 percent this decade.

Thursday's open letter, signed by some of the IPCC's report authors, calls on delegates in Glasgow to "fully acknowledge" the scientific evidence they have compiled of the severe threats posed by climate change.

"COP26 is a historic moment for the fate of climate, societies and ecosystems, because human activities have already warmed the planet by around 1.1C and future greenhouse gas emissions will determine future additional warming," the letters said.

The heating atmosphere is already magnifying weather extremes, subjecting communities across the world to more intense fire and drought, displacement and severe economic hardship.



THIS DAY IN HISTORY




NOVEMBER 12

**1923** - Adolf Hitler was arrested for a failed attempt to seize power on Nov. 8 in Germany's Beer Hall Putsch.


**1970** - A cyclone and tidal wave hit East Pakistan. At least 200,000 people died.

**1990** - Emperor Akihito was enthroned in Japan amid a series of bomb explosions across the capital by leftist radicals.

SOURCE: REUTERS



CENTRE FOR GENOCIDE STUDIES  
UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA



ADMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN GENOCIDE STUDIES, WINTER 2022

Centre for Genocide Studies (CGS), University of Dhaka is offering Postgraduate Diploma in Genocide Studies.

Eligibility: Graduates from any discipline with at least 2<sup>nd</sup> Division/GPA or CGPA 2.50 in all examinations.

Duration: Three Months

Class time: Weekends (Friday & Saturday)

Course fee: Tk. 20,000 (including a field trip to Khulna/Sylhet)

Total seat: 48

Class will start: 15 January 2022

Application procedure: Application form of TK. 200 (two hundred only) can be collected from 14 November 2021 at the office of the Centre for Genocide Studies.

Last date of submission of application: 05 January 2022

Special requirement: Applicants must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19.

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