

### MORE NEWS

#### China downgrades ties with Lithuania over Taiwan row

China has officially downgraded diplomatic ties with Lithuania in protest, the foreign ministry in Beijing said yesterday, after Taiwan established a de facto embassy in Vilnius. Lithuania allowing Taipei to open an office using the name Taiwan was a significant diplomatic departure that defied a pressure campaign by Beijing. China balks at any official use of the word "Taiwan", lest it lend a sense of international legitimacy to the island -- which it considers a part of its territory to be taken one day. Only 15 countries officially recognise Taipei over Beijing.

#### With a dig at China, India unveils new warship

India yesterday commissioned its navy's first indigenously-made missile destroyer as Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said, without naming China, that "some irresponsible nations for the sake of their narrow partisan interests, keep giving new and inappropriate interpretations" to international laws relating to sea to promote "hegemonic tendencies." The destroyer is packed with sophisticated state-of-the-art weapons and sensors such as surface-to-surface missile and surface-to-air missiles. The ship is also fitted with a modern surveillance radar which provides target data to the gunnery weapon systems of the ship and anti-submarine warfare capabilities are provided by the indigenously-developed rocket launchers, torpedo launchers and helicopters. The ship is equipped to fight under nuclear, biological and chemical warfare conditions, the Defence Ministry said.

#### Chinese tennis star Peng Shuai reappears at public event

Chinese tennis star Peng Shuai appeared at a Beijing tennis tournament yesterday, according to official event photos, after international pressure mounted for information about her wellbeing. Peng can be seen at the Fila Kids Junior Tennis Challenger Finals, according to photos published on the official Weibo account of the China Open. The two-time Grand Slam doubles champion had not been seen publicly since alleging earlier this month that former vice premier Zhang Gaoli, now in his 70s, "forced" her into sex during an on-off relationship spanning several years.

#### 15 dead in Myanmar pagoda drowning


At least 15 people drowned on Sunday while crossing a flooded causeway in Myanmar to reach a Buddhist temple for a festival, rescue workers told AFP. The tragedy unfolded as thousands of worshippers tried to reach the Kyeik Hne pagoda, which lies on a rocky outcrop around three kilometres (two miles) off the coast near the town of Thanbyazayat in southern Mon state. Local officials said some died when they tried to cross the poorly marked causeway, which is only around four metres wide, while the tide was too high.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS




**Sudanese protesters walk past burning tyres during a demonstration calling for a return to civilian rule in 40th street in the capital's twin city of Omdurman, yesterday, after Sudan's military reinstated Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok and announced the release of all political detainees. However, the Sudanese Professionals Association (SPA), which spearheaded the anti-coup movement, yesterday rejected the deal and said agitations will continue.**

PHOTO: AFP



Quote of the day



This hysteria is being whipped up artificially. Those who have brought their armed forces from overseas are accusing us of unusual military activity on our own territory. That is, the United States.

KREMLIN SPOKESMAN  
DMITRY PESKOV ON UKRAINE CRISIS AMID WEST'S ALLEGATION OF TROOPS BUILD-UP AT BORDER

## Protests to go on till laws repealed

### Say Indian farmers, demand price guarantees

AGENCIES

Farmers at the Delhi borders have said that say their protests will continue till the formal cancellation of the three contentious farm laws, which Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced on Friday.

They have also demanded a law on minimum support prices, and withdrawal of the police cases filed against many of them over the last year.

The official withdrawal of the laws will take place only when parliament's Winter Session that will begin at the end of this month. The cabinet approval for the withdrawal of the laws is expected on Wednesday. Winter Session begins on November 29, during which the bill for repealing the laws will be passed.

"We have discussed the repeal of farm laws. After this, some decisions were taken. The pre-decided programmes of the SKM (Sanyukta Kisan Morcha, an umbrella body of farmers) will continue as it is," said Balbir Singh Rajewal at the Delhi-Haryana border in Singhu.

The programmes include a farmers' meet in Lucknow on November 22, gatherings at all borders on November 26 and a march to parliament on November 29, he added.

The farmers also said they will write an open letter to the prime minister listing their demands.

In 2020, Modi's government passed three farm laws in a bid to overhaul the agriculture sector that employs about 60% of India's workforce but is deeply inefficient, in debt and prone to pricing wars.

Angry farmers took to the streets, saying the reforms put their jobs at risk and handed control over crops and prices to private corporations.

The resulting protest movement became one of the country's biggest and most protracted.

Leaders of six farmer unions who spearheaded the movement in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab states said they would not forgive a government that labelled protesting farmers as terrorists and anti-nationals.

Sudhakar Rai, a senior member of a farmers' union in Uttar Pradesh, said at least 170 farmers were killed during anti-farm law protests across the country. There are no official data to verify his claims.

Leaders of the opposition and some analysts said Modi's move was linked to state elections next year in Uttar Pradesh - which accounts for more parliamentary seats than any other state - and Punjab.

"What cannot be achieved by democratic protests can be achieved by the fear of impending elections!" wrote P. Chidambaram, a senior figure in the opposition Congress party, on Twitter.

#### JERUSALEM SHOOTING

Attacker shot dead after one killed

AFP, Jerusalem

A militant of the Palestinian Islamist Hamas movement yesterday opened fire in Jerusalem's Old City, killing one person and wounding three before he was shot dead, Israeli officials, police and medics said.

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett ordered security to be boosted and called for people to be on "heightened alert" over the risk of further attacks.

The wounded, who included two civilians and two police officers, were rushed to Jerusalem's Hadassah hospital. One of them, a man in his 30s, died of his injuries, medical sources said without giving further details.

Police said the attacker had fired a "Carlo-type weapon", a type of submachine gun.

The Old City is in the Israeli-annexed eastern part of Jerusalem, which Palestinians claim as the capital of their future state.

## 'Greatest attempt to destabilise Europe'

### Poland says border crisis most serious challenge for the continent since Cold War

AFP, Bohoniki

Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki yesterday called the migrant crisis on the Belarusian-Polish border, the EU's eastern frontier, the "greatest attempt to destabilise Europe" since the Cold War.

The premier issued his strong remarks as he prepared to meet with EU leaders at a time when Warsaw is facing not only a border crisis but heightened tensions with Brussels over allegations it is breaching its commitment to the bloc's democratic principles.

The West accuses Belarus of artificially creating the crisis by bringing in would-be migrants -- mostly from the Middle East -- and taking them to the border with promises of an easy crossing into the European Union.

Belarus has denied the claim, instead criticising the EU for not taking in the migrants.

Caught in the middle, migrants often report being forced to cross the border by Belarusian officials, then being pushed back into Belarusian territory by Polish authorities.

Belarusian President Alexander "Lukashenko launched a hybrid war against the EU. This is (the) greatest attempt to destabilise Europe in 30 years," Morawiecki said on Twitter.

"Poland will not yield to blackmail and will do everything to defend the EU's borders."

He also claimed that Lukashenko had the "back-room support of Vladimir Putin," the Russian president and an ally of the Belarusian regime.

Lukashenko told the BBC earlier that it was "absolutely possible" his forces had helped people cross into the EU but denied orchestrating the operation.

Brussels and Nato have previously also described the migrant crisis as a "hybrid tactic".

Some observers believe Poland is using its rhetoric on the border issue to try to distract from controversial reforms that the EU believes limit the independence of the judiciary.



**Activists march through downtown protesting the verdict in Kyle Rittenhouse's trial in Chicago, Illinois, on Saturday. Rittenhouse, an Illinois teenager, was found not guilty of all charges in the fatal shootings of two people and for shooting and wounding another man during unrest in Kenosha, Wisconsin that followed the police shooting of Jacob Blake in August 2020.**

PHOTO: AFP

### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

NOVEMBER 22

**1926** - Imperial Conference ends, giving autonomy inside British Commonwealth.

**1963** - US President John F. Kennedy assassinated by Lee Harvey Oswald while riding in an open-topped motorcade in Dallas, Texas.

**2012** - Ceasefire between Israel and Gaza's Hamas rulers takes hold after eight days of fighting.

SOURCE: REUTERS

## Indian man found alive after night in morgue freezer

AFP, New Delhi

An Indian man declared dead after a road accident shocked his relatives when they found him still breathing despite a night in the freezer of a hospital morgue.

Sriyesh Kumar was rushed to a clinic in a critical condition after he was hit by a motorbike in Moradabad, east of the capital New Delhi.

He was transported to a private medical facility where he was declared dead on arrival by the doctor, and then transported to a government hospital for post-mortem on Friday.

"The emergency medical officer examined him. He did not find any signs of life and hence declared him dead," Rajendra Kumar, the hospital's medical superintendent, told AFP yesterday.

The doctor said police were informed and the body was placed in the morgue freezer until his family arrived six hours later.

"When a police team and his family came over to initiate the paperwork for the autopsy, he was found alive," he added.

Rajendra Kumar said the 45-year-old was undergoing further treatment but was still in a coma.

"This is nothing short of a miracle," he added.

An investigation was under way to determine how the doctors mistakenly declared him dead.

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