

US, Australia, Japan vow to work together against China

AFP, Honolulu
The defense ministers of the United States, Australia and Japan agreed Saturday to boost military cooperation in the face of China's growing ambitions "to shape the world around it".

Washington is pressing a diplomatic offensive to counter Chinese influence across the Asia-Pacific. "We are deeply concerned by China's increasingly aggressive and bullying behavior in the Taiwan Strait, and elsewhere in the region," US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said as he welcomed his counterparts from Australia and Japan to the US military headquarters for the Pacific region in Hawaii.



People pray during a vigil outside the Kanjuruhan stadium after a riot and stampede following a soccer match killed at least 125 people, in Malang, East Java province, Indonesia, yesterday.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION
Lula leads as Brazil votes

REUTERS, Brasilia
Brazilians cast their votes yesterday in the first round of their country's most polarized election in decades, with leftist Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva expected to beat right-wing incumbent Jair Bolsonaro.



Most polls have shown Lula with a solid lead for months, but Bolsonaro has signaled he may refuse to accept defeat, stoking fears of institutional crisis or post-election violence.

Bolsonaro has threatened to contest the result of the vote, after making baseless allegations of fraud, accusing electoral authorities of plotting against him and suggesting the military should conduct a parallel tally, which they declined to do.

Taliban foil women's protest

AFP, Herat
Authorities dispersed a women's rally in Afghanistan's western city of Herat yesterday, with protesters claiming they were beaten by Taliban forces who fired shots in the air.

King Charles won't attend COP27 on PM Truss's advice

REUTERS, London
Britain's King Charles will not attend a world leaders' climate change summit in Egypt next month, a royal source said yesterday, as the new monarch steps back from his previous high-profile campaigning roles.

Pope begs Putin to end Ukraine war

REUTERS, Vatican City
Pope Francis for the first time directly begged Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday to stop the "spiral of violence and death" in Ukraine, saying that the crisis was risking a nuclear escalation with uncontrollable global consequences.



Still haunted by last year's horrors

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supplied idols to the mandap this year as well. Shanchay Pal, one of the artisans said, "We had crafted the idols last year. When I heard that they were attacked, it broke my heart."

On the other hand, Amal Shabdkar, president of the Moydail Puja Udjapan Parishad, said, "Police arrested two people and we are in fear of reprisals since then. We are being threatened in various ways. There is fear of another attack. So, we have to stay awake at night."

the idol to the puja mandap and finally to the Bisarjan (immersion), said the CMP commissioner. A disciplinary committee has been formed around each mandap regardless of caste and religion, he said.

AUDIO LEAKS
Pak Cabinet okays legal action against Imran, aides

DAWN ONLINE
Pakistan's Cabinet has formally given the go-ahead to hold an inquiry into the audio leaks purportedly featuring PTI Chairman Imran Khan and his party leaders, it emerged yesterday.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Bank (বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক) regarding the 2022 election results. It includes a table with 8 items detailing the process and results of the election, such as the number of votes and the winning candidate.

More than 40 bodies found in Libya mass grave

AFP, Tripoli
Forty-two bodies have been found in a mass grave in the Libyan city of Sirte, an ex-stronghold of the Islamic State group, the country's missing persons authority said yesterday.