

Cops misusing rubber bullets worldwide Says Amnesty Int'l

AFP, Paris

Police use of rubber bullets and other projectiles against peaceful protesters has become increasingly routine worldwide, leading to many eye injuries and even deaths, Amnesty International warned yesterday.

The London-based group called for better global regulation of the trade and use of such policing equipment, also called "less lethal weapons", after research in more than 30 countries over the past five years.

"Thousands of protesters and bystanders have been maimed and dozens killed by the often reckless and disproportionate use of less lethal law enforcement weaponry," it said in a new report titled "My Eye Exploded".

These included rubber bullets, rubberised buckshot, and tear gas grenades fired directly at demonstrators in south and central America, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and the US.

"There has been an alarming increase in eye injuries, including eyeball ruptures, retinal detachments and the complete loss of sight," Amnesty said.

Aukus subs deal embarks on 'path of error, danger' Warns China; Russia says West readying for 'years of confrontation' in Asia

AFP, Beijing

China warned yesterday that Australia, Britain and the United States were treading a "path of error and danger" after they unveiled a nuclear-powered submarine deal.

Australia announced on Monday it would buy up to five US nuclear-powered submarines, then build a new model with US and British technology under an ambitious plan to bulk up Western muscle across the Asia-Pacific in the face of a rising China.

US President Joe Biden has stressed that Australia, which joined the alliance with Washington and London known as Aukus 18 months ago, will not be getting nuclear weapons. However, acquiring submarines powered by nuclear reactors puts Australia in an elite club and at the forefront of US-led efforts to push back against Chinese military expansion.

Wang Wenbin, China's foreign ministry spokesman, said: "The latest joint statement from the US, UK and Australia demonstrates that the three countries, for the sake of their own geopolitical interests, completely disregard the concerns of the international communities and are walking further and further down the path of error and danger."

Wang accused the three Western allies of inciting

an arms race, saying the security deal was "a typical case of Cold War mentality".

The sale of submarines "constitutes a severe nuclear proliferation risk, and violates the aims and objectives of the Non-Proliferation Treaty", Wang said at a regular news conference in Beijing.

The UN nuclear watchdog said it had to ensure there were no proliferation risks from the deal.

Moscow, which has sought to shore up its ties with China, also accused the West of fomenting "years of confrontation" in the Asia-Pacific region.

"The Anglo-Saxon world, with the creation of structures like Aukus and with the advancement of Nato military infrastructures into Asia, is making a serious bet on many years of confrontation," Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said in televised comments.

Monday's announcement came at an event at a naval base in San Diego, California, where Biden hosted Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.

With a US Virginia-class nuclear submarine moored behind the trio's podium, Biden said the United States had "safeguarded stability in the Indo-Pacific for decades" and that the submarine alliance would bolster "the prospect of peace for decades to come".



A large submarine on the water with several people on the deck.

FOREIGN TOURISTS China lifts sweeping visa curbs

AFP, Beijing

China will once again start issuing a range of visas to foreigners as of today, the country's foreign ministry said, in a major easing of travel restrictions in place since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The move marks the latest step towards reopening China to the outside world, as Beijing breaks with the strict zero-Covid strategy that defined its pandemic response until a few months ago.

In addition to new visas being reviewed and approved, those issued before March 28, 2020 that remain valid will once again allow entry to China, said a notice posted yesterday on a social media account affiliated with the foreign ministry's consular affairs bureau.

Similar notices appeared on the websites of several overseas Chinese missions, including its embassies in the United States and France.

The updated policy will also allow for the resumption of visa-free travel for those arriving on cruise ships to Shanghai as well as for certain tourist groups from Hong Kong and countries within the Asean regional grouping.

'PARTYGATE' FIASCO Ex-UK PM to face grilling

AFP, London

British lawmakers will next week quiz former prime minister Boris Johnson over whether he lied to them about "Partygate", in a probe that could trigger his removal as a member of parliament. Johnson repeatedly denied in parliament that he or his staff had breached his own Covid lockdown laws by holding boozy gatherings in Downing Street. But police issued fines to dozens of aides after a criminal probe, and Johnson became the first

serving UK prime minister found to have broken law, over one of gatherings. Johnson resigned as PM in July 2022 after being dogged by accusations of lockdown breaches and other scandals.



Pakistan Taliban kill two policemen

AFP, Peshawar

Two Pakistani policemen were killed while guarding teams collecting census data in separate attacks claimed by the local Taliban, police said yesterday. Pakistan started a month-long digital census at the beginning of March with security officials deployed alongside more than 120,000 enumerators. Police are increasingly on the frontline of Pakistan's battle with the Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP) and are frequently targeted by militants who accuse them of extra-judicial killings. On Monday, two teams were attacked in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, in separate districts close to the border with Afghanistan. "Gunmen attacked the police party responsible for supervising the security of the census team from two directions," said Farooq Khan, a police official in Tank district.

'Cold, hard facts' should guide climate policy

UN chief calls for scientists before a key global warming threshold passed

AGENCIES

The head of the United Nations called Monday for scientists to serve up "cold, hard facts" to push governments into making policies that curb climate change before a key global warming threshold is passed.

His comments came as experts and officials from around the world gathered for a weeklong meeting in the Swiss Alpine town of Interlaken to finalize the last of seven reports issued by the global body's panel of top scientists since the Paris climate accord was forged in 2015.

In a video address to delegates, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said that the latest report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change "could not come at a more pivotal time."

"Our world is at a crossroads — and our planet is in the crosshairs," he said. "We are nearing the point of no return; of overshooting the internationally agreed limit of 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) of global warming."

That threshold, agreed in Paris almost eight years ago and measured against average temperatures during pre-industrial times, has become the yardstick for climate scientists who warn of the dangers of an ever-hotter planet, reports AP.

Guterres cited recent IPCC reports showing that while some impacts



of global warming are already unavoidable, "it is possible to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees with rapid and deep emissions reductions across all sectors of the global economy."

Some scientists disagree, noting that the rate at which greenhouse gas is being pumped into the atmosphere makes this limit almost impossible to keep to.

The UN chief said the final installment in the IPCC's sixth reporting cycle — known as the synthesis report because it brings together insights from six previous papers — should provide governments with "solid, frank, detailed scientific guidance to make the right decisions for people and [the] planet" when they gather for the annual world climate conference in Dubai at the end of the year.

STORM FREDDY Death toll in Malawi jumps to 190

REUTERS, Blantyre

The death toll in Malawi from tropical storm Freddy has jumped to 190 from 99 reported previously, the country's disaster management agency said yesterday.

Freddy, one of the strongest storms ever recorded in the southern hemisphere and potentially the longest-lasting tropical cyclone, has killed scores of people and left a trail of destruction in Malawi and Mozambique after it made landfall for the second time over the weekend.

As heavy rains continued to pummel Malawi yesterday, 584 people have been injured and 37 are still reported missing, the country's Department of Disaster Management Affairs said in a statement.

It pummelled central Mozambique on Saturday, ripping roofs off buildings and bringing widespread flooding around the port of Quelimane, before moving inland towards Malawi with torrential rains that caused landslides.

The full extent of the damage and loss of life in Mozambique in particular is not yet clear.

Official notice from the Bangladesh government regarding job openings. It includes details about the Shariatpur district, the number of positions (190), and a table listing various roles like 'Jেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়' and 'সার্কিট হাউজ' with their respective locations and requirements.

Zilla Parishad, Cumilla tender notice. It provides information about the procurement of works, including a table with columns for 'Sl. No.', 'Name Of Work/ Tender ID Number', 'Tender Documents Last Selling Date', 'Tender Closing Date & Time', and 'Method of Tender'. It also includes contact information for S. M. Hedayet, Assistant Engineer.

Continuation of the Bangladesh government notice, detailing specific conditions and requirements for the job openings, such as 'প্রার্থীকে অবশ্যই বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক' and 'সর্বশেষ প্রচলিত সরকারি নীতিমালা অনুসরণ করা হবে'.