

SUBSEA CABLE CUT Taiwan detains Chinese-crewed cargo ship

AFP, Taipei

Taiwan yesterday detained a Chinese-crewed cargo ship after a subsea telecoms cable was severed off the island, the coast guard said.

It is the latest in a series of Taiwanese undersea cable breakages, with previous incidents blamed on natural causes or Chinese ships.

Taiwan's Chunghwa Telecom reported the cable between Penghu, a strategic island group in the sensitive Taiwan Strait, and Taiwan was disconnected early yesterday, the Ministry of Digital Affairs said.

The Togolese-registered ship Hongtai was intercepted in the area and escorted back to Taiwan, the coast guard said.

The case was being "handled in accordance with national security-level principles", it added.

"Whether the cause of the undersea



Venezuelan migrants from the US board a boat heading to the island of Carti, Guna Yala territory in Panama, on Monday. Hundreds of migrants, many of them children, board boats these days in Carti, in the indigenous region of Guna Yala, in the Panamanian Caribbean.

PHOTO: AFP



cable breakage was intentional sabotage or a simple accident remains to be clarified by further investigation."

The Hongtai, using a flag of convenience, was crewed by eight Chinese nationals and had Chinese funding, the coast guard said.

Flags of convenience allow shipping companies to register their vessels in countries to which they have no link -- for a fee and freedom from oversight.

Beijing claims Taiwan as part of its territory and has threatened to use force to bring it under its control. And Taiwan fears China could sever its communication links as part of an attempt to seize the island or blockade it.

"It cannot be ruled out that it was a grey zone intrusion by China," the coast guard said, referring to actions that fall short of an act of war. "The coast guard will cooperate with the prosecutors in the investigation and make every effort to clarify the truth."

Ukraine's reconstruction needs surpass \$500bn

AFP, Kyiv

Ukraine will need over \$500 billion to repair the damage resulting from the Russian invasion, which has entered its fourth year, according to a joint assessment published yesterday.

"The total cost of reconstruction and recovery in Ukraine is \$524 billion over the next decade," said a statement published by Ukraine, the World Bank Group, the European Commission, and the United Nations.

This number is "approximately 2.8 times the estimated nominal GDP of Ukraine for 2024," a statement read.

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It found that 13 percent of the country's housing stock has been damaged or destroyed, which affected over 2.5 million households.

Frontline areas in the east, north and south sustained about three-quarters of the damage, the survey said.

"The assessment highlights the extraordinary damage Russia has inflicted on Ukraine," EU Commissioner for Enlargement Marta Kos was quoted

as saying.

The previous survey published in February 2024 said Ukraine needed \$486 billion over the next decade.

The recovery programme has so far focused on repairing energy infrastructure and houses, as Russia keeps striking the war-torn country's power grid, regularly plunging hundreds of thousands into temporary blackouts.

Antonella Bassani, the World Bank's vice president for Europe and Central Asia, said the assessment showed the progress Ukraine has already made on physical and economic recovery, reforms and reconstruction needs.

It included over \$13 billion in needs across eight sectors that have already been met by Ukraine with the support of its partners and the private sector.



Protesters hold placards during a demonstration commemorating the 39th anniversary of the "People Power" revolution, which ousted Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr's dictator father and sent the family into exile, on Epifanio de los Santos Avenue, or EDSA, in Quezon City, Philippines, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

29 dead due to hail, rain in Afghanistan: officials

AFP, Herat

Twenty-nine people died in two provinces in southwestern Afghanistan due to hail and heavy rain, officials said yesterday.

Twenty-one people were killed and six others were injured" because of hail in western Farah province, Mohammad Israel Sayar, head of the province's Disaster Management Department, said.

In southern Kandahar, the local disaster management department said in a statement that eight people -- including women and children -- were killed in several locations due to heavy rain.

In a separate development, a British couple in their 70s who ran education programmes in Afghanistan have been detained by the Taliban administration, their daughter said, urging the British government to do everything possible to secure their release.

Barbie and Peter Reynolds, 75 and 79, were detained by the Taliban's

interior ministry on February 1, their daughter Sarah Entwistle, who lives in central England, said.

Speaking to Times Radio on Monday, Entwistle said her parents had initially kept in touch via text



messages following their detention -- assuring their four children that they were fine -- before losing all contact three days later.

"Our parents have always sought to honour the Taliban, so we wanted to give them the opportunity to explain their reasons for this detention. However, after more than three weeks of silence, we can no longer wait," she said.

"We're now urgently calling on the British consulate to do everything in their power to get us answers and to put as much pressure as they can on the Taliban for their release," Entwistle added.

Britain's Foreign Office said on Monday it was "supporting the family of two British nationals who are detained in Afghanistan," without providing further detail.

The BBC, citing official Taliban sources, reported on Sunday that two British nationals believed to be working for a non governmental organisation in the central Afghan province of Bamyan had been arrested. It cited one official as saying they had been arrested about 20 days ago after using a plane without informing local authorities.

Afghan authorities arrested four individuals -- two British nationals, one Chinese-American and their interpreter, Abdul Mateen, a spokesman for the interior ministry, told Reuters.

1984 RIOTS CASE India's ex-Congress MP gets life term

NDTV ONLINE

A Delhi court yesterday awarded life imprisonment to former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar in a murder case related to the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

Special judge Kaveri Baweja pronounced the judgement for the alleged killing of Jaswant Singh and his son Tarun Deep Singh on November 1, 1984.

The complainant, wife of Jaswant, and the prosecution had sought death penalty for Kumar. The offence of murder carried a maximum punishment of death penalty, while the minimum sentence was life imprisonment.

The prosecution alleged a huge mob, armed with deadly weapons, resorted to large-scale looting, arson and destruction of properties of Sikhs to avenge the assassination of former PM Indira Gandhi.

The court on February 12 convicted Kumar for the offence and sought a report from Tihar Central Jail on his psychiatric and psychological evaluation in view of a Supreme Court order asking for such a report in cases attracting capital punishment.

Kumar is currently lodged in Tihar jail. Though Punjabi Bagh Police Station registered the case, a special investigation team took over the probe much later.

Additionally, the court also directed payment of compensation to the victims' families while acknowledging that, after 41 years of the incident, any amount of monetary relief "may be wholly inadequate" to compensate for the pain and suffering of the survivors in this case.

The case against Kumar was led by Sr Advocate H S Poojka, along with advocates Kamna Vohra and Gurbaksh Singh, representing two victims.

INTERNATIONAL

US FEDERAL WORKERS Elon Musk gives 'another chance' to justify jobs

AFP, Washington

Elon Musk said US federal workers had "another chance" to justify their work or lose their jobs, as the original deadline passed yesterday with staff at multiple federal agencies told to disregard his request.

Musk, the world's richest person and President Donald Trump's biggest donor, had originally given federal government employees until the end of Monday to explain their work achievements in an email. The demand represents the latest challenge from Musk against government workers as his Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) works toward gutting federal staffing and spending.

"Subject to the discretion of the President, they will be given another chance," Musk said Monday evening on X, which he owns.

"Failure to respond a second time will result in termination," he added, without providing a new deadline.

The deadline came and went with much confusion among an already anxious workforce after several US federal agencies -- including some led by prominent Trump loyalists -- told staff to ignore the email, at least temporarily.

IMPEACHMENT TRIAL S Korea's Yoon defiant as hearings draw to an end

AFP, Seoul

Suspended President Yoon Suk Yeol said yesterday South Korea had been facing an "existential crisis" when he declared martial law last year, remaining defiant and unapologetic as he faced the final day of impeachment hearings that could formally remove him from office.

Yoon's short-lived suspension of civilian rule plunged democratic South Korea into political turmoil and he was removed from office by parliament in December.

The Constitutional Court in Seoul has held weeks of fraught impeachment hearing, with yesterday's proceedings the last before judges decide whether to formally remove Yoon from office over his disastrous martial law declaration.

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২	বান্দারানেকারী সরকার	কুমি ম্যানগলোবার্প (২য় পর্ব) প্রকল্প
৩	ডুমি ভবন, ১২ তলা, ১৮ শ্রেণী ভাজাউডিন আহমেদ সরকার	ডুমি ভবন, ১২ তলা, ১৮ শ্রেণী ভাজাউডিন আহমেদ সরকার
৪	তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা-১১০৮	তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা-১১০৮
৫	স্ট্রাকচার সেক্যান্ডেরি কোর্ট	স্ট্রাকচার সেক্যান্ডেরি কোর্ট
৬	স্ট্রাকচার সেক্যান্ডেরি কোর্ট	স্ট্রাকচার সেক্যান্ডেরি কোর্ট
৭	স্ট্রাকচার সেক্যান্ডেরি কোর্ট	স্ট্রাকচার সেক্যান্ডেরি কোর্ট
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