



Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer speaks during the Organised Immigration Crime Summit at Lancaster House in central London



Britain's Home Secretary Yvette Cooper, center, poses with participants for a family photo after the Border Security Summit in London

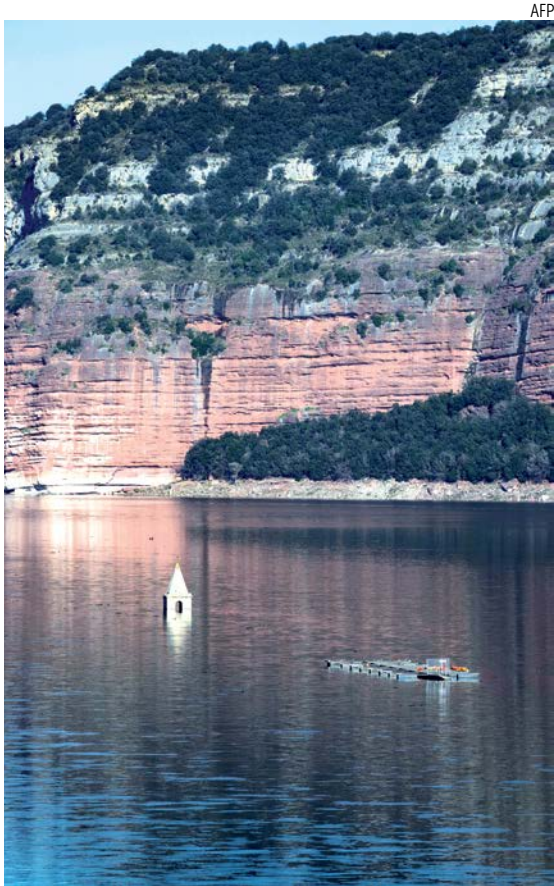


Shakira (L) performs during her 'Las Mujeres Ya No Lloran,' or Women Don't Cry Anywhere, world tour in Mexico City



Visitors take their pictures as they walks along the Tidal Basin as cherry trees enter peak bloom this week in Washington

allovertheworld



The reservoir of Sau and the almost entirely submerged Sant Roma de Sau church, in Vilanova de Sau in Catalonia. This long-Term project shows an inventory of several sites in Spain which are suffering from drought

Suspected jihadist attack kills 'several dozen' soldiers in Burkina

ABIDJAN: "Several dozen" soldiers and civilian auxiliaries have been killed in a suspected jihadist attack in eastern Burkina Faso, local and security sources told AFP on Sunday. Since 2015 Burkina Faso has been plagued by jihadist violence from groups linked to the Islamic State group or Al-Qaeda. In the latest attack, a security source in Tapoa province said an army detachment from the main city of Diapaga was targeted in a "violent attack" on Friday. The victims were regular army soldiers and civilian volunteers, and there were "many wounded", the source added. A separate security source confirmed the attack to AFP, adding that "several terrorists were neutralised in the retaliation" and that the army had launched a sweep of the area.

Cost of living woes fuelling fake medicine demand in Nigeria

LAGOS: A long-running struggle in Nigeria against fake medicines has become even harder because widespread economic hardship is driving up demand, experts say. The scale of the problem was highlighted in March when authorities set ablaze \$645 million worth of counterfeit medicines seized in six weeks of raids in Lagos and two southern states. "What we have found could ruin a nation," said the head of the National Agency for Food and Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC), Mojisola Adeyeye. "What we have found could destabilise a government." Efforts in Nigeria to curb sales of fake and substandard medicines has been going on for decades. Porous borders and weak regulations have created a situation in which medicines of unknown quality and provenance are sold in open-air street markets and in thousands of unlicensed pharmacies.

France fines Apple 150 million euros over privacy feature

PARIS: French antitrust authorities handed Apple a 150-million-euro (\$162-million) fine on Monday over its app tracking privacy feature, which is also under scrutiny in several other European countries. The watchdog said the way Apple implemented its App Tracking Transparency (ATT) software was "neither necessary nor proportionate to the company's stated goal to protect user data" and also penalised third-party publishers. In addition to the fine, Apple will have to publish the decision on its website for seven days. Authorities in Germany, Italy, Romania and Poland have opened similar probes over ATT, which Apple promotes as a privacy safeguard. The fine is the latest by a European regulator against a US tech giant, even as President Donald Trump has threatened to impose tariffs in response to such penalties.

One in 10 struggling financially in Switzerland: officials

ZURICH: Eight percent of people in Switzerland, one of the richest countries in the world, were living below the official poverty line in 2023, the Federal statistics Office (BFS) said on Monday. One in 10 struggled to make ends meet. Poverty mainly affected single people, one-parent families with under-age children, low-skilled individuals, households where no-one had gainful employment and foreigners, the BFS said. A total 10.1 percent of people in the small Alpine nation "struggled to make ends meet" in 2023, the statistics office said, noting that the share of the population having difficulty paying essential bills had risen to pre-Covid pandemic levels. After a dip during the pandemic, the number of households with at least two types of payment in arrears increased from 4.8 percent in 2022 to 6.3 percent in 2023, inching back up towards the 7.0 percent registered in 2019.

Vehicle recovered in Lithuania search for missing US soldiers

VILNIUS: The vehicle of four US soldiers who went missing last week in Lithuania was recovered on Monday, the Baltic state's army said, without specifying whether the soldiers had been found. Authorities received a report last Tuesday that the soldiers had disappeared during a military drill in the eastern city of Pabrade, near the border with Belarus. Search and rescue teams used heavy equipment and excavators to remove silt from the body of water where the vehicle was located and managed to attach cables to tow it out of the swamp. "The vehicle has been recovered," Lithuanian Armed Forces chief General Raimundas Vaiksnoras said on Monday on social media.

Prayers and tears for Eid in quake-hit Mandalay

AFP, MANDALAY: Hundreds of grieving Muslims gathered for Eid prayers in the street in Mandalay on Monday, the death and destruction of Myanmar's huge earthquake casting a pall of anguish over the occasion.

The watching women were the first to weep. A tear, a sniffle, a cry. The emotion spread among hundreds of men lined up in the street outside two mosques where 20 of their fellow believers died.

Sobs and sighs haunted the air in the gentle morning light. Finally the imam's voice broke as he prayed for the souls of the dead. "May Allah grant us all peace," he intoned. "May all the brothers be free from danger."

The Muslims of Mandalay gathered for a sombre first prayer of the Eid al-Fitr festival, marking the end of the fasting month of Ramadan, three days after a devastating 7.7-magnitude earthquake struck during Friday prayers.

The minaret of the Sajja South mosque in the Muslim neighbourhood of Mawgyagihah crashed to the ground in the quake, killing 14 children and two adults, locals said.

Four more people were



killed at the neighbouring Sajja North mosque when its tower came down.

Many of the dead were from Win Thiri Aung's family, close and extended.

"In normal times, it is full of joy when it is Eid," the 26-year-old told AFP.

"Our hearts are light. This year, we are not like that. All of our minds are with the dead children. I see their faces in my eyes."

"We believe the souls of

children and everyone we know who died have reached Paradise. We believe they were blessed deaths," she said, breaking down.

"It is a test from Allah. It is a reminder from him that we need to turn towards him. So we need to pray more."

Terror at prayers

Outside the alley leading to the mosques, the Eid worshippers, many wearing the new clothes that are the traditional gift for the



...lined up on plastic sheeting laid on the road, held in place by bricks.

A plastic bucket served for ritual washing.

"We have to pray on the road, feeling sadness and loss," said Aung Myint Hussein, chief administrator of the Sajja North mosque.

"The situation is so dire that it's hard to express what is happening."

"We were terrified when we saw the destruction. It

feels as if our entire lives have been shattered by this series of tremors and fears."

The pattern of destruction in Myanmar's second city is variable, with some buildings utterly devastated and a few areas of concentrated damage.

Down the street from the mosques, a resident said six people were killed when a dessert shop collapsed, as well as two people in a restaurant across the road.

UK PM Starmer criticises security agency for surge across channel

AP, LONDON: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said on Monday that a lack of coordination between UK police and intelligence agencies is partly responsible for a surge in the number of migrants reaching the UK in small boats across the English Channel.

At an international meeting on boosting border security and tackling people-smuggling, Starmer expressed frustration at the difficulty of stopping thousands of people a year risking the dangerous sea crossing from France.

"We inherited this total fragmentation between our policing, our Border

Force and our intelligence agencies," Starmer said as officials from more than 40 countries met in London.

"A fragmentation that made it crystal clear, when I looked at it, that there were gaps in our defence, an open invitation to our borders for the people smugglers to crack on."

Starmer's center-left government, elected nine months ago, is grappling with an issue that vexed its Conservative predecessors.

Despite law-enforcement cooperation with France and work with authorities in countries further up the route taken by migrants from Africa, Asia and the Middle East,

more than 6,600 migrants crossed the channel in the first three months of this year, the highest number on record.

The opposition Conservatives say the figure shows Labour should not have scrapped the previous government's contentious - and never-implemented - plan to send asylum-seekers who arrive by boat on one-way trips to Rwanda.

Starmer called the Rwanda plan a "gimmick" and canceled it soon after he was elected in July. Britain paid Rwanda hundreds of millions of pounds for the plan under a deal signed by the two countries in 2022, without any deportations taking place.

FESTIVE RIDE



People arrive in horse-drawn carriages to participate in the Eid Joy procession at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in Dhaka, Bangladesh

Le Pen verdict triggers uproar from far right in France and beyond

AP, PARIS: The court's decision landed like a political shockwave — barring French far-right leader Marine Le Pen from holding office for five years and instantly upending the country's next presidential race.

By Monday afternoon, the ruling had reverberated far beyond France's borders, sending ripples through nationalist circles across Europe and igniting jubilation and fury in equal measure.

Supporters of Le Pen decried the verdict as a brazen assault on democracy. Detractors punched the air in celebration. And even some of her fiercest critics wondered aloud whether



the court had overstepped, cutting short the candidacy of a woman voters were still free to support.

Once seen as a front-runner for France's 2027 election and a would-be steward of Europe's second-largest economy, Le Pen was convicted of embezzling European Union funds - an outcome that could not only remove her

from the ballot, but reshape the political map she had dominated for more than a decade.

Europe's far right closes ranks

If Le Pen's sentencing jolted the French political system, it sent a thunderclap through the nationalist corridors of Europe. From Madrid to Budapest, far-right leaders framed the verdict not as the fall of one figure, but as an existential threat to their entire movement.

"I am shocked by the incredibly tough verdict against Marine Le Pen," said Dutch firebrand Geert Wilders. "I support and believe in her 100 per cent and I trust she will win the

appeal and become President of France."

Italy's Vice Premier Matteo Salvini went further, calling the ruling "a declaration of war by Brussels."

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, never one to mince words, declared simply: "I am Marine."

Spain's Santiago Abascal, head of the hard-right Vox party, warned: "They will not succeed in silencing the voice of the French people."

Even Moscow joined the chorus. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the case was another sign that "more and more European capitals are going down the path of trampling over democratic norms."

US sends more prisoners to El Salvador despite court dispute

AFP, WASHINGTON: The United States has sent 17 more prisoners to El Salvador despite an ongoing court dispute, with the Central American nation's leader releasing another dramatic video of the transfer.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio described the 17 inmates as "violent criminals" that belonged to two gangs - El Salvador's MS-13 and Venezuela's Tren de Aragua - which Washington has declared foreign terrorist organizations.

"These criminals will no longer terrorize our communities and citizens," Rubio said in a statement

in which he thanked Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele.

Rubio said the prisoners included "murderers and rapists." Bukele went further and said there were "six child rapists."

In a Hollywood-style video Bukele posted on social media, a US military aircraft is seen opening up as prisoners are escorted out by masked troops.

The men are brought to their knees with their hands tied in the back and their heads forcibly shaven before they are put behind bars.

Rubio did not state under which authority the United States sent the prisoners.

South Korean police plan to question man on suspicion of accidentally starting wildfire

PTI, SEOUL: South Korean police plan to question a 56-year-old man on suspicion of starting at least one of the wildfires that recently devastated the country's southern regions, killing 30 people and burning more than 119,000 acres of land.

The North Gyeongsang provincial police department said the unidentified man

may have used fire while clearing overgrown grass at a family grave on a hill in the southeastern town of Uiseong, one of the areas hardest hit by the wildfires.

Police investigators examined the grave site on Monday morning and plan to question the man soon. The police department did not immediately say whether

others would also be questioned over suspected links to the wildfires, which fire officials believe may have been sparked by multiple human errors, also including burning trash and sparks from welding work.

Fueled by dry and windy conditions, the wildfires raged for a week, destroying thousands of homes, and

leaving mountains covered in ash, before firefighters, aided by rain, brought them under control on Friday.

The 30 people killed were mostly in their 60s or older. They include a pilot whose helicopter crashed during firefighting efforts and four firefighters and other workers who died earlier after being trapped by fast-moving

flames. At least 45 people were injured, including nine seriously.

The fires damaged or destroyed more than 6,000 structures, including over 1,000 homes each in the southeastern city of Andong and the nearby coastal town of Yeongdeok, as well as more than 330 homes in Uiseong.

The fires in Uiseong

damaged about 20 of the 30 structures at the Gounsa temple complex, said to have been originally built in the 7th century. Among them were two state-designated treasures: a pavilion overlooking a stream that dates to 1668, and a Joseon dynasty structure built in 1904 to mark the longevity of a king.