

News in brief

Gunfire and confusion hit Burkina Faso capital day after coup ♦ Gunfire was heard in Burkina Faso's capital yesterday a day after President Paul-Henri Damiba was declared ousted in the second coup the West African country has seen this year. Amid reports of rifts within the army, there was no update from self-declared leader Captain Ibrahim Traore, who was installed by the same group of army officers who helped Damiba seize power in a Jan. 24 coup. "I have nothing to say," Damiba's government spokesperson Lionel Bilgo said in response to a request for comment. A foreign security source in Ouagadougou said there were reports of gunfire in several parts of the city as a result of forces loyal to Damiba clashing with those supporting Traore.

Ebola kills doctor in Uganda, first health worker killed in latest outbreak ♦ A Tanzanian doctor working in Uganda who contracted Ebola has died, the first health worker killed by the disease in the latest outbreak in the country, Uganda's health minister said yesterday. "I regret to announce that we have lost our first doctor, Dr. Mohammed Ali, a Tanzanian national, 37-year-old Male," the health minister, Jane Ruth Aceng, tweeted. She said Ali had tested positive for Ebola on Sept. 26 and died while receiving treatment at a hospital in Fort Portal, a town about 300 kilometres west of the capital Kampala.

Antonio Inoki, Japanese pro-wrestler politician with N.Korea ties, dies ♦ Antonio Inoki, a Japanese professional wrestling star turned politician, widely known for his match with Muhammad Ali and ties to North Korea, has died aged 79, after years of battling a rare disease, the company he founded said yesterday. "New Japan Pro-Wrestling is deeply saddened at the passing of our founder, Antonio Inoki," the company he started in 1972 posted on Twitter. "His achievements, both in professional wrestling and the global community are without parallel and will never be forgotten." The lantern-jawed, 1.9-metre (6-foot-three-inch) performer entered politics, winning a seat in the upper house of Japan's parliament in 1989. He made headlines the next year going to Iraq during the Gulf War and intervening on behalf of Japanese hostages, who were subsequently released.

Nicaragua suspended diplomatic ties with the Netherlands, according to a statement published by the Central American country's foreign ministry. The Nicaraguan government took the decision because the "interventionist and neo-colonial" European country had "offended and keeps offending Nicaraguan families," the statement said. Earlier this week, Nicaraguan officials declared the European Union ambassador "persona non grata" and also said that the country would not accept the new U.S. ambassador, fueling tensions between President Daniel Ortega and the international community..

COVID-19: Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	Total deaths
1 USA	98,232,353	1,084,803
2 India	44,592,289	528,655
3 France	35,437,807	155,112
4 Brazil	34,715,149	686,097
5 Germany	33,386,229	150,064
6 S. Korea	24,796,014	28,445
7 UK	23,672,855	190,317
8 Italy	22,500,346	177,130
9 Japan	21,301,280	44,894
10 Russia	21,018,942	387,372
11 Turkey	16,873,793	101,139
12 Spain	13,422,984	114,179
13 Vietnam	11,480,028	43,149
14 Australia	10,239,653	15,221

Middle East

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	515,645		24,613		442,182	48,850
Saudi Arabia	816,575	+77	9,353	+1	803,694	3,528
UAE	1,027,502		2,345		1,006,731	18,426
Kuwait	658,520		2,563		655,316	641
Oman	397,993		4,260		384,669	9,064
Qatar	451,168		682		444,174	6,312

Figures as of closing

Florida, Carolinas count the cost of Hurricane Ian

Reuters | Fort Myers

Florida, North and South Carolina faced a massive clean-up yesterday from the destruction wrought by Hurricane Ian, after one of the most powerful storms ever to hit the U.S. mainland caused tens of billions of dollars in damage and killed dozens.

New images from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration showed several beach cottages and a motel building that lined the shores of Florida's Sanibel Island were wiped away by Ian's storm surge. Even though most homes were still standing, they appeared to have roof damage, the images showed.

Ian, now a post-tropical cyclone, continued to weaken yesterday morning but is still forecast to bring treacherous conditions to parts of the Central Appalachians and Mid-Atlantic, according to the National Hurricane Center, which added that flood watches were in effect across southwest Virginia and southern West Virginia.

"Major to record river flooding will continue across central Florida through next week. Limited flash, urban and small stream flooding is possible across the central Appalachians and the southern Mid-Atlantic this weekend, with minor river flooding expected over the coastal Carolinas," it said.

The storm struck Florida's Gulf Coast on Wednesday, turning beach towns into disaster areas. On Friday, it pummeled waterfront Georgetown, north of the historic city of Charleston in South Carolina, with wind speeds of 85 mph (140 kph).

Roads were flooded and blocked by trees while a num-



A destroyed gas station is seen after Hurricane Ian caused widespread destruction in Fort Myers, Florida

YOU KNOW WHAT

Insurers braced for a hit of between \$28 billion and \$47 billion, in what could be the costliest Florida storm since Hurricane Andrew in 1992

“We're just beginning to see the scale of that destruction. It's likely to rank among the worst ... in the nation's history”

US PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

ber of piers were damaged. Over 1.6 million homes and businesses were without power in the Carolinas, Virginia and Florida at 11:00 am ET (1500 GMT) yesterday, according to tracking website PowerOutage.us.

Both the number of casualties and repair costs remain unclear, but the extent of the damage was becoming apparent as Florida entered its third day after Ian first hit.

There were at least 35 deaths in Florida's Lee County alone

that were attributable to the hurricane, the county sheriff's office said in a Facebook Post yesterday morning. Many of the deceased across Florida were elderly citizens, including a 92-year-old man, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement said earlier.

Thousands of people were still unaccounted for, officials said, but many of them were likely in shelters or without power.

"Those older homes that just aren't as strong built, they got washed into the sea," Governor Ron DeSantis said on Friday.

"If you are hunkering down in that, that is something that I think would be very difficult to be survivable."

Afghan women protest Hazara 'genocide' after Kabul bombing

AFP | Kabul

Dozens of women from Afghanistan's minority Hazara community protested in the capital yesterday after a suicide bombing a day earlier killed 20 people -- mostly young women from the ethnic group.

A bomber blew himself up on Friday at a Kabul study hall as hundreds of pupils were taking tests in preparation for university entrance exams in the city's Dasht-e-Barchi area.

YOU KNOW WHAT

The Taliban regard the Hazara community as heathens, and rights groups often accused the Islamists of targeting them during their 20-year insurgency against the former US-backed government



Afghan women display placards and chant slogans during a protest

The western neighbourhood is a predominantly Shiite Muslim enclave and home to the minority Hazara community -- a historically oppressed group that has been targeted in some of Afghanistan's most brutal attacks in recent years.

Police said at least 20 people were killed but the United Nations has put the number at 24.

Yesterday about 50 women chanted, "Stop Hazara genocide, it's not a crime to be a Shiite", as they marched past a hospital in Dasht-e-Barchi where several victims of the

attack were being treated. Dressed in black hijabs and headscarves, angry protesters carried banners that read: "Stop killing Hazaras", an AFP correspondent reported.

Witnesses have told AFP that the suicide attacker detonated in the women's section of the gender-segregated hall.

"Yesterday's attack was against the Hazaras and Hazara girls," protester Farzana Ahmadi, 19, said.

"We demand a stop to this genocide. We staged the protest to demand our rights."

Russia

Russian forces withdr

● Lyman is key logistics hub in eastern Donetsk region

Reuters | Kyiv

After being encircled by Ukrainian forces, Russia pulled troops out yesterday from an eastern Ukrainian city that it had been using as a front-line hub. It was the latest victory for the Ukrainian counteroffensive that has humiliated and angered the Kremlin.

Russia's withdrawal from Lyman complicates its internationally vilified move to annex four regions of Ukraine and paves the way for Ukrainian troops to potentially push further into land that Moscow now illegally claims as its own.

The fighting comes at a pivotal moment in Russian President Vladimir Putin's war. Facing Ukrainian gains on the battlefield -- which he frames as a US-orchestrated effort to destroy Russia -- Putin this week heightened his threats of nuclear force and used his most aggressive, anti-Western rhetoric to date.

Russia's Defense Ministry claimed to have inflicted damage on Ukrainian forces in battling to hold onto Lyman, but said outnumbered Russian troops were withdrawn to more favorable positions. The Russian announcement came soon after Ukraine's air force said it had moved into Lyman and the Ukrainian president's chief of staff posted photos of a Ukrainian flag being hoisted on the town's outskirts.

Lyman, a key transport hub, had been an important node in the Russian front line for both

One dead, dozens earthquake hits I

Reuters | Jakarta

A 5.9-magnitude earthquake hit Indonesia's Sumatra island early yesterday, according to the US Geological Survey, killing at least one person and injuring dozens as locals rushed out of buildings seeking safety.

The quake hit at a relatively shallow depth of 13 kilometers (eight miles) just before 2:30 am (1930 GMT), about 40 kilometers from the town of Sibolga in North Sumatra province, according to the USGS.

A man in his 50s died from a heart attack triggered by the quake and at least 25 other people were injured, regional disaster mitigation agency official Febrina Tampubolon said.

Authorities are still gathering reports on damage but electricity poles and telecommunication towers have been hit, knocking out services, said Tampubolon.

More than 50 aftershocks were recorded by the Indonesian Meteorology and Geophysics Agency.

BMKG head Dwikorita Karnawati advised residents to watch for further tremors and urged people to seek shelter on safe ground.