

Roman Emperor Julian moves from Antioch with an army of 90,000 to attack the Sassanid Empire, in a campaign that brings about his own death

Persian scholar Naser Khosrow begins the 7 year Middle Eastern journey which he will later describe in his book Safarnama

English King Henry VII grants John Cabot (Giovanni Caboto) a commission to explore for new lands



Winston Churchill's "Iron Curtain" speech in Fulton, Missouri, popularizes the term and draws attention to the division of Europe



TOP
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TWEETS

01



India is honoured to be at the forefront of popularising Millets, whose consumption furthers nutrition, food security and welfare of farmers. This also offers research and innovation opportunities for agriculture scientists and start-up communities.

@narendramodi

02



Over the past year, #COVID19 has disproportionately hit people with #obesity, who are more likely to be hospitalised & have a higher likelihood of severe disease & death. At the same time, the pandemic has made combating the obesity epidemic even more difficult. #WorldObesityDay.

@DrTedros

03



I'm horrified by the escalation of violence in Myanmar and the killing of pro-democracy protesters. We stand with the people of Myanmar in calling for an immediate end to military repression, the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and others, and the restoration of democracy.

@BorisJohnson

04



We need to transform how we view & value nature. Nature's resources still don't figure in our calculations of wealth. If we reflect nature's true value in all our policies, plans & economic systems the rewards will be immense.

@antonioguterres

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)

Myanmar protesters return as UN urges end to violence

Protesters return to streets as thousands attend funeral for 19-year-old woman killed in bloodiest day since coup

● Dozens of people were killed in the deadliest day of the crackdown by Myanmar's military against anti-coup protesters

AFP | Yangon

Defiant anti-coup protesters returned to the streets across Myanmar yesterday after the deadliest day of the junta's crackdown, as the United Nations called on the military to "stop murdering" civilians.

Myanmar has been in uproar since the military seized power on February 1, ending a decade-long experiment with democracy and triggering a mass uprising that the junta has increasingly sought to quash with lethal force.

Wednesday was the bloodiest day so far, with the UN saying at least 38 people died, as online images streamed out of Myanmar showing security forces firing into crowds and blood-covered bodies with bullet wounds in their heads.

UN rights chief Michelle Bachelet yesterday urged security forces to "halt their vicious crackdown on peaceful protesters".

"Myanmar's military must stop murdering and jailing protesters," she said in a statement.

"It is utterly abhorrent that security forces are firing live ammunition against peaceful protesters across the country."

The UN rights office also said it has verified at least 54 deaths since the coup -- though the actual number could be far higher -- and over 1,700 people have been detained.

State-run media yesterday blamed the "riots" on protesters and said security forces "used only crowd control weapons to keep the injuries to a minimum".

Demonstrators returned to the streets again in Yangon and Mandalay, the nation's two biggest cities, as well as other towns that have been hotspots for unrest.

In recent days, Yangon's San Chaung township has descended into chaos as security forces massed there to stop anti-coup protesters from gathering.



People attend the funeral of Angel a 19-year-old protester also known as Kyal Sin who was shot in the head



Myanmar's military must stop murdering and jailing protesters. It is utterly abhorrent that security forces are firing live ammunition against peaceful protesters across the country

MICHELLE BACHELET
UN RIGHTS CHIEF

A residential neighbourhood known for its hip cafes, restaurants and bars, its streets yesterday were transformed with barricades built from sandbags, tyres, bricks and barbed wire.

Passersby walked on images of junta leader Min Aung Hlaing, which protesters plastered on the ground to slow chasing security forces who will avoid stepping on the portraits.

"Yesterday was horrific... it was devastating to learn the military in Myanmar was never changed since 1962," activist Thinzar Shunlei Yi told AFP.

But "resistance is now our duty", she said, pledging to protest every day.

'Fear, false news'

The junta has sought to hide its crackdown from the rest of the world, choking the internet and banning Facebook -- the most popular social media platform.

Six journalists were arrested on the weekend and charged under a law prohibiting "causing fear, spreading false news, or agitating directly or indirectly a government employee", according to their lawyer Tin Zar Oo.

Among them was Associated Press photographer Thein Zaw, who was arrested Saturday as he covered a demonstration in Yangon. Video emerged on Wednesday of him being held in a chokehold by police as he was handcuffed.

However protesters, citizen journalists and some media groups have continued to send images out of Myanmar, and yesterday the funeral of a 19-year-old woman killed in Mandalay was streamed live on Facebook.

The victim, Kyal Sin, had been wearing a T-shirt emblazoned with "Everything will be OK" in big letters on the front when she was shot in the head.

"She was very angry about what was happening around the country," said her friend Linlue Waddy. "She always said she needed to protest for the country."

Greece assesses damage from 6.3 magnitude quake



A church damaged in the quake

AFP | Athens

Engineers in central Greece yesterday were assessing the damage from a strong 6.3 magnitude quake that injured at least 11 people, damaged hundreds of buildings and spread panic.

The recovery work began as scores of people from the villages of Damasi and Mesochori, some 240 kilometres (149 miles) north of Athens, spent the night away from their homes after Wednesday's quake, many sleeping in their cars.

Civil protection officials said tents had been set up at Damasi's outdoor stadium for temporary accommodation, in addition to five hotels in the nearby town of Trikala and the main city of Larissa.

Repeated aftershocks have struck the area, including a strong 5.2 magnitude tremor on Wednesday evening.

Crews inspected schools, hospitals and other vital public buildings in the area, in addition to homes, state news agency ANA said, adding that schools were closed yesterday.

State TV ERT said more than 300 homes had suffered various degrees of damage. Locals said stone buildings over 60 years old had been the hardest hit.

The earthquake also appears to have affected the water supply around the Larissa area, with many households reporting cloudy water.

SpaceX Starship rocket prototype nails landing... then blows up

● Elon Musk's last two prototypes reached similarly high altitude, but crash-landed in fireballs

Reuters | Los Angeles

The third time appeared to be the charm for Elon Musk's Starship rocket - until it wasn't.

The latest heavy-duty launch vehicle prototype from SpaceX soared flawlessly into the sky in a high-altitude test blast-off on Wednesday from Boca Chica, Texas, then flew itself back to Earth to achieve the first upright landing for a Starship model.

But the triumph was short-lived. Listing slightly to one side as an automated fire-suppres-



SpaceX Starship SN10 explodes after landing at South Padre Island, Texas

sion system trained a stream of water on flames still burning at the base of the rocket, the spacecraft blew itself to pieces about eight minutes after touchdown.

It was the third such landing attempt to end in a fireball after an otherwise successful

test flight for the Starship, being developed by SpaceX to carry humans and 100 tons of cargo on future missions to the moon and Mars.

For Musk, the billionaire SpaceX founder who also heads the electric carmaker Tesla Inc,

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A first orbital Starship flight is planned for year's end. Musk has said he intends to fly Japanese billionaire Yusaku Maezawa around the moon with the Starship in 2023

and SN9 in February. In a tweet responding to tempered congratulations from an admirer of his work, Musk replied, "RIP SN10, honourable discharge."

The video feed provided by SpaceX on the company's YouTube channel cut off moments after the landing. But separate fan feeds streamed over the same social media platform showed an explosion suddenly erupting at the base of the rocket, hurling the SN10 into the air before it crashed to the ground and became engulfed in flames.

The complete Starship rocket, which will stand 394-feet (120 metres) tall when mated with its super-heavy first-stage booster, is SpaceX's next-generation fully reusable launch vehicle - the center of Musk's ambitions to make human space travel more affordable and routine.

the outcome was mixed news.

The Starship SN10 came far closer to achieving a safe, vertical touchdown than two previous models - SN8 in December