

world

US fighter jet crashes

Tokyo, Japan

A US navy fighter jet crashed into the sea off Japan's southern island of Okinawa yesterday and its two crew members were rescued alive, Japan's defence ministry said.

The fighter jet crashed some 250 kilometres (156 miles) east-southeast of Okinawa's capital city Naha at around 11:45 am (0245 GMT), said Osamu Kosakai, spokesman for the ministry's Okinawa defence bureau.

Its two crew members ejected and were rescued by a US military helicopter, he told AFP, adding the accident was "not life-threatening".

The fighter jet crashed "due to engine trouble," he said.

Japan's coastguard "dispatched an aircraft to the waters to see if there is any debris or floating oil", a coastguard spokesman said.

China postpones lifting rhino, tiger parts ban

Beijing, China

China appeared to backtrack on a controversial decision to lift a ban on trading tiger bones and rhinoceros horns, saying it has been postponed, state media reported Monday.

The State Council, China's cabinet, unexpectedly announced last month that it would allow the sale of rhino and tiger products under "special circumstances", a move conservationists likened to signing a death warrant for the endangered species.

Permitted uses included scientific research, sales of cultural relics, and "medical research or in healing".

But in an interview transcript published by the official Xinhua news agency, a senior State Council official said the new rules have been put on hold.

Indian state votes

Raipur, India

Tens of thousands of armed police were on duty yesterday as a restive Indian state wracked by violence went to the polls.

Maoist militants have unleashed a string of deadly attacks ahead of the vote in mineral-rich Chhattisgarh, one of India's poorest states, killing 13 people in recent weeks.

The vote -- one of five state elections this month and next ahead of 2019 general elections -- is staggered because of the violence, with a second round on November 20.

WHO maps dangerous misuse of antibiotics

Antibiotics consumption is dangerously high in some countries while a shortage in others is spurring

● Report based on 2015 data from 65 countries and regions

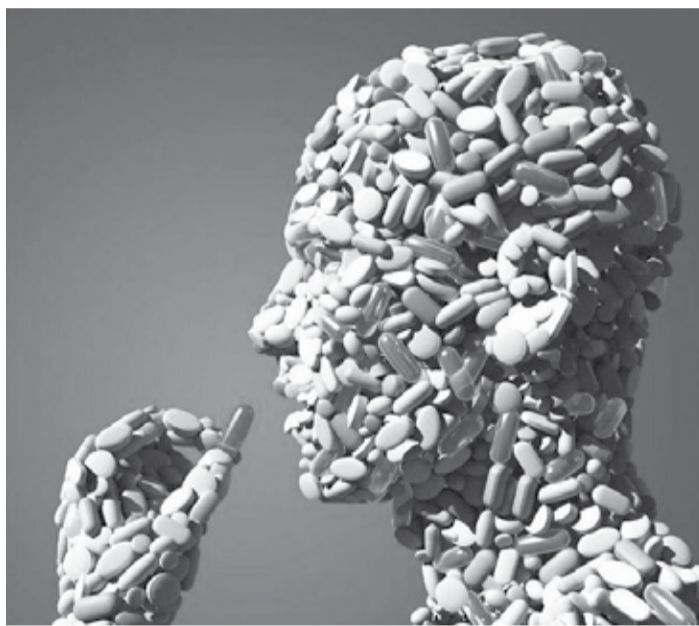
● Notably missing from the chart are the United States, China and India.

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

The World Health Organization warned yesterday that antibiotics consumption is dangerously high in some countries while a shortage in others is spurring risky misuse, driving the emergence of deadly superbug infections.

In a first, the United Nations health agency said it had collated data on antibiotic use across large parts of the world and had found huge differences in consumption.

The report, based on 2015 data from 65 countries and regions,



Representative picture

showed a significant difference in consumption rates from as low as around four so-called defined daily doses (DDD) per

1,000 inhabitants per day in Burundi to more than 64 in Mongolia.

"Overuse and misuse of an-



Bacteria can become resistant when patients use antibiotics they do not need, or do not finish a course of treatment, giving the half-defeated bug a chance to recover and build immunity.

antibiotics are the leading causes of antimicrobial resistance," Suzanne Hill, head of WHO's essential medicines unit, said in a statement.

"Without effective antibiotics

and other antimicrobials, we will lose our ability to treat common infections like pneumonia," she warned.

In Europe, which provided the most complete data for the report, the average antibiotic consumption was nearly 18 DDD per 1,000 inhabitants per day.

But within the region, Turkey, which ranked the highest at over 38 DDD, showed nearly five times higher consumption than the lowest consumer-country Azerbaijan, which counted fewer than eight DDD.

WHO acknowledged the picture of how antibiotics are used around the world remains far from complete.

Monday's overview, for instance, includes only four countries in Africa, three in the Middle East and six in the Asia-Pacific region.

Notably missing from the chart are the United States, China and India.

Jordan floods toll rises to 13

Amman, Jordan

Jordanian rescuers yesterday found the body of a five-year-old girl killed in flash floods that have left a total of 13 people dead in the kingdom, the civil defence said.

On Friday torrential rains swept the south of the country, forcing nearly 4,000 tourists to flee the famed desert city of Petra and causing damage to

roads, homes and vehicles.

Authorities mobilised emergency services and the armed forces to assist people stricken by rising waters and search for those missing. The five-year-old girl had disappeared in the Madaba region south of the capital Amman when the car she was in was swept away by flooding, the civil defence said.

The discovery of her body yesterday raised the overall

death toll since Friday to 13, including a diver for the emergency services, civil defence head Mustafa al-Bazaiha told state television.

Twenty-nine people have been injured, including four members of the civil defence and four from the security forces, he said. Search operations that had been under way since Friday were now over, he added.

Pilot loses licence failing breath test

New Delhi, India

A veteran pilot had his flying licence revoked yesterday after failing a breath test moments before captaining an Air India plane to London, India's aviation regulator said.

Arvind Kathpalia, a pilot and senior executive with the national airline, blew positive

for alcohol before entering the Dreamliner jet's cockpit for the nearly 10-hour flight to the United Kingdom on Sunday.

"He failed the breath analyzer and as per rules we have decided to cancel his licence for three years with immediate effect," an official with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation said.

Deadly California wildfire death toll rises to 29

AFP | Paradise, United States

The death toll in a raging California wildfire has reached 29, matching the deadliest in the state's history as firefighters battling blazes at both ends of the state yesterday braced for strong winds.

The "Camp Fire" -- in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains north of Sacramento -- is the largest and most destructive of several infernos that have broken out.

The flames have sent 250,000 people fleeing their homes across the tinder-dry state and razed 6,400 homes in the town of Paradise, effectively wiping it off the map.

Butte County Sheriff Kory Honea announced the new death toll at a news conference Sunday, adding that all were found in Paradise area.

At least 31 people have



Burnt out vehicles are seen on the side of the road in Paradise, California

died in fire zones in north and south California, where acrid smoke blanketed the sky for miles, the sun barely visible.

On the ground, cars caught in the flames were reduced to scorched metal skeletons, while

homes were left as smoldering piles of debris, with an occasional brick wall or chimney remaining.

Some 200 people remained unaccounted for in the Paradise area alone, officials said. Several fire-affected areas were left

without cell phone service.

The fire matched the 1933 Griffith Park disaster in Los Angeles -- until now the single deadliest wildfire on record, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire).

At the southern end of the state, the "Woolsey Fire" has destroyed mansions and mobile homes in the coastal celebrity redoubt of Malibu, where the death toll has been limited to two victims found in a vehicle on a private driveway.

The National Weather Service has issued a "Red Flag" alert for fire-affected Los Angeles and Ventura County.

It said winds of up to 50 miles (80 kilometers) per hour were expected in the coastal region, and up to 60 mph (96 kph) in mountainous areas.

Many of the southern Califor-

nia area's residents own horses, and for the past days Twitter has been filled with messages of people seeking and offering help.

Actor James Woods, a rare political conservative in liberal Hollywood, has made new friends by using his Twitter account to help find missing people and getting help for pets, including horses.

"Please think about fostering #pets while evacuees are dealing with the crisis. Los Angeles #animal shelters are mostly filled, so follow my hashtags, and see if someone in need is someone you can help!" read one of his tweets.

The Ventura County Humane Society said it was "deeply humbled by a \$100,000 donation from (actress) Sandra Bullock and family" to rescue and care for animals evacuated from the fires.