

world

Egypt detains two foreigners for cocaine smuggling

Cairo, Egypt

Egypt on Saturday detained two foreigners for drug smuggling after they flew in to Cairo international airport carrying a large quantity of cocaine, official sources told AFP.

A Cairo prosecutor ordered the German woman and Turkish man held "for four days for investigations on charges of bringing in 11 kilogrammes of cocaine" into the country, a judicial source said.

A security source said the pair arrived on an Emirates flight from Dubai.

Surfer seriously injured in Australia shark attack

Sydney, Australia

A 41-year-old surfer was airlifted to hospital Sunday after being bitten in a suspected shark attack on Australia's famed Byron Bay.

The man was out catching waves shortly after dawn at Belongil Beach when police said he was "bitten on the leg by a shark".

Images taken shortly after appeared to show a chunk bitten out of the tail of the man's surfboard.

"I was freaking. When I heard the screams he was making in the water and then I saw a chunk of his board floating off, that's when I realised it was pretty bad," a fellow surfer told national broadcaster ABC.

The victim managed to float back to shore on his board and signalled to other beachgoers for help.

Venezuelans begin preparing for aid

Caracas, Venezuela

Thousands of volunteers in Venezuela will begin mobilizing to bring American aid into their crisis-hit country despite a blockade by President Nicolas Maduro who claims the assistance could be cover for a US invasion.

Once-wealthy Venezuela is gripped by a power struggle between socialist leader Maduro and Juan Guaido, the head of the National Assembly who proclaimed himself interim president last month and now has the backing of more than 50 countries.

But even as the political battle pitting Guaido against Maduro continued to deepen, Caracas confirmed talks had taken place with an envoy for US President Donald Trump's administration.

The oil-rich country's economic meltdown under Maduro has left millions in poverty facing shortages of medicine and food, with hyperinflation making purchases impossible.

US aid that has been piling up in the Colombian border town of Cucuta has become the frontline



Trucks loaded with humanitarian aid for Venezuela arrive at the Tienditas Bridge in Cucuta, Colombia, on the border with Tachira, Venezuela

of the confrontation between Guaido and Maduro.

"Venezuela is preparing for the humanitarian avalanche," Guaido told about 4,000 supporters clad in white T-shirts and green scarves who gathered

Saturday to sign up as volunteers.

The throng included doctors, nurses and students.

Six hundred thousand people have registered to help bring aid in through border points,

Guaido told the Caracas rally, asking the volunteers to meet in town councils on Sunday to get instructions about the process.

Without revealing details that could jeopardize the operation, Guaido said volunteer brigades

will travel in a bus caravan to entry points for the aid which he wants to come in next Saturday.

Coromoto Crespo, 58, told AFP he volunteered because of the urgent need for supplies.

"To find medicines requires a miracle. I need tablets for high blood pressure, and what I find, I can't pay for," Crespo said.

"One of my relatives died because of a lack of antibiotics."

Guaido has targeted February 23 for entry of the aid, most of which arrived for the stockpile on Saturday. Three US military cargo planes delivered several dozen more tons (tonnes) of food assistance to Cucuta.

Another US aircraft is due in the Caribbean island of Curacao from Miami on Tuesday, and a collection center for Brazilian aid will open Monday on the border, Guaido's team said.

The US shipment Saturday was accompanied by a delegation led by Mark Green, head of the US Agency for International Development.

US assistance has been blocked by containers which Maduro loyalists placed on a border bridge to prevent access.

24 bodies retrieved from flooded Zimbabwe gold mine: report

Harare, Zimbabwe

Rescue workers retrieved 24 bodies and eight survivors Saturday from two flooded gold mines in Zimbabwe where officials fear dozens more illegal miners are still trapped, state television reported.

"Eight of the trapped minors have been rescued ... while 24 bodies have been retrieved to date as rescue efforts continue at Battlefields Mine," the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation reported.



A miner gets ready to descend into a mining pit during a mine search and rescue operation at Cricket Mine in Kadoma, Mashonaland West Province

The two disused mines are situated near the town of Kadoma, 145 kilometres (90 miles) southwest of the capital Harare.

The rescued received medical attention on site before being taken to hospital, but were in a stable condition, the report added.

Television footage showed some of the men, in soaked, muddy clothes, being helped to a makeshift clinic.

In a clip posted on Twitter, one survivor told journalists that the waters had risen to neck

level, forcing them to stand for days until it receded.

On Friday the government said that between 60 and 70 "artisanal" miners were trapped in two shafts.

It launched an appeal for \$200,000 to be used "to pump out water, feeding the bereaved families and the (rescue) teams on the ground, transportation and burial of the victims", local minister July Moyo said in a statement. Zimbabwe is in the throes of a deep economic crisis, the worst in a decade.

Vaccine shock



A child reacts during a Philippine Read Cross Measles Outbreak Vaccination Response in Baseco compound, a slum area in Manila. A growing measles outbreak in the Philippines killed at least 25 people last month, officials said, putting some of the blame on mistrust stoked by a scare over an anti-dengue fever vaccine.

Marx memorial vandalised in London for second time

London, United Kingdom

The memorial of German philosopher Karl Marx has been vandalised in London for the second time in two weeks, the cemetery that manages the site said on Saturday.

The words "architect of genocide", "terror and oppression" and "mass murder" were written in red paint on the grave in the capital's Highgate cemetery. "Doctrine of hate" was also scrawled on the memorial, among other slogans.

The grave of Marx, who developed the theory of international communism, was also attacked on February 4 when it was seemingly struck several times with a blunt metal instrument.

A marble plaque with the names of Marx and his family -- the monument's oldest and most fragile part -- was repeatedly hit.



The tomb of German revolutionary philosopher Karl Marx, a Grade I-listed monument, is seen in Highgate Cemetery in north London.

"Vandals back at Marx Memorial, Highgate Cemetery. Red paint this time, plus the marble tablet smashed up," tweeted Highgate Cemetery on Saturday alongside photos of the memorial covered in red paint.

"Senseless. Stupid. Ignorant. Whatever you think about Marx's legacy, this is not the way to make the point," it said. German revolutionary

philosopher Marx moved to London in 1849 and lived in the city for the rest of his life.

His theories became the basis for communism. He died on March 14, 1883, aged 64.

The granite slab monument in north London, 12 feet (3.7 metres) tall and topped with a bronze bust of Marx, was funded in 1956 by the Communist Party of Great Britain.