

world

Turkish cargo ship sinks off Croatia, crew evacuated

AFP | Zagreb

A Turkish-flagged cargo ship was sinking off the Croatian coast yesterday and its 13-member crew was being taken off with no pollution detected for now, the Croat transport ministry said. The evacuation of the crew started at 0405 GMT and no one was injured.

The ship was sinking north of Vis island in the centre of the Adriatic, a ministry statement said.

Japanese princess to watch World Cup

Reuters | Moscow

Japan's Princess Takamado will arrive in Russia today to watch her national team compete in the soccer World Cup, the Kyodo news agency reported, marking the first visit to Russia by a Japanese royal in over 100 years.

Relations between Moscow and Tokyo are currently strained over the roll-out of a U.S. missile system and Moscow's move this year to deploy warplanes.

Manager of China aircraft carrier builder under graft probe

AFP | Beijing

China has launched a corruption investigation into the general manager of the state-owned firm responsible for building aircraft carriers, a potential complication in ambitious plans to modernise its navy.

Sun Bo is being probed for "suspicion of serious breach of the party discipline and the law," Communist Party watchdog the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection said in a brief online statement.

Indonesian killed by his mother's falling funeral coffin

AFP | Makassar

An Indonesian was killed when his mother's coffin fell from a funeral tower and crushed him during a service on the island of Sulawesi, police said yesterday.

Samen Kondorura, 40, died Friday when pallbearers lost their footing while carrying the coffin up a bamboo ladder in the Parinding valley in North Toraja district, local police said. The casket fell as the group hoisted it onto a lakian, a carved tower.

Battles rage as UN holds crisis talks in Hodeida

UN envoy hold talks amid warning that offensive could spark humanitarian crisis

● Nearly 4,500 households have been displaced in Hodeida province

AFP | Al Duraihmi

Yemeni pro-government forces, backed by Saudi Arabia, battled Houthi militia around the key port city of Hodeida yesterday, as a top UN envoy held crisis talks with the insurgents in the capital.

Saudi Arabia and its allies in a regional military coalition on Wednesday launched an offensive aimed at retaking the Red Sea city of Hodeida, home to the country's most valuable port which is controlled by the Iran-backed Huthis.

The United Nations has warned the offensive could spark a fresh humanitarian crisis in a country already hit by war and impending famine, sending its envoy for Yemen to the capital Sanaa in a bid to come to a solution with the rebels. The Huthis, who accuse the UN of bias, however said there were major obstacles to any peace talks shortly after meeting with envoy Martin Griffiths on Sunday.

The United Nations and relief



A displaced Yemeni family sit in a classroom of a school after evacuated from a village near Hodeidah airport amid fighting between government forces and Houthi fighters in the Red Sea port city of Hodeidah yesterday

organisations have warned that an all-out assault on Hodeida by the Saudi-led coalition, which commands a massive joint air force, would put hundreds of thousands of people at risk.

Nearly 4,500 households have been displaced in Hodeida province so far this month, the UN said Sunday.

Yemen's military forces have closed in on areas south and west of the port, pushing closer to an airport just south of the docks, sources in the army said. More than 70 percent of

imports to all of Yemen pass through the docks of the Hodeida port.

The army on Saturday claimed it had seized the defunct Hodeida airport, which has been in Houthi hands since 2014.

The Shiite rebels, however, denied the claim in a statement on their Saba news agency on Sunday.

They have also reported Saudi air strikes on Houthi outposts across Hodeida, with the insurgents' representative Hisham Sharaf pointing to the raids as

a major obstacle to peace talks.

The highway between Hodeida and the government-held port of Mokha was cut off Friday in battles between the two warring sides, disrupting precious supply lines to the military.

The fighting is already nearing densely populated residential areas, rights groups have warned, and aid distributions have been suspended in the west of the city.

At least 139 combatants have been killed since the launch of the operation on Wednesday.

Three still in hospital after taxi hits crowd near Kremlin

AFP | Moscow

Three people were recovering in hospital yesterday after a taxi ploughed into pedestrians just steps from Moscow's Red Square during the World Cup in Russia.

Saturday's incident has focused attention on security at the planet's most watched event.

More than 600,000 foreign tourists are expected to descend on Russia during the June 14 to July 15 showpiece.

Colourful crowds of fans from the 32 participating nations have been congregating by Red Square to snap pictures of the Kremlin for the past week.

Moscow police underscored their sensitivity to the case by taking the unusual step of releasing a video of the taxi driver telling investigators he had meant no harm.

"I never violated anything in the Russian Federation," the man said in a pleading voice.

"And everything was fine at work. Everyone respected me."

Authorities identified him as 28-year-old Kyrgyz national Anarbek Chingiz.

He was shown telling police that he had been working for 20 hours and was planning to go home to rest after picking up one more customer.

'The noise is not so bad'

Harri Patel became Heathrow Airport's closest neighbour when he and his family decided to live on the airport's perimeter 23 years ago

Dailymail | Heathrow

A homeowner who watches aircraft roar down the runway from his kitchen window has no problem living next to Europe's busiest airport, saying the noise is not so bad. Harri Patel became Heathrow Airport's closest neighbour when he and his young family decided to trade in their two bedroom house in the suburbs for one on the airport's perimeter 23 years ago.

The 63-year-old does not mind his noisy neighbour despite a constant stream of airliners, including Jumbo jets, landing or taking off throughout the day.

He said: 'I love this house.

There is nothing difficult about living here.'

The father-of-two and his wife Josh, 60, fell in love with the end-of-terrace house just 300 yards from Heathrow's Terminal Four because it was big enough for his family.



Harri does not mind his noisy neighbour despite a constant stream of airliners

Israeli ministers back ban on filming soldiers

AFP | Jerusalem

Israeli ministers yesterday backed a draft law carrying a jail term of up to 10 years for those who film or photograph soldiers with harmful intent, the justice ministry said.

Critics say the law, which will now face a series of parliamentary debates, could be a threat to free speech.

The ministerial committee on legislation endorsed the bill against "people who film, photograph or record soldiers performing their duties in order to demoralise soldiers and Israeli civilians".

The draft law would give courts the power to imprison those found guilty for five years, although a 10-year sentence would apply to defendants convicted of trying to "harm the state's security".

The same prison terms would apply to people sharing such images or recordings on social media or through traditional media.

Explanatory notes of the bill say that local "anti-Israeli" NGOs, as well groups affiliated with the "Boycott, Divestment,



The draft law would give courts the power to imprison violators for five years

Sanctions" (BDS) movement, spend days around "soldiers eagerly awaiting activity that could be documented in a biased way and used to defame them."

The BDS movement leads a global campaign against Israel, targeting the country's economy, art scene and sports.

"Most of these organisations are supported by foundations, organisations and governments with a clear anti-Israel agenda, which use this biased content

to harm Israel and its security," the notes said.

An Israeli soldier was recently released from prison after serving nine months behind bars for shooting dead an injured Palestinian, an act which was caught on video by a human rights group and spread widely online. The draft law was sponsored by the nationalist Yisrael Beitenenu party led by Defence Minister Avigdor Lieberman.