

1783

Britain evacuates New York city, its last military position in the United States

1839

Cyclone slams south eastern India with high winds and a 40 foot storm surge, destroying city of Coringa. Storm waves sweep inland, destroying 20,000 ships and killing an estimated 300,000 people

1905

Telimco makes the 1st ever advertisement for a radio set, by advertising a \$7.50 set in the "Scientific American" which claimed to receive signals for up to one mile



1986

Iran-Contra affair erupts, President Reagan reveals secret arms deal

# to run mats

Yet Qatari officials have urged greater international engagement with the Taliban to prevent impoverished Afghanistan from falling into a humanitarian crisis. Gulf states have also voiced concern that the US withdrawal would allow al Qaeda to regain a foothold in Afghanistan.

While there is little commercial benefit for any operator, the airport would provide a much-needed source of intelligence on movements in and out of the country, according to the four diplomats, who said that since the withdrawal many countries have lacked real-time information.

The UAE has maintained ties with the Taliban too, according to two of the diplomats. They said the country had been home to some members of the group in recent years, including Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai, who they added lived in the Sharjah emirate with his family from at least 2013. Stanikzai is now deputy foreign minister in the Taliban administration.

Al Zaabi did not respond to questions on the UAE's relationship with Stanikzai. The Taliban did not immediately respond to queries on Stanikzai living in the UAE.

The Taliban said this month that the UAE had reopened its embassy in Kabul. The UAE has not commented.

# d Merkel era

The alliance - named a traffic light coalition after the three parties' respective colours - has a majority in the lower house of parliament and hopes the government will be sworn in early next month after the parties ratify the coalition pact.

It faces immediate challenges, with Germany tackling its worst COVID-19 surge yet and Europe grappling with the fallout from Brexit and a crisis on the EU's border with Belarus.

## France backs Poland over Belarus but warns EU row not over

● **Macron backs Poland on border but raises rule of law row**

● **Polish PM says discussed toughening sanctions on Minsk**

● **Ukraine holds drills near Belarus border**

● **HRW says Belarus, Poland share blame for migrant suffering**

● **Poland reports renewed crossing attempts overnight**

Reuters | Paris/Warsaw

France assured Poland of European Union support in its stand-off with Belarus yesterday, but reminded Warsaw it needed to resolve a row with the bloc over its values and the rule of law.

Polish Prime Minister Ma-



Migrants look through clothes near the transport and logistics centre Bruzgi on the Belarusian-Polish border, in the Grodno region, Belarus

teusz Morawiecki met French President Emmanuel Macron as part of a diplomatic effort to rally support for a tough response to what European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen called an attempt by Belarus to use migrants to destabilise the European Union.

While Macron reaffirmed his solidarity with Poland, he reiterated concerns over the rule of law and "called on the Polish

government to find a solution that safeguarded the core values of the European Union," his office said.

With thousands of people fleeing the Middle East and other hotspots stranded on the EU's eastern border, Poland, Lithuania and Latvia are on the front line of what the EU says is a crisis engineered by Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko.

He has denied EU allegations that Belarus has flown migrants into the country and then pushed them across EU borders.

At the same time, Brussels is locked in a long-running dispute with Warsaw over the independence of Poland's judiciary, press freedoms and LGBT rights.

The row came to a head in October when a Polish court ruling questioned the supremacy of EU law, which was seen in Brussels as a challenge to the bloc's unity and stoked fears that Poland could eventually leave.

Morawiecki, who visited Budapest and Zagreb on Tuesday, was due in Slovenia, which holds the EU rotating presidency, later on Wednesday and to meet Germany's acting Chancellor Angela Merkel on Thursday and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Friday.

"The prime minister is now talking to the EU leaders, starting with Paris, President Macron, to keep the unity of the European Union ... and be prepared for further actions," Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Marcin Przydacz told Reuters.

## Russia and Ukraine both step up military alert

● **Russia holds drills in Black Sea, Ukraine near Belarus**

● **Moscow says conventional, nuclear forces need to be combat-ready**

Reuters | Moscow/Kyiv

Russia staged military drills in the Black Sea, south of Ukraine, yesterday and said it needed to sharpen the combat-readiness of its conventional and nuclear forces because of heightened NATO activity near its borders.

Ukraine, which with its ally the United States has said it believes Russia may be preparing an invasion, staged exercises of its own near the border with Belarus.



A Ukrainian Air Force fighter jet takes off during a drill in Mykolaiv region in southern Ukraine

The United States and NATO have signalled their backing for Ukraine in ways that Moscow considers provocative, including through warship manoeuvres this month in the Black Sea and a delivery of U.S. patrol boats to the Ukrainian navy.

British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss told Reuters on Wednesday it would be "a grave mistake from Russia" to attack Ukraine.

Russian fighter planes and ships practiced repelling air

attacks on naval bases and responding with air strikes during military drills on Wednesday in the Black Sea, Interfax reported.

Separately, the news agency quoted Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu as saying the need for Russia to further develop its armed forces was dictated by "the complicated military and political conditions in the world and the growing activity of NATO countries near Russia's borders".



Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu

He said raising the armed forces' capabilities, supporting the combat readiness of nuclear forces and strengthening the potential of non-nuclear deterrence were among the priorities.

Shoigu on Tuesday complained that US bombers had rehearsed a nuclear strike on Russia from two different directions earlier this month and complained that the planes had come too close to the Russian border, drills the Pentagon said had adhered to international protocols.

## Children at lower risk from COVID, vaccines should go to poor - WHO

● **WHO issues guidance on vaccination of children, adolescents**

● **Says youth at lower risk of severe COVID than adults**

● **Obesity, asthma and heart disease are risk factors for children**

● **Rare cases of myocarditis in young men after mRNA vaccines**

Reuters | Geneva

As children and adolescents are at lower risk of severe



Ethiopian Airlines Cargo terminal workers offload a shipment of Johnson & Johnson's coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccines that arrived under the COVAX scheme

COVID-19 disease, countries should prioritise adults and sharing vaccine doses with the COVAX programme to bring supplies to poorer countries, the World Health Organisation said yesterday.

Some rare cases of heart inflammation called myocarditis have been reported in younger men who received vaccines based on mRNA technology - Pfizer BioNTech and Moderna - but these

were generally mild and responded to treatment, it said.

Although that risk had not been fully determined, it was less than the risk of myocarditis linked to SARS-CoV-2 infection, it said.

The WHO's interim guidance was issued as more regulatory agencies authorise certain vaccines for use in children, including the United States, China, European Union, India and Israel, and most recently Canada last week. "As children and adolescents tend to have milder disease compared to adults, unless they are in a group at higher risk of severe COVID-19, it is less urgent to vaccinate them than older people, those with chronic health conditions and health workers," the WHO said.

Children can experience "long COVID-19" with prolonged symptoms but this was still under in-

vestigation, it said.

Several risk factors for severe COVID-19 in children have been reported including older age, obesity and pre-existing conditions including type 2 diabetes, asthma and heart disease, it added.

Maintaining education for all school-aged children should be an important priority during the pandemic, although transmission mitigation measures might be needed in schools, the WHO said.

Given vaccine supply constraints, immunisation programmes should focus on protecting groups at high risk of hospitalisation and death, the WHO said.

"As many parts of the world face extreme vaccine shortages, countries with high coverage in at-risk populations should prioritize global sharing of COVID-19 vaccines before vaccinating children, adolescents," it said.



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



I condemn in the strongest terms the use of violence and the murders of human rights defenders and FARC ex-combatants in Colombia. My condolences to their families and my solidarity with all those who continue working to realize the promise of the Peace Agreement.

@antonio-guterresSecPompeo

02



Andrew Harper was killed doing the job he loved. Today we are honouring him by introducing Harper's Law. This new law will introduce mandatory life sentences for those who are convicted of killing on-duty emergency workers while committing a crime.

@priti-patel

03



The World Trusts India! Venture Capital inflow in India stands at an all-time high of \$19.5 billion in the first 9 months of 2021. With innovative startups & business-friendly ecosystem, India emerges as a trusted destination for global investors.

@piyushgoyal

04



Jill and I know firsthand what it means to be a military family, and we're so grateful for everything they do. It was an honor to celebrate an early Thanksgiving with them last night at Fort Bragg.

@JoeBiden

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