

Myanmar police launch most extensive crackdown

Officers intensify use of force, firing teargas and rubber bullets at people protesting against coup

● **Woman reportedly shot and wounded during crackdown**

Reuters | Yangon

Police in Myanmar launched their most sweeping crackdown in three weeks of nationwide protests against military rule yesterday, arresting hundreds of people and shooting and wounding at least one person.

State television announced that Myanmar's U.N. envoy had been fired for betraying the country, a day after he urged the United Nations to use "any means necessary" to reverse the Feb. 1 coup that ousted elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Myanmar has been in turmoil since the army seized power and detained Suu Kyi and much of her party leadership, alleging fraud in a November election her party won in a landslide.

The coup, which stalled My-



Police arrest anti-coup protesters in Yangon

anmar's progress toward democracy, has brought hundreds of thousands of protesters onto the streets and drawn condemnation from Western countries, with some imposing limited sanctions.

Police were out in force early yesterday, taking up positions at usual protest sites in the main city of Yangon.

Confrontations developed as people came out despite the police operation, chanting and

singing. They scattered into side streets and buildings as police advanced, firing tear gas, setting off stun grenades and shooting guns into the air. Police set upon some people with clubs, witnesses said.

State-run MRTV television said more than 470 people had been arrested across the country. It said police had given warnings before dispersing people with stun grenades.

"People blocked the roads

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More than 770 people have been arrested, charged and sentenced since the putsch with some 680 still behind bars

without reason. Among those arrested, we will scrutinize those who organize the protests and take tough action," it said.

The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners rights group said it believed the number of arrests was higher, with at least 10 prison buses carrying 40 to 50 people each taken to the Insein Prison in Yangon.

Several journalists were among those detained, their media organisations and colleagues said.

Spanish report calls for killing of more than 850 cattle on pariah ship

Reuters | Madrid

More than 850 cows that spent months aboard a ship wandering across the Mediterranean are not fit for transport anymore and should be killed, according to a confidential report by Spanish government veterinarians.

The cows were kept in what an animal rights activist called



Livestock ship docked in Cartagena

"hellish" conditions on the Karim Allah, which docked in the southeastern Spanish port of Cartagena on Thursday after struggling to find a buyer for the cattle during the past two months.

The beasts were rejected by several countries over fears they had bovine bluetongue virus. The insect-borne virus causes lameness and haemorrhaging

among cattle. Bluetongue does not affect humans.

The veterinarians' report concluded that the animals had suffered from the lengthy journey. Some of them were unwell and not fit for transport outside of the European Union, nor should they be allowed in the EU. Euthanasia would be the best solution for their health and welfare, it said.

Trump endorses rival to Republican who voted to impeach

AFP | Washington

Former US president Donald Trump has signaled he will seek revenge on fellow Republicans who voted to impeach him last month, and he followed through, endorsing an ex-aide against an Ohio congressman.

Trump threw his "complete and total" support behind Max Miller, a 2020 deputy campaign manager and White House advisor challenging Representative Anthony Gonzalez, one of 10 Republicans who voted to impeach Trump after the deadly January 6 riot at the US Capitol.

"Max Miller is a wonderful person who did a great job at the White House and will be a fantastic congressman," Trump said in a statement.

"Current Rep. Anthony Gonzalez should not be representing the people of the 16th district because he does not represent their interest or their heart," Trump added.

Archaeologists uncover ancient ceremonial carriage near Pompeii

Reuters | Rome

Archaeologists have unearthed a unique ancient-Roman ceremonial carriage from a villa just outside Pompeii, the city buried in a volcanic eruption in 79 AD.

The almost perfectly preserved four-wheeled carriage made of iron, bronze and tin was found near the stables of an ancient villa at Civita Giuliana, around 700 metres (yards) north of the walls of ancient Pompeii.

Massimo Osanna, the outgoing director of the Pompeii archaeological site, said the carriage was the first of its kind discovered in the area, which had so far yielded functional vehicles used for transport and work, but not for ceremonies.

"This is an extraordinary discovery that advances our understanding of the ancient world," Osanna said, adding that the carriage would have "accompanied festive moments for the community, (such as) parades and processions".



The ancient-Roman ceremonial carriage discovered in Pompeii

The culture ministry called it "a unique find, without any precedent in Italy".

Pompeii, 23 km (14 miles) southeast of Naples, was home to about 13,000 people when it was buried under ash, pumice pebbles and dust as it endured the force of an eruption equivalent to many atomic bombs.

About two-thirds of the 66-hectare (165-acre) ancient town has been uncovered. The ruins were not discovered until the 16th century and organised excavations began in about 1750.

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News in brief

Haiti prison breakout leaves 25 dead, 200 on the run



◆ More than 200 prisoners were on the run in Haiti, a day after they escaped from jail in a violent breakout that left 25 people dead including the prison director, officials said. About 400 inmates fled on Thursday, with photographs showing at least three dead bodies lying outside the prison and some captured prisoners under armed guard in the back of a truck.

Colombia launched a 7,000-strong elite force to fight rebels financed by drug trafficking and other illegal activities, and which allegedly operate across borders.

Surrounded by helicopters, tanks and hundreds of soldiers at the Tolomaida military base in central Colombia, President Ivan Duque described the launch as "historic". The force, he said, will be tasked with "subduing, beating and subjecting the structures of drug trafficking and the... threats linked to the illegal exploitation of minerals, trafficking of species, of persons and, of course, to any transnational form of terrorism."

Colombia launches 'elite force' to hunt rebels, drug gangs



UN, European states call on Israel to halt demolitions



◆ The United Nations and European members of the Security Council

called on Israel to stop demolitions of Bedouin settlements in the Jordan Valley, and for humanitarian access to the community living in Humsa Al-Baqia. In a joint statement at the end of a monthly session of the Security Council on the conflict in the Middle East, Estonia, France, Ireland, Norway

and Britain said they were "deeply concerned at the recent repeated demolitions and confiscation of items, including of EU and donor funded structures carried out by Israeli authorities at Humsa Al-Baqia in the Jordan Valley."

Leading Cuban dissident Jose Daniel Ferrer was arrested at his home in Santiago de Cuba, one of his supporters

said. "They arbitrarily detained Jose Daniel Ferrer, leader of Unpacu, and until now he is missing," Zaqueo Baez, deputy national coordinator of the group, said, referring to the banned opposition organisation the Patriotic Union of Cuba..

Dissident leader Ferrer arrested in Cuba: supporter



Cuba approves animal welfare law after civil society pressure



◆ Cuba has approved a long called-for decree on animal welfare in what

some rights activists are hailing as an unusual triumph of civil society in the Communist-run country where animal sacrifice and cock and dog fighting remain commonplace. The move aims to prevent cruelty and raise awareness about the need to protect animals, marking a cultural advance in a nation where strays abound and the coast is strewn with chicken carcasses sacrificed in religious rituals.

COVID-19 Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	Total deaths	Global tally
1 USA	29,151,933	523,373	114,196,390
2 India	11,096,378	157,085	
3 Brazil	10,457,794	252,988	Deaths
4 Russia	4,234,720	85,743	2,532,972
5 UK	4,170,519	122,705	Recovered:
6 France	3,712,020	86,147	89,761,858
7 Spain	3,188,553	69,142	New cases
8 Italy	2,907,825	97,507	+246,247
9 Turkey	2,693,164	28,432	New deaths
10 Germany	2,437,760	70,460	+5,420
11 Colombia	2,244,792	59,518	
12 Argentina	2,098,728	51,887	
13 Mexico	2,076,882	184,474	
14 Poland	1,696,885	43,656	

Middle East

Figures as of closing

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	181,241		10,590		139,927	30,724
Saudi Arabia	377,061	+338	6,488	+5	368,011	2,562
UAE	388,594	+3,434	1,213	+15	379,708	7,673
Kuwait	189,890	+844	1,078	+6	178,197	10,615
Oman	140,588		1,562		131,684	7,342
Qatar	163,197	+460	257		153,219	9,721