

At Least 11 Dead as Storm Bursts Dams in Europe



This aerial photograph on the left taken on September 15, 2024 shows a view of the flooded streets in Glucholazy, southern Poland.

PRAGUE (AFP) -- Flooding sparked by Storm Boris in central Europe has burst dams, knocked out power and killed at least 11 people, authorities said Monday as some communities were cut off four days into the disaster. High winds and unusually heavy rainfall have hit swathes of Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia since Friday. "I have lived here for 16 years, and I have never seen such flooding," Judith Dickson, who lives in Austria's Sankt Poelten, told the national broadcaster ORF. The rains have flooded streets and submerged entire neighborhoods in some places, while shutting down public trans-

port and electricity in others. In Austria, two people, aged 70 and 80, were found dead in their flooded homes in two communities in Lower Austria, the worst-hit state, police said. One firefighter died over the weekend while fighting the flooding, which state authorities have described as "dramatic". So far, 12 dams have broken, with muddy rivers raging, while thousands of households are without electricity and water in Lower Austria state, authorities said. Several communities also remain cut off, while hundreds of people have been evacuated by helicopter from car roofs and other places, according to authorities. In the Czech Republic, one person drowned in a river close to Bruntal in the northeast, while authorities have "recorded seven people missing", according to police. Some 119,000 households -- mostly in the northeast where a state of calamity has been declared -- were without electricity as of Sunday evening, according to the CEZ power group. In Poland, where one person has died, 2,600 people have been evacuated in the last 24 hours, according to Polish Defense Minister Wladyslaw Kosiniak-Kamysz. While the water in some cities, such as Klodzko, is starting to recede, revealing destruction and desolation, more flooding was feared in the north. Water has also submerged the town of Glucholazy on the Polish-Czech border with many residents taking refuge in a school. In Romania, flooding triggered by Storm Boris killed six people earlier, with people climbing on roofs to escape the water. Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu said Romania would "clean up and see what can be salvaged". In northwest Hungary, the government deployed more than 350 soldiers to reinforce flood barriers as the Danube and rivers along its basin are expected to surge. Experts say climate change caused by greenhouse gas emissions generated by human activities is increasing the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as torrential rains and floods.

Germany Practically Suspends Schengen Agreement



German police will soon conduct random checks at all of its land borders in a trial of increased security measures.

BERLIN (Guardian) -- Germany has reintroduced temporary checks at all nine of its land borders in a move that has drawn criticism from several of its European partners but praise from the far right. The embattled coalition government in Berlin said last week that checks already being carried out on its borders with Austria, Poland, the Czech Republic and Switzerland would be extended to France, Luxembourg, Belgium, the Netherlands and Denmark. The decision came after a series of deadly knife attacks in which the suspects were asylum seekers, and historic successes by the far-right, anti-immigrant Alternative für Deutschland party (AfD) in two crunch state elections in the east of the country.

Warsaw has proposed consultations with all EU member states bordering Germany to address a decision Tusk said was a result of the country's "internal political situation" and could lead to "the de facto suspension of the Schengen agreement on a large scale". Greece's prime minister, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, said on Thursday it would be wrong to "move to a logic of ad hoc exemptions from the Schengen agreement, with border controls that will ... hurt one of the fundamental achievements of the EU." The response, Mitsotakis said, "cannot be unilaterally scrapping Schengen". Others, however, were more sanguine, with the Czech interior minister, Vit Rakusan, saying he did not expect much material change as checks would mostly be random. Far-right leaders were jubilant in response to the news. Geert Wilders of the Dutch Freedom party (PVV) said Berlin's decision was a "great idea" and asked when the Netherlands would follow suit, while the Hungarian prime minister, Viktor Orbán, said on X: "Welcome to the club." Marine Le Pen of France's National Rally said her party had proposed a "double - external and internal border - system" in recent elections and been told it was not possible. "Now Germany is doing it," she said. "When will France follow?" Giorgia Meloni's far-right Brothers of Italy party has praised Berlin's decision. Orbán's chief of staff, Gergely Gulyás, said laxity on the EU's external borders combined with tougher internal border checks were combining to "destroy free movement".

Murdoch Family Fight Over Control of Media Empire

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) -- A battle over control of Rupert Murdoch's global television and publishing empire began Monday in a Reno, Nevada courtroom, where a judge considered the contentious matter of succession. Murdoch, 93, is attempting to change the terms of the family's trust -- which holds significant stakes in Fox News parent Fox and Wall Street Journal owner News Corp. The billionaire is looking to ensure that, upon his death, the media companies remain under the control of his eldest son, Lachlan Murdoch, according to the New York Times, which obtained a sealed court document detailing the succession drama. A hearing to determine whether Murdoch is acting in good faith took place in probate court, where the proceedings are closed to the public. A Nevada judge on Thursday rejected an appeal by Reuters and other news organizations to open the hearings to the public. The news organizations had said the fate of such culturally and politically influential media outlets was a matter of public interest, but the judge cited the need to prevent disclosure of confidential personal and financial information. Most documents also remain under seal. The Murdoch trust was formed around the time of Rupert Murdoch's divorce from his second wife, Anna, in 1999. The trust is the vehicle through which the elder Murdoch controls News Corp and Fox, with roughly a 40% stake in voting shares of each company. Upon Rupert Murdoch's death, News Corp and Fox voting shares will be transferred to his four oldest children -- Prudence, Elisabeth, Lachlan and James. Potentially, three of the heirs could out-vote a fourth, setting up a battle over the future of the companies, even as Lachlan Murdoch runs Fox and is sole chair of News Corp. Rupert Murdoch's proposed amendment would block any interference by three of Lachlan's siblings, who are more politically moderate, the Times reported, citing a sealed court document. Lachlan Murdoch is viewed as

ideologically aligned with his conservative father. James Murdoch, who has donated to progressive political groups, resigned in 2020 from the News Corp board, citing disagreements over editorial content.

Chinese, Russian Warships Hold Missile Firing Drills



A warship launches a missile during the joint strategic command and staff exercise "Ocean 2024" involving the Russian Navy and the Chinese Navy in the Sea of Japan, on Sept. 16, 2024.

MOSCOW (Dispatches) -- Warships from Russia's Pacific Fleet and the Chinese Navy carried out missile and artillery firing exercises in the Sea of Japan, as part of the Ocean-2024 drills, RIA state news agency reported Monday. More than 15 Russian warships took part in these joint drills. Among them was the flagship of Russia's Pacific Fleet, the missile cruiser Varyag. The joint naval exercise is part of a broader collaboration between the Russian and Chinese militaries, demonstrating their increasing cooperation in maritime defense. The drills focused on practising mis-

sile and artillery firing, strengthening the combat readiness of both fleets. The exercises aim to improve coordination between the Russian and Chinese navies, enhancing their ability to work together in complex maritime operations. The Ocean-2024 drills mark another significant step in the growing military ties between Russia and China. Joint exercises like these demonstrate their shared interest in maintaining a strong presence in the Asia-Pacific region. By participating in these drills, both nations continue to signal their intent to work closely on regional security matters.

FBI: Trump Target of 'Attempted Assassination'



Outside the Trump golf club in West Palm Beach on Sunday evening.

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) -- Donald Trump was the target of what the FBI said "appears to be an attempted assassination" at his golf club in West Palm Beach, Florida, just nine weeks after the Republican presidential nominee survived another attempt on his life. The former president said he was safe and well, and authorities held a man in custody. U.S. Secret Service agents stationed a few holes up from where Trump was playing noticed the muzzle of an AK-style rifle sticking through the shrubbery that lines the course, roughly 400 yards away. An agent fired and the gunman dropped the rifle and fled in an SUV, leaving the firearm behind along with two backpacks, a scope used for aiming and a GoPro camera, Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw said. The man was later stopped by law enforcement in a neighboring county. It was the latest jarring moment in a campaign year marked by unprecedented upheaval. On July 13, Trump was shot during a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, and a bullet grazed his ear. Eight days later, Democratic President Joe Biden withdrew from the race, giving way for Vice President Kamala Harris to become the party's nominee. And it spawned new questions about Secret Service protective operations after the agency's admitted failures in preventing the assassination attempt this summer. The man who was detained had a calm, flat demeanor and showed little emotion when he was stopped, according to Martin County Sheriff William Snyder. "He never asked, 'What is this about?'" Obviously, law enforcement with long rifles, blue lights, a lot going on. He never questioned it," Snyder said. It was not immediately clear how the development would affect his schedule or campaign dynamics. Trump was set to speak from Florida about cryptocurrency live on Monday night on the social media site X and had stops planned Tuesday and Wednesday in Michigan and on New York's Long Island. An email to Trump campaign staffers obtained by AP said, "We ask that you remain vigilant in your daily comings and goings."

News in Brief

ABUJA (Reuters) -- Devastating floods collapsed walls at a jail in Maiduguri in northeastern Nigeria early last week, allowing 281 prisoners to escape, prison authorities said. Seven of the escaped inmates have been recaptured in operations by security agencies, Umar Abubakar, spokesperson for the Nigeria Correctional Services said in a statement. Maiduguri is the capital of Borno state which early last week suffered its worst floods in decades. The flooding began when a dam overflowed following heavy rains, decimating a state-owned zoo and washing crocodiles and snakes into flooded communities. The flood has killed at least 30 people according to the country's emergency agency and affected a million others, with hundreds of thousands of people forced into camps for displaced people.

HANOI (AFP) -- Typhoon Yagi caused \$1.6 billion in economic losses in Vietnam, state media said Monday, as the UN's World Food Program said the deadly floods it triggered in Myanmar were the worst in the country's recent history. Yagi battered Myanmar, Vietnam, Laos and Thailand with powerful winds and a huge dump of rain over a week ago, triggering floods and landslides that have killed more than 400 people, according to official figures. It tore across Vietnam's densely populated Red River delta -- a vital agricultural region that is also home to major manufacturing hubs -- damaging factories and infrastructure, and inundating farmland. The typhoon caused an estimated 40 trillion dong (\$1.6 billion) in economic losses, state media reported, citing an initial government assessment. The death toll in Vietnam stands at 292, with 38 missing, more than 230,000 homes damaged and 280,000 hectares of crops destroyed, according to authorities.

NEW YORK (Reuters) -- Indian police have detained 104 striking workers protesting low wages at a Samsung Electronics plant in southern India, as they were planning a march on Monday without permission, police officials said. The detention marks an escalation of a strike by workers at a Samsung home appliance plant near Chennai city in the state of Tamil Nadu, Reuters reported. Workers want higher wages and have boycotted work for seven days, disrupting production that contributes roughly a third of Samsung's annual India revenue of \$12 billion. On Monday, the workers planned to start a protest march, but were detained as there was no permission given as there are schools, colleges and hospitals in that area, said senior police officer of Kancheepuram district, K. Shanmugam. Workers have since last week been protesting at a makeshift tent near the plant, demanding higher wages, recognition for a union backed by labor group Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) and better working hours.

MANILA (AFP) -- The Philippines insisted on Monday that it had not given up a South China Sea reef, two days after it pulled out a ship stationed there following a months-long standoff with rival claimant China. Manila had deployed the coast guard flagship BRP Teresa Magbanua to Sabina Shoal in April to stop Beijing from building an artificial island there, as it has atop several other disputed features in the strategic waterway. But the ship was abruptly called back to the western Philippine island of Palawan, with Manila citing damage from an earlier clash with Chinese ships, ailing crew members, dwindling food and bad weather. "We have not lost anything. We did not abandon anything. Escoda Shoal is still part of our exclusive economic zone," Philippine Coast Guard spokesman Commodore Jay Tarricla told a news conference Monday, using the Filipino name for Sabina Shoal. Beijing claims the site of the South China Sea, including Sabina Shoal, despite an international tribunal ruling that its assertions have no merit.

SEOUL (Reuters) -- The North Korean Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) will convene a new session on Oct. 7 in Pyongyang to discuss matters related to a constitutional amendment, state media reported on Monday. The last SPA meeting was held in January where leader Kim Jong Un called for a constitutional amendment that would view South Korea as the "primary foe." At that time, Kim said he had concluded that unification with the South was no longer possible. Other issues such as laws regarding the light industry and product quality supervision will also be discussed, according to the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

MEXICO CITY (AFP) -- Eleven more people have been killed in a wave of violence in a Mexican cartel heartland shaken by gang infighting, authorities said. The latest fatalities included five men whose bodies were found on a highway south of the city of Culiacan, the Sinaloa state prosecutor's office said in a daily update. More than 30 people have been reported dead in a week of bloodshed in Sinaloa, although authorities did not specify how many were believed to be linked to the cartel infighting. The clashes follow the dramatic arrest on U.S. soil on July 25 of Sinaloa Cartel co-founder Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada, who claimed he had been kidnapped in Mexico and delivered into U.S. custody against his will. Zambada, 76, was detained along with Joaquin Guzman Lopez, a son of El Chapo, who is serving a life sentence in the United States.

Most Powerful Typhoon in Decades Hits Shanghai

SHANGHAI (Reuters) -- The normally-bustling financial hub of Shanghai was brought to a standstill on Monday as residents sheltered at home to wait out the worst of Typhoon Bebinca. The Category 1 storm, which made landfall in Shanghai on Monday morning, is the most powerful tropical cyclone to directly hit the city in more than seven decades. Packing top wind speeds of 151 kph (94 mph) near its eye, Bebinca landed in the city of nearly 25 million around 7:30 a.m. (2330 GMT), state media reported, the strongest storm to strike Shanghai since Typhoon Gloria in 1949. Rain lashed the city and strong winds felled more than 10,000 trees across Shanghai as more than 400,000 people were evacuated from at-risk homes in Bebinca's path. More than 56,000 rescue workers were deployed and, by early afternoon only one injury had been reported as a result of the storm, according to state media reports. More than 1,400 flights from the city's two airports and over 570 passenger trains have been cancelled since Sunday evening, disrupting the travel plans of many people on the move over the Mid-Autumn Festival holiday, a three-day public holiday in China. Parks and businesses were closed as four districts in Shanghai upgraded weather alerts to the highest possible level, some metro train services were disrupted and highways and elevated roads were also closed to traffic or had special speed restrictions in place. Resorts in Shanghai, including Shanghai Disney Resort, Jinjiang Amusement Park and Shanghai Wild Animal Park, have been temporarily closed and many ferries halted. By early Monday afternoon, the eye of the storm had crossed from Shanghai to the neighboring Jiangsu province, though rains were expected to continue in China's financial capital throughout the rest of the day. Shanghai is rarely subject to direct hits from strong typhoons that generally make landfall further south in China. Yagi, a destructive Category 4 storm, roared past southern Hainan province last week.