

News in brief

**Kyrgyz-Tajik border conflict escalates with alleged use of heavy weaponry**

◆ Kyrgyzstan's border guard service said that



Tajik forces once again opened fire on several of its outposts, an escalation of tension between the Russian allies after a brief confrontation earlier this week. Kyrgyz border guards were returning fire as clashes took place along the whole length of the border, the service said, adding that Tajik forces were using tanks, armoured

personnel carriers, and mortars. In turn, Tajikistan accused Kyrgyz forces of shelling one of its outposts and seven villages with "heavy weaponry". A civilian was killed and three injured, authorities in the Tajik city of Isfara said.

◆ Support for Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida tumbled

**Japan PM's support tumbles as anger over state funeral grows**

to its lowest level since he took office, hit by growing anger over a state funeral for slain former leader Shinzo Abe and his ruling party's ties to a controversial church, an opinion poll showed. Kishida's support fell to 32.3% from 44.3% a month before, according to the survey by Jiji news agency conducted at the weekend - approaching what is widely seen as a "danger level" of 30% that signifies a government may run into trouble carrying out its political agenda. Those who did not support his government climbed to 40%, a rise of 11.5 points, Jiji added.



**Mexico arrests general over disappearance of 43 students**

◆ A Mexican army general has been detained in connection



with the disappearance of 43 students in 2014, the government said -- the latest arrest in a case that generated international condemnation. The general, who commanded a battalion in the area of southern Mexico where the incident occurred, is one of three suspects detained, Deputy Security Minister Ricardo Mejia told reporters. He did not identify the suspects but said the other two were also military personnel.

◆ Pope Francis said it was morally

**Pope says supplying weapons to Ukraine is morally acceptable for self defence**

legitimate for nations to supply weapons to Ukraine to help the country defend itself from Russian aggression. Speaking to reporters aboard a plane returning from a three-day trip to Kazakhstan, Francis also urged Kyiv to be open to eventual dialogue, even though it may "smell" because it would be difficult for the Ukrainian side. The war in Ukraine, which Russia invaded on Feb. 24, provided the backdrop to the pope's visit to Kazakhstan, where he attended a congress of religious leaders from around the world. In a 45-minute-long airborne news conference, a reporter asked if it was morally right for countries to send weapons to Ukraine. "This is a political decision which it can be moral, morally acceptable, if it is done under conditions of morality," Francis said.



# King Charles visits Wales as queue paused due to sw

King greets public in Wales as mourners in London warned no

● Police mount huge security operation ahead of funeral

Reuters | London

As tens of thousands of people poured into London ahead of Queen Elizabeth's state funeral on Monday, the miles-long queue of mourners waiting to see her lying in state was temporarily closed yesterday after it swelled to capacity.

People of all ages and from all walks of life have paid their respects to the late queen, joining a well-organised line that stretches along the south bank of the Thames then over the river to parliament's Westminster Hall.

But by mid-morning, the line was just too big - a testimony to the public's respect and affec-



Britain's King Charles greets members of the public in Cardiff, Wales

tion for the queen, who died in Scotland on Sept. 8 at the age of 96 after a 70-year reign.

"Entry will be paused for at least 6 hours," Britain's culture department said shortly before 10 a.m. (0900 GMT) "Please do not attempt to join the queue until it re-opens."

It warned of waiting times of up to 12 hours. Some 750,000

people in total are expected to file past the queen's coffin.

Yesterday night, King Charles, who was visiting Wales, and his sister Princess Anne and brothers Princes Andrew and Edward were to keep a silent vigil around the coffin, joining the ceremonial guard for a 15-minute period.

"I've no sensation in my

Through all the years of her reign, the land of Wales could not have been closer to my mother's heart. I know she took immense pride in your many great achievements - even as she also felt with you deeply in time of

KING CHARLES



People queu

night after "I just going to d much res not once 29-year-ol ing to Re the front c "She ha

## Swedish moose crash-test dummy wins spoof Ig Nobel prize



A car lies in front of the moose crash-test dummy

BBC | Boston

An innovation to improve safety on the roads for Swedish drivers has won one of this year's Ig Nobel prizes.

The moose crash-test dummy was developed by IT engineer Magnus Gens to see how cars would crumple when they collided with big wildlife.

The annual spoof awards for quirky science are supposed to "make us laugh but then make us think".

Although to be honest, the more you think about it, there is not much that is humorous about fatal accidents.

Magnus won the Safety Engineering Ig Nobel.

Other awards this year included a Literature Prize for research that examined the impenetrability of legal documents; and a Physics Prize for the study that sought to understand formation swimming in ducklings.

The science humour magazine, the Annals of Improbable Research, hands out the Ig Nobel awards.

The ceremony is a light-hearted affair that is usually put on at Harvard University in the US, but for the last few years has been conducted through a web-cast because of Covid concerns.

Magnus and his fellow Ig Nobel laureates received their awards virtually - from real No-

Full list of the 2022 Ig Nobel winners

**Applied Cardiology Prize:** Eliska Prochazkova and colleagues, for seeking and finding evidence that when new romantic partners meet for the first time, and feel attracted to each other, their heart rates synchronize.

**Literature Prize:** Eric Martínez and colleagues, for analysing what makes legal documents unnecessarily difficult to understand.

**Biology Prize:** Solimary García-Hernández and Glauco Machado, for studying whether and how constipation affects the mating prospects of scorpions.

**Medicine Prize:** Marcin Jasinski and colleagues, for showing that when patients undergo some forms of toxic chemotherapy, they suffer fewer harmful side effects when ice cream replaces one traditional component of the procedure.

**Physics Prize:** Frank Fish and colleagues, for trying to understand how ducklings manage to swim in formation.

**Engineering Prize:** Gen Matsuzaki and colleagues, for trying to discover the most efficient way for people to use their fingers when turning a knob.

**Art History Prize:** Peter de Smet and Nicholas Hellmuth, for their study "A Multidisciplinary Approach to Ritual Enema Scenes on Ancient Maya Pottery".

**Peace Prize:** Junhui Wu and colleagues, for developing an algorithm to help gossipers decide when to tell the truth and when to lie.

**Economics Prize:** Alessandro Pluchino and colleagues, for explaining, mathematically, why success most often goes not to the most talented people, but instead to the luckiest.

**Safety Engineering Prize:** Magnus Gens, for developing a moose crash-test dummy.

bel Laureates, as has become the custom.

The number of moose, or elk, collisions in Sweden each year is thought to run into the thousands. Ten or more of these will result in the deaths of the vehi-

cle occupants.

Magnus told BBC News he was proud of his award and the renewed focus it put on his research, which was actually conducted a decade ago as the topic of a Master's thesis.

COVID-19 Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	Total deaths
1 USA	97,430,411	1,078,018
2 India	44,522,777	528,273
3 France	34,831,399	154,644
4 Brazil	34,610,590	685,258
5 Germany	32,643,742	148,845
6 S. Korea	24,316,302	27,725
7 UK	23,585,305	189,026
8 Italy	22,131,785	176,335
9 Japan	20,488,312	42,985
10 Russia	20,324,039	385,727
11 Turkey	16,852,382	101,068
12 Spain	13,384,876	113,725
13 Vietnam	11,454,079	43,137
14 Australia	10,155,992	14,475

Global tally

616,290,861

Deaths

6,526,787

Recovered:

595,505,770

New cases

+340,249

New deaths

+1,092

Figures as of closing

Middle East

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	515,645		24,613		442,182	48,850
Saudi Arabia	815,035	+98	9,327	+3	802,182	3,526
UAE		+441	2,342		1,001,630	18,094
Kuwait	657,745		2,563		654,870	312
Oman	397,993		4,260		384,669	9,064
Qatar	440,060	+773	682		433,396	5,982

## At least eight dead as flash floods hit central Italy

Reuters | Milan

At least nine people were killed by torrential overnight rains and floods in the central Italian region of Marche, authorities said yesterday, as rescuers continued to search for four still missing.

In Cantiano, a village close to the neighbouring Umbria



People work to clear way in Cantiano

region, residents were clearing mud from the streets, Reuters footage showed, after torrents had swept through several towns leaving a trail of trapped and damaged cars.

"My fruit shop has been turned upside down," Luciana Agostinelli, a local resident, told Reuters.

Around 400 millimetres (15.75 inches) of rain fell within two to three hours, the civil protection agency said, a third of the amount usually received in a year.

"It was like an earthquake," Ludovico Caverni, the mayor of Serra Sant'Abbondio, another village hit by the floods, told RAI state radio.