

News in brief

◆ **The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights**

said yesterday that the situation in Iran was "critical", describing a hardening of the authorities' response to protests that have resulted in more than 300 deaths in the past two months. "The rising number of deaths from protests in Iran, including those of two children at the weekend, and the hardening of the response by security forces, underline the critical situation in the country," said a spokesperson for UN human rights chief Volker Turk at a Geneva news briefing. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) said that more than 300 people had been killed so far, including more than 40 children. These deaths occurred across the country, with deaths reported in 25 of 31 provinces. In the same briefing, OHCHR spokesperson Jeremy Laurence also voiced concern about the situation in mainly Kurdish cities where it has reports of more than 40 people killed by security forces over the past week.



Iran situation 'critical' with more than 300 killed -UN rights chief

◆ **President Vladimir Putin** yesterday touted Russia's Arctic power at a flag-raising ceremony and dock launch for two nuclear-powered icebreakers that will ensure year-round navigation in the Western Arctic.

Putin touts Russia's 'Arctic power' with launch of nuclear icebreakers



Presiding via video link from the Kremlin at the launch ceremony in the former imperial capital of St Petersburg in northern Russia, Putin said such icebreakers were of strategic importance for the country. "Both icebreakers were laid down as part of a large serial project and are part of our large-scale, systematic work to re-equip and replenish the domestic icebreaker fleet, to strengthen Russia's status as a great Arctic power," Putin said. The 173.3-metre (569 feet) Yakutia, with a displacement of up to 33,540 tonnes,

can smash through ice of up to three metres. It will enter service in 2024. Two other icebreakers in the same series, the Arktika and the Sibir, are already in service, and another, the Chukotka, is scheduled for 2026.

◆ **Malaysia's king said** yesterday he will pick the next prime minister, after the leading two contenders failed to win a majority in last weekend's election and his proposal for the two to work together was turned down.



Malaysia king to choose prime minister in post-election crisis

The vote resulted in an unprecedented hung parliament, with neither opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim nor former premier Muhyiddin Yassin winning the simple majority needed to form a government. To break the stalemate, King Al-Sultan Abdullah suggested the two rivals work together to form a 'unity government', Muhyiddin said, but added that he will not work with Anwar. Muhyiddin runs a Malay Muslim conservation alliance, while Anwar runs a multi-ethnic coalition.

Putin to meet mothers of soldiers called up to fight in Ukraine

◆ **Russian President Vladimir Putin** will in the coming days meet the mothers of reservists called up to fight in Ukraine, the Kremlin said yesterday.

The war in Ukraine has killed and wounded tens of thousands of soldiers on both sides, according to the United States, and the Russian invasion has triggered the biggest confrontation between Moscow and the West since the 1962 Cuban Missile crisis. The United States' top general estimated on Nov. 9 that Russia and Ukraine had each seen more than 100,000 of their soldiers killed or wounded.

CURIOSER & CURIOSER

My baby's 'crazy' hair

Daily Mail

Most mothers would despair at their child's unruly mop of hair, but this Welsh mum is delighted with her daughter's untamable barnet.

Proud mum Aliyah Lewis, 24, from Barry Island, regularly uploads photos and videos of her four month old baby girl Arla with her adorable hair which has led people to comparing her to a dandelion.

Even when she tries to brush her hair, Arla's hair sticks back up and keeps growing outwards.

Laughing about it now, Aliyah even admits when she puts Arla's hair up in a hair bobble she is likened to an onion, dandelion and even scientist Albert Einstein.

It is suspected that Arla was born with uncombed hair syndrome, and she has gained thousands of devoted fans after a series of videos on social media.

She explains: 'Arla was born with a lot of hair, it didn't start



Aliyah Lewis with her four month old baby girl Arla

standing up crazy until her first bath, everyone thinks it's crazy and they love it, we never want it to go "normal"

Even if I try and brush it, it will just stick up but I brush it everyday, sometimes I put a bow in sometimes but she doesn't like it and if sometimes a bobble but if she has it up she looks like an onion, so we just put a headband on, or let it go wild.



An aerial view of an area affected by landslides following earthquake hit in Cianjur, West Java province, Indonesia



A damaged car is seen on the site of a landslide following earthquake hit in Cianjur, West Java province, Indonesia

Indonesia quake toll hits 268, many were children at school

● **Death toll from 5.6-magnitude earthquake expect to rise**

● **Dozens trapped in the rubble - officials**

● **Some areas cut off by landslide**

Reuters | Cianjur, Indonesia

An earthquake that struck Indonesia's West Java killed at least 268 people, many of them children, with 151 still missing, disaster relief officials said yesterday, as rescuers searched the rubble of destroyed buildings for survivors.

The shallow 5.6-magnitude quake struck in Indonesia's most populous province on Monday afternoon, causing significant damage to the town of Cianjur, about 75 km (45 miles)



Medical workers treat a victim outside the district hospital after earthquake hit in Cianjur, West Java province, Indonesia



A man carries an injured child to receive treatment at a hospital, after an earthquake hit in Cianjur, West Java province, Indonesia

southeast of the capital, Jakarta, and burying at least one village under a landslide.

Disaster agency chief Suharyanto told reporters that more than 1,000 people had been injured, 58,000 displaced and 22,000 houses damaged.

Landslides and rough terrain hampered rescue efforts on Tuesday, said Henri Alfiandi,

head of National Search and Rescue Agency (Basarnas).

"The challenge is the affected area is spread out... On top of that, the roads in these villages are damaged," Alfiandi told reporters.

Many of the victims were children who had been at school at the time the quake hit, he said.

While strong earthquakes of

magnitude 6 or 7 are relatively common in Indonesia, often off-shore where fault lines run, Monday's quake of a lower magnitude had such deadly consequences because it struck on land at a relatively shallow depth.

Officials said many of the dead were killed when poorly constructed buildings collapsed, with the president calling for reconstruction efforts to include earthquake-proof housing.

President Joko Widodo travelled to Cianjur on Tuesday to encourage rescuers.

"My instruction is to prioritise evacuating victims that are still trapped under rubble," he said.

Survivors had gathered overnight in a Cianjur hospital parking lot. Some of the injured were treated in tents, others were hooked up to intravenous drips on the pavement as medical workers stitched up patients under torch light.

"Everything collapsed beneath me and I was crushed beneath this child," Cucu, a 48-year-old resident, told Reuters.

"Two of my kids survived, I dug them up ... Two others I brought here, and one is still missing," she said through tears.

"Many bodies are lying in the hospital grounds, it's very crowded," said her relative, Hesti.

In one area, some victims held cardboard signs asking for food and shelter, with emergency supplies seemingly yet to reach them.

BETTER YOU KNOW

Straddling the so-called Ring of Fire, a highly seismically active zone where different plates on the earth's crust meet, Indonesia has a history of devastating earthquakes. In 2004, a 9.1 magnitude quake off Sumatra island in northern Indonesia triggered a tsunami that struck 14 countries, killing 226,000 people.



Locals walk past collapsed houses after an earthquake in Cianjur, West Java province, Indonesia