



5,000 euros How much an Italian journalist must pay to PM Giorgia Meloni for making fun of her height



Weather table with columns for location, temperature, and weather conditions.

Bangladesh protesters storm prison

Set it ablaze after freeing hundreds of inmates; rallies banned in Dhaka as unrest toll hits 75

DHAKA

BANGLADESHI student protesters stormed a prison and freed hundreds of inmates Friday as police struggled to quell unrest, with huge rallies in the capital Dhaka despite a police ban on public gatherings.

This week's unrest has killed at least 75 people, according to an AFP count of victims reported by hospitals, and emerged as a momentous challenge to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's autocratic government after 15 years in office.

Student protesters stormed a jail in the central Bangladeshi district of Narsingdi and freed the facility's inmates before setting the facility on fire, a police officer told AFP on condition of anonymity.

Dhaka's police force took the drastic step of banning all public gatherings for the day — a first since protests began — in an effort to forestall another day of violence.

"We've banned all rallies, processions and public gatherings in Dhaka today," police chief Habibur Rahman told AFP, adding the move was necessary to ensure "public safety".



Anti-quota protesters clash with the police in Bangladesh capital Dhaka | AFP

ings in Dhaka today," police chief Habibur Rahman told AFP, adding the move was necessary to ensure "public safety". That did not stop another round of confrontations between police and protesters around the sprawling megacity of 20 million people, despite an internet shutdown aimed at frustrating the organisation of rallies.

tinue," Sarwar Tushar, who joined a march in the capital and sustained minor injuries when it was violently dispersed by police, told AFP.

"We want the immediate resignation of Sheikh Hasina. The government is responsible for the killings."

At least 28 people were killed in the city on Friday, according to a list drawn up by the Dhaka

Medical College Hospital and seen by AFP, along with two other deaths elsewhere in the country. Police fire was the cause of more than half of the deaths reported so far this week, based on descriptions given to AFP by hospital staff.

UN human rights chief Volker Turk said the attacks on student protesters were "shocking and unacceptable".

'Outage shows fragility of world's core internet infra'

FRANKFURT

AIRLINES, banks, TV channels and other business across the globe were scrambling to deal with one of the biggest IT crashes in recent years on Friday, apparently caused by an update to an antivirus program.

"This is a very, very uncomfortable illustration of the fragility of the world's core internet infrastructure," said Oxford Martin, a professor at Oxford University's Blavatnik School of Government and former Head of Britain's National Cyber Security Centre.

Cyber expert James Bore said real harm would be caused by the outage because systems people have come to rely on at critical times are not going to be available. Hospitals, for example, will struggle to sort out appointments and those who need care may not get it — and it will lead to deaths, he said.

"All of these systems are running the same software," Bore said. "We've made all of these tools so widespread that when things inevitably go wrong — and they will, as we've seen — they go wrong at a huge scale." The head of Germany's IT security agency, Claudia Platner, said that "the problems will last some time — we can't expect a very quick solution."

Microsoft spokesperson Frank X. Shaw confirmed in an emailed statement that "a CrowdStrike update was responsible for bringing down a number of Windows systems globally." Earlier, the company had posted on the social media platform X that it was working to "alleviate impact" and that they were "observing a positive trend in service availability."



People wait at LaGuardia Airport in New York as their flights were delayed due to global internet outage on Friday | AFP

A FAULTY UPDATE THAT CRASHED PCs WORLDWIDE

US cybersecurity experts Professor Alan Woodward and Professor Toby Murray weigh in on what happened and why

ANTIVIRUS ON STEROIDS

Falcon, owned by US cyber security company CrowdStrike, is a software product that organisations install on their computers to keep them safe from cyber attacks and malware

Falcon works by having some "agent" software deeply embedded in the operating system of every PC, which monitors that computer and alerts if there's a problem

This tight integration makes Falcon powerful. But it also means that when Falcon malfunctions, it can cause serious problems

Falcon is a bit like traditional antivirus software, but on steroids

WHAT HAPPENED?

The problem seems to be an update that appears to have been done in the evening of July 18 for Falcon

It looks like the update system file was somehow released in an incorrect format

The Windows operating system gets to this update and it doesn't know how to cope, so it crashes

IS YOUR HOME PC SAFE?

While CrowdStrike's products are much less commonly used on home PCs. This is because CrowdStrike's products are tailored for large companies

For home users, built-in antivirus software offered by companies such as Norton and McAfee are more popular

A MARKET LEADER

CrowdStrike is the market leader in endpoint detection and response solutions. It is used by hundreds of thousands of major clients around the world. So airlines, airports, railways, hospitals, stock exchanges, they're all going down

Russia convicts US journalist of espionage

MOSCOW

WALL Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich was convicted Friday of espionage and sentenced to 16 years in a maximum-security prison on charges that his employer and the US government have rejected as fabricated.

Gershkovich, his head shaved and looking thin in a dark T-shirt, was calm as he stood in a glass defendants' cage in the Sverdlovsk Regional Court. He listened impassively to the verdict but gave an occasional smile.

When Judge Andrei Mineyev asked him if he had any questions about the verdict, he replied "No, your honor." After Mineyev finished reading the verdict, someone in the courtroom shouted, "Evan, we love you!" Closing arguments took place behind closed doors and Gershkovich did not admit any guilt, according to the court's press service. Prosecutors requested an 18-year sentence, but the judge opted for a shorter term.

UAE chain introduces UPI payments across outlets

DUBAI

A United Arab Emirates-based business conglomerate has announced the acceptance of India's Unified Payment Interface payments across its outlets in the country.

Unified Payment Interface (UPI) is an Indian instant payment system developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) in 2016.

The inaugural transaction using UPI at Al Maya Supermarket was conducted in the presence of Deputy Consul General of India in Dubai, Yatin Patel. Kamal Vachani, Group Director and Partner of Al Maya Group, highlighted the convenience and benefits that UPI payments bring to Indian customers.

ASIA MATTERS section with sub-headers for SINGAPORE, INDONESIA, and MALAYSIA, each with a brief news item.

Netflix adds eight million new subscribers San Francisco: Netflix on Thursday said it added eight million new subscribers in the second quarter, as the home of hit shows The Crown and Bridgerton posted its latest financial earnings that exceeded analyst expectations.

Hindus largest minority community in Pakistan Islamabad: The population of Hindus in Pakistan increased from 3.5 million in 2017 to 3.8 million in 2023 to make it the largest minority community in the Islamic nation, according to the official data of last year's census.

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY MARINE DEPARTMENT E-TENDER CALL NOTICE (E-TCN) notice regarding hiring of crew for a ship.

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