



**LONDON (AFP) --** Passengers faced a third day of disruption at Heathrow Monday as British Airways cancelled short-haul flights after a global computer crash that unions blamed on the outsourcing of IT services to India.

The embattled airline said it was cancelling 13 short-haul flights from Heathrow Airport, Europe's busiest, but was aiming to operate a full long-haul schedule from the hub and was operating a full service from Gatwick Airport. Thousands of passengers were left stranded over a busy holiday weekend in Britain after BA scrapped hundreds of flights worldwide. Experts warned the knock-on effects could continue for several days.

\*\*\*\*

**BEIJING (AFP) --** China has urged the Group of Seven leading economies to "stop making irresponsible remarks" after the G7 summit expressed concern about the situation in the East and South China Seas.

China has a dispute with Japan over small uninhabited islands in the East China Sea, while its claim to most of the South China Sea is challenged by the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan. In their closing communique in Italy Saturday, G7 leaders said they "remain concerned about the situation" in the two seas and are "strongly opposed to any unilateral actions that could increase tensions".

\*\*\*\*

**ABUJA (AFP) --** Nigeria's ailing president was glaringly absent Monday as his deputy marked their two years in power, with no word on the head of state's health three weeks after he went on indefinite medical leave.

Muhammadu Buhari and his deputy Yemi Osinbajo were sworn into office on May 29, 2015, two months after securing the first opposition victory against a sitting president in Nigerian history. But their election pledges to defeat Boko Haram militants and tackle endemic corruption have been overshadowed, first by economic recession and increasingly by speculation about Buhari's health.

\*\*\*\*

**ATHENS (AFP) --** Former Greek Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis, an early proponent of austerity cuts that Greece eventually had to adopt during the economic crisis, died Monday aged 98, his family said.

A patriarch of one of Greece's most influential political families, Mitsotakis quit politics in 2004, aged 85, after serving as the country's longest-serving parliamentarian. "He died at 0100 (2200 GMT) surrounded by the people whom he loved and who loved him," a family statement said. It did not indicate the cause of death.

\*\*\*\*

**KINSHASA (Reuters) --** Democratic Republic of Congo's health ministry has approved the use of a new Ebola vaccine to counter an outbreak of the hemorrhagic fever in its northeast that has killed four people, a spokesman said Monday. "The non-objection was given. Now there's a Medecins Sans Frontiers team that is arriving (in Congo) today to validate the protocol with the technical teams," Jonathan Simba, a health ministry spokesman, said by telephone. The vaccine, known as rVSV-ZEBOV and developed by Sherrin, is not yet licensed but was shown to be highly protective against Ebola in clinical trials published last December.

## One Killed as Pakistanis Protest Power Cuts



Security officials gather at the site of a suicide bombing in Lahore on February 14, 2017.

**PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP) --** Violence erupted at demonstrations against power cuts in several towns in northwestern Pakistan Monday, leading to clashes with police that killed a protester and wounded several, officials said.

Hundreds of protesters burned and rampaged through government offices and police checkpoints, snatching valuables and police weapons, said Deputy Commissioner Malakand district Zafar Ali Shah.

They tried to burn a main power station in the town of Margai, he said. Similar clashes took place in Peshawar, Charsadda and Swat.

In Peshawar, protesters took to the streets for the third day of rallies and roadblocks, said police official Nasir Khan. At least two offices of the power supply department were ransacked, he said. Provincial lawmaker Fazl-e-Rabbi who led the rallies in Peshawar,

said the protests would continue until the federal government ends disparity in the power distribution.

"We have complained to the power distributors to end the unscheduled outages, but they're not listening to us," said Shah, the deputy commissioner.

The protesters have been angered by the daily 10-12 hours of power cuts in the summer heat. The fact that Muslims fast and abstain from drinking water in daylight hours during the holy month of Ramadan has made things worse, Shah said.

Power cuts are common in energy-starved Pakistan.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif took notice and instructed authorities to ensure power supply during Ramadan, especially at dawn, when Muslims start the daylong fast, and at dusk, when they break it with an evening meal, the iftar.

## Thousands Feared Trapped in Philippine City



Filipino Muslim activists hold slogans during a rally in Manila, May 29, 2017 to oppose the recent declaration of martial law in Mindanao by President Rodrigo Duterte.

**MARAWI, Philippines (Dispatches) --** Security forces traded heavy gunfire with Daesh militants inside a southern Philippine city Monday, as fears grew for up to 2,000 people unable to escape a week of fighting that has left women and children among the dead.

President Rodrigo Duterte imposed martial law across the southern third of the Philippines shortly after the fighting erupted, warning the gunmen were involved in an effort by Daesh to set up a local caliphate.

But street-to-street battles and a relentless military bombing campaign has so far failed to end the crisis in Marawi, one of the biggest Muslim cities in the mainly Catholic Philippines, and authorities expressed alarm about the fate of those trapped.

"They are texting us and calling us for help," Zia Alonto Adiong, spokesman for the provincial crisis management committee, said of the 2,000 people his office had recorded being unable to leave areas held by the militants.

"They can't leave because they are afraid of running into checkpoints put up by the gunmen." Authorities said the gunmen

had already murdered at least 19 civilians, including women and children, while 17 members of the security forces had died in the clashes and 61 militants were killed.

Eight bodies were found Sunday morning dumped off a bridge on the outskirts of Marawi, which is normally a bustling city of 200,000 people known as a center of Islamic culture and education.

Most of the city's residents had fled to nearby towns. But adding to the fears for those who remained, the military announced on the weekend that it would intensify a bombing campaign on the areas being held by the militants.

When asked Monday about fears of civilians being bombed, military spokesman Brigadier-General Restituto Padilla told reporters that airstrikes would be done with precision.

However he said the bombings would continue in whichever areas the militants were hiding.

The violence began when dozens of gunmen went on a rampage throughout Marawi in response to an attempt by security forces to arrest Isnilon Hapilon, a veteran Filipino militant regarded as the local leader of Daesh.

# Morocco Hit by Third Night of Protests



Moroccan activist and the leader of 'Hirak' Nasser Zefzafi gives a speech during a demonstration on May 18, 2017.

**RABAT (AFP) --** Protesters have rallied for a third night running in Morocco's city of Hoceima, in a northern region of the country where there has been growing social unrest.

An AFP journalist saw several hundred mainly young demonstrators gathered in two neighborhoods of the city on Sunday night, chanting "The state is corrupt!" and "Dignity!".

They also shouted "We are all Zefzafi!" in reference to protest leader Nasser Zefzafi, who was arrested on Monday after authorities last week ordered his arrest. He had been on the run since Friday.

The protesters attempted to make

their way to the city's central square but were blocked by security forces. After an hour-long face-off with police the youths dispersed without incident.

"We cannot take a single step, the police are everywhere," an activist in the city told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The activist said a solidarity rally had taken place in the nearby city of Imzouren.

Protests were also reported in two other northern cities, Nador and Tangier, as well as in Casablanca and the capital Rabat, where some 300 people took part.

Morocco's northern Rif region has been shaken by more than six

months of social unrest since the death in October of a fishmonger crushed in a rubbish truck as he protested against the seizure of swordfish caught out of season.

Calls for justice for Mouhcine Fikri, 31, soon evolved into a grassroots movement demanding jobs and economic development, with Zefzafi emerging as the leader of the Al-Hirak al-Shaabi, or "Popular Movement".

Zefzafi's arrest was ordered after he on Friday allegedly interrupted a preacher at a mosque and called for further demonstrations.

Evening protests followed on Friday and Saturday, with demonstrators clashing with police.

As of late on Sunday police had arrested 22 people in connection with the disturbances, according to officials.

Local sources have reported significantly more arrests and said many of those detained have been transferred to Casablanca.

The mainly ethnically Berber Rif region has long had a tense relationship with Morocco's central authorities and was at the heart of Arab Spring-inspired protests in 2011.

The protests subsided following a series of political reforms including constitutional changes that saw King Mohammed VI give up some of his wide-ranging powers.

## North Korea Tests Ballistic Missile

**SEOUL (Dispatches) --** North Korea fired at least one short-range ballistic missile Monday that landed in the sea off its east coast, the latest in a fast-paced series of missile tests in the face of U.S. military muscle-flexing.

The missile was believed to be a Scud-class ballistic missile and flew about 450 km (280 miles), South Korean officials said. North Korea has a large stockpile of the short-range missiles, originally developed by the Soviet Union.

Monday's launch followed two successful tests of medium- to long-range missiles in as many weeks by the North, which has been conducting such tests at an unprecedented pace in an effort to develop an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) capable of hitting the mainland United States.

North Korea is likely showing its determination to push ahead in the face of efforts "to pressure the (South Korean) government to change its policy on the North", South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff spokesman Roh Jae-cheon said.

It was the third ballistic missile test-launch since South Korea's liberal President Moon Jae-in took office on May 10. Moon says sanctions alone have failed to resolve the growing threat from the North's advancing nuclear and

missile program.

The missile reached an altitude of 120 km (75 miles), Roh said. "The assessment is there was at least one missile but we are analyzing the number of missiles," he said.

North Korea, which has conducted dozens of missile tests and tested two nuclear bombs since the beginning of 2016, says the program is necessary to counter U.S. aggression.

The White House said President Donald Trump had been briefed about the launch. The U.S. Pacific Command said it tracked what appeared to be a short-range ballistic missile for six minutes and assessed it did not pose a threat to North America.

The United States has said it was looking at discussing with China a new UN Security Council resolution and that Beijing, North Korea's main diplomatic ally and neighbor, realizes time was limited to rein in its weapons program through negotiations.

U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, asked what a military conflict with North Korea might look like if diplomacy failed, warned Sunday it would be "probably the worst kind of fighting in most people's lifetimes".

## Cyclone Heads to Bangladesh After Killing 200

**DHAKA/AGALAWATTE, Sri Lanka (Reuters) --** A cyclone grew in strength as it churned north towards Bangladesh Monday after heavy rain in rural Sri Lanka and thunderstorms in eastern India killed almost 200 people, with more torrential downpours forecast.

Floods and landslides in tropical Sri Lanka, off India's southern tip, have killed at least 169 people in recent days, authorities said, with 24 killed in storms in the eastern Indian state of Bihar, either by lightning strikes or under collapsed village huts.

India warned of heavy rains in the northeastern states of Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh as Cyclone Mora moved further up the Bay of Bengal.

Floods reached roof level and cut off access to many rural Sri Lankan villages, disrupting life for half a million people, many of them workers on rubber plantations, officials said.

Villagers in Agalawatte, in a key rubber-growing area 74 km (46 miles) southeast of the capital, Colombo, said they were losing hope of water levels falling soon after the heaviest rain since 2003. Fifty-three villagers died and 58 were missing.

"All access to our village is cut off. A landslide took place inside the village and several houses are buried."



A man carries a pack of water bottles as he walks through a flooded road in Dodangoda village in Kalutara, Sri Lanka May 28, 2017.

Mohomed Abdulla, 46, told Reuters. Some areas in the southern coastal district of Galle, popular with foreign tourists, have not received relief due to lack of access.

"My entire village is cut off and nobody can come to this village," C.M. Chandrapla, 54, told Reuters by phone from the tourist village of Neluwa.

"There have been no supplies for the past two days. Water has gone above three-story buildings and people survive by running to higher ground."

Bangladesh is hit by cyclones, many of them devastating, every year. Half

a million people had their lives disrupted in low-lying coastal areas such as Barisal and Chittagong in May last year.

Authorities will relocate thousands from coastal areas before Mora hits, government officials said. About 10 million of Bangladesh's population of 160 million live in low-lying coastal areas.

The Sri Lankan military has sent in helicopters and boats in rescue efforts in the most widespread disaster since the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami. About 100 people were missing in total.