

VOA NEWS

September 17, 2024

This is VOA News. ... Ramsey.

The suspect arrested after the U.S. Secret Service spotted him with a rifle near where former President Donald Trump was playing golf did not get a shot off after an agent fired at him, the head of the unit said on Monday. Reuters correspondent Alex Cohen reports.

Investigators say he was spotted with a rifle hiding in the bushes at Trump's golf course in Florida on Sunday while Trump was playing.

Mobile phone records show he was in the vicinity of the golf course for more than 11 hours before being spotted by authorities. They said they are also going through his social media accounts and interviewing family members.

President Biden said Monday the Secret Service "needs more help." The incident comes just two months after another gunman fired at Trump during a July 13 rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, grazing his ear with a bullet.

Reuters correspondent Alex Cohen.

Former U.S. President Donald Trump is blaming rhetoric from President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris for the apparent assassination attempt on him in Florida despite his own history of going after rivals.

This year's presidential campaign has been among the most turbulent in American history even before Sunday's apparent assassination attempt. Trump was safe after the incident in Florida and praised the Secret Service for protecting him, but didn't shy away from quickly blaming his opponents.

German border police carried out checks on trams and trains arriving from France on Monday after Berlin reintroduced temporary controls on all its land borders in an effort to combat irregular migration and cross-border crime.

The measures have prompted criticism from Germany's neighbors as they took effect on Monday, part of a series of measures Germany has taken to toughen its stance on irregular migration.

This is VOA News.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken is heading to Egypt this week on his 10th trip to the Middle East since the war in Gaza began nearly a year ago. The trip is partly aimed at refining a proposal to present to Israel and Hamas for a cease-fire deal and release of hostages.

Unlike in recent mediating missions, Blinken on Tuesday is traveling without the optimistic projections from the Biden administration of an expected breakthrough in the troubled negotiations.

He's also leaving without any public plans to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Forest fires have destroyed more than 11 million hectares of forests and plantations in Brazil this year alone. Scientists say Brazil is experiencing the effects of global warming and the future may bring even more problems. Yan Boechat reports from São Paulo.

Flames have ravaged Brazil's Amazon rainforest in recent weeks, devastating the rich agricultural zones of central west region and even the outskirts of major Brazilian cities, destroying an area the size of Portugal this year alone.

The blazes intensified during August and September, driven by temperatures far above average, a severe lack of rainfall and extremely dry air masses with humidity levels plummeting below 10 percent in some regions.

Yan Boechat, VOA News, São Paulo.

Peru's prime minister on Monday called on farming communities to stop burning grasslands in the Andean and Amazonian areas that have sparked deadly wildfires, killing at least 15 people this season.

Forest fires are frequent in Peru between August and November, largely due to the burning of dry grasslands to expand agricultural frontiers.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has approved the immediate release of \$8 million dollars to support victims in flood ravaged Nigeria's Borno state. Timothy Obiezu reports.

The U.N. resident coordinator, Mohammed Malick Fall, announced the new funding while visiting flood victims over the weekend. The visit was to assess the extent of damage caused by the flooding and to ramp up lifesaving assistance.

The U.N. has been providing hot meals and facilitated food air drops in hard-to-reach areas cut off by flood waters.

Last Tuesday (Thursday), a dam burst caused millions of liters of water to pour into communities in Maiduguri. State authorities say the flood killed dozens of people and affected more than 1 million others.

Timothy Obiezu, VOA News, Maiduguri, Borno state, Nigeria.

Find more online at voanews.com. I'm Joe Ramsey, VO...