

# More race protests after Floyd’s funeral

REUTERS, Houston

Protesters were set to take to the streets across the United States again yesterday one day after the funeral of George Floyd, whose death in police custody has ignited the biggest surge of anti-racism activism since the civil rights era of the 1960s.

Hundreds of protesters in the west coast city of Seattle filled City Hall into early yesterday calling for the mayor to resign and for police reforms. More protests were expected from Atlanta to New York City and Los Angeles in what will be the 16th straight day of demonstrations.

In Washington, one of Floyd’s brothers was due to speak to a Democratic-led congressional panel yesterday as lawmakers take on the twin issues of police violence and racial injustice.

At the funeral in Houston on Tuesday, veteran civil rights activist the Rev. Al Sharpton told mourners Floyd was now “the cornerstone of a movement that is going to change the whole wide world”.

Floyd, 46, died after a police officer knelt on his neck for almost nine minutes while he was held face down in a street in Minneapolis on May 25. Gasping for air, Floyd’s last words were: “Please, I can’t breathe,” before falling silent and still.

His death unleashed a surge of protests across US cities against racism and the systematic mistreatment of black people. It has also inspired anti-racism protests in several countries in Europe.

Though mostly peaceful, the US protests have been marred by arson, looting and clashes with police, whose often heavy-handed tactics have fueled the rage.



This photo taken on June 7 shows submerged streets and buildings after heavy rain caused flooding in Yangshuo, in China’s southern Guangxi region. China yesterday said widespread flooding in south and central regions of the country killed more than dozen people and forced hundreds of thousands of people from their homes.

PHOTO: AFP

## 5 Kashmir rebels killed as India steps up ops

Five suspected rebels were killed yesterday in a dawn firefight with hundreds of troops in Indian-administered Kashmir, officials said, as New Delhi escalates counter-insurgency efforts in the disputed territory. The fatalities pushed the death toll during the current escalation -- which has ramped up since India’s nationwide coronavirus lockdown started in late March -- to 14 alleged militants in four days. Indian-administered Kashmir has been in turmoil since last August when New Delhi revoked its semi-autonomous status and imposed a communications blackout that has not been fully lifted. At least 93 rebels, including six top commanders, have been killed by Indian forces since January.

## Boko Haram kills 69, razes village in northern Nigeria

Boko Haram gunman killed at least 69 people and razed a village to the ground in northern Nigeria’s Borno state on Tuesday afternoon, three sources told Reuters. The men attacked the village of Faduma Koloram, in Gubio local government area of Borno state, starting about noon. They arrived in vehicles and on motorcycles, shooting with AK-47s, razing the village and stealing 1,200 cattle and camels. A resident, a Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) member and a soldier each confirmed the same account. They said the men attacked because they suspected residents of sharing information on Boko Haram’s movements with security authorities.

## More good news for pangolins in China



China has removed pangolin parts from its official list of traditional medicines, state media reported, days after increasing legal protections on the endangered animal. Pangolins were left out of the official Chinese Pharmacopoeia this year, along with substances including a pill formulated with bat faeces, the state-owned Health Times reported. The pangolin, the world’s most heavily trafficked mammal, is thought by some scientists to be the possible host of the novel coronavirus that emerged at a market in China’s Wuhan city last year. Its body parts fetch a high price on the black market as they are commonly used in traditional Chinese medicine, although scientists say they have no therapeutic value. China’s forestry authority on Friday gave pangolins the highest level of protection in the country due to its threatened status.

SOURCE: AFP, ANN

# S Asia becoming new hotspot

Cases in the region rising at the fastest rate across the world

AGENCIES

South Asian coronavirus cases have increased at the fastest rate globally in the past week, as the region becomes one of the latest pandemic hot spots.

Infections have risen by 27 per cent in Pakistan, while in Bangladesh cases spiked by 19 per cent, and 17 per cent in India, according to data of the 20 most affected nations compiled by Bloomberg. Pakistan and Bangladesh also had their single biggest daily spike in fatalities.

As cases dwindle in the United States and Europe, they are still increasing in South America and South Asia. Nearly 75 per cent of global cases are coming from 10 countries in the Americas and South Asia, according to WHO.

Countries across South Asia have started to ease their virus lockdowns as they attempt to balance rising cases against economic misery. Pakistan had expected a peak in June but now is expecting late July or August, Prime Minister Imran Khan said in an address to the nation on Monday.

### Coronavirus Pandemic

Infections have risen by **27** pc in Pakistan, while in Bangladesh cases spiked by **19** per cent, and **17** per cent in India

Lockdowns eased at a time when countries seeing biggest daily spike in fatalities

“The world has eased lockdowns since even developed countries have decided they can’t survive with a prolonged lockdown,” said Khan in a televised briefing on the pandemic, noting the restrictions had a “devastating impact on unemployment and poverty in poor countries”.

Pakistan crossed 113,700 cases and become the second-largest most-infected nation in Asia, with over 2,250 deaths. In Bangladesh, the tally surged to 74,865 including 1,012

deaths, while India has 276,583 cases and 7,745 deaths.

To understand the scenario better, the example of Maharashtra might show some light. Last week Maharashtra had surpassed China’s tally of around 84,000 cases. India’s financial capital Mumbai has reported a total of 51100 COVID-19 cases and surpassed China’s Wuhan, the epicentre of the pandemic.

“Lockdowns are being eased in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh without any sign that coronavirus infections are being brought under control,” Mark Williams, chief Asia economist and Shilan Shah, senior economist at Capital Economics wrote in a report Tuesday. “For a start, there is no telling how long containing the virus might take or indeed if it is even possible in South Asia.”

WHO has told Pakistan it should implement “intermittent” lockdowns to counter a surge in infections. Some 25 percent of tests in Pakistan come back positive for COVID-19, said WHO.

### STUDY ON CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

## Widespread mask-wearing could prevent 2nd waves

REUTERS, London

Population-wide face mask use could push COVID-19 transmission down to controllable levels for national epidemics, and could prevent further waves of the pandemic disease when combined with lockdowns, according to a British study yesterday.

The research, led by scientists at the Britain’s Cambridge and Greenwich Universities, suggests lockdowns alone will not stop the resurgence of the new SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus, but that even homemade masks can dramatically reduce transmission rates if enough people wear them in public.

Richard Stutt, who co-led the study at Cambridge, said combining widespread mask use with social distancing and some lockdown measures, could be “an acceptable way of managing the pandemic and re-opening economic activity” before the development of an effective vaccine against COVID-19, the respiratory illness caused by the coronavirus.

At the onset of the pandemic, scientific evidence on the effectiveness of face masks in slowing transmission of respiratory diseases was limited. But, prompted by some new research in recent weeks, the World Health Organization said on Friday it now recommends that everyone wear fabric face masks in public to try to reduce disease spread.

The study found that if people wear masks whenever they are in public it is twice as effective at reducing the R value, disease’s reproduction rate, than if masks are only worn after symptoms appear. In all scenarios the study looked at, routine face mask use by 50% or more of the population reduced COVID-19 spread to an R of less than 1.0, flattening future disease waves and allowing for less stringent lockdowns.

## China urged to join as US, Russia to resume key nuke talks

AFP, Washington

Russia has called on the United States to make a “positive” proposal as the powers open talks on a major disarmament treaty, warning that US insistence on including China could scuttle efforts.

Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov will meet in Vienna on June 22 with US envoy Marshall Billingslea to start negotiations on New START, which expires in February.

President Donald Trump has walked out on a number of international agreements but voiced a general interest in preserving New START, which obliged the United States and Russia to halve their inventories of strategic nuclear missile launchers.

But the Trump administration says that a successor to New START, a Cold War legacy negotiated under Barack Obama, should bring in China -- whose nuclear arsenal is growing but remains significantly smaller than those of Russia and the United States.

In Beijing, foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said China had “no intention of participating” in the talks and accused the United States of trying to “deflect responsibilities to others.”

Billingslea, writing on Twitter, urged China to reconsider. “Achieving Great Power status requires behaving with Great Power responsibility. No more Great Wall of Secrecy on its nuclear build-up. Seat waiting for China in Vienna.”

The US and Russia each had more than 6,000 nuclear warheads in 2019, while China had 290, according to Arms Control Association. France had 300 and Britain possessed 200, with India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea maintaining smaller arsenals, according to the research group.



Rescue workers recover a body of a worker following an explosion at a well run by state-owned Oil India in Tinsukia, the northeastern state of Assam, yesterday. Two workers have been found dead near the site of a huge fire ignited by gas that has been spewing from an oil field in India for two weeks, officials said.

PHOTO: AFP

### STATUE PROTESTS AND RACE MOVEMENT

## UK confronts colonial past

AFP, Oxford

Thousands of people have called for a statue of 19th century British imperialist Cecil Rhodes to be removed from an Oxford University college, as debate raged over the removal of other monuments to the nation’s colonial past.

Protesters chanted “Take it down” and “Decolonise”, and held placards urging “Rhodes Must Fall” and “Black Lives Matter” beneath the statue at Oriel College.

The “Rhodes Must Fall” movement, which began in South Africa, failed in a previous attempt to have the statue removed but has been revived by a wave of anti-racism protests.

Protesters sat with raised fists for nearly nine minutes in tribute to unarmed black man George Floyd, whose death in US police custody triggered outrage and condemnation worldwide.

Sylvanus Leigh, 44, said the limestone statue of the Victorian-era tycoon, who founded the De Beers diamond company in what is now Zimbabwe, represented “a colonial mindset”. The care worker told AFP he could think of more deserving candidates for a statue. “Better to have Mother Teresa or Desmond Tutu,” he said.

Local MP Layla Moran called Rhodes a “white supremacist who does not represent the values of Oxford in 2020”.

The protest comes after activists toppled a statue to Edward Colton, a 17th century merchant who helped build the city of Bristol and played a leading role in slavery.

Years of local debate over what to do with the statue came to an end on Sunday when it was thrown in the harbour. Campaigners in Wales are now demanding the removal of



memorials to Napoleon war hero Thomas Picton, who was accused of cruelty while serving as a governor in Trinidad. In Scotland, activists have called for changes to the streets named after the 18th and 19th century tobacco and sugar traders who made their fortunes through slavery.

A central London statue of Winston Churchill was defaced, with protesters blaming his policies for the death of millions during famine in the Indian state of Bengal in 1943.

Late on Tuesday, an east London council said it had removed a statue of Robert Milligan, whose family owned sugar plantations in Jamaica, from the Docklands district and added it would “review” other monuments in the borough “to understand how we should represent the more troubling periods in our history”.

## Sweden says 34 year mystery of PM assassination is solved

REUTERS, Stockholm

A Swedish prosecutor closed the case of the 1986 assassination of Prime Minister Olof Palme yesterday, accusing an insurance company graphic designer who died 20 years ago of the country’s most notorious unsolved crime.

Palme, who led Sweden’s Social Democrats for decades and served two periods as prime minister, was one of the architects of Scandinavia’s model of a strong welfare state, and a fierce Cold War-era critic of both the United States and Soviet Union.

He was shot dead in central Stockholm in 1986 after a visit to the cinema with his wife and son. The failure of the police to find a killer has sparked decades of conspiracy theories, unlikely to be silenced by Wednesday’s accusation against a long dead suspect with no political profile.

Prosecutor Krister Petersson, who has led an investigation into the case since 2017, said the killer was Stig Engstrom, a suspect long known to Swedes as “Skandia man” after the company where he worked, with offices near the scene of the shooting.

Engstrom, known to have been at the



Olof Palme

scene, was repeatedly questioned in early investigations but dismissed as a serious suspect at the time. He died in 2000 in what appeared to be a suicide.


A 2018 book by an investigative journalist brought to light a range of previously overlooked evidence, including time stamps showing Engstrom had left his office earlier than he had told police, in time to commit the crime.

“Because the person is dead, I cannot bring charges against him and have decided to close the investigation,” Petersson said.

Palme’s son, Marten said he also believed Engstrom was the killer, “but unfortunately there is no real conclusive evidence”.

Palme was prime minister from 1969-1976 and again from 1982-1986. Supporters hail him as the architect of modern Sweden, while conservatives denounced his anti-colonialist views and criticism of the United States.

For decades, conspiracy theories around his killing have blamed a range of forces, from the CIA and Kurdish separatists to the South African security services.



**Dairy Development Research Project**  
**Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute**  
Savar, Dhaka-1341

Memo No. 33.05.2672.106.07.001.20-983

Date: 10/06/2020

**e-Tender Notice**

e-Tender will be invited through the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.procurement.gov.bd>) for procurement of following goods. Details are given below:

Tender ID No.	Package No.	APP ID No.	Description of goods	Tender document last selling/ downloading date & time	Tender closing date & time
468853	GD-6D	160757	Supply of Laboratory equipment, glassware and accessories	24-Jun-2020 16:00	25-Jun-2020 13:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted through the National e-GP System.

Registered tenderers are requested to deposit required fees through any schedule bank to buy the e-schedule on or before 24-Jun-2020 16:00 for the Supply of Laboratory equipment, glassware and accessories. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP Portal.

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