

Hundreds of firefighters battle wildfire in Portugal

REUTERS, Lisbon

More than 700 firefighters yesterday battled a wildfire sweeping across a part of central Portugal, with strong winds complicating efforts to tackle the blaze.

The wildfire has been raging in the municipality of Oleiros since Saturday afternoon but it has now spread to two neighbouring municipalities and has already forced the precautionary evacuation of several people.

A 21-year-old firefighter died in a road accident on Saturday evening while fighting the fire and six others were injured.

"I would like to send a word of solidarity, encouragement and thanks to the firefighters ... for the work they do for Portugal and for all of us," Prime Minister Antonio Costa said in a statement.

The fires are small compared with a massive fire that hit the region in June 2017, killing 66 people and injuring more than 250.



Russian warships sail during the Navy Day parade in Kronstadt near Saint Petersburg, Russia, yesterday. Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday said the Russian Navy would be armed with hypersonic nuclear strike weapons and underwater nuclear drones, which the defence ministry said were in their final phase of testing. Putin, who says he does not want an arms race, has often spoken of a new generation of Russian nuclear weapons that he says are unequalled and can hit almost anywhere in the world. Some Western experts have questioned how advanced they are.

PHOTO: REUTERS

US sends envoy to press for peace talks in Afghanistan

Washington has dispatched a special envoy for Afghanistan to press for peace talks between the government and Taliban fighters, with the diplomat scheduled to visit Kabul on a trip with stops in five nations, the US State Department said on Saturday. US Special Representative for Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad departed on Friday to travel to Doha, Kabul, Islamabad, Oslo and Sofia, the department said in a statement. The United States is drawing down its troops in Afghanistan under an agreement struck in February with the Taliban. The agreement aimed to pave the way for formal peace talks between the insurgents and the Afghan government, and Khalilzad's task is to try and bring both sides to the table.

Hurricane Hanna lashes south Texas coast amid pandemic

Hurricane Hanna pummeled the south Texas coast on Saturday night with howling winds and a surging sea that threatened a broad area already contending with an intense spike in coronavirus deaths. Hanna is the first hurricane for the 2020 Atlantic storm season, which is expected to be unlike any other in recent memory. Authorities will have to contend with sheltering and evacuating people while also maintaining social distancing protocols and other pandemic restrictions. The NHC forecast that Hanna would lose steam as it moved inland across Texas and northeastern Mexico overnight into Sunday. But the storm could dump upward of 18 inches of rain in the area through Monday.

Temperatures at Norway's Arctic archipelago hit record high

Temperatures at Norway's Svalbard archipelago, about midway between the mainland and the North Pole, hit a record high of 21.7 degrees Celsius on Friday, Norway's Meteorological Institute said. Home to more than 2,000 people, Longyearbyen, the main settlement in Svalbard, is about 1,300 kilometres (800 miles) from the North Pole. The Norwegian Centre for Climate Studies said last February average temperatures in Svalbard had leapt between three and five degrees Celsius (5.4-9.0 Fahrenheit) since the early 1970s and could rise by a total of 10C (18F) by 2100, if world greenhouse gas emissions keep climbing. The Arctic region is warming faster than the rest of the world, putting the entire ecosystem in danger.

Prince Harry took offence at brother's advice, says book



Britain's Prince Harry took offence at what he thought was Prince William's "snobbishness" when he advised his brother to "take as much time as you need to get to know this girl" when he was dating Meghan Markle, a new book says. Harry and his wife, Meghan, have distanced themselves from the book called "Finding Freedom", saying they were not interviewed for the biography being serialised by The Times and The Sunday Times newspapers and made no contributions to it. The Sunday Times said Harry heard a tone of snobbishness in the last two words, "this girl", and that Harry no longer felt he needed looking after. The couple and their son, Archie, now live in Los Angeles after they stepped down from their royal roles in March to forge new careers. In January they announced plans to lead a more independent life and to finance it themselves.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

US RACE PROTESTS

Protesters clash with cops

Dozens arrested, 21 police hurt in Seattle; one shot dead in Texas

AGENCIES

US police used flashbang grenades, pepper spray and tear gas as protestors marched in cities across the country on Saturday amid a wave of public anger over Donald Trump's planned "surge" of federal agents into major metropolises.

The demonstrations against racism and police brutality -- sparked by the death in Minneapolis of unarmed African-American George Floyd -- come as the US president faces an increasingly tough battle for re-election, and is campaigning heavily on a platform of "law and order".

Protestors marched in Austin, Texas, as well as Louisville in Kentucky, New York, Omaha, California's Oakland and Los Angeles, and Richmond in Virginia -- where riot police fired chemical agents at a Black Lives Matter march, according to US media.

In Seattle, the sounds of repeated

small detonations rang out in some streets, and smoke rose from an area where demonstrators had set fire to trailers by a construction site for a youth detention facility, an AFP reporter observed.

Protestors slashed car tires and smashed trailer windows. Police in riot gear faced off against the protestors, some holding umbrellas against falling pellets of pepper spray.

Late Saturday, Seattle police said 45 people were arrested in connection with the demonstrations, which they designated a riot, according to the force's official Twitter account. The post also said "21 officers sustained injuries after being struck by bricks, rocks mortars or other explosives. Most officers were able to return to duty. One was treated at a hospital for a knee injury."

Police Chief Carmen Best implored people to "come in peace to the city," and castigated the demonstrations.

"The rioters had no regard for the

community's safety, for officers' safety or for the businesses and property that they destroyed," local media reported her as saying.

In Texas, one person was killed when several shots were fired amid the Black Lives Matter protest in downtown Austin on Saturday, authorities said.

Footage posted during a Facebook Live showed the moment when several shots rang out in the Texas capital as about 100 people marched and chanted, "Fists up! Fight back!"

The latest violence came after police and federal agents fired tear gas and forcefully dispersed protestors further south in Portland early Saturday, also in anger over Trump's heavily-criticised surge of security forces.

The city, the biggest in the state of Oregon, has seen nightly protests against racism and police brutality for nearly two months, initially sparked by Floyd's death.

HANDLING OF CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

Calls grow in Israel for Netanyahu to go

AFP, Jerusalem

"We won't leave until Bibi leaves." Israel's struggle to contain the coronavirus has stirred deep-seated resentment towards Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and protests demanding his resignation are growing by the week.

Some demonstrators branded Netanyahu -- who has been indicted with bribery, fraud and breach of trust -- as corrupt, while others condemned a lack of coherence in the government's response to the pandemic.

For Tamir Gay-Tsabary, who travels each day to the Jerusalem protests with his wife Tami from southern Israel, coronavirus was "a trigger" that brought renewed focus to Netanyahu's leadership faults.

The pandemic made people "understand that he doesn't care (about) Israel, he just cares for himself," the 56-year-old sales manager told AFP. Netanyahu won praise for his initial response to the virus.

His government's quick decisions in March to curb travel and impose a lockdown brought the daily case-count to a trickle by early May.

But an economic re-opening that began in late April has led to an explosion in transmission in the country of about 9 million people, with daily COVID-19 tallies ranging between 1,000 and 2,000 cases in recent weeks.

Anti-government protests that initially included a few hundred people in Tel Aviv, now regularly count several thousand there and in Jerusalem.

Reflecting on the movement, Einaf Schiff of the Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper said it began in response to "a premature victory celebration for having defeated the coronavirus".

That false victory "morphed into a healthcare and economic failure, which has left a severe crisis of confidence between the public and the government in its wake," he said.

In response to rising cases, Netanyahu's centre-right coalition has re-imposed economically painful restrictions, including targeting shops and markets. It has also approved additional relief measures, notably cash deposits to all citizens.

Protester Amit Finkershtin said accused the government of giving everyone cash "just to shut our mouth up."

Netanyahu has taken responsibility for re-opening the economy too soon, but said he was seeking a tricky balance between protecting livelihoods and limiting viral transmission, a challenge faced by many leaders. But he has also sought to undermine the protests as a product of the "anarchist left" and accused the media of exaggerating their size.



Police officers stand guard as a bus, which was loaded up with items by US Consulate staff, leaves the US Consulate General in Chengdu, Sichuan province, China, yesterday, after China ordered its closure in response to US order for China to shut its consulate in Houston.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Vietnam bus crash kills 13 on school reunion trip

AFP, Hanoi

A high school reunion trip in Vietnam took a fatal turn yesterday when a bus carrying the alumni crashed at a bend on the highway, killing more than a dozen passengers.

The nearly 40 passengers on the bus were classmates from Dong Hoi High School who were travelling to visit an area in central Quang Binh province for the 30th anniversary of their graduation. But the driver lost control on a sharp turn on the highway, said state media.

UK to unveil anti-obesity plan

AFP, London

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is set to roll out a £10 million anti-obesity campaign, including junk food advert bans, following his own brush with death that he partly blamed on his weight.

Johnson will announce his "Better Health" campaign on Monday, which is expected to include encouraging doctors to issue "cycling prescriptions" for overweight patients, more segregated cycling lanes and a ban on junk food television ads before 9.00pm, according to British media reports.

"COVID-19 has given us all a wake-up call of the immediate and long-term risks of being overweight, and the Prime Minister is clear we must use this moment to get healthier, more active and eat better," said a government spokesman on Sunday.

"We will be urging the public to use this moment to take stock of how they live their lives, and to take simple steps to lose weight, live healthier lives, and reduce pressure on the NHS."

Restaurants will also have to publish the number of calories in the meals they serve, according to a report in the Daily Mail.

Johnson, who has fought his own battles to control his weight, required intensive care treatment in April after catching the virus.

The plan, which the Guardian estimated would cost £10 million (\$12.8 million,

11 million euros), marks a U-turn by the prime minister, who has long railed against the interventionist "nanny state".

A Public Health England (PHE) study published on Saturday found that obesity increased the risk of death from coronavirus by 40 percent.



বাংলাদেশ সড়ক পরিবহন কর্পোরেশন
অপারেশন বিভাগ
বিআরটিসি বাসের 'ঈদ স্পেশাল সার্ভিস' সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, আসন্ন পবিত্র ঈদুল আযহা/২০২০ উপলক্ষে বিপাত বৎসরের ন্যায় বিআরটিসি ঘরমুখে মানুষের সহজ ও আরামদায়ক যাত্রা নিশ্চিতকরণের লক্ষ্যে অন্য ২৭/০৭/২০২০ তারিখ হতে 'ঈদ স্পেশাল সার্ভিস' এর আয়োজন করেছে।

০২। এ উপলক্ষে আগামী ২৭/০৭/২০২০ তারিখ হতে বিআরটিসি'র সবশ্রেণি ডিপো হতে অগ্রিম টিকেট বিক্রয় শুরু হবে এবং আগামী ০৪/০৮/২০২০ তারিখ পর্যন্ত ঈদ সার্ভিসের বাস চলাচল করবে। ঢাকাস্থ মতিঝিল, জোয়ারসাহারা, কল্যাণপুর, গাবতলী, মোহাম্মদপুর, মিরপুর, যাত্রাবাড়ি, গাজীপুর ও নারায়ণগঞ্জ বাস ডিপো (ফুলবাড়িয়াস্থ সিবিএস-২) হতে নিম্নবর্ণিত রুটসমূহের (ঢাকা হতে) অগ্রিম টিকেট বিক্রয়ের ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হয়েছে।

০৩। মতিঝিল বাস ডিপোর নিয়ন্ত্রণেঃ দাঁড়কান্দি, খুলনা, দিনাজপুর, নেত্রকোনা রুট। কল্যাণপুর বাস ডিপোর নিয়ন্ত্রণেঃ রংপুর, পঞ্চগড়, কুষ্টিয়া, গাইবান্ধা, কুষ্টিয়া, রাজশাহী, শেরপুর, জামালপুর, নেত্রকোনা, নাগরপুর, গোবিন্দপুর, রানিশংকল, ঠাকুরগাঁও, দিনাজপুর রুট। গাবতলী ডিপোর নিয়ন্ত্রণেঃ ঢাকা-নাগরপুর, রংপুর, দিনাজপুর, ঠাকুরগাঁও রুট। জোয়ারসাহারা বাস ডিপোর নিয়ন্ত্রণেঃ বিশ্বরোড-পাঁচদোনা, রংপুর, নওগাঁ, জয়পুরহাট, টাঙ্গাইল, ময়মনসিংহ ও বগুড়া রুট। মিরপুর বাস ডিপোর নিয়ন্ত্রণেঃ রংপুর, কুষ্টিয়া, কুষ্টিয়া, দিনাজপুর ও নওগাঁ রুট। মোহাম্মদপুর বাস ডিপোর নিয়ন্ত্রণেঃ রংপুর রুট। গাজীপুর বাস ডিপোর নিয়ন্ত্রণেঃ বিশ্বরোড-পাঁচদোনা, কিশোরগঞ্জ, টাঙ্গাইল, জামালপুর, নেত্রকোনা, ময়মনসিংহ, রংপুর, দিনাজপুর, ঠাকুরগাঁও রুট। যাত্রাবাড়ি বাস ডিপোর নিয়ন্ত্রণেঃ ঢাকা-পৌরিপুর, টঙ্গী-মাওয়া রুট। নারায়ণগঞ্জ বাস ডিপোর নিয়ন্ত্রণেঃ ঢাকা-নারায়ণগঞ্জ, ঢাকা-মেঘনা উপজেলা, বিশ্বরোড-পাঁচদোনা রুট। কুমিল্লা বাস ডিপোর নিয়ন্ত্রণেঃ ঢাকা-কুমিল্লা, ঢাকা-বগুড়া রুট। নরসিংদী বাস ডিপোর নিয়ন্ত্রণেঃ ঢাকা-নরসিংদী ও ঢাকা-ভৈরব রুট। সিলেট বাস ডিপোর নিয়ন্ত্রণেঃ সিলেট-তারাকান্দা রুট। সম্মানিত যাত্রীসাধারণকে বিআরটিসি'র 'ঈদ স্পেশাল সার্ভিস' এর সেবা গ্রহণ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হ'ল।

০৪। এতদ্বারা যাত্রীসাধারণের চলাচলের সুবিধার্থে অন্য ২৭/০৭/২০২০ তারিখ হতে ঢাকার বিভিন্ন ডিপো/টার্মিনালে জরুরি সার্ভিস প্রদানের লক্ষ্যে ৫০টি বাস নিম্নলিখিত ডিপোতে/স্থানে স্ট্যান্ডবাই থাকবে- সায়েরাবাদ বাস টার্মিনাল, মিরপুর ১২ নম্বরস্থ মিরপুর বাস ডিপো, কল্যাণপুর বাস ডিপোর সামনে, নবীনগর, মতিঝিল বাস ডিপোর সামনে, মহাখালী বাস টার্মিনাল, জোয়ারসাহারা বাস ডিপো, মোহাম্মদপুর বাস ডিপো, গাজীপুর চৌরাস্তা, হোমোয়েটপুর বাসস্ট্যান্ড এবং চন্দ্রা বাসস্ট্যান্ড। এ সংক্রান্ত বিস্তারিত তথ্য বিআরটিসি'র ওয়েবসাইট www.brtc.gov.bd এ পাওয়া যাবে।

০৫। যোগাযোগঃ ম্যানেজার (অপাঃ) যথাক্রমে মতিঝিল বাস ডিপো-মোবাঃ ০১৯৯৯৬৬৮৮৮৮, কল্যাণপুর বাস ডিপো-মোবাঃ ০১৭১১৫৭৮৭৪৪, গাবতলী বাস ডিপো-মোবাঃ ০১৭১২২২৪০৩৮, জোয়ারসাহারা বাস ডিপো-মোবাঃ ০১৬১৯৪৫৭২৪৫ মিরপুর বাস ডিপো-মোবাঃ ০১৫৫২৪৪২৫৬৬, মোহাম্মদপুর বাস ডিপো-মোবাঃ ০১৭১১৪৩৫২১৩, গাজীপুর বাস ডিপো-মোবাঃ ০১৭১২৪০৬৫৩, যাত্রাবাড়ি বাস ডিপো-মোবাঃ ০১৭১৫১০৩৪২৪, নারায়ণগঞ্জ বাস ডিপো-মোবাঃ ০১৭৩৬৮৮৪৩৩৫, কুমিল্লা বাস ডিপো-মোবাঃ ০১৭৫৮৮৮০০১১, নরসিংদী বাস ডিপো-মোবাঃ ০১৫৫৩৪৪৬৬৭।

ডেপুটি জেনারেল ম্যানেজার (অপাঃ)
বিআরটিসি

জিডি-১১৯২