



Migrants crawl under a barbed fence at the Hungarian-Serbian border near Roszke, yesterday. As Europe struggles with its worst migrant crisis since World War II, Hungary has become, like Italy and Greece, a "frontline" state. So far this year, police say around 141,500 migrants have been intercepted crossing into Hungary.

PHOTO: AFP

UK immigration hits record high

REUTERS, London

Long-term net migration to Britain has hit a record high, underscoring the challenge Prime Minister David Cameron faces to dispel voter fears that immigrants are straining public services such as housing, hospitals and schools.

As an island nation off northwest Europe, Britain is far from the frontline of the EU-wide crisis that has seen hundreds of thousands of migrants and refugees pour into the bloc this year via countries like Italy, Greece and Hungary.

The bigger problem for Cameron is his inability to limit immigration by European Union passport-holders, as freedom of movement is enshrined in the EU's founding treaties. Arrivals from countries like India and China are also on the rise.

Official data on Thursday showed a net 330,000 people moved to Britain in the year to March 2015, up 40 percent on the same period a year ago. A net 183,000 came from within the EU, up by 53,000.

The quarterly figures have become a regular source of political embarrassment for Cameron, who has insisted he is still working towards a declared overall target of less than 100,000.

Curbing migrants' access to welfare benefits in order to deter them from coming to Britain is a key objective for the Conservative prime minister as he renegotiates the country's relationship with the EU before putting its continued membership to a public vote by the end of 2017.

Immigration minister James Brokenshire said the latest data was "deeply disappointing".

The debate has intensified in recent months, with the huge influx into EU of migrants and refugees fleeing poverty and war in the Middle East, Africa and elsewhere.

The data showed that asylum applications had risen by 10 percent but, at 25,771 in the year ending June 2015, remained low in comparison to other channels of migration and well below their 2002 peak of 84,132. A total of 11,600 people were granted asylum or an alternative form of protection.

Nasa sees unavoidable sea level rise ahead

AFP, Miami

Sea levels are rising around the world, and the latest satellite data suggests that three feet (one meter) or more is unavoidable in the next 100-200 years, Nasa scientists said Wednesday.

Ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica are melting faster than ever, and oceans are warming and expanding much more rapidly than they have in years past.

Rising seas will have "profound impacts" around the world, said Michael Freilich, director of Nasa's Earth Science Division. "More than 150 million people, most of them in Asia, live within one meter of present sea level," he said.

Low-lying US states such as Florida are at risk of disappearing, as are some of the world's major cities such as Singapore and Tokyo.

"It may entirely eliminate some Pacific island nations," he said. There is no doubt that global coastlines will look very different in years to come, US space agency experts told reporters on a conference call to



discuss the latest data on sea level rise.

"Right now we have committed to probably more than three feet (one meter) of sea level rise, just based on the warming we have had so far," said Steve Nerem of the University of Colorado, Boulder and leader of Nasa's sea level rise team.

"It will very likely get worse in the future," he told reporters. "The biggest uncertainty is predicting how quickly the polar ice sheets will melt."

The last major predictions were made in 2013 by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Based on a consensus of international researchers, the IPCC said global sea levels would likely rise from one to three feet by the end of the century.

Nasa's predictions are based on a series of altimeters that measure ocean height from space. Nasa and French space agency CNES began launching satellites to measure sea level in 1992.

SHRINE BLAST

Thai police look into Turkish link

REUTERS, Bangkok

Thai police said yesterday they were looking at arrivals of Turkish nationals in the days before a Bangkok bomb attack that killed 20 people, but authorities in Turkey said they had received no request for assistance with the investigation.

Police in Thailand and some security analysts have raised the possibility of a connection in the Aug 17 blast to the Turkic-speaking Muslim Uighur minority from the far west of China, who complain of Chinese government persecution.

The blast at the Hindu Erawan Shrine, popular with Asian tourists, killed 20 people, more than half of them foreigners.

Thailand last month deported more than 100 Uighurs to China, sparking condemnation by rights groups and a protest outside Thailand's consulate in Istanbul. The treatment of Uighurs is an important issue for many Turks, who see themselves as sharing a common cultural and religious background.

Thai media reported that police were investigating 15 to 20 Turkish people who had entered the country over the two weeks before the blast.

National police spokesman Prawut Thavornsirir, asked about the reports, confirmed that police had been looking into the arrival of Turkish people.

"There are probably more Turkish coming into Thailand than that. We investigated groups which may have come into the country," Prawut told reporters.

Two Iraqi generals killed

Jihadists make gains in Syria, capture villages near Aleppo regime base

AFP, Baghdad

A suicide attack claimed by the Islamic State group killed two Iraqi generals yesterday in the key battleground province of Anbar, as the jihadists made gains in northern Syria.

ISIS overran large areas of Iraq in 2014 and seized Anbar capital Ramadi earlier this year. It also controls major territory in neighbouring Syria, where it has thrived amid a bloody civil war.

In Syria, ISIS fighters seized five villages from rebel forces overnight in the northern province of Aleppo and entered the outskirts of a key opposition bastion there, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

The jihadist group seized three villages near the town of Marea and entered its southern outskirts, and took another two villages further north in Aleppo province, near the border

with Turkey, it said.

Military spokesman Brigadier General Yahya Rasool said a suicide bomber in an explosives-rigged vehicle struck the Al-Jarashi area north of Ramadi as Iraqi forces advanced.

The attack killed the deputy head of the Anbar Operations Command, Staff Major General Abdulrahman Abu Raghif, and 10th Division commander

killed.

A statement from the Iraqi Joint Operations Command confirmed the deaths of the two officers along with an unspecified number of other "heroic martyrs".

The death or injury of senior Iraqi officers during battles against ISIS is a persistent problem for the country.

Two heads of the Anbar Operations Command have been wounded this year, while the commanders of a division and a brigade were killed in Anbar in April. The province's governor was wounded in 2014.

Senior army and police commanders have also been killed in other Iraqi provinces since ISIS launched its devastating offensive in June 2014, sweeping security forces aside.

Baghdad's forces have managed to regain significant territory in two provinces north of the capital, but much of western Iraq, including Anbar, remains outside government control.

WAR ON ISIS

Staff Brigadier General Safin Abdulmajid, Rasool said.

ISIS claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement online, but gave a different account of how it unfolded, saying it was carried out by four suicide bombers and two supporting gunmen who targeted the main command headquarters north of Ramadi.

It said all six of the jihadists were



Revellers mock a swim in tomato pulp during the annual "tomatina" festivities in the village of Bunol, near Valencia on Tuesday. Some 22,000 revellers hurled 150 tonnes of squashed tomatoes at each other drenching the streets in red in a gigantic Spanish food fight marking the 70th annual "Tomatina" battle.

PHOTO: AFP



Greece names top judge as caretaker PM

AFP, Athens

Greece yesterday named its top judge as caretaker prime minister to organise early elections expected next month, the fifth in the crisis-hit country in six years.

President Prokopis Pavlopoulos said he had chosen Vassiliki Thanou, the head of Greece's Supreme Court and the first woman to assume the post.

Mother-of-three Thanou, 65, is known for firing off an emotional letter to European Commission chairman Jean-Claude Juncker in February, protesting that austerity cuts were "annihilating" the Greek people.

Thanou, who holds a degree in European law from France's Sorbonne university, was to take her oath of office later and her administration will be sworn in today, the president's office said.

The date for Greece's general election is to be officially announced by the end of the week, but it is likely to be scheduled for September 20.

Outgoing Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras has ruled out forming a national unity government should he fail to win an outright majority in the snap elections triggered after he resigned last week.

Tsipras called for the fresh vote on August 20 after suffering a major rebellion in his hard-left Syriza party over Greece's huge new international bailout, its third in five years.

'Just waiting to go BOOM'

Reports say US TV gunman was motivated by race, revenge

AFP, Roanoke

The former television reporter who shot dead two journalists during a live US broadcast before killing himself warned he had been a "human powder keg... just waiting to go BOOM."

The gunman -- Vester Lee Flanagan, 41, also known as Bryce Williams -- posted chilling footage of Wednesday's shocking double murder online.

Reporter Alison Parker, 24, and cameraman Adam Ward, 27, were shot and killed at close range while conducting an on-air interview for WDBJ, a CBS affiliate in Roanoke, Virginia, about 240 miles (385 kilometers) southwest of Washington.

Friends, family and the community at large mourned the tragedy, which renewed calls for tougher gun laws in the United States. Flanagan was said to have bought his gun legally.

"It breaks my heart every time you read or hear about these kinds of incidents," President Barack Obama told an ABC affiliate in Philadelphia.

WDBJ's morning newscast Thursday held a moment of silence

Gardner, head of the Smith Mountain Lake Chamber of Commerce, at the lakeside Bridgewater Resort near Roanoke.

Several shots were heard, as well as screams, as Ward's camera fell to

Parker.

Both she and Ward apparently did not see the gunman.

In New York, ABC News said it received a 23-page manifesto from a man identifying himself as Bryce Williams nearly two hours after the shooting.

In the rambling manifesto, Flanagan -- an African American sacked in 2013 by WDBJ -- said he was sent over the edge by the June mass shooting of black worshippers at a church in South Carolina.

He described himself as a "human powder keg... just waiting to go BOOM!!!!"

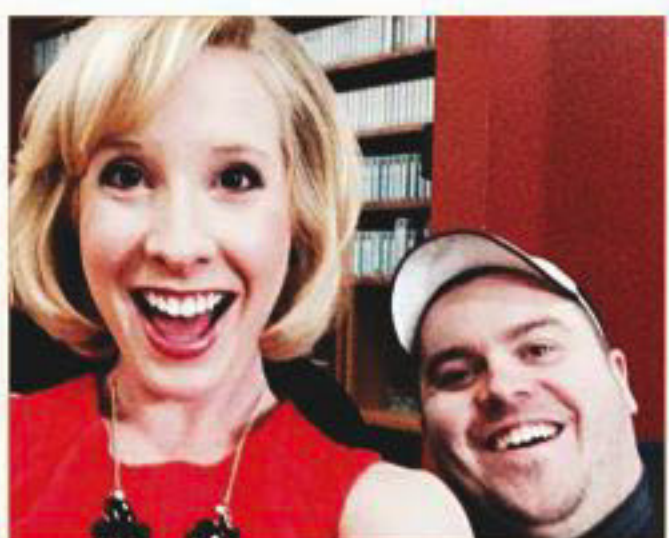
Flanagan also complained in what he called a "Suicide Note for Friends and Family" of racial discrimination and bullying "for being a gay, black man."

Parker's father, Andy Parker, made a plea for tougher gun laws after the murder of his daughter, who he described as "our bright, shining light."



These pictures show WDBJ reporter Alison Parker (L) is pictured interviewing Vicki Gardner in Moneta, Virginia August 26, 2015 moments before she was shot. Right, Parker and cameraman Adam Ward were both killed in the shooting.

PHOTO: REUTERS



24 hours to the minute after Parker and Ward were killed.

Video of the shooting -- apparently filmed by Flanagan himself -- was posted on Twitter and Facebook. The footage was later removed.

Parker was interviewing Vicki

the floor, capturing a fuzzy and chilling glimpse of the gunman and his handgun.

Later, a video posted by Flanagan under the Twitter account @bryce_williams7, showed the shooter brandishing a weapon at



AURORA SHOOTING Killer gets 12 life sentences

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A gunman who murdered 12 people and injured 70 others when he carried out a carefully planned shooting at a movie theatre in Colorado has been handed life sentences for each fatality and the maximum 3,318 years in prison.

James Holmes, 27, was convicted of first-degree murder and 140 counts of attempted first degree murder, for the shooting at a packed midnight screening of a Batman film at a multiplex in the Denver suburb of Aurora on July 20, 2012.

Blood test 'detects cancer relapse'

BBC ONLINE

A blood test may be able to save lives by finding cancers that have started to grow again after treatment, a study suggests.

Scientists at the Institute of Cancer Research in London found traces of breast cancer eight months before doctors would normally have noticed. In the trial, the test found 12 cancers out of the 15 women who relapsed.

Experts said there was still some way to go before there was a test that could be used in hospitals. Surgery to remove a tumour is one of the core treatments for cancer.

However, a tumour starts from a single cancerous cell. If parts of the tumour have already spread to another part of the body or the surgeon did not remove it all then the cancer can return.

Fifty-five patients who were at high risk of relapse because of the size of the tumour were followed in the study published in Science Translational Medicine.

The scientists analysed the mutated DNA of the tumour and then continued to search the blood for those mutations. Fifteen patients relapsed and the blood test gave advanced warning of 12 of them.

The other three patients all had cancers that had spread to the brain where the protective blood-brain barrier could have stopped the fragments of the cancer entering the bloodstream. The test detected cancerous DNA in one patient who has not relapsed.

None of the women in the study were told that cancerous material had been detected as it would have been unethical to base decisions on such an unproven prototype.