

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran says 'sabotage' caused Natanz nuclear site blast

Iran's Atomic Energy Organization said on Sunday that "sabotage" was the cause of an explosion that damaged the Natanz nuclear facility last month. "Security investigations confirm this was sabotage and what is certain is that an explosion took place in Natanz," said spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi. "But how this explosion took place and with what materials... will be announced by security officials in due course," he was quoted as saying by state news agency IRNA. Iran said after the July 2 incident that it had determined its cause but declined to release details due to "security concerns". Natanz governor Ramezan-Ali Ferdowsi said a fire had broken out at the site, but the country's atomic agency said it caused no casualties or radioactive pollution. At the time, IRNA published an editorial warning Iran's arch-foes against hostile actions, saying unnamed Israeli social media accounts had claimed the Jewish state was behind it.

Trump's media pugilist Conway steps down

Kellyanne Conway, a long-serving advisor to President Donald Trump known for sparring with reporters, announced Sunday she will step down to focus on her family. Conway, 53, has been at Trump's side since day one, managing his 2016 campaign that catapulted the reality TV star into the world's most powerful office. But the past four years of singular loyalty to Trump, including defending him on TV and with informal "gaggle" with the press, have taken a toll on the combative spin doctor who coined the phrase "alternative facts." While she made a name for herself as one of Trump's sharpest



defenders, her husband, prominent Washington lawyer George Conway, is a strident critic of the president, repeatedly and loudly questioning his mental fitness for office. "I will be transitioning from the White House at the end of this month," she said in a statement.

Bollywood's Bachchan back at work

Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan is back at work filming India's version of "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?" following a bout of Covid-19, while authorities eased coronavirus curbs on movie and TV shoots. A blanket ban on studio activity in March dealt a huge blow to India's cinema and TV industries, hitting not just Bollywood — the world's most prolific film factory — but also regional movie-making hubs and productions for television and streaming platforms. In June shooting was allowed again but with strict rules, including a ban on actors and crew aged over 65 — including Bachchan, 77 — until a court overturned that earlier this month. Late Sunday the government eased the regulations but still insisted that common facilities must be sanitised "as far as possible".

SOURCE: REUTERS, AFP



Armed policemen stand guard as survivors and family members of victims of the Christchurch mosque attacks wait in a queue to enter the Christchurch High Court ahead of the Australian white supremacist Brenton Tarrant's sentencing hearing in Christchurch, New Zealand yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

2019 NZ Mosque Shooting

Gunman unmoved during sentencing

AFP, CHRISTCHURCH

The white supremacist who murdered 51 Muslims in last year's New Zealand mosques shooting showed no emotion yesterday as distraught survivors confronted him in court with harrowing accounts of the atrocity.

At the opening of the sentencing hearing in a Christchurch courtroom, prosecutors revealed chilling details of a meticulously planned attack in which Brenton Tarrant wanted "to have shot more people than he did".

With the Australian gunman face-to-face with the bereaved families and wounded for the first time, survivors told of hiding under bodies, of forgiving Tarrant, and of living with the sound of an automatic rifle ringing in their ears.

Held amid tight security with snipers positioned on downtown rooftops, the hearing was told how on March 15 last year the heavily-armed Tarrant opened fire on men, women and children, ignoring pleas for help and driving over one body as he moved from one mosque to the next.

When he saw three-year-old Mucad Ibrahim clinging to his father's leg, Tarrant killed him "with two precisely aimed shots," prosecutor Barnaby Hawes told the court.

Tarrant has pleaded guilty to 51 charges of murder, 40 of attempted murder and one of terrorism after storming into two mosques in Christchurch, with the rampage ending when police stopped him as he travelled to a third.

Lawyers expect the 29-year-old to be the first person jailed for life without parole in New Zealand. "He stated that he wanted to have shot more people than he did and was on the way to another mosque in Ashburton to carry out another attack when he was stopped," Hawes said.

'Fairly likely' Navalny was poisoned: Berlin

AFP, BERLIN

The German government said yesterday it is "fairly likely" that Russian opposition figure Alexei Navalny, who is currently being treated in a Berlin hospital, was poisoned.

The 44-year-old was brought to Berlin on Saturday from Siberia, where he fell ill on a flight with what Russian doctors have blamed on a metabolic disorder.

"We are dealing with a patient who it is fairly likely was poisoned," Angela Merkel's spokesman Steffen Seibert told reporters.

The Kremlin critic, Russia's best-known opposition figure, was rushed into intensive care on Thursday after his plane made an emergency landing in the Siberian city of Omsk.

Aides have said they believe Navalny was poisoned with a cup of tea, pointing the blame at President Vladimir Putin.

The Omsk regional health ministry said Saturday that caffeine and alcohol were found in Navalny's urine, but "no convulsive or synthetic poisons were detected".

"The suspicion is... that somebody poisoned Mr Navalny -- that somebody seriously poisoned Mr Navalny -- which, unfortunately, there are some examples of in recent Russian history, so the world takes this suspicion very seriously," Seibert said. Navalny was flown to Berlin on a plane chartered by the German NGO Cinema for Peace, an initiative financed by private donations.

US POLICE SHOOTING OF BLACK MAN

Protests erupt in Wisconsin

Victim hospitalised in serious condition; curfew imposed

REUTERS, WASHINGTON

Protests erupted in Kenosha in the US state of Wisconsin after police shot an apparently unarmed Black man multiple times in the back, according to the state governor, prompting authorities to impose a curfew.

The incident on Sunday was likely to add to continuing outrage and protests in the United States and abroad against police brutality and racism since the death on May 25 of George Floyd, a 46-year-old African-American man, after a white police officer knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes.

The victim in Kenosha, identified by Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers as Jacob Blake, was hospitalized in serious condition.

A video circulating on social media and cited by the US media showed a



man walking towards a car followed by two officers and one of them shooting him as he opens the car door.

Soon afterward, multiple fires were set at the scene by a crowd that gathered to protest against the incident.

Social media posts showed crowds marching down streets of Kenosha, a city of around 100,000 people on Lake Michigan about 65 miles (100 km) north of Chicago, and throwing Molotov cocktails

and bricks at police officers.

Police responded by imposing a city-wide curfew until 7:00 am local time.

The shooting occurred at around 5 p.m. as officers were responding to what they called a "domestic incident". The victim was immediately taken to a hospital by the police, according to a Kenosha police department statement. No further explanation was given by the police as to what led to the shooting.

The Wisconsin Department of Justice said early yesterday that officers involved in the shooting had been placed on administrative leave.

The state's Division of Criminal Investigation said it would aim to issue a report to prosecutors within 30 days, according to US media reported.

Trump 'walked away' from Covid crisis: Biden

AFP, WASHINGTON

Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden said Sunday he blames Donald Trump for "walking away" as Covid-19 ravaged the country, in a televised interview alongside running mate Kamala Harris on the eve of the Republican convention.

The president, who is trailing Biden in polls, has been heavily criticized for his response to the pandemic, during which he has pushed for lockdown restrictions to be lifted early, been hesitant to embrace face masks, touted treatments not supported by medical experts and insisted the virus will just "disappear."

"I don't blame him for the current crisis," Biden told ABC as the US neared 5.7 million infections and 177,000 deaths, by far the most in absolute terms of any country in the world. "I blame him for walking away and not dealing with solutions."

With the economy in shambles after



pandemic-related lockdowns, Biden said again that the only way to get back on track was to bring the virus under control.

He vowed to heed scientific advice -- even if that would mean shutting country down once more. Biden slammed the segment of Americans who cite their "freedom" as they still resist wearing masks, despite evidence suggesting such barriers are one of the best ways to break transmission of Covid-19.

Workers in Qatar still facing abuses:HRW

AFP, DOHA

Qatar's massive migrant workforce is still being exploited by employers who withhold wages, threaten expulsion, and deduct pay, leaving some staff unable to eat, Human Rights Watch said yesterday.

Widespread abuses persist even after Qatar -- where more than 90 percent of the 2.75 population are migrant workers -- pledged to clean up its act following a torrent of criticism of its labour laws when it won the contest to host the 2022 World Cup a decade ago.

"Independent employers, as well as those operating labour supply companies, frequently delay, withhold, or arbitrarily deduct workers' wages," the New York-based rights group said in a report.

HRW said it interviewed more than 93 migrant workers working for more than 60 companies or employers and reviewed legal documents as part of its investigation.

"Employers often withhold contractually guaranteed overtime payments and end-of service benefits, and they regularly violate their contracts with migrant workers with impunity," it said. Qatari authorities have taken numerous steps to protect workers -- including the creation of an electronic Wage Protection System meant to detect unpaid salaries.



A news cameraman covers the LNU Lightning Complex Fire as it engulfs trees and brush in Lake County, California, US on Sunday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Education Engineering Department, Sunamgonj  
[www.eedmoe.gov.bd](http://www.eedmoe.gov.bd)

Tender Notice No. 03/e-Tender/NGSS/EED/Sun/2020-2021

Date: 23/08/2020

**Invitation for e-Tender (OTM)**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of works mentioned below under Education Engineering Department, Sunamgonj District.

Sl No.	Tender/Proposal Package No.	Tender ID	Name of works/package description	Last date & time of selling documents	Last date & time of submission documents
1	e-Tender-1/NGSS/XEN/EED/Sun/2020-2021, Date: 23/8/2020	485977	Construction of 5-storied Academic Building with 5-storied Foundation Ground floor open in/c. Sanitary Water Supply & Internal Electrification Works at Golha High School, Dharmapasha, Sunamgonj	20/09/2020 Time: 17:00	21/09/2020 Time: 12:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents of said packages from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks' branches up to 20/09/2020 at time 17.00pm. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

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GD-1323

**সাধারণ বীমা কর্পোরেশন**  
ভাড়া আদায় ও প্রদান সেল (৩য় তলা)  
৩৩, দিলকুশা বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০।

**অফিস ভাড়া বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

স্বনামধন্য রাষ্ট্রীয় প্রতিষ্ঠান সাধারণ বীমা কর্পোরেশনের ২৪-২৫, দিলকুশা বা/এ, অবস্থিত সাধারণ বীমা সদন-এ অফিস স্পেস সরকারী/আধা-সরকারী/স্বায়ত্তশাসিত/স্বনামধন্য ব্যবসায়ী/ব্যক্তি মালিকানাধীন প্রতিষ্ঠান-এর নিকট ১লা নভেম্বর-২০২০ হতে ভাড়া দেয়া হবে। ভাড়া নিতে আগ্রহীগণকে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে নিম্নঠিকানায় যোগাযোগ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে :

ভবনের অবস্থান ও ঠিকানা	জায়গার পরিমাণ
সাধারণ বীমা সদন, ৬ষ্ঠ তলা ২৪-২৫, দিলকুশা বা/এ, ঢাকা।	৬৪০ বর্গফুট

**মোহাম্মদ মনিরুল ইসলাম**  
ম্যানেজার  
ভাড়া আদায় ও প্রদান সেল  
(৩য় তলা)  
মোবাইল : ০১৫৫৩-৩৫২০৯৫  
০১৮১৮-২০৩৫১২

**মোঃ নজরুল ইসলাম**  
সহকারী জেনারেল ম্যানেজার  
দাবী ও ভাড়া (৭ম তলা)  
ফোন : ৯৫৬১২৯০

**খসরু দস্তগীর আলম**  
ডেপুটি জেনারেল ম্যানেজার  
সম্পত্তি, সংস্থাপন, আইন ও ভাড়া  
(৪র্থ তলা)  
ফোন : ৯৫৫৩৩৯৩