#### US GUN CONTROL House passes bill, sends it to Biden

AFP, Washington

US lawmakers broke a decades-long stalemate on firearms control Friday, passing the first major safety regulations in almost 30 years, less than 24 hours after the Supreme Court bolstered the right to bear arms.

The Democratic-led House of Representatives voted to rubber-stamp a bipartisan Senate gun bill that -- while modest - amounts to the first significant piece of legislation to regulate firearms since 1994.

Fourteen Republicans defied their leader Kevin McCarthy to cross the aisle and approve the 80-page package, which advanced from the evenly-divided upper chamber with cross-party backing late Thursday.

That vote came hours after the Supreme Court's conservative majority had struck down a century-old New York law requiring permits for concealedcarry handguns.

The gun legislation includes enhanced background checks for younger buyers and federal cash for states introducing "red flag" laws that allow courts to temporarily remove weapons from those considered a threat.

Billions of dollars have been allocated to crack down on "straw purchasers" who buy firearms for people who are not allowed them and to curb gun trafficking.

The deeply-divisive issue of gun control was reignited by two massacres in May that saw dozens of people gunned down in New York and Texas



Abortion rights activists protest after the US Supreme Court struck down Roe Vs. Wade, overturning the right to abortion, in Portland, Oregon, US, on Friday.

# A 'huge blow' to human rights

Says UN as world leaders condemn US Supreme Court ruling on abortion

**AGENCIES** 

International condemnation has been swift following the US Supreme Court's decision to upend the constitutional protections for abortion contained in the landmark Roe v Wade ruling of 1973.

The conservative-dominated court overturned the landmark 1973 "Roe v. Wade" decision enshrining a woman's right to an abortion, saying individual states can restrict or ban the procedure themselves.

The US court's decision was "a major setback" and a "huge blow to women's human rights and gender equality", UN human rights chief Michelle Bachelet said

A spokesperson for UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said restricting abortion access does not stop people seeking the procedure "it only makes it

World Health Organisation (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said he expected more of the United State when it came to the protection of women's rights.

"Abortion is a fundamental right for all women. It must be protected," French President Emmanuel Macron said on Twitter.

At a news conference, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said: "I think it's a big step backwards ... I've always believed in a woman's right to choose and I stick to that view and that is why the UK has the laws that it does."

Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau called the news "horrific" and asserted: "No

government, politician, or man should tell a woman what she can and cannot do with her body. I want women in Canada to know that we will always stand up for your right to choose.'

Other world leaders expressed concern about the global consequences of the US Supreme Court decision.

First Minister of Scotland Nicola Sturgeon called it "one of the darkest days for women's rights in my lifetime", and said the immediate consequences of the court decision will "embolden anti-abortion and anti-women forces in other countries too".

Former US president Donald Trump cemented the conservative majority in the Supreme Court by appointing three justices.

Opinion polls show a majority of Americans support abortion rights.

## 18 migrants die in attempt to enter Spain's Melilla

AFP, Nadoi

At least 18 African migrants died when a huge crowd tried to cross into the Spanish enclave of Melilla in northern Morocco, according to an update from Moroccan authorities. Around 2,000 migrants approached Melilla at dawn Friday and more than 500 managed to enter a border control area after cutting a fence with shears, the Spanish government's local delegation said in a statement. Moroccan officials said late Friday that 13 migrants had died of injuries sustained in the incursion, in addition to five who were confirmed dead earlier in the day.

#### Palestinian teen killed

REUTERS, Ramallah

A Palestinian teenager was killed by Israeli soldiers in the occupied West Bank after they opened fire on a group of Palestinians throwing rocks at passing drivers, the Israeli army said vesterday. The Palestinian Foreign Ministry said the dead boy was 16, and described his killing as an "execution". The army said a number of Palestinians had endangered civilians driving on a main road near the city of Ramallah by hurling rocks at them, and had refused to comply with instructions to stop. "Soldiers at the scene operated to stop the suspects in accordance with standard operating procedures, using live fire as a last resort," it added.

### Iran nuke talks with US to resume soon

REUTERS, Dubai

Talks on reviving the Iran nuclear deal will resume in the coming days, the European Union's foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said yesterday during a visit to Tehran. "We will resume the talks on the JCPOA in the coming days," Borrell told a news conference in the Iranian capital, referring to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. The surprise visit by Borrell, who arrived in the Iranian capital on Friday night, is aimed at getting the talks back on track three months after they stalled amid differences between Iran and the United States.

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Anti-government demonstrators clash with riot police in Quito, Ecuador, on Friday. Ecuador's government and Indigenous protesters accused each other of intransigence on Friday as thousands gathered for the 12th day of a fuel price protest that has claimed six lives and injured dozens.

# Russian missiles rain down on Ukraine

Hit military bases across the country; forces withdraw from Severodonetsk

AGENCIES

Russian missiles rained down across Ukraine yesterday, hitting military facilities in the west and the north as well as a southern city as the biggest land conflict in Europe since World War Two entered its fifth

month. Russian artillery and air strikes pounded the twin cities of Severodonetsk and Lysychansk in the eastern Luhansk region on Friday, smashing into a chemical plant where hundreds of civilians were trapped, a Ukrainian official said vesterday.

Ukraine said on Friday its troops had been ordered to retreat from Severodonetsk as there was very little left to defend after weeks of intense fighting, marking the biggest reversal for Ukraine since losing the port of

Mariupol in May.

"48 cruise missiles. At night. Throughout whole Ukraine," Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak said on Twitter. "Russia is still trying to intimidate Ukraine, cause panic and make people be afraid.'

Kyiv yesterday said Russia was aiming to drag its ally Belarus into the war, after reporting that

missiles which struck a border region near Kyiv came from Belarusian territory. Twenty rockets fired

from Belarusian territory and the air targeted the village of Desna in the northern Chernigiv region at around 05:00 am yesterday, Ukraine's northern military command wrote in a

statement on Facebook. Russia also fired missiles at military and civilian infrastructure in the north near Ukraine's second-biggest city Kharkiv.

### Two killed in Norway 'terror' shooting

AFP, Oslo

Two people were killed and at least 21 others wounded in shootings near bars in central Oslo early yesterday that police were treating as a "terrorist attack".

Police said a suspect had been arrested following the shootings, which occurred around 1:00am in three locations, including a gay bar, close together in the centre of the Norwegian capital.

Police said the suspect arrested was a Norwegian national of Iranian descent.

The motive behind the killing is not known yet.

A Pride march that was due to take place in the capital yesterday afternoon was called off following the violence in the normally tranquil city.

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