

# US man on the run after escaping Bali prison



Denpasar (Indonesia)

A US man convicted on drugs charges escaped Bali's notorious Kerobokan jail in an early Monday morning jailbreak with another American prisoner who was caught almost immediately, an official said.

The pair made a break from the Indonesian resort island's main prison by cutting a hole in the roof with a hacksaw, authorities said. It was not clear how they obtained the tool.

Police are now scouring the palm-fringed island and handing out pictures of escapee Chrisan Beasley,

a 32-year-old arrested in August for carrying five grams of hashish.

Foreigners are regularly arrested for drugs offences on Bali.

Beasley was awaiting a sentencing in his case. It was not immediately clear how much jail time he was facing, but Indonesia has some of the world's toughest drugs laws, with the death penalty available in some trafficking cases.

Beasley's accomplice in the escape, convicted thief Paul Anthony Hoffman, 57, was apprehended before he could make good on the escape.

"Paul was immediately

recaptured by the locals who saw him trying to escape while Chrisan, who climbed up before him, managed to run away," Kerobokan chief warden Tonny Nainggolan told AFP.

Hoffman is serving a 20-month sentence for robbing a number of convenience stores at knifepoint.

Kerobokan houses some of the country's most notorious and high-profile inmates, including members of the so-called Bali Nine which plotted to bring heroin into Australia via Bali. Two members of the group have been executed. (AFP)

# Man who hit pedestrians aimed to kill, says report



Rome

Italian media say an Italian man who drove his car last week into pedestrians near a Christmas market had been aiming to kill.

The ANSA news agency reported Monday that the man is being investigated on suspicion of wanting to carry

out a massacre. His car on Saturday seriously injured a woman at an outdoor skating ring near the Sondrio, northern Italy, holiday market before crashing into a pillar.

Originally, the crash, which slightly injured two other strollers in the pedestrian-only square, was blamed on drunk

driving.

Sondrio's chief prosecutor wasn't immediately available for comment. The reported accusation indicated there was no sign of terrorist aims.

ANSA said the suspect, 27, when he was arrested at the scene, said that he "should have killed more" people. (AP)

## #PollToday



United Nations have found that missiles fired at Saudi Arabia appear to have a "common origin. Do you suspect an Iranian hand in this?"

Yes  No  Cant Say



"The ones who made Jerusalem a dungeon for Muslims and members of other religions will never be able to clean the blood from their hands,"

Tayyip Erdogan, Turkish President

## Rest in sight

Baby formula maker calls global recall



Baby milk maker Lactalis and French authorities have ordered a global recall of millions of products over fears of salmonella bacteria contamination.

## Magnitude 6.0 earthquake hits western Iran:

A magnitude 6.0 earthquake hit western Iran on Monday, state media reported. The center of the quake was near the town of Ezgele, but tremors were also felt in Kermanshah, the largest city in the area.

## Hezbollah to focus on Israel

The leader of Lebanon's Hezbollah group, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, on Monday said the group and its allies in the region would renew their focus on the Palestinian.

## Rohingya methodically raped by armed forces

The rape of Rohingya women by Myanmar's security forces has been sweeping and methodical.

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## London looking at criminal charges over tower fire

London

London police are considering a variety of criminal charges related to the June fire at Grenfell Tower that killed 71 people.

Police told an inquiry Monday that the possible charges include misconduct in public office, manslaughter, corporate manslaughter and breaches of fire safety regulation.

No one has yet been charged.

Jeremy Johnson, the lawyer representing the police at the inquiry, said the scope of the police investigation was "unprecedented" in a case that did not involve an extremist attack.

He said police are studying 31 million documents and 2,500 exhibits. (AP)

## India's Rahul Gandhi takes helm of Congress party



New Delhi

India's main opposition Congress party on Monday elevated Rahul Gandhi, the scion of the country's most fabled political dynasty, as its president, preparing to challenge the dominance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ahead of national polls in 2019.

In a long-awaited move, Gandhi, the great-grandson of India's founding prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, was elected unopposed to head the party. He will take the reins from his mother Sonia, the party's longest-serving president, since 1998.

Calling it a "historic

occasion", the Congress party said Gandhi would take charge as president on Dec. 16.

Television broadcast images of party supporters celebrating and distributing sweets outside Congress offices in the capital, New Delhi, and the financial hub of Mumbai.

Gandhi's ascent coincides with state polls in Modi's western homestate of Gujarat that are shaping as a test for the prime minister, who has been facing criticism for softening economic growth and poor implementation of a nationwide sales tax. (Reuters)

## Kuwait replaces oil and finance ministers: KUNA

Dubai

Kuwait replaced its oil and finance ministers in a cabinet reshuffle on Monday, state news agency KUNA reported.

Bakhit al-Rashidi was appointed the new oil minister of the OPEC member state and Nayef Falah al-Hajraf was named the new finance minister, KUNA said citing a royal decree.

Shaikh Nasser Sabah

Al-Ahmad, son of the ruling Emir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, was appointed the new minister of defence.

The previous cabinet resigned on Oct. 30 when its information minister was questioned by parliament and faced a no-confidence vote over violations of budgetary and legislative rules. Mohammed Nasser Al-Jabri was named the new minister. (Reuters)