

Sobbing mother video triggers controversy



An American Airlines Flight (File image)

Washington

Less than two weeks after United Airlines prompted a public relations crisis for dragging a passenger from his seat on an overbooked flight, rival American Airlines is being buffeted by its own controversy.

The airline said on Saturday it is investigating video of a flight attendant angrily confronting a passenger who had come to the defence of a sobbing woman with a baby in her arms.

The viral video, filmed by another passenger, shows a distraught mother carrying her baby boarding the plane moments after the flight attendant had apparently forcibly taken a stroller from

her, with other passengers registering shock.

"We have seen the video and have already started an investigation to obtain the facts," American Airlines said. "The actions of our team member captured here do not appear to reflect patience or empathy, two values necessary for customer care."

The incident on the plane -- scheduled to fly from San Francisco to Dallas -- was filmed by Surain Adyanthaya, who posted the video to her Facebook account on Friday.

"OMG! AA Flight attendant violently took a stroller from a lady with her baby on my flight, hitting her and just missing the baby,"

she wrote. "Then he tried to fight a passenger who stood up for her."

The video does not show the first part of the incident, and begins with the woman crying uncontrollably as a pilot and other airline employees stand by impassively.

Another passenger waiting to board the plane later described the preceding confrontation to the Los Angeles television station KTLA-TV.

"The flight attendant wrestled the stroller away from the woman, who was sobbing, holding one baby with the second baby in a car seat on the ground next to her," Olivia Morgan told the station. (AFP)

#PollToday



Do you think Ahmadinejad should have been allowed to contest in Iran Presidential election?

Yes No Cant Say



We clearly announce that we have not and will not support any candidate in the upcoming elections,"

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad
Iran's former President

Rest in sight

US Defence Secretary visits strategic Djibouti



US Defence Secretary Jim Mattis arrived for a short visit to Djibouti, a strategic Horn of Africa nation which hosts Washington's only permanent military base on the continent.

Frontrunners Macron, Le Pen vote in election

The two frontrunners in France's closely fought presidential election, centrist Emmanuel Macron and far-right leader Marine Le Pen, cast their ballots during the first round of voting

US warship in Pacific for Japan navy drills

The US aircraft carrier Carl Vinson and other warships started joint exercises with Japan as regional tensions rise over N Korea's missile and nuclear programmes.

Men attacked in India for transporting cattle

Three men who were transporting buffaloes in their truck to a slaughterhouse were attacked by vigilantes in the heart of Indian capital New Delhi, the police said.

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Iran to air presidential debates live after U-turn

Tehran

Iran will air live debates on state television ahead of May's presidential election, the interior ministry said yesterday, reversing a decision to show recorded versions that had triggered an outcry.

"After demands by the Iranian nation and the candidates for a review (of the decision), the presidential elections campaign commission decided... that debates may be broadcast live,"

the ministry said in a statement on official news agency IRNA.

The U-turn came days after the commission, which sets campaigning rules ahead of the May 19 poll, said the debates would not be broadcast live as in previous elections, sparking outrage on social media.

Moderate President Hassan Rouhani and his conservative rivals Ebrahim Raisi and Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf all rejected the ban.

Gunmen killed during hunt for militants



Philippine soldiers taking position after a clash with gunmen

Manila

Four gunmen have been killed on a Philippine tourist island as President Rodrigo Duterte ordered the military yesterday to kill remnants of an Islamic militant group behind a foiled mass kidnapping attempt there.

Authorities said the dead suspects and three others on the run were stragglers from a boatload of southern Philippines-based Abu Sayyaf gunmen who sailed to the central island of Bohol this month as part of a plot to kidnap tourists.

The raid had signalled an

escalation of the kidnapping threat from the Abu Sayyaf, who are based on remote islands and also blamed for beheadings and deadly bombings, prompting Duterte to vow deadly retribution.

"I told the military: Do not sleep. Find them. Kill them. I want them dead. Do not give them to me alive," Duterte said about the fresh fighting in Bohol.

"They are animals but if you want me to be an animal, I am used to that. We are the same. I can dish out more than what you can," he told people attending a public sports event.

Thousands March for Science across the USA

Washington

Thousands of people joined a global March for Science on Saturday with Washington the epicenter of a movement to fight against what many see as an "assault on facts" by populist politicians.

US President Donald Trump himself passed dozens of protesters on his way to visit wounded soldiers at a military hospital.

"Stop denying the earth is dying," one sign visible from Trump's motorcade read.

Despite rain, protesters gathered around the Washington Monument for a festive day of music,



Activists and protesters during the March for Science

speeches and teach-ins by scientists disturbed by the rise of so-called "alternative facts" around crucial issues like climate change following Trump's election.

"We have no Planet B,"

read one of the signs. Many demonstrators sported "Keep Our Science Great" caps as they arrived from around the country on Earth Day to highlight the importance of science to daily lives.

NKorea detains American: SKorea's news agency

Seoul

A US citizen has been arrested as he tried to fly out of North Korea, becoming the third American to be detained there, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported yesterday.

There was no immediate official confirmation of the reported arrest, which would come at a tense time in relations between Pyongyang and Washington.

Yonhap quoted sources as saying the man, identified only by his surname Kim, was arrested last Friday at Pyongyang International Airport on his way out of the country.

It said Kim, aged in his late 50s and a former professor at China's Yanbian University of Science and Technology, had been involved in aid programmes for the North.