



Afghan soldiers arrive during an attack on a prison in Jalalabad.

IS storm Afghan jail

Hundreds of prisoners freed, at least 29 killed

● **IS's news outlet Amaq said its fighters were behind the raid**

AFP | Kabul

At least 29 people have been killed in a raid on an Afghan prison claimed by the Islamic State group, officials said yesterday, as the country waited to see if a government ceasefire with the Taliban would rupture after its formal expiration.

Fighting was still raging at the jail in the eastern city of Jalalabad, where some 1,700 IS and Taliban inmates were being held.

IS's news outlet Amaq said its fighters were behind the raid, which saw hundreds of inmates escape before many of them were recaptured.

The ongoing attack was Afghanistan's most violent incident since the Taliban and Afghan security forces held a three-day ceasefire over the Eid al-Adha festival which ended Sunday.

IS was not part of that truce which Afghan authorities hope will pave the way for peace talks with the Taliban as soon as this week.

Under a deal signed by the Taliban and the United States in February, the "intra-Afghan"

talks were slated to start in March, but were delayed amid political infighting in Kabul and as an agreed prisoner swap dragged on.

Both Kabul and the Taliban have signalled they could be ready to start talks after Eid, and the Afghan government on Sunday offered to extend the ceasefire.

The insurgents have not formally responded.

Ongoing attack

In Jalalabad, Nangarhar governor's spokesman Attaullah Khogyani told AFP that gunman remained holed up at the prison a day after the raid began.

Khogyani said special forces had so far cleared four floors

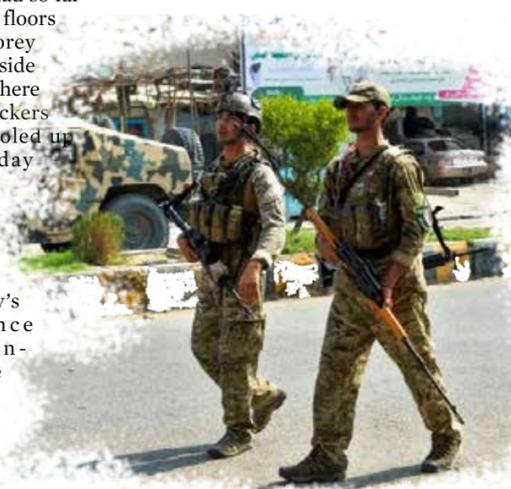
of a five-storey building outside the prison where several attackers had been holed up since Sunday night.

The raid came a day after the country's intelligence agency announced the killing of a top IS commander near Jalalabad. Assadullah Orakzai was involved in several deadly attacks against Afghan security forces, the National Director of Security said Saturday.

Nangarhar province has seen some deadly IS attacks this year including a May 12 suicide bomb that killed 32 mourners at a funeral for a police commander.

The IS attacks continue despite government officials claiming last year that the group's Afghan branch had been completely defeated in Nangarhar.

Some local officials have, however, cautioned that elements of the group remained.



WHO urges mothers to breastfeed even if infected with COVID-19

Reuters | Geneva

Mothers should breastfeed their babies even if they have contracted COVID-19, the World Health Organization's head said on Monday, as the benefits outweigh the risks of infection.

"WHO recommends that mothers with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 should be encouraged the same as all other mothers to initiate or continue breastfeeding," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a news conference.

As the world marks breastfeeding awareness week, Tedros said "the many benefits of breastfeeding for newborn babies and children substantially outweigh the potential risks of COVID-19 infections".

Harry Potter-theme protest



Protestors at the Harry Potter-themed rally vowed to 'cast a spell' for democracy

AFP News

Dozens of mostly young Thais wearing striped "Harry Potter" scarves rallied Monday against the government, vowing to "cast a spell" for democracy as the nascent movement grows increasingly bold in targeting the powerful elite.

For more than two weeks, young Thais across the country have held near daily protests at universities and town halls to denounce the military-aligned government of Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha.

Some have also waded into sensitive territory in recent weeks by holding up placards opposing Thailand's lese majeste law, one of the world's harshest.

It shields the monarchy and its super-rich King Maha Vajiralongkorn from criticism, making open scrutiny of the monarch virtually impossible.

But younger Thais have grown bolder in lock-step with their rising discontent of Prayut -- whose hold on power is regarded as a legacy of a royalist junta regime.

Teachers protest across US over re-opening schools in pandemic



Pictures courtesy of Daily sabah Reuters | Chicago

Teachers and support staff at more than 35 school districts across the United States yesterday are protesting the re-opening of schools while COVID-19 is surging in many parts of the country.

They are demanding in-person classes not be held until scientific data supports it, safety protocols such as lower class sizes and virus testing are established, and schools are staffed with adequate numbers of counselors and nurses, according to a website set up for the demonstrations.

On Twitter, the Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association showed protesters making fake gravestones that said "Here lies a third grade student from Green Bay who caught COVID at school" and "RIP Grandma caught COVID helping grand kids with homework."

Teachers are also demanding financial help for parents in need, including rent and mortgage assistance, a moratorium on evictions and foreclosures and cash assistance.

President Donald Trump has made school re-openings for classroom instruction, as they normally would in August and September, part of his re-election campaign.

News in brief

German children start new school year



◆ Thousands of children in northern Germany became the first in Europe to begin a new school year on Monday, with the rest of the country watching anxiously as full-time classes began after months of curtailed hours over the coronavirus pandemic.

Masks will be a daily accessory for some of the 150,000 children returning to school in the Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania region, Germany's first state to reopen the school gates after the summer holidays.

◆ **Britain is on track to deliver half a million COVID tests a day** by the end of October and new 90-minute tests will allow the government to accelerate that target, Health Secretary Matt Hancock said yesterday. Millions of COVID-19 tests able to detect the virus within 90 minutes will be rolled out to British hospitals, care homes and laboratories to boost capacity in the coming months, Hancock said. They will comprise 5.8 million tests using DNA and 450,000 swab tests.

◆ **UK says rapid tests help accelerate 500,000 tests a day target**



◆ **India's interior minister and the chiefs of two big states have been hospitalized with COVID-19 as the country's daily cases topped 50,000 for a fifth straight day yesterday.** The country reported 52,972 new confirmed infections in the past 24 hours, taking the total to 1.8 million - the third highest in the world after the United States and Brazil - data from India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare showed yesterday.

With 771 new deaths, the COVID-19 disease has now killed 38,135 people in India, including that of a minister on Sunday in the most-populous state of Uttar Pradesh.

◆ **The government will act if the coronavirus spreads through London as it has done in other parts of Britain,** junior business minister Nadhim Zahawi said yesterday. "If we see the virus spreading in a particular way in London, as we've seen in Manchester and West Yorkshire where it's spreading through people coming into another person's home, then we will discuss that... and we will not hesitate to act," he told LBC radio.

◆ **We will act if virus spreads in London, says UK**

Virgin seeks to revive supersonic commercial flight



◆ **Space tourism company Virgin Galactic yesterday announced a partnership with engine-maker Rolls-Royce to build**

a supersonic commercial airplane that flies at three times the speed of sound. The aircraft would travel at Mach 3 -- rather than the Mach 2 speed of Concorde, the pioneering jet that operated from 1976 to 2003.

◆ **Lebanon's president and prime minister signed decrees accepting the resignation of Foreign Minister Nassif Hitti on Monday and appointing Charbel Wehbe to replace him, the presidency said on its Twitter account.** Wehbe is the diplomatic adviser of President Michel Aoun. The decrees were later read out by the cabinet's secretary general in remarks broadcast by local media.

◆ **Lebanon appoints president's diplomatic adviser as new foreign minister**

Global		Countries worst affected			
Country	Total cases	New deaths	Total Deaths		
USA	4,827,843	+130	158,495		
Brazil	2,736,298	+96	94,226		
India	1,852,156	+808	38,969		
Russia	856,264	+79	14,207		
South Africa	511,485		8,366		
Mexico	439,046	+274	47,746		
Peru	428,850		19,614		
Chile	361,493	+99	9,707		
Spain	344,134	+9	28,472		
Colombia	317,651		10,650		
Iran	312,035	+215	17,405		
UK	305,623	+9	46,210		
Saudi Arabia	280,093	+32	2,949		
Pakistan	280,029	+8	5,984		

Middle East								
Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases	Serious, Critical	Tot cases/1m pop
Egypt	94,483		4,865		42,455	47,163	41	922
Saudi Arabia	280,093	+1,258	2,949	+32	242,055	35,089	2,017	8,035
UAE	61,163	+164	351		54,863	5,949		6,178
Kuwait	68,299	+388	461	+4	59,739	8,099	126	15,973
Oman	79,159		421		61,421	17,317	187	15,470
Qatar	111,322	+215	177		108,002	3,143	75	39,647

Figures as of closing