

Palestinian woman killed in West Bank as Israelis, Palestinians clash



A man reacts as tear gas canisters are fired by Israeli troops

Reuters | Jenin, West Bank

A Palestinian woman was shot dead in the West Bank where Israeli soldiers clashed with Palestinians yesterday, Palestinian medical officials said.

Palestinian officials said Israeli troops had shot the 23-year-old.

An Israeli army spokesman said soldiers did not use live fire during the clash, and that Palestinians had opened fire and hurled explosives.

The woman's family said she was shot while trying to close the window to her house in the town of Jenin because of tear gas outside.

An Israeli army spokesman said a riot erupted while troops were operating in Jenin.

Local residents said Palestinians had not used guns. They said people were throwing stones at Israeli forces that raided the area.

Trump says Biden is 'against God'

Trailing in election polls, Donald Trump says rival Joe Biden opposes God and guns

● Biden called Trump's 'hurt God' attack 'shameful'

Reuters | Washington

U.S. Republican President Donald Trump asserted that his Democratic opponent in November's election, Joe Biden, is "against God," even though Biden frequently discusses how his Catholic faith has guided his actions as a public official.

With Trump trailing Biden in four recent polls in Ohio, the president is fighting to win voters in the traditional swing state as the coronavirus pandemic threatens his chances of a second term. After addressing a small crowd at a Cleveland airport, Trump went on to deliver a campaign-style speech at a Whirlpool plant in Clyde, Ohio.

"He's following the radical-left agenda: take away your guns, destroy your Second Amendment, no religion, no anything, hurt the Bible, hurt God," Trump said about Biden in his Cleveland speech. "He's against God."

The Second Amendment of the US Constitution gives Americans the right to keep and bear



Former vice president and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden meets with clergy members and community activists during a visit to a church (file photo)

arms.

Trump did not explain what he meant. His accusation, though, could solidify support from his party's sizable conservative Christian bloc and also damage voters' view of Biden, the first Catholic Vice President in US history.

John Kennedy was the first and only Catholic elected President when he won in 1960.

In a statement, Biden said Trump's attack was "shameful" and that faith had been the bedrock foundation of his life.

"President Trump's comments reveal more about him than they do about anyone else. They show us a man willing to stoop to any low for political gain, and someone whose actions are completely at odds with the values and teachings

that he professes to believe in," Biden said.

More than three-fourths of Americans practice Christianity or another religion, according to the Pew Research Center. Trump has been hurt politically by his response to the coronavirus pandemic that has recently killed on average more than 1,000 Americans each day.

While he speaks very little



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JOE BIDEN

about his own Presbyterian faith and rarely attends church, Trump works closely with evangelical Christians and puts their causes of restricting abortion and preserving gun ownership at the top of his policy agenda.

After a school shooting in Newtown, Connecticut, killed 20 children in 2012, Biden pushed for some restrictions on gun ownership, but he has not called for confiscating firearms.

He has said he would seek to ban assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines, let people who own assault weapons sell them back voluntarily, and expand background checks.

North Korea's Kim inspects flood relief; worry grows about crops



A submerged Han River park by flooded Han River is seen in Seoul

AFP | Miami

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has ordered officials to provide food and shelter for hundreds of families who lost their homes in floods, the KCNA state news agency reported yesterday.

Heavy rain across the Korean peninsula has brought flooding to both North and South Korea in recent days, and concern is growing about damage to North Korean crops.

"It is of priority importance to quickly supply sleeping materials, daily commodities, medicines and other necessities to the flood-affected people to stabilize their living," Kim said in comments carried by KCNA.

Kim made the remarks while inspecting a flood-hit part of North Hwanghae Province, on the border of South Korea, as he "clarified tasks" for recovery work with officials there.

Torrential rain for several days has inundated more than 730 single-story houses, destroying 179 of them, and flooded rice-growing land, KCNA said.



There were no reports of casualties.

Kim would also mobilise the army for rehabilitation, in particular work on homes and roads, and he called on architects to build 800 model houses in a badly hit farming village in Unpha County, KCNA said.

The rain during the harvest season in the rice-growing area is raising concern about North Korea's food security.

North Korea's ruling party newspaper, Rodong Sinmun, cited a study that said rice and corn would suffer if the crops were under water for just two or three days.

"The fate of this year's farming depends on how to protect farmland and crops from the flood," the newspaper said.

Not "Thigh-land": Thais amused at Trump's slip

● Trump speaking at an election campaign event in Ohio when the gaffe happened, much to the amusement of netizens

Reuters | Bangkok

Citizens of Thailand were surprised and bemused yesterday to discover their country's name had become a social media meme after U.S. President Donald Trump mispronounced it.

Though Trump quickly switched to the correct pronunciation, people quickly seized on the slip to mock the U.S. leader online as #Thighland became one of the top-trending Twitter hashtags in Thailand with 32,000 tweets and in the top 25 in the United States with over 156,000, according to the tracking site Twitscoop.

The English-language online newspaper Thai Enquirer changed its Twitter name to "Thigh Enquirer" yesterday morning and ran an article on the mistake. TNN Online also



US President Donald Trump in the grand foyer of the White House (file photo)

reported the news, as did Thailand's Voice TV, and Matichon newspaper.

One online joker wrote that Thighland was located on a cartographic leg between "Kneepal" and "Ankola".

The American president made the gaffe during a speech in Ohio while explaining how his trade war with China had forced factories to move pro-

duction to Southeast Asian countries, Vietnam and, as he pronounced it, "Thi-land".

In the next breath, Trump got it right, saying: "Thailand and Vietnam - two places that I like their leaders very much."

The meme escalated when conservative American pundit and filmmaker Dinesh D'Souza, who was pardoned by Trump



Donald Trump's flub on "Thailand" came days after he incorrectly pronounced the name of Yosemite National Park, located in California

after a conviction of violating campaign finance law, argued in a series of tweets that "Thighland" is in fact the correct pronunciation.

Rikker Dockum, a professor of linguistics at Swarthmore College, told Reuters that Trump's second pronunciation - with an aspirated hard "t" instead of a soft "th" sound - is the widely used one in both Thai and English.

"Among English speakers around the world, this is not a disputed pronunciation," he added.

Ukraine Justice Ministry kicks off 'big sale' of old prisons

AFP | Kiev

Ukrainian justice ministry began a drive to sell off its prisons, an ambitious project meant to help finance new jails for the country's ageing penitentiary system.

Over the next 10 years the justice ministry plans to sell about a hundred prisons.



A dog guards Lukyanivska prison in Kiev

"We are starting a big sale of prisons," Ukraine's Justice Minister Denys Malyska told journalists in the yard of Irpin Penal Center located in Kiev region.

The jail was the first lot in the auction that will start in the coming weeks.

Ukraine's penal system discontinued use of the Irpin Penal Center a year ago and more

than 120 of its residents were relocated to other jails, Leonid Parkhomchuk, the center's acting head, told AFP.

"Such places are of great interest for investors," Malyska said.

Old jails mostly have large areas with already installed general utilities, so they are "ready to use", the minister explained.