

# Blast rocks military base in Somali capital

At least nine killed in suicide blast near Mogadishu military base

**Hospital sources have confirmed that around 20 were wounded**

Reuters | Mogadishu

At least nine people were killed and nearly 20 others injured yesterday in a car bomb blast at the front gate of a Somali military base in Mogadishu, witnesses and security officials said.

Government security officials contacted by VOA have confirmed that eight of those killed were government soldiers and other casualties included members of the soldiers' families, who were at the base at the time.

"A suicide bomber driving an explosive-laden vehicle sped toward the front gate of the camp but the guards opened fire to stop it before it detonated," Aden Mohamed, a police officer among the first responders, told VOA's Somali Service.



An ambulance is seen near a blast site that rocked a military base in Mogadishu

The blast was heard throughout the area and sent a plume of black smoke into the air.

"I saw the dead bodies of at least eight soldiers and ambulances rushed to the scene to carry away the wounded," a witness told VOA on condition of anonymity.

Hospital sources have con-

firmed that around 20 people, mainly soldiers, were wounded in the blast.

"We have taken at least 15 injured people [to hospitals], some of them in critical condition," the city's emergency medical responders told local media.

The military camp is located near the city's newly reopened

main sports stadium in the Warta-nabadda district.

The blast comes days after a suicide bombing killed at least four people, including the bomber at a Mogadishu restaurant that is popular with security forces and government workers.

Al-Shabab militants have claimed responsibility for the Saturday explosion, claiming they killed dozens of government soldiers.



**Somalia has been embroiled in deadly violence since 1991, when clan warlords overthrew leader Siad Barre and then turned on each other**

## 'Slight improvement' in melting glacier threatening Italy resort

AFP | Milan

The threat that a massive chunk of glacier loosened by soaring temperatures could collapse near an alpine resort on the Italian side of the Mont Blanc mountain range has slightly eased, a mayor said.



Planpincieux glacier

Climate change has been increasingly melting the world's glaciers, creating a new danger for the town of Courmayeur, a resort community in Italy's Aosta Valley region. The town was put on high alert on Wednesday as a block of ice estimated at about 500,000 cubic metres

-- the size of the Milan cathedral, one official said -- from the Planpincieux glacier risked falling and threatening homes.

A "red zone" at the base of the slope was also evacuated, with 20 residents and around 55 holidaymakers moved from the area.

# Record level of traffic jams in France amid heatwave

Reuters | Paris

France saw a record level of traffic jams yesterday, with cars stuck in gridlock on roasting roads spanning 820 kilometres across a country suffering a brutal heatwave.

France's traffic authorities said the peak was reached just after noon, easily beating both last Saturday's record of 760 kilometres (470 miles) and the previous record of 762 kilometres set on August 3 of last year.

The country has been sweltering through a heatwave since Thursday, with temperatures pushing towards 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) in several areas.

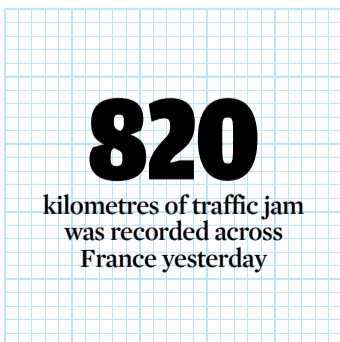
In the southwest, Brive-la-Gaillarde broke its record with 40.8C on Friday, as did Cognac with 39.8C, while Nantes in the west posted a new record of 39.6C.

No relief is expected until Wednesday, with the soaring temperatures compounding the pressure as the country's coronavirus outbreak worsens, the number of daily infections hitting 2,288 on Friday.

Authorities reminded sweltering citizens that masks must continue to be worn where they have been



People drive their vehicle on the highway as they are stuck in a traffic jam



mandated, despite the heat.

Roland and Helene, retirees in suburban Paris, said they go out in the morning "to get some fresh air," but then spend the rest of the day hiding in their apartment.

"We fear the heat a lot," Helene said.

Last year was France's hottest on record, and the Meteo France weather agency has warned that global warming could double the number of heatwaves by 2050.

### News in brief

**New Zealand PM launches election campaign**

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern launched her re-election campaign promising a "laser-like" focus on boosting jobs and economic



growth hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. The charismatic 40-year-old leader is on track for a comfortable victory in the Sept. 19 election, according to opinion polls, having won global praise for her leadership during the coronavirus pandemic. It has been 99 days since New Zealand had any domestic transmission of COVID-19, a rare achievement as the pandemic rages globally, and it has re-opened the economy after undergoing a complete shutdown to eradicate the coronavirus.



Dozens of protesters gathered in front of a Bangkok court to demand the release of activist leaders, vowing to escalate anti-government demonstrations with a call for a protest in the Thai capital. Human rights lawyer Anon Nampa, 35, and student activist Panupong Jasnok, 23, were arrested on Friday and held overnight in connection with

recent protests demanding greater democracy. "Whom does the court serve in this country?," Parit Cheewarak, a student leader widely known by the nickname Penguin, told 60 to 100 protesters in front of Bangkok's Criminal Court.

Around 20 people were killed in an attack by an armed group on a cattle market in the east of Burkina Faso, a local governor said. Officials did not blame any group for Friday's attack, but Burkina Faso is caught up in a jihadist insurgency that began in Mali and has spread to neighbouring countries. "Unidentified armed individuals burst into a cattle market in Namoungou village in the region of Fada N'Gourma and attacked the population," the governor, Colonel Saidou Sanou, said in a statement.

**Death toll in Idukki landslide rises to 26**

The death toll in Idukki landslide has risen to 26, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said. The Chief Minister said that monsoon fury continues to be severe



in the state. "A total of 26 deaths have been confirmed in the landslide in Rajamalai. In addition to the 15 bodies found on Friday, the bodies of 11 people were found.



A record number of women are running for seats in the House of Representatives in November's US election, the Centre for American Women and Politics said. A total of 243 women have secured party

**Record number of women running for US House**

nominations for House seats, according to the centre, a division of the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University. With primary nominating contests still to come in 13 states, the number is expected to rise, the centre said.

Polish police arrested a gay rights activist in central Warsaw, implementing a court order for two months' preventive detention that sparked angry scenes as dozens protested. The activist, who was referred to officially in court as Mikhail Sz. but who identifies as a woman with the name Margo, is suspected of causing criminal damage to a van carrying homophobic slogans in Warsaw in June.



Global		Countries worst affected						
Covid-19 Cases:		Country	Total cases	New deaths	Total Deaths			
19,711,703		1	USA	5,120,970	+483	164,577		
Deaths		2	Brazil	2,988,796	+538	100,240		
727,348		3	India	2,152,020	+875	43,453		
Recovered:		4	Russia	882,347	+129	14,854		
12,653,598		5	South Africa	545,476		9,909		
New cases		6	Mexico	469,407	+794	51,311		
170,662		7	Peru	463,875		20,649		
New deaths		8	Chile	371,023	+53	10,011		
+3,848		9	Colombia	367,196		12,250		
Middle East		10	Spain	361,442		28,503		
Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases	Serious, Critical	Tot cases/1m pop
Saudi Arabia	287,262	+1,469	3,130	+37	250,440	33,692	1,828	8,239
UAE	62,300	+239	356		56,245	5,699		6,291
Kuwait	71,199	+472	474	+3	62,806	7,919	125	16,648
Oman	81,357	+290	509	+7	73,481	7,367	173	15,894
Egypt	95,147		4,971		50,553	39,623	41	928
Qatar	112,650	+267	182	+2	109,438	3,030	78	40,120

Figures as of closing