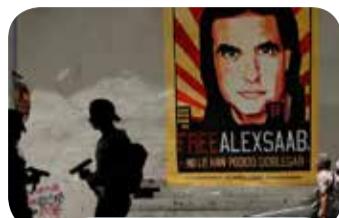


News in brief

◆ A fugitive businessman accused of acting as a money launderer for Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's regime was extradited Saturday to the United States from Cape Verde, US justice officials said. The Justice Department said in a statement that Alex Saab was due to appear in court in Florida on Monday and expressed "admiration" to authorities in Cape Verde for their help in the case. Venezuela reacted furiously, suspending talks with the US-backed opposition on ending the country's political and economic crisis.



Venezuela suspends talks after Maduro ally extradited to US

◆ The attacker who fatally stabbed British lawmaker David Amess was referred to an official counter-terrorist scheme for those thought to be at risk of radicalisation, according to media reports. Police said late Saturday that detectives had until Friday, October 22, to question the suspect after he was detained under the Terrorism Act, which allowed them to extend his detention. Veteran Conservative MP David Amess, 69, was talking

British MP's murderer was identified by official counter-terrorism scheme



with voters at a church in the small town of Leigh-on-Sea east of London when he was stabbed to death on Friday. The suspected murderer, a British citizen of Somali heritage, had been referred to Prevent, the UK's scheme for those thought at risk of radicalisation a few years ago, the BBC reported.

◆ Austrians have turned on the conservative Austrian People's Party (OVP), the senior partner in their coalition

Austrians turn on ex-chancellor's party after corruption claims



government, after party leader Sebastian Kurz quit as chancellor over corruption allegations, according to a poll published yesterday. Support for the conservative OVP has crashed from 34% to 26% in the wake of the affair, according to the survey published by newspaper Kurier on Sunday. The outcome puts the party, which installed former foreign minister Alexander Schallenberg as the new chancellor, only marginally ahead of the opposition Social Democrats (SPÖ)'s approval rating of 24%, the paper said.

◆ The Chinese military yesterday condemned the

United States and Canada for each sending a warship through the



Taiwan Strait last week, saying they were threatening peace and stability in the region. China claims democratically-ruled Taiwan as its own territory, and has mounted repeated air force missions into Taiwan's air defence identification zone (ADIZ) over the past year, provoking anger in Taipei. China sent around 150 aircraft into the zone over a four-day period beginning on Oct. 1 in a further heightening of tension between Beijing and Taipei that has sparked concern internationally.

COVID-19 Countries worst affected

	Country	Total cases	Total deaths	Global tally
1	USA	45,778,867	744,390	241,323,238
2	India	34,077,556	452,261	
3	Brazil	21,638,726	603,199	
4	UK	8,404,469	138,527	
5	Russia	7,992,687	223,312	
6	Turkey	7,630,163	67,437	
7	France	7,085,274	117,260	
8	Iran	5,784,815	124,075	
9	Argentina	5,272,151	115,663	
10	Spain	4,984,386	86,974	
11	Colombia	4,980,233	126,830	
12	Italy	4,715,464	131,517	
13	Germany	4,389,755	95,449	
14	Indonesia	4,234,758	142,952	

Figures as of closing

Middle East

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	317,585		17,926		268,210	31,449
Saudi Arabia	547,931	+41	8,763	+3	536,947	2,221
UAE	738,586	+99	2,120	+2	732,295	4,171
Kuwait	412,297		2,456		409,269	572
Oman	304,054	+10	4,105	+2	299,424	525
Qatar	237,929	+62	608		236,423	898

Texas trucker convicted in fiery, fatal crash in Rocky Mountains



Rogel Lazaro Aguilera-Mederos appears in a Lakewood Police booking photo

Reuters

A Texas truck driver who lost control of his semi-trailer along a Colorado mountain highway in 2019, ramming into stopped traffic and killing four people in a fiery crash, was convicted late Friday of vehicular homicide and related charges.

Rogel Lazaro Aguilera-Mederos, 25, was convicted by a Jefferson County, Colorado, jury of four counts of homicide and more than two dozen other charges, including vehicular assault, reckless driving and careless driving resulting in death.

He will be sentenced on Dec. 13 and could face decades in prison.

Prosecutors said during the trial that Aguilera-Mederos knew his brakes were failing as he descended Interstate 70, west of Denver, on April 15, 2019. The prosecutors said he bypassed four runaway-truck ramps along the interstate and recklessly weaved in and out of traffic before crashing and triggering a 28-car pileup.

The tractor-trailer, which was hauling lumber, burst into flames, igniting a fireball that engulfed more than two dozen vehicles, and shut down Interstate 70, the main east-west highway through the Colorado mountains, for more than a day.

Aguilera-Mederos took the stand in his own defense, testifying that he was unable to control the rig once its brakes failed, and saying he tried to avoid hitting other vehicles.

He admitted that he had not driven in the Colorado mountains before, and said he "wished it had been me" who died instead of the victims.



No end in sight to volcanic

Reuters | La Palma, Spain

There's no immediate end in sight to the volcanic eruption that has caused chaos on the Spanish isle of La Palma since it began about a month ago, the president of the Canary Islands said yesterday.

There were 42 seismic movements on the island on Sunday, the largest of which measured 4.3, according to the Spanish National Geographical Institute.

"There are no signs that an end of the eruption is imminent even though this is the greatest desire of everyone," President Angel Vic-



Lava spewed by the Cumbre Vieja volcano flows down a hill as it continues to erupt on the Canary Island of La Palma, as seen from Tajuya, Spain

tor Torres said at a Socialist party conference in Valencia, citing the view of scientists.

Streams of lava have laid waste to more than 742 hectares (1833 acres) of land and destroyed al-

Up to 17 US missionaries and family kidnapped in Haiti

Reuters | Port-Au-Prince

As many as 17 American Christian missionaries and their families, including children, were kidnapped on Saturday by gang members in Haiti's capital of Port-au-Prince, US media reported.

The kidnapping happened after the missionaries left an orphanage in the crisis-enshrouded Caribbean nation, the New York Times and CNN said.

The Washington Post reported that an audio from

the Ohio-based Christian Aid Ministries said "men, women and children" associated with the group were being held by an armed gang.

"The mission field director and the American embassy are working to see what can be done," the audio was quoted as saying. "Pray that the gang members will come to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ."

The victims included 14 adults and three minors, CNN said, citing an unnamed source in Haiti's security forces.

- Turkey had paid \$1.4 billion for F-35 programme from which Ankara was removed

- Ankara's purchase of the S-400s has also triggered US sanctions

- Erdogan said he intends to buy a second batch of S-400s from Russia

Reuters | Istanbul

President Tayyip Erdogan said yesterday that the United States had proposed the sale of F-16 fighter jets to Turkey in return for its investment in the F-35 programme, from which Ankara was removed after purchasing missile defence systems from Russia.

Reuters reported earlier this month that Turkey made a request to the United States to buy 40 Lockheed Martin-made F-16 fighter jets and nearly 80 modernisation kits for its existing warplanes.

Speaking to reporters before departing for a trip to West Africa, Erdogan said Turkey wants a re-

Draft 'Asterix' story revealed by author's daughter

AFP | Berlin

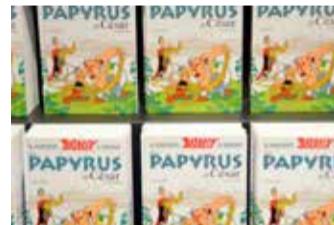
The daughter of René Goscinny, one of the duo behind indomitable French comic-book star Asterix, has revealed that her father left a draft story featuring the Roman-bashing Gaulish warrior unfinished.

"I often think about it, it's 20 pages, half a comic book," Anne Goscinny told German weekly Der Spiegel in a weekend interview.

Typewritten by René Goscinny, the script titled "Asterix at the Circus" was found in the family archives, looked after by Anne.

But she said that completing the story without her father would be a "very complicated" task.

"We'd have to get a lot of



people around the table, immerse ourselves in the story and find (René's) voice again," she said, adding, "it's as if there were a hole in a painting by Goya".

"One day we'll give it a try, it would be an extraordinary adventure," Anne added.

Asterix -- defender of the last Gaulish village holding out against the Roman empire -- was dreamed up in 1959 by René Goscinny, who died in 1977, and Albert Uderzo, who died last year.

Russian actor and director making

Reuters | Moscow

A Russian actor and a film director making the first movie in space returned to Earth on Sunday after spending 12 days on the International Space Station (ISS).

The Soyuz MS-18 space capsule carrying Russian ISS crew member Oleg Novitskiy, Yulia Peresild and Klim Shipenko landed in a remote area outside the western Kazakhstan at 07:35 a.m. (0435 GMT), the Russian space agency Roscosmos said.

The crew had dedocked



The International Space Station (ISS) crew members Roscosmos cosmonaut Oleg Novitskiy, Russian actress Yulia Peresild and film director Klim Shipenko rest in chairs after landing in a remote area outside Zhezkazgan, Kazakhstan



Russian actor