

Woman gives birth on Paris train

AFP | Paris

A woman gave birth on a Paris train yesterday, prompting the French capital's transport network to offer her newborn boy free rail travel until he turns 25.

The train stopped at the Auber station in central Paris as the woman went into advanced labour and the baby was born at 11.40 am, helped by around 15 people including emergency workers, police and rail staff.

Trains were halted in both directions on a particularly busy section of the RER A commuter line for 45 minutes due to the "unexpected" incident, Paris transport operator said. The train was evacuated during the birth, a spokesman said.

One dead, 3 hurt in Dutch music fest hit-and-run

AFP | The Hague

A van slammed into pedestrians near a Dutch campsite at a huge music festival early yesterday, killing one person and seriously injuring three others just hours after headline act Bruno Mars wowed tens of thousands of fans.

The four people were hit around 4:00 am (0200 GMT) yesterday by the van which then fled the scene, only hours after the end of the three-day Pinkpop Festival in the southern town of Landgraaf, near the German border.

Dutch judges ban homegrown bikers' gang

AFP | The Hague

Dutch judges on Monday banned a national motorcycle club and seized all its assets, ruling gang members had spread a culture of violence and criminal activities in the Netherlands.

"The court in The Hague has decided today that the motorcycle club Satudarah is banned with immediate effect," the judges said in their ruling.

The ban includes not just Satudarah and affiliate Supportcrew 999. The judges found "the combination of numerous offences along with its culture of violence."

Nigeria Eid suicide attack death toll rises to 43

AFP | Kano, Nigeria

Deadly weekend attacks by suspected Boko Haram jihadists using young girls as suicide bombers killed 43 people in north-eastern Nigeria, officials said yesterday, updating the toll. Blasts ripped through the town of Dambao in Borno state on Saturday evening targeting people returning from celebrating the Eid al-Fitr holiday.

EU migration policy flayed

US President Donald Trump says Europe made a "big mistake" by allowing in migrants

● **Trump raged on multiple fronts, firing off six tweets in little over an hour**

AFP | Washington

US President Donald Trump barged into an international row yesterday saying Europe made a "big mistake" by allowing in migrants, as he faces soaring pressure to end the separation of immigrant families on America's own southern border.

Trump raged on multiple fronts, firing off six tweets in little over an hour as the unfolding drama of thousands of children being separated from their parents at the US border swells into a critical challenge of his presidency.

While top administration of-



The family separations began earlier this year after Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced a new "zero tolerance" policy

officials stood by Trump's "zero tolerance" policy on arresting unauthorized border crossers, insisting children are being held in humane conditions, criticism swelled inside the president's own Republican camp as he stood accused of violating children's rights.

In a string of tweets defending



Donald Trump

US policy, Trump aimed a highly intrusive attack at German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who is fighting to save her coalition government amid demands by her interior minister to turn immigrants away. Germans are "turning against their leader-

ship" over migration, Trump said. "We don't want what is happening with immigration in Europe to happen with us!"

"Crime in Germany is way up," he added. "Big mistake made all over Europe in allowing millions of people in who have so

strongly and violently changed their culture!"

Crime is actually down in Germany, but Trump has repeatedly stoked crime fears to advance his anti-immigration agenda.

The escalation of tensions in Germany came with EU nations once again at loggerheads over immigration, triggered by Italy's refusal this month to allow a rescue ship carrying 630 migrants to dock.

On the home front Trump has repeatedly said he wants the separations to end, but has laid blame with Democrats, the minority party in Congress, accusing them of blocking legislation on the broader issue of illegal immigration.

"CHANGE THE LAWS!" Trump bellowed on Twitter.

Authorities said that during one recent six-week period about 2,000 minors were separated from their parents or adult guardians.

3 die in train accident at South London station

AFP | London

Three people died in south London after being hit by a train, police said yesterday, amid reports they may have been graffiti artists.

Police said they were treating the deaths as unexplained, but media said spray paint cans were found near the bodies.

The London Evening Standard newspaper reported that the victims were men in their 20s.

"My team are now working hard to understand what happened and how these three people came to lose their life on the railway," said detective Gary Richardson.

"At this time, we are treating their deaths as unexplained as we make a number of immediate inquiries."

He urged anyone with information to come forward.

Police were trying to ascertain when the incident oc-



Loughborough Junction train station in south London where the accident took place yesterday. - AFP photo

curred, with the possibility they were struck by a freight train overnight.

Officers were seen taking photographs of graffiti near the site, according to the Evening Standard.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan said: "My heart goes out to the families of the three people killed." The bodies were spotted by tracks close to Brixton overground station during morning rush hour.

Mozart manuscript set to notch half-a-million euros

AFP | Paris

The first draft of music Mozart wrote for the last act of his opera "The Marriage of Figaro" is expected to sell for half-a-million euros (\$578,000) when it goes under the hammer in Paris.

The "exceptional" manuscript from 1786 which will be auctioned on Wednesday in the French capital comes from the peak of the composer's career in Vienna, the auction house Ader Nordmann said.

Called "Scena con Rondo", Mozart wrote the music initially as a recitative to be sung by Figaro's bride, Susanna, before rejecting it for the now legendary aria, "Deh vieni non tardar." "These four pages are particularly important because they reveal Mozart at work, struggling to rethink a scene in the final act of the opera," expert Thierry Bodin said.

It will be sold along with another Mozart manuscript, a fragment of a serenade to youth written by young Wolf-

gang Amadeus when he was only 17.

Probably commissioned by the "chancellor of Salzburg, who was a friend of the Mozart family, to mark the end of his son's studies," according to Bodin, it is expected to make between 120,000 and 150,000 euros. The manuscripts are part of a vast sell-off by the French state of the collection amassed by the collapsed investment firm Aristophil.

It was shut down in scandal three years ago, taking 850 million euros (\$1 billion) of its investors' money with it.

€.5m

is the expected selling price of Mozart's last act of his opera

Artist Christo floats tomb of barrels in London

● **The sculpture is made from 7,506 red, white and mauve barrels**

Reuters | London

A 20-metre (22-yard) high sculpture of an ancient Egyptian tomb, made from 7,506 red, white and mauve barrels, has taken temporary residence amid the aquatic wildlife on a lake in London's Hyde Park.

The floating installation - featuring two vertical sides, two slanted sides and a flat top - was unveiled yesterday by Bulgarian-born artist Christo.

"For three months, The London Mastaba will be a part of Hyde Park's environment in the



Bulgarian artist Christo Vladimirov Javacheff, better known as 'Christo', poses for a photograph as he unveils his artwork, 'The Mastaba' on the Serpentine lake



Work started in April to stack the 55-gallon barrels into their cut-off pyramid shape on a floating platform 40 metres long and 30 metres wide. Thirty-two anchors hold the structure in place

centre of London," he said.

"The colours will transform with the changes in the light and its reflection on the Serpentine Lake will be like an abstract painting."

Work started in April to stack the 55-gallon barrels into their cut-off pyramid shape on a floating platform 40 metres long and 30 metres wide. Thirty-two anchors hold the structure in place. Christo, whose full name is Christo Javacheff, was joined at the launch by former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg, chairman of the Serpentine Galleries.

Christo and his wife Jeanne-Claude, who died in 2009, are known for such works as "The Gates", a 2005 installation in New York's Central Park, and the wrapping of the Reichstag.