

Israel, UAE to sign deal for 28 weekly flights



Reuters | Jerusalem

Israel and the United Arab Emirates will sign a deal yesterday to allow 28 weekly commercial flights between Israel's Ben Gurion airport, Dubai and Abu Dhabi, Israel's Transportation Ministry said on Sunday.

The agreement, which also allows unlimited charter flights to a smaller airport in southern Israel and 10 weekly cargo flights, comes after Israel and UAE agreed to normalize relations.

The aviation deal will be signed at Ben Gurion airport and flights are expected to begin within weeks, the ministry said.

Top clerics urge Lebanese leaders to agree on government

Reuters | Beirut

The leaders of Lebanon's Maronite and Orthodox Christian churches urged Lebanese leaders yesterday to stop delaying talks on forming a government in scathing sermons in which they blamed them for the country's financial crisis and political deadlock.

Tribute planned for beheaded teacher

● 11th person was detained yesterday

● The 47-year-old teacher was killed on Friday outside his school

● The assailant, who was born in Russia of Chechen origin, was shot dead by police soon after the attack

Reuters | Paris



People gather in front of the Bois d'Aulne college after the attack in the Paris suburb of Conflans St Honorine, France

Prophet is blasphemous.

The government has portrayed the killing as an attack on the heart of French values.

Education Minister Jean-Michel Blanquer and politicians from across the spectrum were due to attend Sunday's commemoration in central Paris. A national tribute will be organised for Wednesday, President Emmanuel Macron's office said.

Prime Minister Jean Castex said the government was working on a strategy to better protect teachers from threats. Paty had been the target of an angry campaign on social media

On Saturday, hundreds of people, including pupils and their parents, teachers and local residents came to express their grief and solidarity in front of the school where Paty worked, the College du Bois d'Aulne in the suburb of Conflans-Sainte-Honorine.

before the attack.

"I want teachers to know that, after this ignoble act, the whole country is behind them," Castex told the Journal du Dimanche in an interview.

"This tragedy affects each and every one of us because, through this teacher, it is the Republic that was attacked."

There were no details of the 11th person to be detained in connection with the killing.

Four close relatives of the attacker were detained soon after the attack. Five more were later detained, including the father of a pupil at Paty's school and an acquaintance of the pupil's father known to the intelligence services, anti-terrorism prosecutor Jean-Francois Ricard said on Saturday.

A 10th person was placed in custody later on Saturday.

Macron was due to hold a security meeting with key ministers later on Sunday, his office said.

News in brief

◆ A landslide early on Sunday killed at least 14 military personnel and left eight missing in central Vietnam, the government said, in what could be the country's largest military loss in peace time as it battles major flooding. The mudslide hit the barracks of a unit of Vietnam's 4th Military Region in the central province of Quang Tri, the government said in a statement on its website. It occurred days after another landslide killed 13 people, mostly soldiers, in the neighbouring province of Thua Thien Hue.



Landslide hits barracks in Vietnam, killing 14

◆ Nagorno-Karabakh says death toll among its military rises to 673

◆ The defence ministry of the Nagorno-Karabakh region said on Sunday it had recorded another 40 casualties among its military, pushing the military death toll to 673 since fighting with Azeri forces erupted on Sept. 27. The fighting has surged to its worst level since the 1990s, when some 30,000 people were killed.



◆ Thousands of Thai anti-government protesters took over key intersections in Bangkok yesterday, defying a ban on protests for the fourth day with chants of "down with dictatorship" and "reform the monarchy."

Demonstrations have persisted despite the arrest of dozens of protesters and their leaders, the use of water cannon and shutdowns on much of Bangkok's metro rail system in a bid to quell over three months of street action. Police have given no full breakdown. They made no immediate steps to intervene as protesters took over Victory Monument and Asok, two of Bangkok's most important transport hubs. Police said there were around 10,000 people at Victory Monument alone.



Protesters take over Bangkok streets in new show of defiance

◆ A car bomb yesterday targeting an Afghan police headquarters in the western province of Ghor killed at least 12 civilians and wounded more than 100, officials said. The attack



took place in Feroz Koh, the capital of Ghor, a province that has not seen much violence compared to some other regions of the conflict-racked country.

12 killed, dozens wounded by car bomb targeting Afghan police

◆ New Zealand's ruling Labour party leader Jacinda Ardern said on Sunday that she would form a government within two to three weeks but did not comment on a possible coalition deal with the Green Party.

Ardern, who was handed a resounding victory in a general election on Saturday, said she had informed the country's governor general, Dame Patsy Reddy, that her party had the ability to form the next government. Ardern also said there was no need to bring in any new COVID-19 restrictions after one new case of community transmission was reported in the country.



'Hello you': Israeli-UAE joint song a YouTube hit

● The song was written by Doron Medalie, who also wrote "Toy", which won the 2018 Eurovision contest in Israel

AFP News

The scene cuts from Dubai to Tel Aviv, the lyrics switch from Arabic to Hebrew to English and the song is a slightly kitsch electro-pop duet by artists who, for now, remain apart.

The normalisation of ties between Israel and the United Arab Emirates has produced its first musical collaboration: "Ahlan Bik", or "Hello you" in Arabic.

"This is a historic moment," said Israeli singer Elkana Marziano, whose duet with Emirati artist Walid Aljasim has clocked more than 1.1 million YouTube views since it was posted on September 30.

Marziano, 28, is a former winner of Israel's version of The Voice, a singing competition TV show, and an Arabic speaker influenced by the Mizrahi culture of Jews from the Arab world.



Israeli singer Elkana Marziano, 28, sings along with a video clip of his collaboration with Emirati artist Walid Aljasim (image on screen)

He said that he and Aljasim had collaborated over the Zoom video-conferencing service, with some parts of the song recorded in Dubai and others in Israel.

"The understanding was immediate," Marziano said of the partnership.

One online commentator, who posted under the name Shaked Sharon, said: "With this song, you feel the new Middle East."

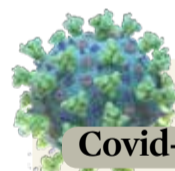
The song was written by Doron Medalie, who also wrote "Toy", which won the 2018 Eurovision contest in Israel.

The chorus -- "I hear you

friend far away, far away" -- is repeated in the three languages, while the music video's action pivots from Marziano dancing with friends in Israel to Aljasim in Dubai.

Marziano said that peace was a common theme in Israeli music, which has regularly been in conflict with its neighbours since its founding in 1948.

He said it was a "personal victory" to see young Israelis and Emiratis interacting online to discuss the song on his YouTube page, adding that he is planning a live concert with Aljasim when the coronavirus pandemic ends.



Global

Covid-19 Cases:

40,146,351

Deaths

1,116,877

Recovered:

30,017,114

New cases

+207,253

New deaths

+2,681

Middle East

Countries worst affected

	Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths
1	USA	8,352,043	+9,378	224,390	+108
2	India	7,544,353	+51,626	114,575	+511
3	Brazil	5,224,821	+459	153,730	+40
4	Russia	1,399,334	+15,099	24,187	+185
5	Spain	982,723		33,775	
6	Argentina	979,119		26,107	
7	Colombia	952,371		28,803	
8	France	867,197		33,392	
9	Peru	865,549		33,702	
10	Mexico	847,108	+5,447	86,059	+355
11	UK	722,409	+16,982	43,646	+67
12	South Africa	702,131		18,408	
13	Iran	530,380	+3,890	30,375	+252
14	Chile	491,760	+1,757	13,635	+47

Figures as of closing

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases	Serious, Critical	Tot cases/1m pop
Egypt	105,297		6,109		98,157	1,031	41	1,023
Saudi Arabia	342,202	+348	5,185	+20	328,538	8,479	825	9,785
UAE	115,602	+1,215	463	+4	107,516	7,623		11,647
Kuwait	116,146	+663	701	+7	107,860	7,585	138	27,079
Oman	109,953	+1,657	1,101	+30	95,624	13,228	203	21,375
Qatar	129,431	+204	224	+1	126,406	2,801	51	46,097