

WORLD
world**Russia airs video of gunman in 'Hate' T-shirt**

Moscow, Russia

Russian television yesterday aired footage of the teenage gunman who killed 20 at his college in Moscow-annexed Crimea calmly mowing down victims while wearing a T-shirt emblazoned with the word "Hate."

A reporter said the security camera footage was broadcast because of widespread speculation about the official account of the massacre on the peninsula annexed from Ukraine in 2014.

The footage confirms that the 18-year-old gunman, Vladislav Roslyakov, dressed to imitate the Columbine high school shooting in the United States, after Russian President Vladimir Putin blamed the crime on "globalisation."

Australia to double jail terms for white-collar crimes

Sydney, Australia

Australia said yesterday jail terms for white-collar crimes would be doubled and penalties against misbehaving companies sharply increased in a further fallout from a scathing inquiry into the finance sector.

Maximum criminal penalties for individuals would be doubled to 10 years' jail while firms could face fines of more than Aus\$945 million (US\$6.73 million).

Under the proposed reforms to civil sanctions, individuals would be hit with more than Aus\$1.05 million in fines and companies up to Aus\$210 million.

The nearly 1,000-page interim report from the Royal Commission found that banks, insurers and other financial houses had put "the pursuit of short-term profit at the expense of basic standards of honesty".

The report added that greed appeared to be the motivation.

US nuke deal withdrawal dangerous step: Moscow

Trump announced US plans to leave the three-decade-old Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty on Saturday

AFP | Moscow, Russia

Withdrawing from a Cold War-era nuclear weapons treaty with Russia as President Donald Trump has announced he plans to do is a dangerous step, Russia's deputy foreign minister warned yesterday.

"This would be a very dangerous step that, I'm sure, not only will not be comprehended by the international community but will provoke serious condemnation," deputy foreign minister Sergei Ryabkov told TASS state news agency.

The treaty is "significant for international security and security in the sphere of nuclear arms, for the maintenance of strategic stability," he stressed.

Russia condemned what he called attempts by the US to gain concessions "through a method of blackmail", he added.

If the US continues to act "clumsily and crudely" and unilaterally back out of interna-



US President Donald Trump speaks to reporters before boarding Air Force One at Elko Regional Airport in Elko, Nevada

tional agreements "then we will have no choice but to undertake retaliatory measures including involving military technology," Ryabkov told RIA Novosti news agency.

"But we would not want to get to this stage," he added.

On Saturday, Trump announced US plans to leave the

three-decade-old Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, known as the INF, signed in 1987 by the then US president Ronald Reagan.

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"We're the ones who have stayed in the agreement and we've honoured the agreement, but Russia has not unfortunately honoured the agreement, so we're going to terminate the agreement and we're going to pull out"

DONALD TRUMP
US PRESIDENT

we're going to terminate the agreement and we're going to pull out," said Trump.

But Ryabkov on Sunday denied Trump's accusations, throwing the accusation back

at Washington.

"We don't just not violate (the treaty), we observe it in the strictest way," he insisted.

"And we have shown patience while pointing out over the course of many years the flagrant violations of this treaty by the US itself."

US National Security Advisor John Bolton is set to arrive in Moscow on Sunday.

"We hope that we will hear from him during meetings, tomorrow and the day after, more substantively and clearly what the American side intends to undertake," said Ryabkov.

Earlier a foreign ministry source told Russian news agencies that the US move was connected to its "dream of a unipolar world", an argument that Ryabkov also advanced.

"Apparently the existence of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty creates problems for establishing a line of total US domination and supremacy in the military sphere," he said.

Chinese official dies in fall from home

Hong Kong, China

China's top representative in Macau has fallen to his death from the building where he lived, authorities said yesterday.

Zheng Xiaosong, 59, the Chinese government's liaison officer in the semi-autonomous former Portuguese colony, had been suffering from depression, Beijing said in a statement.

Zheng "fell to his death from his Macau residence on the evening of October 20, 2018 due to depression", the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office of the State Council said.

The statement gave no more details but the wording suggested Zheng had killed himself.

Mainland officials were to



Zheng, a member of the ruling Communist Party, was reportedly involved in talks between London and Beijing ahead of the hand-over of Hong Kong in 1997

travel to Macau on Sunday to express their "condolences to

comrade Zheng Xiaosong's family" on behalf of the Chinese government, it added.

The director of Macau's judiciary police said they were investigating Zheng's death, Hong Kong media reported.

Zheng, a member of the ruling Communist Party's Central Committee, was reportedly involved in talks between London and Beijing ahead of the hand-over of Hong Kong in 1997.

He took up the post in the gambling enclave of Macau last year. The territory operates under the same "One Country, Two Systems" principle that governs Hong Kong.

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam said in a statement that she was "grieved to learn of his sudden departure".

17 dead after train flips in Taiwan

Yilan, Taiwan

At least 17 people have died after an express train derailed and flipped over on a popular coastal route in Taiwan yesterday.

The Taiwan Railways Administration confirmed 17 people had been killed and said 132 people had also been injured in the accident in north-eastern Yilan county.

Authorities have not confirmed if any passengers remain trapped alive inside the train. An AFP reporter at the scene said that more bodies were being brought out of the wrecked carriages.

Images from the site showed the Puyuma Express train completely derailed and lying zig-zagged across the track.

All of the train's eight carriages had derailed and five had flipped onto their side at Xinma station, the railways administration said.

One passenger told Apple Daily Taiwan that the train had been shaking during the journey.

Taiwan authorities said the accident had happened at 4:50 pm local time (0850 GMT) with no cause yet given.

The railways administration said there had been 366 people on board the service en route to the southern city of Taitung.

The defence ministry said it had sent in 120 soldiers to help the rescue.

President Tsai Ing-wen described the accident as a "major tragedy" in a Tweet Sunday evening.

Pregnant Meghan takes break from Australia royal tour

AFP | Sydney, Australia

Meghan, the pregnant wife of Britain's Prince Harry, is scaling back her engagements during the royal couple's 16-day Pacific tour, Kensington Palace said Sunday, ahead of their visit to Fiji, Tonga and New Zealand.

The royal couple have had a gruelling schedule since arriving in Australia on Monday, visiting Sydney, Melbourne and the regional town of Dubbo, as well as opening the Olympic-style Invictus Games for disabled and wounded soldiers.

"After a busy programme, The

Duke and Duchess have decided to cut back The Duchess's schedule slightly for the next couple of days, ahead of the final week and a half of the tour," Kensington Palace said in a statement.

The opening ceremony for the Games at Sydney's Opera House on Saturday night was delayed after an intense thunderstorm, and the Duchess of Sussex did not attend a cycling medal presentation with Harry on Sunday.

At the event, held in The Domain gardens, the prince was asked by someone in a crowd of onlookers where his wife was. "She's resting at home," the

Australian Broadcasting Corporation reported him as saying. "Being pregnant takes its toll."

Meghan rejoined her husband for lunch with Prime Minister Scott Morrison, before watching a Games sailing event from a boat on Sydney Harbour.

They are due to attend a private reception for the Invictus Games Foundation at Government House late yesterday before heading off to Fraser Island in Queensland state.

But Meghan is not expected to take part in official engagements at the World Heritage-listed site on Monday, with Kensington



Britain's Prince Harry (2nd R) and his wife Meghan, Duchess of Sussex (R) meet children from the Australian Kookaburra Kids Foundation

Palace adding that "The Duke will continue with the engagements on Fraser Island as planned".

The pair are due to visit Fiji and Tonga after Fraser Island.

The news came as Harry received an unusual request from some members of the Australian cycling team at Sunday's presentation -- if he could sign an Invictus pair of budgie smugglers. "Budgie smugglers" is the colloquial term Australians use for Speedo-style swimwear.

The Duke of Sussex declined the offer. The trip officially ends in New Zealand on October 31.