

News in brief

Thai students protest against 'dinosaurs'



◆ With a parade of people dressed in dinosaur costumes to represent Thailand's establishment, high school students led a protest by thousands of people in Bangkok with calls to bring down the government and reform the monarchy. It was the first major protest since Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said on Thursday that police would use all laws against protesters, who have become the biggest challenge to Thailand's rulers in years.

The death of a black man beaten by white security guards at a supermarket sparked protests across Brazil as the country celebrated Black Consciousness Day.

A video of the incident in the southern city of Porto Alegre captured on a witness's mobile phone was broadcast on social networks and Brazilian media. As the clip went viral, around 1,000 protesters in Sao Paulo marched to a branch of the French-owned Carrefour supermarket chain and stoned the glass storefront before setting the premises, trashing and burning goods.

Protests in Brazil after security guards beat black man to death



◆ Ethiopia's government claimed advances in its battle against the dissident Tigray region, while showing no signs of bowing to international pressure for a halt to the conflict that has caused tens of thousands to flee and raised fears of a humanitarian disaster. "Our defence forces are currently marching on Mekele," the Ethiopia State of Emergency Fact Check, a government agency, said. The regional capital is the seat of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), which the government is seeking to dislodge from power.

Eight people were injured in a shooting at a US mall in Wisconsin according to police, who said they were still hunting for the shooter.

The FBI and the Milwaukee County Sheriff's office tweeted that their officers were on the scene at the Mayfair Mall in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, supporting the "active" response by local police. "When emergency personnel arrived, the shooter was no longer at the scene," the Wauwatosa Police Department said in a statement.

Eight hurt in shooting at US mall, gunman still at large



Teen accused of killing two at US protest released on \$2mn bail

◆ The 17-year-old right-wing extremist charged with shooting two people dead at a Black Lives Matter protest in the Midwestern US state of Wisconsin earlier this year was released after posting \$2 million bail, one of his lawyers tweeted. Kyle Rittenhouse "is out of jail," Lin Wood wrote, adding special thanks to actor Ricky Schroder and My Pillow chief executive Mike Lindell, an ally of US President Donald Trump, for contributions which put them "over the top."

India aims to reduce carbon footprint by 30-35 pc: Modi

● **Modi says India set to double oil refining capacity in five years, earlier than expected**

PTI | New Delhi

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday said the country was moving forward with the goal of reducing its carbon footprint by 30 to 35 per cent.

He also said that efforts were on to increase the use of natural gas by four times in this decade and to double the oil refining capacity in the next five years.

The prime minister said this while addressing the eighth convocation of Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University (PDPU) here via video conference.

"Today, the country is moving forward with the goal of reducing its carbon footprint by 30 to 35 per cent. When I told this to the world, it expressed surprise and wondered if India could achieve this," he said.

"Our effort is to increase the share of natural gas in our energy needs by four times in this decade. Work is also on to nearly double the oil refining capacity in the coming five years," he added.

He also expressed confidence that the country will achieve its



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his address (file photo)

renewable energy generation target 'before time'.

"Today, per unit cost (of solar power) has come down to less than Rs 2 from Rs 12-13 earlier.

Today, solar power has become the country's priority. We have made a commitment to generate 175 gigawatt renewable energy and I am confident that we will achieve this before 2022," he said.

"Also, our renewable energy target of 450 gigawatt by 2030, a big aim, will be achieved before time...I am confident of that," he said.

Modi said that the oil and gas sector will see an investment of crores of rupees in this decade,

which will create opportunities for the graduating students of the university in the fields of research, manufacturing and others.

He also said that work is underway to strengthen the start-ups ecosystem related to the energy security sector, and a special fund has been allocated for the purpose.

"If you have any idea, product or any concept which you want to incubate, then this fund will be a good opportunity for you, and a gift from the government," he said.

The PM said that despite the hardships caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the graduating students should remember that

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NARENDRA MODI

their strength and capacities are much bigger than the challenges, and asked them not to lose confidence.

"What is more important than problems is your purpose, preference and your commitment. This is not that you are facing a challenge for the first time in your life, or that this is the last challenge. It is not the case that a successful person does not have problems. But those who accept the challenges and defeat them are the ones who succeed," he said.

He asked the students to recall the period of the country's Independence movement and how people sacrificed their lives for it. He asked them to similarly become a soldier for 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

He said that those who succeed in life possess a sense of responsibility.

Armenia PM urges stronger military links with Russia

Reuters | Baku

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan called yesterday for greater military cooperation with Russia, a day after Azerbaijani troops began moving into disputed territory previously held by Armenian separatist forces.

"We hope we can reinforce cooperation with Russia not only in the security sector but also military and technical cooperation," he said, according to his press service.

"Of course, there were hard times before the war but the situation today is even more difficult."

Pashinyan was speaking during a meeting in Yerevan with Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu after Azerbaijani troops Friday moved into the Aghdam district bordering Nagorno-Karabakh.

Armenia and Azerbaijan agreed to a Russian-brokered ceasefire on November 9 after six weeks of fighting over the self-proclaimed republic. Under the agreement, Azerbaijan will regain control of three districts that have been controlled by the separatists since the 1990s.

Lebanese police hunt dozens after mass jailbreak

● **Five Lebanese prisoners die in accident during an ensuing police chase**

AFP | Beirut

Police in Lebanon yesterday hunted for 44 fugitive prisoners who escaped from a detention centre on the outskirts of Beirut, calling on local residents to be on alert.

Despite tight security, 69 people broke out of a detention facility near the presidential palace in Baabda, east of Beirut, a police statement said.

Five were killed in a car accident, when they lost control of the stolen vehicle as they rushed away and crashed into a tree. One other person was taken to hospital.

By early afternoon yesterday, 15 had been recaptured, and another four had handed themselves back in, leaving 44 on the run.

"A manhunt is...underway to arrest the remaining fugitive prisoners," police said in a statement.

Local authorities called on residents to be on alert, with large numbers of security forces deployed searching the area.

Prosecutor Ghada Aoun has ordered an immediate investigation in the break-out.

Speaking to AFP, she said she did not rule out the possibility of



Lebanese police inspect a damaged car after fugitives crashed it into a tree

69 people broke out of a detention facility near the presidential palace in Baabda, east of Beirut despite tight security

ered outside the detention centre, located in Baabda's Justice Palace, where some were awaiting trial.

Some asked about the fate of their relatives, while others handed their sons back into custody, according to an AFP photographer.

They include Joumana Berjawi, whose 22-year-old son escaped after being held for six months on charges of attempted murder -- a charge she denies.

"My son was among the escapees, but I brought him back and handed him over to the state," Berjawi told AFP.

The jailbreak comes as detainees across Lebanon have called on parliament to approve a draft general amnesty law, that would see thousands of them freed from coronavirus-hit prisons.

COVID-19 Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	Total deaths
1 USA	12,354,646	261,130
2 India	9,095,543	133,260
3 Brazil	6,020,164	168,687
4 France	2,127,051	48,518
5 Russia	2,064,748	35,778
6 Spain	1,589,219	42,619
7 UK	1,493,383	54,626
8 Italy	1,380,531	49,261
9 Argentina	1,359,042	36,790
10 Colombia	1,233,444	34,929
11 Mexico	1,025,969	100,823
12 Peru	946,087	35,484
13 Germany	909,387	14,154
14 Poland	843,475	13,288

Global tally

58,315,176

Deaths

1,384,106

Recovered:

40,369,470

New cases

+416,181

New deaths

+7,249

Figures as of closing

Middle East

Country	Total cases	New cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	112,318		6,521		101,685	4,112
Saudi Arabia	355,034	+221	5,761	+16	342,882	6,391
UAE	157,785	+1,262	548	+1	148,080	9,157
Kuwait	139,734	+426	863	+2	131,560	7,311
Oman	121,360		1,365		112,406	7,589
Qatar	137,062	+174	235		134,100	2,727