

News in brief

◆ **At least seven students were killed and scores more wounded Tuesday in a bomb attack on a Koran study class at a religious school in northwestern Pakistan, officials said.** More than 60 people had been taking a lesson when the explosion tore through the madrassa in Peshawar, about 170 kilometres (around 100 miles) west of Islamabad, said Waqar Azim, a senior police official. “The blast took place in a seminary during a Koran class. Someone took a bag inside the seminary,” Azim said.



At least seven killed in blast at Pakistan religious school

◆ **Nearly 230,000 tonnes of plastic is dumped into the Mediterranean Sea every year**, a figure which could more than double by 2040 unless “ambitious” steps are taken, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature said yesterday. Egypt, Italy and Turkey are the countries that release the most plastic into the sea, mainly due to large coastal populations and huge amounts of “mismanaged waste,” an IUCN report found. But on a per capita basis Montenegro, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and North Macedonia have the highest levels of plastic waste leakage into the Mediterranean.



Amount of plastic dumped in Med to double in 20 years

◆ **The United States on Monday said it had approved a \$2.4 billion sale of 100 Harpoon coastal defense systems to Taiwan, defying Beijing’s anger over a \$1 billion missile deal last week.** The announcement came just hours after Beijing said it would sanction US firms involved in an earlier arms sales to the democratic self-ruled island. The proposed sale of the Harpoon systems “will help improve the security of the recipient and assist in maintaining political stability, military balance... and progress in the region,” the State Department said in a statement.

US announces \$2.4 bn sale of coastal defense systems to Taiwan



◆ **Japan’s cabinet approved a plan on Tuesday to use public funds to provide novel coronavirus vaccines to the public for free.** The plan also calls for the government to bear the cost of any health damage caused by a vaccine, according to a document posted on the health ministry’s website. Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga has pledged to provide enough vaccines for the coronavirus for the public by mid-2021. Japan has struck deals for hundreds of millions of doses from companies including AstraZeneca Plc and Pfizer Inc.

Japan’s cabinet approves plan for free COVID-19 vaccines

Tens of thousands stage anti-France rally in Bangladesh

Tens of thousands of protesters marched through the Bangladesh capital on Tuesday calling for a boycott of French products

and burning an effigy of President Emmanuel Macron after he defended cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammed.

Gunmen kill ‘wanted’ Yemeni rebel minister



People wait outside a hospital in Yemen’s rebel-held capital of Sanaa

AFP | Sanaa

Unidentified gunmen in Yemen’s rebel-held capital Sanaa shot dead a Huthi government minister as he drove his car, also wounding his daughter, officials said yesterday.

Hassan Zaid, minister for youth and sports in the Huthi administration, was wanted by the Saudi-led coalition, which had offered a \$10 million bounty for information leading to his arrest.

In 2017, Zaid sparked anger when he proposed suspending school for a year and sending pupils and teachers to the frontline instead.

The Huthi interior ministry said Zaid was driving his car when it was shot at, leading to his “martyrdom” after suffering serious injuries.

Israel to approve settler homes



The Israeli Shima settlement south of the city of Hebron

AFP Jerusalem

Israel is set to approve construction of Jewish settler homes in a flashpoint area of the West Bank city of Hebron for the first time since 2002, the anti-occupation group Peace Now said Tuesday.

It condemned what it called an attempt to “squeeze in” the approvals before next week’s US presidential election when Donald Trump faces Democratic challenger Joseph Biden, who views such settlements as illegal.

Peace Now, which tracks settlement construction in the occupied territory, said Israeli military authorities had given the green light to the construction of 31 settler housing units “in the heart of Hebron”.

Brazilian says ‘no regrets’ for killing 48 fellow inmates

Daily Mail

A thief-turned-serial killer nicknamed I been blamed for murdering 48 other during his 25 years behind bars in Brazil. First jailed for petty theft as a teenager in 199 old Marcos Paulo da Silva is known to cut off of his fellow inmates before disembowelling bodies.

In one case he is said to have murdered five one go in Serra Azul Jail in Sao Paulo in 2011 in bloodiest attacks to date.

He now faces dying behind bars himself after spree left him with multiple convictions and jail totalling 217 years, although according to local has yet to be tried for many of his crimes.

Da Silva is said to have told a judge recently regrets about killing all these people.

“They were rapists and thieves who took ad other inmates and robbed them.”

While he has officially been charged with ca six murders and ordering the killings of two told the judge that he had killed as many as 41 state prisons.

Psychologists who have evaluated da Silva’s ing career began in prison, after he had never a any murders on the outside.

His astonishing prison history was laid ba cent report by Brazilian online firm UOL which picked up by newspapers in South America Portugal.

He has been described as the leader of a gang sins created with the mission of murdering n the PCC, one of Brazil’s leading gangs said to formed by inmates as a self-protection group in try’s brutal prison system.

Da Silva switched allegiances and turned a after joining the gang as a 19-year-old followi teenage conviction.

He quit the group because it started to foc capitalism, profit and abandoned the struggle i the prison population’, according to news mag

Prison guards told UOL it was only a ‘questi before da Silva, covered in tattoos which incl

Child malnutrition surges in Yemen: UN



Malnutrition among young children has soared to the highest levels ever recorded in parts of war-torn Yemen, the UN said yesterday, as coronavirus and shortfalls in aid funding worsen a humanitarian crisis. More than half a million cases of acute malnutrition among children under five were recorded in the south, and the results of a survey of the north currently under way are expected to be “equally concerning”, it said.

COVID-19 Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	Total deaths
1 USA	8,979,360	231,344
2 India	7,978,972	119,871
3 Brazil	5,415,671	157,528
4 Russia	1,547,774	26,589
5 France	1,165,278	35,018
6 Spain	1,156,498	35,031
7 Argentina	1,102,301	29,301
8 Colombia	1,025,052	30,348
9 UK	917,575	45,365
10 Mexico	895,326	89,171
11 Peru	890,574	34,197
12 South Africa	716,759	19,008
13 Iran	581,824	33,299
14 Italy	564,778	37,700

Global tally

44,027,369

Deaths

1,167,871

Recovered:

32,311,195

New cases

+251,631

New deaths

+3,623

Middle East

Figures as of closing

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	106,707		6,211		98,981	1,515
Saudi Arabia	345,631	+399	5,329	+16	332,117	8,185
UAE	127,624	+1,390	482	+2	122,458	4,684
Kuwait	123,092	+775	756	+7	114,116	8,220
Oman	113,820	+466	1,203	+13	99,997	12,620
Qatar	131,689	+257	230		128,617	2,842

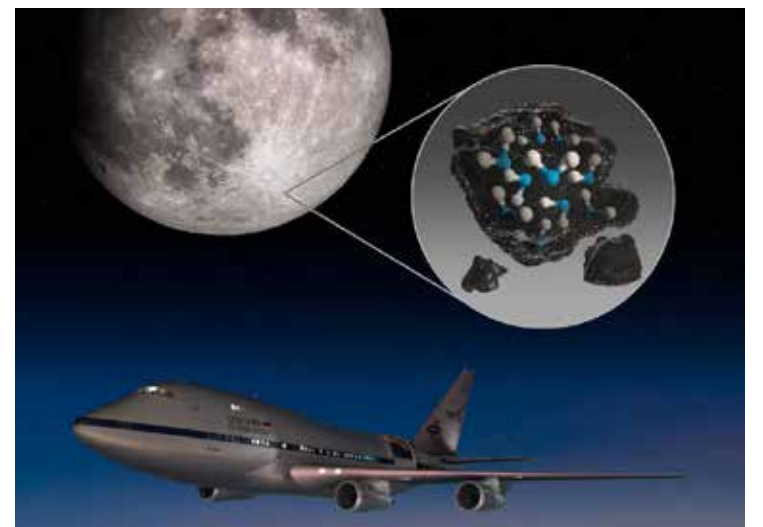
NASA’s SOFIA discovers wa

● **SOFIA has detected water molecules (H2O) in Clavius Crater**

NASA

NASA’s Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) has confirmed, for the first time, water on the sunlit surface of the Moon. This discovery indicates that water may be distributed across the lunar surface, and not limited to cold, shadowed places.

SOFIA has detected water molecules (H2O) in Clavius Crater, one of the largest craters visible from Earth, located in the Moon’s southern hemisphere. Previous observations of the Moon’s surface detected some form of hydrogen, but were unable to distin-



This illustration highlights the Moon’s Clavius Crater with an illustration depicting water trapped in the lunar soil there, along with an image of NASA’s Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) that found sunlit lunar water.

guish between water and its close chemical relative, hydroxyl (OH). Data from this location reveal wa-

ter in concentrations of 100 to 412 parts per million – roughly equivalent to a 12-ounce bottle of water