

News in brief

◆ **A suicide car bomber struck an army base in Afghanistan on Sunday killing at least 26 security personnel, officials said, in one of the bloodiest attacks in recent months.** The attack occurred on the outskirts of Ghazni city, capital of the eastern province of Ghazni, which has seen regular fighting between the Taliban and government forces. "We have received 26 bodies and 17 wounded so far. All of them are security personnel," Baz Mohammad Hemat, director of Ghazni hospital, told AFP.



Suicide car bomb kills 26 Afghan security personnel

◆ **Hundreds of handcuffed Salvadoran gang members were displayed before assembled reporters on Saturday, a vivid show of President Nayib Bukele's policy of confronting them and the violent crime they are accused of committing.**

In El Salvador, arrested gang members paraded for the cameras



Some 600 members of El Salvador's Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) gang

and its rival Barrio 18 made up the bulk of the detentions that were announced on Friday, following a one-week U.S.-backed round-up of Central American gangs that also netted arrests in neighboring Guatemala and Honduras.

◆ **Militants have killed at least 40 people on a farm in Borno state in northeast Nigeria,** three sources told Reuters on Saturday. The attack, at Kwashebe Zamarmari in the Jere local government area, happened late morning local time as the workers were harvesting rice,

Militant attack on farm in northern Nigeria leaves 40 dead

according to a village leader, a local fighter with the Zamarmari group and a police source. A search by the authorities for the attackers has been mounted. The military and police did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

◆ **British Foreign Minister Dominic Raab said yesterday he was concerned about the situation in Iran** and wider region after the killing of a top Iranian nuclear scientist. "We are concerned about the situation in Iran and the wider region we do want to see de-escalation of tensions," Raab told Sky News, after Iranian scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh was killed in an ambush near Tehran on Friday. "We're still waiting to see the full facts to address the full facts of what's happened in Iran but I would say that we stick to the rule of international humanitarian law which is very clear against targeting civilians."

UK concerned over Iran situation



COVID-19 Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	Total deaths
1 USA	13,624,648	272,334
2 India	9,428,477	137,121
3 Brazil	6,290,272	172,637
4 Russia	2,269,316	39,527
5 France	2,208,699	52,127
6 Spain	1,646,192	44,668
7 UK	1,617,327	58,245
8 Italy	1,585,178	54,904
9 Argentina	1,413,375	38,322
10 Colombia	1,299,613	36,401
11 Mexico	1,100,683	105,459
12 Germany	1,047,806	16,444
13 Poland	985,075	17,029
14 Peru	960,368	35,879

Global tally

62,819,383

Deaths

1,462,452

Recovered:

43,402,344

New cases

+264,231

New deaths

+4,905

Figures as of closing

Middle East

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	115,183		6,621		102,490	6,072
Saudi Arabia	357,128	+217	5,884	+14	346,409	4,835
UAE	167,753	+1,251	570	+1	154,185	12,998
Kuwait	142,426	+231	878	+3	136,413	5,135
Oman	123,484	+905	1,418	+27	114,963	7,103
Qatar	138,648	+171	237		135,862	2,549

Baby born with COVID-19 antibodies

Reuters | Singapore

A Singaporean woman, who was infected with the novel coronavirus in March when she was pregnant, has given birth to a baby with antibodies against the virus, offering a new clue as to whether the infection can be transferred from mother to child.

The baby was born this month without COVID-19 but with the virus antibodies, the *Straits Times newspaper* reported yesterday, citing the mother. <https://bit.ly/33I0iLl>

"My doctor suspects I have transferred my COVID-19 antibodies to him during my pregnancy," Celine Ng-Chan told the paper.

Ng-Chan had been mildly ill from the disease and was discharged from hospital after two-and-a-half weeks, the *Straits Times* said.

Ng-Chan and the National University Hospital (NUH), where she gave birth, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The World Health Organisation says it is not yet known whether a pregnant woman with COVID-19 can pass the virus to her foetus or baby during pregnancy or delivery.

Celine Ng-Chan and her two week old son Aldrin Zaccheus Chan.



Queen Elizabeth's 70 years on throne

Reuters | London

Britons will be encouraged to plant trees to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's 70th anniversary on the throne as part of a plan to create a greener country in honour of her seven decades of service.

The 94-year-old, the longest-reigning monarch in British history, is due to mark her Platinum Jubilee in February 2022. The government is planning a four-day celebration that summer, featuring an extra day's public holiday, with tree planting to be a feature of the milestone, according to an announcement yesterday.

Named "The Queen's Green Canopy," the charity-backed project will encourage communities, schools, councils and landowners to plant native trees to help the environment and make local areas greener.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said that the health crisis and pandemic had reminded people of the importance of nature and green spaces and that trees could transform communities as well as tackling climate change.

"As we celebrate Her Majesty's incredible 70 years of service, I encourage everyone to get behind this scheme and go 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee,'" Johnson said. Charities Cool Earth and The Woodland Trust said the planting of trees would create a special gift for the monarch, who has planted more than 1,500 trees around the world during her reign.



Thais challenge king's military command



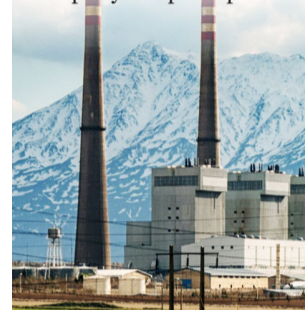
Thai anti-government protesters challenged on Sunday King Maha Vajiralongkorn's personal control over some army units to condemn the military's role in politics. It was the latest open defiance of the king by protesters, who have broken taboos by criticising the monarchy in a country where it is officially revered under the constitution and laws to ban insulting it. Hundreds of protesters gathered to march to the 11th Infantry Regiment, one of two units that were moved under the king's command in 2019.



How to a

Vienna

A 2015 nuclear deal be eroded and efforts t with the killing of T The accord's restrictions tive: to extend the "breakout fissile material for a bomb, year from about two to thr Iran maintains that it ha never would. It says its nuc Tehran began breach a step-by-step response



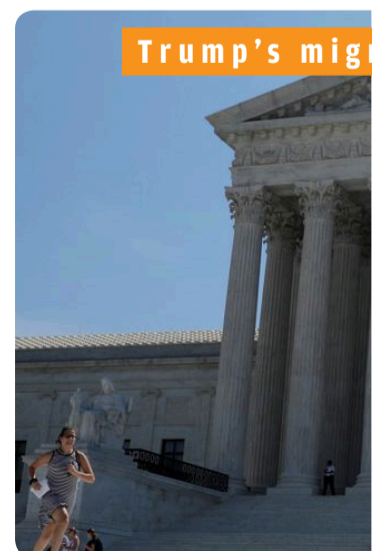
Iran has contravened man Of the most intrusive nuc
 • **Enriched uranium** - T possessed before the deal. 7
 • **Enrichment level** - Th before the deal and below t remained steady at up to 4.1
 • **Centrifuges** - The dea derground Natanz plant, w ground without accumulati
 In 2019, the IAEA said Ira Iran started moving three c had fed uranium hexafluori
 • **Fordow** - The deal ba intelligence services in 20C IR-1 centrifuges enriching t

HOW CLOSE IS

The breaches lengthene of one year is conserva hawkish position on Iran, e Iran would use 1,000 adva

If Iran accumulated suffic ballistic missiles. How lo hurdle in producing a weap US intelligence agencies a Iran obtained a design for a Tehran continues to gran Iran and the IAEA resolve

Trump's mig



The Supreme Court today is set to take up effort to exclude illegal immigrants from Representatives districts to states. The ch led by New York, cities, counties and imm president's move could leave several mill Jersey to lose House seats, which are base