

TOPOF THE WORLD



Amber Guyger. Reuters

U.S. Ex-officer found guilty of killing neighbour

Dallas: A former Dallas police officer who shot her unarmed black neighbour in his own apartment was found guilty of murder on Tuesday, in a high-profile case that dealt with issues of race, policing and mistaken identity. Amber R Guyger, who is white, was charged in the death of her 26-year-old neighbour, Botham Shem Jean, after she said she accidentally went to the wrong floor of their apartment complex and fatally shot him last year. Guyger claimed she thought she was entering her own apartment and was acting in self-defense against an intruder.

AFGHANISTAN Eleven police personnel killed in Taliban attack

Balkh: At least 11 policemen were killed and over a dozen more taken prisoner Tuesday when Taliban fighters stormed their headquarters in northern Afghanistan, officials said. A column of more than 400 Taliban fighters on motorbikes attacked Shortepa district police headquarters in Balkh province in the early hours, triggering a lengthy gunfight, provincial spokesman Munir Farhad told AFP. "Eleven policemen were killed in the attack. The Taliban also suffered heavy losses," he said. The Taliban claimed responsibility, saying their fighters had overrun the district.

PAKISTAN Court issues notice based on Maryam petition

Lahore: A Pakistani court on Tuesday issued a notice to anti-graft body on a petition filed by former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's daughter Maryam Nawaz challenging her arrest in money laundering case. A two-member Lahore High Court bench comprising Justice Ali Baqar Najafi and Justice Sardar Ahmad Naeem directed a special prosecutor of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) to submit a reply to the petition on October 14.

SYRIA Bomb kills 3 employees at key oil field

Beirut: A bomb blast Tuesday near a key oil field in eastern Syria targeted US-backed fighters but killed three workers instead, a war monitor said Tuesday. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the explosion occurred on the road outside the Al-Omar oilfield, the country's largest in the eastern province of Deir Ezzor. Al-Omar is under the control of the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces who have been fighting the Islamic State group. Part of the oil field is used as an SDF base, while workers have resumed production in another.

Parade, protests on China's 70th anniversary



An anti-government protester runs through a cloud of tear gas in Sham Shui Po area of Hong Kong; (right) doves released over people holding Chinese flags at the end of the parade in China on Tuesday Reuters



18-yr-old shot by Hong Kong police as violence escalates

JESSIE PANG & DONNY KWOK HONG KONG, OCTOBER 1

HONG KONG police shot a teenage protester on Tuesday, the first to be hit by live ammunition in almost four months of unrest in the Chinese-ruled city, amid violent clashes on the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic. Cat-and-mouse clashes spread from the shopping district of Causeway Bay to the Admiralty area of government offices on Hong Kong island, and then on to the New Territories bordering mainland China, with police firing tear gas and water cannon at petrol bomb throwing activists. Police said an officer shot an 18-year-old man in the shoulder in the Tsuen Wan area of the New Territories with a live round. Protesters have previ-



A screen grab of an officer shooting the teen. Reuters

ously been hit with bean bags rounds and rubber bullets and officers have fired live rounds in the air. Police chief Stephen Lo said the firing of live rounds - which were discharged in three places - was lawful and fair. "Police lives were under serious threat, that's why they fired live rounds," he told reporters, adding that the wounded man was conscious when taken to hospital. Dramatic video footage of the Tsuen Wan shooting shows a chaotic melee with riot police battling protesters wielding metal bars, before an officer fires a shot at close range. As the wounded man steps back and falls, someone tries to help, but another policeman tackles him to the ground. Tuesday's violence was the most widespread since the unrest erupted in early June, plunging the former British colony into its biggest political crisis in decades and posing the most serious popular challenge to President Xi Jinping since he came to power. Protesters had vowed to seize the opportunity on China's National Day to propel their calls for greater democracy onto the global stage, hijacking an occasion Beijing sees as an opportunity to showcase China's economic and military progress. REUTERS

EXPLAINED Military flexing

MILITARY MIGHT took centre stage during China's celebrations, as part of which it displayed the DF-41 intercontinental ballistic missiles. The missiles are said to have a range of 12,000-15,000 km, reportedly the longest in the world. The DF-41 missile is said to be capable of carrying nuclear warheads and has multiple independently targetable reentry vehicles. This, in addition to its range, which theoretically allows it to reach the US, has led experts to voice concerns about how the DF-41 could affect regional stability. There was still 30 minutes for President Xi Jinping to assume the rostrum above the Gate of Heavenly Peace and declare open the 70th anniversary celebrations for the founding of the People's Republic of China. The audience was being prepped for the big day. "Yi, er, san," shouted volunteers. "Oooohhh," came the reply, followed by claps and flag-

No force can stop Chinese people, nation from forging ahead, says Xi

SOWMIYA ASHOK BEIJING, OCTOBER 1

9.35 AM: The synchronised claps from a military band folding up small chairs rang out at Tiananmen Square. Men in dark blue uniforms stacked the chairs to one end, picked up their instruments and readied for the moment they had been rehearsing for weeks. They would remain in position for at least the next three hours, enthralling the audience with tunes including 'March of the Chinese People's Liberation Army'. There was still 30 minutes for President Xi Jinping to assume the rostrum above the Gate of Heavenly Peace and declare open the 70th anniversary celebrations for the founding of the People's Republic of China. The audience was being prepped for the big day. "Yi, er, san," shouted volunteers. "Oooohhh," came the reply, followed by claps and flag-

Today, a socialist China is standing in the east of the world, and there is no force that can shake the foundation of this great nation. No force can stop the Chinese people and the Chinese nation forging ahead" — XI JINPING CHINA'S PRESIDENT, IN HIS SPEECH

waving. People posed for photographs with Mao's portrait in the background. Minutes before 10 am, the band began playing what a man in the audience described as a "song we play on an occasion like this". Xi arrived soon after and with him were Premier Li Keqiang, former Presidents Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao as well as senior Communist Party members. Li gave the word to start the

canon salute, a group of soldiers walked over to the flagpost across in the square and the national flag of China slowly climbed high in the Beijing smog. In his speech from the rostrum, Xi said: "Forging ahead, we will remain committed to the leadership of the Communist Party of China and put people first." He also said China must uphold principles of 'Peaceful Reunification' and 'One Country, Two Systems' and maintain prosperity and stability in Hong Kong and Macao. He was driven out in an open-roof Red Flag limousine, to review and greet the People's Liberation Army's formations. "Tóngzhimen hao tóngzhimen xingku le ('Comrades, salute to you!' and 'Comrades, thanks for your hard work!') he greeted every unit through a microphone. "Hail to you, Chairman!" and "We work hard to serve the people!" the soldiers replied. FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

UK PM to propose grand bargain for Brexit, EU sceptical

ELIZABETH PIPER & KYLIE MACLELLAN MANCHESTER, OCTOBER 1

BRITISH PRIME Minister Boris Johnson pitched new proposals on Tuesday for an amended Brexit agreement that would remove the contested insurance policy for the Irish border, but EU officials sounded sceptical about the chances of a breakthrough. After more than three years of political crisis since the 2016 EU referendum, the United Kingdom is heading towards an October 31 Brexit date without a clear understanding of whether it will leave with a deal, without a deal or even leave at all. But amid fatigue over Brexit in EU capitals, even among Britain's traditional allies, one EU diplomat cast Johnson's approach as a "kamikaze" Brexit strategy. Another bluntly said that a new deal would be difficult to do swiftly if London demanded substantive changes. "We do think there's a good



Prime Minister Boris Johnson in Manchester on Tuesday. AP

way forward," said Johnson, who has promised to deliver Brexit - with or without a deal - on October 31. The proposals are expected to be submitted to the EU on Wednesday or Thursday. "We are working flat out to get a deal," Johnson said. He denied speculation that he did not really want one, saying: "This is completely untrue - I really must stress it is the absolute inverse of reality." "We are sitting here every day ready to negotiate, the kamikaze way in which it is being treated by the UK government is not something we have chosen," one EU diplomat said. REUTERS

IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY OVER UKRAINE ISSUE ONGOING

Trump 'pressed' Australian PM to help probe Mueller inquiry's origins

NEW YORK TIMES WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 1

PRESIDENT DONALD Trump pushed the Australian prime minister during a recent telephone call to help Attorney General William P Barr gather information for a Justice Department inquiry that Trump hopes will discredit the Mueller investigation, according to two American officials with knowledge of the call. The White House curbed access to a transcript of the call - which the president made at Barr's request - to a small group of aides, one official said. Trump initiated the discussion with Morrison in recent weeks explicitly for the purpose of requesting Australia's help in the review, according to the two people with knowledge of the discussion. In making the request - one of many at Barr's behest - Trump was in effect asking the Australian government to investigate itself. FBI investigators began examining Trump ties to Russia's



US President Donald Trump with Attorney General William P Barr at the White House earlier this month. NYT

2016 election interference after Australian officials reported that Russian intermediaries had made overtures to Trump advisers about releasing information that would damage Hillary Clinton's campaign. Giuliani get subpoena for Ukraine records Meanwhile, House Democrats Monday subpoenaed President Trump's private lawyer, Rudolph W Giuliani, a key figure in their impeachment inquiry, even as the president

vowed to learn the identity of the anonymous whistle-blower whose accusations of presidential impropriety toward Ukraine lie at the center of the scandal. "Our inquiry includes an investigation of credible allegations that you acted as an agent of the president in a scheme to advance his personal political interests by abusing the power of the office of the president," three Democratic House chairmen wrote in a letter to Giuliani, who has served as Trump's personal representative in Ukraine.

POMPEO PUSHES BACK AGAINST DEPOSITION

Washington: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Tuesday pushed back against a request by House Democrats to depose five current and former State Department officials in the Ukraine probe, saying it could be seen as an intimidation attempt. "I'm concerned with aspects of the committee's request that can be understood only as an attempt to intimidate, bully, & treat improperly the distinguished professionals of the Department of State," Pompeo wrote in a tweet. He said he would "use all means at my disposal to prevent and expose any attempts to intimidate the dedicated professionals" of the State Department. REUTERS

NEPAL Accused of rape, Speaker steps down

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE KATHMANDU, OCTOBER 1

K B Mahara, Speaker of Nepal's Parliament, Tuesday resigned after he was accused of rape by an employee of the Secretariat. In a letter to the deputy speaker, printed by newspaper My Republica, Mahara said he was stepping down "on moral grounds to facilitate a fair probe into the allegations raising serious questions about my character". The woman has accused Mahara of assaulting her while drunk at her apartment in Kathmandu on Sunday, the capital's Police Chief Uttam Subedi said on Tuesday. The police have begun an investigation into the woman's accusations, he added. The Nepal Communist Party held an emergency meeting of the 9-member Central Secretariat and decided that Mahara should also quit as a member of parliament. Mahara is yet to do so. Mahara's aide denied the allegations, saying it was "an attempt to assassinate the character of the speaker". WITH AGENCIES

SOME VILLAGES IN THE REGION ARE CONSIDERED NO-GO ZONES AND HAVE NO HEALTHCARE ACCESS

Forsaken in terror war, Kenyan islands await doctors by boat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA KIANGWE, OCTOBER 1

LADEN WITH medicines, the speedboat sets off before dawn, its path lit only by the full moon as it cuts between miles of thick mangroves towards Kenya's border with Somalia, where few dare to go. Two hours later at sunrise, the boat arrives at Kiangwe village, one of several remote coastal communities whose only healthcare comes from these monthly visits by the Safari



Kiangwe and other villages have been hit by the Kenyan government's war with Somali extremist group Al-Shabaab

Doctors mobile medical team. Volunteer doctors and nurses roll up their trousers and heave containers full of medical supplies onto their shoulders before wading ashore and hiking up a hill to a building that will serve as their clinic for a few hours. Kiangwe and surrounding villages have been hard-hit by the Kenyan government's war with Somali extremist group Al-Shabaab, whose militants operate from within the nearby Boni Forest which straddles the border. Between stick-and-mud houses topped with palm fronds,

stands a shuttered clinic that was built but never occupied. "We have several buildings laying dormant because we have personnel (professional nurses and doctors) that don't want to get posted" to the region, said Umra Omar, the 36-year-old who founded Safari Doctors four years ago. So, every month, over a few days, her voluntary team made up of both Kenyan and foreign medics visits up to 12 villages, some of which require a last-minute phonecall to check on security. However four other villages in the region are considered no-

go zones and have no healthcare access at all, said Omar. Inside the makeshift clinic, the team sets up a triage area where patients are weighed and have their blood pressure taken, before being directed to one of several desks manned by medical personnel. At one desk, a group of nurses crowd around a woman with a hard lump in her neck, believed to be a bullet lodged there from an Al-Shabaab ambush on a car she was travelling in several years ago. "I was the only one left... others had died on the spot," Bilai Abdi

said of the attack, which also left her with bullet wounds in her foot. The nurses advise her to go to Lamu to get the bullet removed. Asked how she will do so, she just shakes her head. The clinic is not only the sole option for villagers, but also for the soldiers fighting Al-Shabaab, whose operation has been plagued by poor co-operation, lack of equipment and demoralisation, observers say. A dozen soldiers were seen, some in uniform, some in shorts and flip-flops holding their rifles between their knees as they consulted nurses.