



Former Dallas police officer Amber Guyger is embraced by Bradnt Jean, the brother of Botham Jean, who she shot dead. Brandt said he forgives her. Reuters

USA
Ex-cop gets 10 yrs in prison for killing neighbour

Washington: A former Texas police officer was sentenced to 10 years in prison Wednesday for murdering her neighbour in 2018 when she shot him after entering the wrong apartment while off duty. The Dallas jury could have handed down a sentence between five and 99 years to Amber Guyger (31), for killing 26-year-old Botham Jean, who worked for an accounting firm. Guyger, who is white, had claimed she thought Jean, who was black, was an intruder in her own apartment. In fact, she had entered Jean's unlocked apartment, located in the same building but one floor above hers.

ISRAEL
New Parliament sworn in amid stalemate over PM

Jerusalem: Israel swore in its newly elected parliament on Thursday for what could be a very short term after the country's second inconclusive election of the year left it with no new government on the horizon. The typically festive event was marked mostly by uncertainty, as the two main candidates for prime minister sniped at each other over who should lead the country. It also came in parallel to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's high-profile pre-indictment hearing on corruption charges, which have threatened to end his political career and contributed to the current paralysis of the country's political system.

USA
World War II-era bomber crashes, at least 7 dead

Windsor Locks: A World War II-era plane with 13 people aboard crashed and burned at the Hartford airport in Connecticut after encountering mechanical trouble on takeoff Wednesday, killing seven of them. The four-engine, propeller-driven B-17 bomber struggled to get into the air and slammed into a maintenance building at Bradley International Airport as the pilots circled back for a landing, officials and witnesses said. It had 10 passengers and three crew members, authorities said.

AFGHAN PEACE PROCESS

Pak's Qureshi meets top Taliban leaders, urges renewed US talks

Taliban Political Commission leader Baradar among delegation that met Pakistan foreign minister

SAJJAD HUSSAIN
ISLAMABAD, OCTOBER 3

PAKISTAN ON Thursday asked the Taliban to grasp the opportunity and resume talks with the US for an early and peaceful resolution of the conflict in Afghanistan, saying war is not a solution, as top leaders of the rebel group met Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi here. A high-level Taliban delegation met Qureshi as part of a push to revive the Afghan peace process stalled after US President Donald Trump abruptly declared the talks with the rebel group "dead". Pakistan's Foreign Office said in a statement that a delegation of the Taliban Political Commission (TPC) called on Qureshi. The delegation was led by the head of TPC, Mulla Abdul Ghani Baradar, and included sen-



Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi welcomes Taliban's Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs office in Islamabad. Reuters

ior members of the commission. Welcoming the delegation, the foreign minister noted that while the people of both Afghanistan and Pakistan have a shared history, geography and culture, Islam remains the strongest bond between the two brotherly countries. While appreciating Taliban's

serious engagement in the peace process, he underscored the need to take these efforts to their logical conclusion. Qureshi noted that the existing, broad regional and international consensus for achieving peace in Afghanistan at the earliest provided an unprecedented opportunity that must not be lost. The US and the Taliban had agreed on a draft peace plan, but the process was suspend by Trump following the killing of an American soldier in Kabul last month in a suicide attack claimed by the Taliban. Trump stunned the world when he suddenly declared that peace talks with the Taliban were "dead". He cancelled a secret meeting with the Taliban and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani at Camp David, near Washington, after the Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack in Kabul. Qureshi said it was up to the parties to the conflict in Afghanistan to grasp this opportunity. Qureshi also expressed the hope that the currently paused peace process would be restarted at an early date. "Pakistan has maintained for several years that there is no military solution to the complex situation in Afghanistan," Qureshi said. An inclusive peace and reconciliation process, involving all sections of the Afghan society, was the only, practical way forward. "It was time to make all possible efforts for an early and peaceful resolution of the conflict in Afghanistan," he said. Qureshi added that Pakistan would continue to support all efforts to achieve permanent peace in Afghanistan, which was essential for Pakistan's own socio-economic development and progress. PTI



A demonstrator runs between burning tires during a curfew, two days after the nationwide anti-government protests turned violent, in Baghdad on Thursday. Reuters

Mass protests for 3rd day in Iraq, 28 dead

Police fire live rounds; curfew imposed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BAGHDAD, OCTOBER 3

THOUSANDS of protesters clashed with riot police in Iraq's capital and across the south on Thursday, the third day of mass rallies that have left 28 dead. Defying curfews, tear gas and live rounds, they gathered by truckfuls to vent their anger against corruption, unemployment and poor services in the biggest challenge yet to Prime Minister Adel Abdel Mahdi. As dusk fell in Baghdad, crowds assembled to march to the emblematic Tahrir Square. "We'll keep going until the government falls," pledged 22-year-old Ali, a protester. Riot police fired at the ground with automatic weapons mounted on vehicles, the bullets ricocheting into the crowd. More than half of those killed in the last three days have been in the southern city of Nasiriyah, where six protesters were shot dead and dozens wounded on Thursday alone.

Teen shot in Hong Kong charged with rioting

ASSOCIATED PRESS
HONG KONG, OCTOBER 3

THE TEENAGER who was the first victim of police gunfire in Hong Kong's monthslong pro-democracy protests was charged Thursday with rioting and attacking police, as calls grew for the government to ban the

wearing of masks to subdue rising violence in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory. The shooting of the 18-year-old Tuesday during widespread clashes marred China's National Day celebration and marked an alarming escalation in violence in the unrest that has rocked one of the world's top financial hubs since June.

EXPLAINED

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Unemployment, graft anger Iraqis

IRAQ HAS for long suffered under dictatorships, wars and insurgency. However, two years after ISIS was defeated, Iraqis feel that corruption among the political class has led to rising unemployment and lack of infrastructure. Over 15% of Iraqi youth are thought to be unemployed, and this is what has triggered the decentralised, social media-driven protests. Iraqis blame the government for not rebuilding its wrecked infrastructure and for providing abysmal public services despite the country having the fourth-largest oil reserves in the world.

Local media reported that Chief Executive Carrie Lam will hold a special Executive Council meeting on Friday to discuss a ban on masks, which have helped protesters conceal their identities, and other tough measures under a colonial-era emergency law. Lam's office said it had no comment. Pro-Beijing legislator



Facebook had warned, before the decision, that letting a single nation force an internet platform to delete material elsewhere would limit free speech. Reuters

ters, which civil society groups and others have cautioned could lead to the takedown of legitimate material because filters cannot detect nuances used in satire and some political commentary.

MEANWHILE

1ST ARAB TO REACH ISS RETURNS TO EARTH

A three-man crew including an Emirati who became the first Arab to reach the International Space Station (ISS) returned to Earth Thursday and were in good shape, the Russian space agency Roscosmos said. Hazzaa al-Mansoori of the UAE touched down in the Kazakh steppes along with NASA astronaut Nick Hague and Roscosmos cosmonaut Alexey Ovchinin.



The US President is facing an impeachment probe for asking the Ukrainian President to investigate the Bidens. AP

Trump publicly urges China to investigate Bidens

JILL COLVIN & ZEKE MILLER
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 3

ENSNARLED IN an impeachment investigation over his request for Ukraine to investigate a chief political rival, US President Donald Trump on Thursday called on another nation to probe former vice president Joe Biden: China.

"China should start an investigation into the Bidens," Trump said in remarks to reporters outside the White House. Trump said he hadn't directly asked Chinese President Xi Jinping to investigate Biden and his son Hunter but said it's "certainly something we could start thinking about". Trump and personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani have also tried to raise suspicions about Hunter Biden's business dealings in China, leaning on the writings of conservative author Peter Schweizer. But there is no evidence that the former vice president benefited financially from his son's business relationships. Trump's requests for Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to dig up dirt on Biden, as well as Giuliani's conduct, are at the center of an intelligence community whistleblower complaint that sparked the House Democratic impeachment probe last week. The President's reference to China came unprompted in an

China should start an investigation into the Bidens. Because what happened in China is just about as bad as what happened with Ukraine." — DONALD TRUMP
US PRESIDENT

unrelated question about the July 25 Ukraine call and moments after he was asked about trade negotiations with China to end a yearlong trade war that has been a drag on both nation's economies. "I have a lot of options on China, but if they don't do what we want, we have tremendous, tremendous power," Trump said. He later alleged without evidence that China had a "sweet-heart deal" on trade with the US because of the Bidens. "You know what they call that," Trump said. "They call that a payoff." Biden campaign Chairman Cedric Richmond dismissed Trump's lurch into China, saying it is a reprisal of his Ukrainian efforts to taint Biden and a reflection of polling showing Biden leading Trump in a hypothetical head-to-head matchup. "This President is scared, and he's acting out," the Louisiana congressman said. AP

4 police officers killed in Paris knife attack

Assailant, who was an employee of the police headquarters, shot dead

SYLVIE CORBET & LORI HINNANT
PARIS, OCTOBER 3



Armed police gather outside the site of the knife attack in Paris on Thursday. AP

AN EMPLOYEE, armed with a knife, attacked officers inside Paris police headquarters Thursday, killing at least four before he was fatally shot, a French police union official said. Police union official Loic Travers told reporters the attack appears to have begun in an office and continued elsewhere in the large police compound across the street from Notre Dame Cathedral. The number of people injured was not immediately known. Travers said the motive is unknown, but that the 20-year police employee allegedly responsible for the attack worked as an administrator in the intelligence unit and had not posed known problems until Thursday. He said he could not remember an attack of this magnitude against officers. Emery Siamandi, an employee at police headquarters, said he heard gunshots and immediately saw two officers come outside an office weeping. A third officer, who Siamandi described as the person who shot and killed the assailant, came out on his knees, also in tears. The attack came a day after thousands of officers marched in Paris to protest low wages, long hours and increasing suicides in their ranks. France's Prime Minister, interior minister and the Paris prosecutor were on their way to the scene. The Paris prosecutor's office said no information could be provided at this stage. AP

DECISION LIKELY TO HAVE RIPPLE EFFECTS FOR REGULATING INTERNET CONTENT

EU court: Individual countries can order FB to globally restrict access to posts

ADAM SATARIANO
LONDON, OCTOBER 3

EUROPE'S TOP court said Thursday that an individual country can order Facebook to take down posts, photographs and videos and restrict global access to that material, in a ruling that has implications for how countries can expand content bans beyond their borders. The European Court of Justice's decision came after a former Austrian politician sought to have Facebook remove disparaging comments about her that had

been posted on an individual's personal page, as well as "equivalent" messages posted by others. The politician, Eva Glawischnig-Piesczek, a former leader of Austria's Green Party, argued that Facebook needed to delete the material in the country and limit worldwide access. The decision is a blow to big internet platforms like Facebook, placing more responsibility on them to patrol their sites for content ruled illegal. The case has been closely watched because of its potential ripple effects for regulating internet content. The enforcement

of defamation, libel and privacy laws varies from country to country, with language and behaviour that is allowed in one nation prohibited in another. The court's decision highlights the difficulty of creating uniform standards to govern an inherently borderless web and then enforcing them. Facebook and other critics had warned, before the decision, that letting a single nation force an internet platform to delete material elsewhere would limit free speech. Implementing such a global ban would likely require the use of automated content fil-

ters, which civil society groups and others have cautioned could lead to the takedown of legiti-

mate material because filters cannot detect nuances used in satire and some political com-

mentary. Opponents had also argued that allowing the removal of an original post and then expanding that ban to posts considered "equivalent" added some potential for unintended consequences. Supporters counter that defamation laws have not been enforced appropriately in the internet age and are needed to force platforms like Facebook to do more to combat internet trolls, hate speech and other personal attacks that spread on the web. Facebook sharply criticised the ruling. "This judgment raises critical

questions around freedom of expression and the role that internet companies should play in monitoring, interpreting and removing speech that might be illegal in any particular country," the company said in a statement. "It undermines the longstanding principle that one country does not have the right to impose its laws on speech on another country. It also opens the door to obligations being imposed on internet companies to proactively monitor content and then interpret if it is 'equivalent' to content that has been found to be illegal." Glawischnig-Piesczek did not

respond to requests for comment. The decision highlights a widening gap between the United States and Europe on regulating the technology industry. Europe has imposed tougher policies on privacy, antitrust, copyright and content moderation, while the United States has traditionally had a more hands-off approach. Yet as Europe has enacted tougher policies, courts are being asked to clarify their reach, including if Facebook, Google and other platforms must apply the rules beyond the borders of the 28-nation European Union. NYT