



Atlanta police chief resigns after officer kills black man

Truncated will: India landowner bequeaths land to elephants



SEATTLE: A banner which reads 'abolish the police' hangs from a building in an area being called the Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone (CHAZ) after the Seattle Police Department's East Precinct was vacated in Seattle, Washington. —AFP

Fresh protests against racism

Thousands march in cities around the world for a second week

PARIS: Thousands marched in cities around the world for a second week of rallies Saturday to support the US Black Lives Matter movement, but also to highlight racism and police brutality in their own countries. There were rallies in cities across Europe, with thousands demonstrating in several French cities, and clashes breaking out in Paris and Lyon. Police arrested several far-right demonstrators in London after violence when they challenged people supporting racial quality there, with Prime Minister Boris Johnson denouncing their "racist thuggery".

The weeks of historic demonstrations have been ignited by the May 25 killing of African American George Floyd by a police officer - the latest in a long line of unarmed black men being killed by white law enforcement in the US. His agonizing death as the officer knelt on his neck was filmed by bystanders and swiftly went viral, triggering fury first in the US and then around the world. The mass unrest has forced an unprecedented global conversation on the legacy of slavery, European colonialism and white violence against people of color, as well as the militarization of police in America.

Police stopped protesters in Paris Saturday from marching through the capital, firing tear gas after some demonstrators pelted them with projectiles. In the southeast city of Lyon, police used water cannons and tear gas at the end of a demonstration attended by about 2,000 people. The Paris demonstration was called by a pressure group campaigning for justice for Adama Traore, a young black man who died in police custody in 2016. Traore's sister Assa Traore called on those attending the rally to "denounce the denial of justice, denounce social, racial, police violence". She drew a direct parallel between Floyd's death in the US city of Minneapolis and that of her brother, and renewed her call for a full investigation into his killing.

Amnesty International called in a statement for "a systemic reform of police practices" in France. The rallies came at the end of a week when France's police

watchdog revealed it had received almost 1,500 complaints against officers last year - half of them for alleged violence. Interior Minister Christophe Castaner on Tuesday promised "zero tolerance" of racism in law enforcement, saying it is clear some officers "have failed in their Republican duty". Castaner's comments prompted several dozen policemen to gather with their patrol cars at Paris's Arc de Triomphe on Saturday night, throwing down their handcuffs in protest. Brut Yoann Maras, a representative from police union Alliance, told AFP: "My colleagues felt let down, abandoned by their supervising minister."



Protesters fume over racism and police brutality

'Racist thuggery'

In London, far-right protesters clashed with police in the city center after gathering to challenge people demonstrating against racism. Thousands of people defied coronavirus restrictions to assemble in and around Parliament Square, requiring a "major" policing operation, said the Metropolitan Police Service. Television footage showed some agitators throwing punches, bottles and smoke bombs at officers as well as fighting with rival protesters. Prime Minister Boris Johnson condemned the violence, saying "racist thuggery has no place on our streets".

Police said they arrested more than 100 people in the capital, and six officers suffered minor

Zhejiang. Local authorities said the truck was loaded with liquefied gas.

Dramatic video footage of the accident published by state media showed a huge ball of fire shooting into the air as people screamed. In one clip, a large piece of debris is seen flying into the air before crashing on some nearby buildings. Another video showed the remains of the tanker and several truck tyres smashed into a building, which had been reduced to rubble. State news agency Xinhua reported Sunday that there was a second blast when the truck fell onto a workshop near the expressway after the first explosion. Emergency responders were still conducting search and rescue operations, it added. Deadly road accidents are common in China, where traffic regulations are often flouted or not enforced. Last year, at least 36 people died and 36 others were hurt in eastern China when a packed coach with a flat tyre collided with a truck. —AFP

injuries. Anti-racism protests went ahead in other British cities, including Brighton in the south and Liverpool in the north. Thousands marched in several cities across Switzerland, with the largest in Zurich, where 10,000 people turned out. Police said one officer was hurt after a few hundred hard-left activists there began throwing projectiles. They made several arrests. Earlier in the week, around 10,000 marched against racism in Geneva. In Germany, around 2,000 rallied in the southern city of Stuttgart, the DPA news agency reported. In the north, another 500 turned out in Lubeck and 250 in Hamburg. There were no reports of any trouble.

Rallies in Australia

In Australia, thousands turned out in several cities for the second weekend running, despite coronavirus restrictions. The biggest was in the Western Australian capital Perth. Many demonstrators carried signs such as "Stop deaths in custody" and "White Australia stop lying to yourselves", highlighting the deaths of more than 400 indigenous people in custody over the last three decades. Smaller protests for Aboriginal rights were held in Darwin, capital of the Northern Territory, and towns in neighboring Queensland - both regions with numerous indigenous communities.

In Asia, hundreds gathered in a Taipei park with some holding signs with slogans such as "This is a movement, not a moment". They held eight minutes of silence to remember Floyd, who was pinned to the ground by the white officer's knee on his neck for eight minutes and 46 seconds. Dozens also marched through the rain in Tokyo. In Canada, officials in the eastern province of New Brunswick announced Saturday that they had opened an investigation into the fatal police shooting of a 48-year-old indigenous man, the second such incident this month. And in the US the anger was refreshed after yet another black man was shot dead by police, this time in the city of Atlanta on Friday evening. The city's police chief resigned Saturday. —AFP

Slight coronavirus spikes may get out of control in US

WASHINGTON: The top US infectious disease official has cautioned that the "blips" of rising coronavirus hospitalizations being reported by some states could get out of control if robust contact tracing regimes are not put in place. As restrictions on economic activity are lifted, the United States was bound to see increased infections, Anthony Fauci told CNN. "But when you start seeing more hospitalizations, that's a sure fire sign that you're in a situation where you're going in the wrong direction," Fauci said.

So far, more than 114,000 people have died from COVID-19 in the United States, according to a Reuters tally. About half a dozen US states are grappling with a rising number of coronavirus patients filling hospital beds. Texas and North Carolina on Friday reported their highest hospitalization rates since the pandemic began. But officials in both states point out they also have among the lowest rates of deaths from COVID-19. Fauci underscored that increased hospitalizations was a worrying trend, however, and a sign that "maybe we need to slow down a little" on reopenings.

North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper said on Friday that while his state's rise in hospitalizations and new cases was sobering, moving ahead with more reopenings was not off the table. Texas has been at the forefront of states' efforts to reopen their economies and Governor Greg Abbott on Friday said in an interview with KYTX TV it would remain that way "because we have so many hospital beds available to anybody who gets ill." "For every person in a hospital bed, there are 10 open, available hospital beds available for them," Abbott said. "So there's plenty of hospital capacity to be able to deal with COVID-19."

He added that there is "no real need to ratchet back the opening of businesses in the state." A handful of states and cities have paused or slowed reopenings. Oregon Governor Kate Brown said she would put county applications to reopen on hold after the state reported a record daily rise in new coronavirus cases on Thursday. "This is essentially a statewide 'yellow light,' it's time to press pause for one week before any further reopening," Brown, a Democrat, said in a statement. Utah's Republican Governor Gary Herbert on Friday ordered most of the state to halt reopening while it investigated a jump in cases. "I don't want to go forward and then take a step backward," Herbert said of the order that remains in effect until June 26. —Reuters

Death toll rises to 18 in China tanker blast

BEIJING: The number of people killed in a tanker truck explosion on a highway in eastern China has climbed to 18, with nearly 200 more injured, local authorities said yesterday. The force of the blast on Saturday afternoon caused nearby homes and factories to collapse, and sent huge clouds of black smoke billowing into the air as flames engulfed several cars. China's emergency management department said Sunday morning there were 189 injured people still being treated in hospital, after the accident near Wenling city in the eastern province of



This aerial photo shows rescuers searching for survivors in a building damaged by a tanker explosion near Wenling, in China's eastern Zhejiang province. —AFP