

World News Roundup

Guns

Buck NRA: Trump

Accused Fla gunman agrees to give 'DNA'

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida, Feb 27. (Agencies): A Florida court canceled a hearing scheduled for Tuesday for the 19-year-old man accused of carrying out the second-deadliest shooting at a public school in US history after a deal between prosecutors and defense attorneys, the suspect's lawyer said.

Prosecutors had been scheduled to seek hair and DNA samples from **Nikolas Cruz**, who faces 17 murder counts for the Feb 14 rampage at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, an affluent suburb of Fort Lauderdale.



Cruz

Broward County prosecutors and Cruz's publicly appointed defender, Gordon Weekes, reached a deal late Monday to provide those samples, making the hearing unnecessary, Weekes said.

"There was no reason to push back," Weekes said. "It was a routine motion that the state attorney had filed. We submitted an agreed order and there was no need for a court to hear the motion."

The hearing would have been the second courtroom appearance for Cruz since the shooting.

Meanwhile, amid the outcry over the Florida school shootings, the Trump administration says it is "actively exploring" ways to help states expand inpatient mental health treatment using Medicaid funds.

President Donald Trump again brought up the issue of mental hospitals in a meeting with governors on Monday, invoking a time when states maintained facilities for mentally ill and developmentally disabled people.

"In the old days, you would put him into a mental institution," Trump said, apparently referring to alleged shooter Nikolas Cruz, whose troubling behavior prompted people close to him to plead for help from authorities, without success. "We're going to have to start talking about mental institutions ... we have nothing between a prison and leaving him at his house, which we can't do anymore."

Trump declared he's willing to take on the National Rifle Association over gun legislation, but Republicans who control Congress aren't so sure. They prefer to consider only modest changes to firearms limits in response to the mass shooting at a Florida high school.



People place flowers on the names inscribed on the north reflecting pool of the National September 11 Memorial for those killed in the Feb 26, 1993 truck bomb attack at the World Trade Center on Feb 26 in New York City. An annual memorial service was held today, on the 25th anniversary of

the attack, to mark the event in which six people were killed and more than 1,000 injured. The bomb, which exploded in an underground parking garage, was set off by Muslim extremists who were later brought to justice. On Sept 11, 2001 the World Trade Center was attacked again. (AFP)

America

WTC bombing marked: The World Trade Center's operators apologized Monday to relatives of people killed in the 1993 bombing there, saying the country was unprepared for a terror attack that foreshadowed 9/11. The families urged people to understand its legacy.

Victims' families, survivors, first responders and others marked the bombing's 25th anniversary on what is now the Sept 11 memorial plaza. They observed a silent moment, read victims' names, laid roses on the memorial and reflected on an explosion that became a telling signal of terrorists' aims.

"We were not ready for what visited us that day. Americans were not ready for what visited them that day," said Kevin O'Toole, chairman of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which runs the trade center. "And for that, I say: I'm sorry. And we are sorry." (AP)

'Clinton ties was abuse of power'

Former White House intern **Monica Lewinsky** says she has been reexamining her affair with president **Bill Clinton** through the "new lens" of the #MeToo movement and has concluded it constituted a "gross abuse of power."



Lewinsky



Clinton

Lewinsky, 44, in an essay published in the latest issue of Vanity Fair magazine, also recounted a recent chance meeting with Ken Starr, the special prosecutor whose investigation led to the revelation of her sexual relationship with Clinton and his subsequent impeachment nearly 20 years ago.

Lewinsky said she was diagnosed several years ago with post-traumatic stress disorder, "mainly from the ordeal of having been publicly outed and ostracized." (AFP)

Oakland mayor warns of raids: The mayor of Oakland warned residents of large-scale raids by immigration agents in the San Francisco Bay Area, marking the latest escalation of tensions between California officials and the Trump administration.

Calling it her "duty and moral obligation" to warn families, Mayor **Libby**

Schaaf's unusual alert this weekend also follows months of criticism of her decision to allow Oakland police to direct traffic during an Immigration and Customs Enforcement raid in August.



Schaaf

Schaaf, a Democrat seeking re-election this year, has been trying to demonstrate her support for the immigrant community ever since. The mayor said "credible sources" told her ICE would be targeting immigrants being sought for living in the country illegally and not those wanted for crimes. (AP)

FTC can police tel cos: A US appeals court says the Federal Trade Commission can police telecommunications companies like AT&T — a ruling that's important because another agency is dropping its oversight with repeal of "net neutrality" rules governing customer access to apps and websites.

The case is over claims that AT&T misled smartphone customers in offering unlimited data plans, but slowing speeds for heavy users.

By law, only the Federal Communications Commission can take action against a common carrier — a provider of essential services such as landline or mobile voice service. (AP)

Thousands pay Graham respects: Thousands of people from all walks of life — including a former president — filed slowly past the casket of the Rev. Billy Graham on Monday to pay their final respects to a man who reached millions with his message of salvation through Jesus Christ.

A light drizzle greeted mourners on hand at 8 a.m. when the doors opened to Graham's boyhood home, but it had tapered by the late afternoon when former President George W. Bush arrived with his wife, Laura.

The viewing was expected to last late into the night for the famed evangelist, who died Wednesday at age 99. (AP)

Assault on an AR-15 goes viral: A video of a man cutting his semi-automatic weapon in half has gone viral following last week's mass shooting at a Florida high school, prompting a social media movement decrying easy access to high-powered assault rifles.

Scott Pappalardo of New York state is the star of a clip posted on Facebook that had been shared more than 360,000 times as of Tuesday afternoon. (RTRS)

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