

World News Roundup

Immigration

Raids as families hide
Govt sets 'new bar' for asylum seekers

WASHINGTON, July 15, (RTRS): Immigrants seeking asylum in the United States from Mexico must now also first seek protection from a so-called third party country, the Trump administration said on Monday.

The Departments of Homeland Security and Justice, in a joint statement, said the new interim rule would set a "new bar" for immigrants trying to enter across the southern US border "by placing further restrictions or limitations on eligibility for aliens who seek asylum in the United States."

Meanwhile, US authorities launched small-scale operations seeking to arrest undocumented immigrants over the weekend in an apparent start to President Donald Trump's vow to launch mass deportation round-ups across the United States.

The operation, which Trump revealed on Twitter last month, then postponed before telling reporters on Friday that it would proceed, was expected to target hundreds of recently arrived families in about 10 cities who had been ordered deported by an immigration judge.

The removal operations are meant to deter a surge in Central American families fleeing poverty and gang violence in their home countries, with many seeking asylum in the United States.

Immigrants and their advocates were bracing for mass arrests, but by Sunday night there were only reports of low-profile operations in a few cities.

"We are doing targeted enforcement actions against specific individuals who have had their day in immigration court and have been ordered removed by an immigration judge," Acting Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Director Matt Albence told Fox News when asked for an update.

Mary Bauer at the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) said there were no confirmed operations in large Southern cities such as Atlanta.

There also were no reports of arrests from the American Immigration Council, which has lawyers on standby to give legal advice at the country's largest family migrant detention center in Dilley, Texas.

"Immigrants and immigrant communities all over the country are in hiding and people are living in these terrified, terrorized ways, because that is the point of this whole action, whether enforcement actions take place or not," said Bauer, the SPLC's deputy legal director.

New York Mayor Bill de Blasio said there were three ICE operations in his city on Saturday, with no reported arrests. He said there was no ICE activity in New York on Sunday.



Trump



Thousands of people, including immigrants and their supporters, rally against President Trump's immigration policies as they march from Daley Plaza to the Chicago field office of Immigration and Customs Enforcement on July 13 in Chicago. (AP)

America

Booker unveils plan: Democratic presidential candidate Cory Booker was set to unveil a plan on Monday to greatly increase funding for elderly Americans needing long-term health care, and also to increase funding for people who look after them.

Booker, a US senator from New Jersey, was due to tell a forum in the early voting state of Iowa that he would make a dramatic investment in care for people with long-term health care needs if he was elected president.

One of the core parts of Booker's plan would be to provide funds so that low- and middle-income Americans could have the choice to age in their own homes, and increase pay for care workers to look after them.

Booker was due to unveil his plan at a forum held by AARP, the American Association of Retired Persons, in Des Moines, Iowa. The AARP is a powerful, non-profit organization that advocates for people as they age, and has roughly 40 million members.

Another candidate due at the event was former vice-president Joe Biden, currently leading in the polls of the 25 Democrats vying to become the nominee to take on Republican president Donald Trump in the

November 2020 election.

"In one of the richest nations in the world, no person should ever go broke or have to quit their job to afford long-term care or to take care of a loved one," Booker said in a statement before his scheduled speech.

Booker said his plan would ensure that all low- and middle-income seniors and people with disabilities would have access to services through Medicaid, a federal and state program to assist low-income Americans.

Booker said he would pay for his plan by changes to the tax code, including reforming the capital gains, estate and income tax provisions of the code. (RTRS)

Call for power outage probe: A Manhattan power outage that temporarily turned off the bright lights of the big city



Booker



Schumer

only lasted for a few hours, but left plenty of lingering questions and calls for investigations on Sunday.

Con Edison engineers and planners are looking into what happened at a substation on Saturday evening that caused the blackout, which stretched 30 blocks from Times Square to the Upper West Side for about four hours.

Thousands of people crowded the streets Saturday evening, using their cellphones as flashlights while they tried to stay cool amid the humid July evening, where temperatures hit the low 80s.

US Sen Charles Schumer said Sunday the Department of Energy's Office of Electricity should investigate the work being done by Con Edison to maintain and upgrade the city's power grid.

He added that "this type of massive blackout is entirely preventable with the right investments in our grid," encouraging a thorough investigation that could shed light on wider electricity issues that could have national impact.

Gregory Reed, a professor of electric power engineering at the University of Pittsburgh who once worked at Con Ed, said the utility had done a good job in restoring power quickly, but said it underscores a need throughout the country to invest more in infrastructure. (AP)

Barry's flood threat lingers: Tropical Depression Barry dumped rain as

it slowly swept inland through Gulf Coast states Sunday, sparing New Orleans from a direct hit but stoking fears elsewhere of flooding, tornadoes, and prolonged power outages.

Though the system was downgraded to a tropical depression Sunday afternoon and its winds were steadily weakening since it made landfall Saturday in Louisiana, Barry's rain bands created a flooding and tornado threat stretching from central Louisiana to eastern Mississippi and beyond. Several parishes or counties in both states were under flash flood warnings.

Far from the storm's center, tornado warnings were issued Sunday morning in both states, though no serious damage or injuries were reported. (AP)

Biden defends Obamacare: Joe Biden is taking an aggressive approach to defending the Affordable Care Act, challenging not just President Donald Trump but also some of his rivals for the Democratic presidential nomination who want to replace the current insurance system with a fully government-run model.

The former vice president will spend much of the coming week talking about his approach to health care, including his unveiling Monday of a plan that would add a "public option" to the 2010 health care overhaul, with expanded coverage paid for by raising taxes on the wealthiest Americans. Biden's almost singular focus on former President Barack Obama's health care law, often called "Obamacare," has been on display recently in early voting states.

In Iowa, Biden declared himself "against any Republican (and) any Democrat who wants to scrap" the Affordable Care Act. Later in New Hampshire, he said "we should not be scrapping Obamacare, we should be building on it."

Biden hopes his positioning as Obamacare's chief defender helps him on several fronts. It's a reminder of his close work alongside Obama, who remains popular among Democratic voters. And it could reinforce Biden's pitch as a sensible centrist promising to rise above the strident cacophony of Trump and Democrats like Sens. Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and Kamala Harris, all single-payer advocates.

Biden's proposal, outlined by advisers ahead of its release, is anchored by a "Medicare-like" plan that any American, including the 150 million-plus Americans now covered by job-based insurance, could buy on ACA exchanges.

The proposal would make existing subsidies more generous and make more middle-income households eligible for them, lowering their out-of-pocket costs. (AP)



Biden

Under its expansion policy in Kuwait

"Best Al-Yousifi Electronics" Opens New Showroom at the Avenues Mall



Easa Husain Al-Yousifi & Sons Co. recently opened a new Best Al-Yousifi Electronics showroom at the Avenues Mall - The Forum. This is one of the modern electronics showrooms in Kuwait, being the Fifteenth outlet in Best Electronics chain in Kuwait. The event was attended by company owners & corporate Managers, prominent figures and guests, interested customers, media workers and the press.

The company announced that the opening of its new showroom at the Avenues Mall is part of its strategy aimed at meeting its customers' needs to provide the best services and shopping facilities. Best Al-Yousifi Electronics Co., by expanding the number of its showrooms open to the public, with this showroom' being the number 15, seeks to enhance its service level and make them available to the largest possible customer base. Al-Yousifi opened the first location of Best Al-Yousifi Electronics Showroom in Hawally on September 29, 2009. Best Al-Yousifi Electronics also plans to join forces with other international brands for its future showrooms. To celebrate the new showroom opening, Best Al-Yousifi Electronics threw in



a special opening festivity at the Avenues Mall to all its guests and customers and launched special offers and excellent prices deals for new products.

The welcome speech was presented by General Manager of the Electronics group, Mr. Wael Deeb, who said that this new showroom comes as part of the company expansion policy to please all clients in, also promised of more new showrooms in the coming future.

The opening ceremony also featured musical performances and a variety of entertainments in a distinctive atmosphere where the audience expressed their happiness. In addition to the Robot amazing show which was brought for the first time from Spain especially for the opening of Best showroom.

Easa Husain Al-Yousifi & Sons Co., through its retail network has undoubtedly emerged as the preferred partner for a number of internationally renowned brands, making it the natural choice for international companies wishing to put their products in the Kuwaiti market.

