



President Donald Trump speaks during a news conference at the Trump National Golf Club in Bedminster, New Jersey, Saturday, Aug. 8, 2020. (AP)

## Britain

## BBC sorry for using racist term

## Ex-commando picked to stop boat crossings

LONDON, Aug 10, (AP) — The British government has appointed a former Royal Marine commando to try to stop people crossing the English Channel from France in small boats. The government said Sunday that Dan O'Mahoney, who currently heads the UK's Joint Maritime Security Center, has been named "clandestine Channel threat commander." Home Secretary Priti Patel said O'Mahoney would work with French authorities on stronger enforcement measures, including intercepting boats at sea, "to make this route unviable." Britain's Conservative government has talked tough amid a surge in the number of migrants crossing the Channel during recent warm summer weather. On Thursday, 235 people were brought ashore, a record number for a single day. More than 650 have arrived so far in August, including babies and unaccompanied children.

Patel has said the Royal Navy could be called in to prevent boats reaching UK waters, though other senior officials and politicians say that would be impractical and potentially dangerous.

On Saturday the Ministry of Defense said it had received a government request to "support UK Border Force operations" and was looking into how it could best help.

Migrants have long used northern France as a launching point to reach Britain, either in trucks through the Channel tunnel or on ferries.

## Organized

Some have turned to small boats organized by smugglers because coronavirus lockdowns have reduced opportunities to stop away on ferries and trucks. Fine summer weather is also prompting more people to make the risky journey across one of the world's busiest shipping lanes — about 20 miles (32 kilometers) at its narrowest point — in vessels as small as dinghies and kayaks. The British and French immigration ministers are due to hold talks this week about the Channel crossings.

Human rights groups have criticized the British government's harsh rhetoric and accused officials of trying to blame France for the rise in the number of boat crossings.

Bridget Chapman of the Kent Refugee Action Network accused the government of "saber-rattling," and called for asylum seekers to be given legal ways to come to Britain.

"That would close this route overnight, would save lives, and we would know exactly who was arriving and when," she said.

Meanwhile, The BBC apologized Sunday for broadcasting a racist slur in a news report, saying it was a mistake that has caused many people distress.

The BBC included the word when reporting last month on a violent attack on a young Black man in Bristol, a city in southwest England. The attackers are reported to have yelled the offensive term as they ran into the 21-year-old with a car.

The victim needed hospital treatment for a broken leg and other injuries.

The broadcaster has received more than 18,000 complaints about the use of the offensive word. On Saturday, comedian and broadcaster Sideman quit music station BBC 1Xtra over the use of the word and the corporation's failure to apologize.

The BBC had previously defended the decision to use the word, saying it wanted to convey the racist nature of the attack. It had warned viewers that upsetting language would be used.

Director-general Tony Hall said in a memo to staff that the BBC's intention "was to highlight an alleged racist attack." "Yet despite these good intentions, I recognize that we have ended up creating distress amongst many people," he said.

Hall said that "every organization should be able to acknowledge when it has made a mistake. We made one here." Since the May 25 death of George Floyd in Minneapolis sparked anti-racism protests around the world, Britain's institutions — including the government, the BBC and the police — have faced pressure to confront their own legacies of inequality and bias.

On Sunday, a Black lawmaker, Dawn Butler, accused London police of racial profiling after she and a male friend were pulled over while driving through the city's Hackney area. Butler told Sky News there was "institutional racism in the police." "It is just tiring and exhausting and mentally draining," she said.

The Metropolitan Police force said the car was pulled over because an officer had incorrectly entered its license plate number into the police computer and it showed up as registered to an address in northern England.

"Once the mistake was realized, the officer sought to explain this to the occupants; they were then allowed on their way," the force said in a statement.

Last week Butler, an opposition Labour Party legislator, was named one of the 25 women shaping the future by British Vogue.



Patel



Democratic presidential candidate, former vice-president Joe Biden speaks at a campaign event at the Colonial Early Education Program at the Colwyck Training Center, in New Castle, Del. The 2020 spotlight is about to shift, at least temporarily, away from President Donald Trump and onto Biden. (AP)



Floyd



Johnson

## America

**Riot declared for protest:** A riot was again declared by authorities Sunday night in Portland when protesters marched to a police union building, blocked a road and set dumpster fires as officers work to quell nightly unrest in Oregon's largest city.

The protest was broken up almost as soon as it formed outside the Portland Police Association building — the same building where protesters were dispersed after a fire was started inside the union's offices the night before. Demonstrators had marched to the building from a nearby park. The road was blocked with fencing, and flames were seen rising from dumpsters in the middle of the street.

Police began forcing the crowd of a couple hundred away from the building. While demonstrators were being dispersed, commercial-grade fireworks were thrown at officers, injuring two, police said. The department released photos of the officers' injuries, including a photo of a face covering that "partially melted" from the firework. The officers were treated at the scene.

Some protesters returned to the union building after officers cleared the area. Police said the road was again blocked with fencing and small fires broke out in the street. Multiple people were arrested, police stated, but specific details weren't immediately available.

Since George Floyd was killed in Minneapolis, protests have occurred nightly in the city for more than 70 days. (AP)

**GOP senator subpoenas FBI:** Republican Sen. Ron Johnson said Monday that he has subpoenaed the FBI to produce documents to his committee related to the Trump-Russia investigation.

The Wisconsin senator also defended a separate investigation he is leading into Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden and Ukraine, even as Democrats say the probe has the effect of amplifying Russian propaganda and as U.S. intelligence officials say they have assessed that Russia is working to denigrate Biden ahead of the November election.

Johnson's Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee is one of multiple Republican-led Senate panels scrutinizing the FBI's investigation into ties between the Trump campaign and Russia. Another, the Judiciary Committee, has released a series of documents in recent weeks aimed at discrediting the probe, including material on Sunday that the chairman, Sen. Lindsey Graham, said raised questions about whether the FBI had misled Congress about the accuracy of information it received during the investigation. (AP)

## Politics

## Many express concern

## States on hook for blns under Trump's 'unemployment plan'

FALLS CHURCH, Va. Aug 10, (AP) — Whether President Donald Trump has the constitutional authority to extend federal unemployment benefits by executive order remains unclear. Equally up in the air is whether states, which are necessary partners in Trump's plan to bypass Congress, will sign on.

Trump announced an executive order Saturday that extends additional unemployment payments of \$400 a week to help cushion the economic fallout of the pandemic. Congress had approved payments of \$600 a week at the outset of the coronavirus outbreak, but those benefits expired Aug. 1 and Congress has been unable to agree on an extension. Many Republicans have expressed concern that a \$600 weekly benefit, on top of existing state benefits, gives people an incentive to stay unemployed.

But under Trump's plan, the \$400 a week requires a state to commit to providing \$100.

Many states are already facing budget crunches caused by the pandemic. Asked at a news conference how many governors had signed on to participate, Trump answered: "If they don't, they don't. That's up to them."

## Interview

Aubrey Layne, secretary of finance for Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam, a Democrat, said in a phone interview Sunday he believes it would be feasible for Virginia to participate in such a program if states are allowed to use money that's been allocated to them under the already passed CARES Act. He said his preliminary understanding is that states can do so, but he and others are waiting to see the rules published.

The better solution, Layne said, would be for Congress to pass legislation.

"It's ludicrous to me that Congress can't get together on this," he said. "I think it would have been better for the president to use his influence in those negotiations, rather than stand-

ing on the sideline and then riding in like a shining knight."

Indeed, details about the program became confused on Sunday. On CNN's "State of the Nation" White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow said conflicting things about whether the federal money was contingent on an additional contribution from the states. Initially Kudlow said that "for an extra \$100, we will leverage it up. We will pay three-quarters, and the states will pay 25 percent." In the same interview, though, he later said that "at a minimum, we will put in 300 bucks ... but I think all they (the states) have to do is put up an extra dollar, and we will be able to throw in the extra \$100."

## Statement

A clarifying statement from the White House said the "funds will be available for those who qualify by, among other things, receiving \$100/week of existing assistance and certify that they have lost their jobs due to COVID-19."

Several advocacy groups that follow the issue, though, said it's clear the way the executive order is structured that the federal money will be contingent on states making a 25 percent contribution.

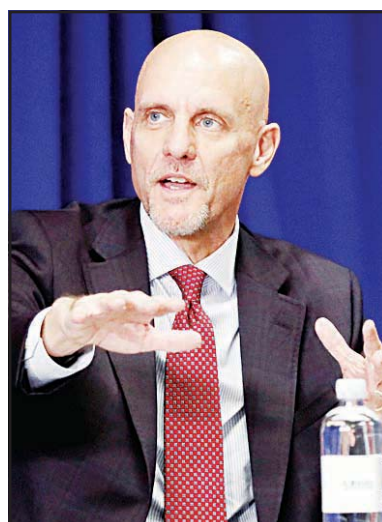
New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, called the plan "an impossibility."

"I don't know if the president is genuine in thinking the executive order is a resolution or if this is just a tactic in the negotiation," Cuomo said. "But this is irreconcilable for the state. And I expect this is just a chapter in the book of Washington COVID mismanagement."

In Connecticut, Democratic Gov. Ned Lamont said on CBS' "Face the Nation" that the plan would cost his state \$500 million to provide that benefit for the rest of the year, and called Trump's plan "not a good idea."

"I could take that money from testing - I don't think that's a good idea," Lamont said.

**Public health director resigns:** The head of California's public health department resigned late Sunday, just days after the state announced a fix for a glitch that caused a lag in collecting coronavirus test information that's used to make decisions



Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Dr. Stephen Hahn gestures as he speaks during a roundtable discussion at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine Don Soffer Clinical Research Center on July 27, 2020, in Miami. Pence was in Florida to mark the beginning of Phase III trials for a Coronavirus vaccine. (AP)

about reopening businesses and schools.

Dr. Sonia Angell said she was departing from her role as director and state public health officer at the California Department of Public Health in a letter to staff released by the California Health and Human Services Agency. Angell did not give a specific reason for her departure.

Sandra Shewry, vice president of external engagement for California Health Care Foundation, will fill the role of acting health director, the health and human services department said. Dr. Erica Pan, who was recently appointed state epidemiologist, will be the acting state public health officer. (AP)

**Schools mull outdoor classes:** It has been seven years since the central air conditioning system worked at the New York City middle school where Lisa Fitzgerald O'Connor teaches. As a new school year approaches amid the coronavirus pandemic, she and her colleagues are threatening not to return unless it's repaired.

Her classroom has a window air conditioning unit, but she fears the stagnant air will increase the chances that an infected student could spread the virus.

"Window units just aren't going to cut it. We don't want to stay cool, we just want the air to flow properly," said O'Connor, a science teacher who has worked at the Patria Mirabal School in Manhattan since 2009.

"We are really super stressed out about it." (AP)

## Asia

## HKong media tycoon arrested:

Hong Kong media tycoon Jimmy Lai was arrested Monday on suspicion of collusion with foreign powers, his aide said, in the highest-profile use yet of the new national security law Beijing imposed on the city after protests last year.

"Jimmy Lai is being arrested for collusion with foreign powers at this time," Mark Simon wrote on Twitter.

Hong Kong police said seven people had been arrested on suspicion of violating the national security law, but the statement did not reveal the names of those arrested.

Lai, who owns popular tabloid Apple Daily, is an outspoken pro-democracy figure in Hong Kong and regularly criticizes China's authoritarian rule.

The national security law came into effect June 30 and is widely seen as a means to curb dissent after anti-government protests rocked Hong Kong last year.

Simon said that police searched both Lai and his son's home, as well as other members of media group Next Digital, which Lai founded. (AP)

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## Rain in SKorea leave 30 dead:

More than a week of torrential rain in South Korea has left at least 30 dead and 12 missing in landslides, floods and other incidents, the government said Sunday while warning of further downpour.

The casualties include 13 dead and two missing from the last two days of heavy rainfall in southern South Korea, the Ministry of the Interior and Safety said in a report.

The rain on Friday and Saturday also left more than 3,700 displaced as it flooded residential areas, roads and farming fields in the southern region.

The safety ministry said the Seoul area and the southern region are expected to receive more heavy rain on Sunday..(AP)

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## Hundreds rally against detention:

Hundreds of demonstrators rallied in Thailand on Saturday, after police arrested two leading anti-government protest leaders in an apparent attempt to stifle growing political unrest.

Around 800 demonstrators packed a concourse near a shopping mall in central Bangkok to hear speeches denouncing the arrests and call for Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha to resign.

Tensions rose briefly as police officers moved in, telling the crowd they were only observing. They withdrew to a chorus of boos and chants for them to get out.

After a period of relative calm in Thailand's fractious politics, the temperature is rising again with a wave of anti-government protests. Many have been held on school and university campuses in Bangkok and other cities. (AP)

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**Azar meets Taiwan President:** US Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar met with Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen on Monday during the highest-level visit by an American Cabinet official since the break in formal diplomatic ties between Washington and Taipei in 1979.

Tsai said to reporters at the Presidential Office Building that she looked for "even more breakthroughs and fruits of cooperation" in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic and other issues to "jointly contribute to the sustained peaceful development of the Indo-Pacific region."

Azar praised Taiwan's response to COVID-19 and said its success was a tribute to the "open, transparent, democratic nature of Taiwan's society and culture."

"It's a true honor to be here to convey a message of strong support and friendship from President Trump to Taiwan," Azar said.

Azar is due to hold consultations with health officials and deliver a speech later in the day. (AP)

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## New Zealand marks 100 days:

New Zealand on Sunday marked 100 days since it stamped out the spread of the coronavirus, a rare bright spot in a world that continues to be ravaged by the disease.

Life has returned to normal for many people in the South Pacific nation of 5 million, as they attend rugby games at packed stadiums and sit down in bars and restaurants without the fear of getting infected. But some worry the country may be getting complacent and not preparing well enough for any future outbreaks.

New Zealand got rid of the virus by imposing a strict lockdown in late March when only about 100 people had tested positive for the disease. That stopped its spread. For the past three months, the only new cases have been a handful of returning travelers who have been quarantined at the border.

"It was good science and great political leadership that made the difference," said professor Michael Baker, an epidemiologist at the University of Otago. "If you look around the globe at countries that have done well, it's usually that combination." (AP)

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**Malaysia's exFM charged:** Malaysia's former finance minister pleaded not guilty Monday to a second corruption charge related to a \$1.5 billion undersea tunnel project and slammed the case as a trumped-up charge by the new government.

Lim Guan Eng, 59, was first charged Friday with soliciting 10% of potential profits in 2011 as a bribe for the project planned in northern Penang state. On Monday, he was accused of abusing his power as Penang chief minister to obtain 3.3 million ringgit (\$786,182) as inducement to help a local company secure the construction contract.

The project was approved during Lim's tenure as Penang chief minister from 2008-2018, before he became Malaysia's finance minister.

Lim, who was part of a reformist government ousted in March, said anti-graft officials had never questioned him on the 3.3 million ringgit he allegedly received nor was there any evidence he had the money. He also noted charge gave a vague timeline, from 2011 to August 2017. (AP)