

Britain

'It's a miracle I am alive'

UK govt to probe racial bias in medical devices

LONDON, Nov 21, (AP): The British government is investigating whether built-in racial bias in some medical devices led to Black and Asian people getting sick and dying disproportionately from COVID-19.

Health Secretary Sajid Javid said Sunday that the pandemic had highlighted health disparities along race and gender lines. He said that a third of intensive care admissions in Britain at the height of the pandemic were people from Black and ethnic minority backgrounds, more than double their share of the population.

Britain's statistics office has found that in the first year of the pandemic, up to March 2021, Black and South Asian people in the U.K. had higher death rates than their white compatriots, even after factors like occupation and underlying health conditions were taken into account.

Javid said one issue was research showing that pulse oximeters, which measure blood oxygen levels through the skin, work less well on darker skin. He called it a "systemic" worldwide issue.

"Now, I'm not saying this was deliberate by anyone, I think it's just, it's a systemic issue potentially, with medical devices and it may go even further than that with medical textbooks, for example," Javid told Sky News.

Writing in the Sunday Times, he said "the possibility that a bias - even an inadvertent one - could lead to a poorer health outcome is totally unacceptable."

He said he hoped to work with his U.S. counterpart, Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra, and officials in other countries, to eliminate bias in the health system.

He said a U.K. review, which will also look at gender bias, will report its findings by the end of January.

Britain has recorded more than 143,000 coronavirus deaths, the highest total in Europe after Russia.

Rising

Europe is currently the only part of the world where COVID-19 cases are rising, and many countries are reintroducing restrictions to fight the surge. Austria will enter a nationwide lockdown on Monday, and violent protests erupted in the Netherlands this weekend after the government said it would "restrict access for unvaccinated people to some venues."

In the U.K., however, cases are broadly flat and deaths and hospitalizations are slowly falling. Prime Minister Boris Johnson said this week that he saw no need to move to the government's winter "Plan B," in which people would be required to wear masks indoors and advised to work from home.

Britain had the higher infection rates than its neighbors for several months, and some scientists say that puts the country in a better position now.

Linda Bauld, a professor of public health at the University of Edinburgh, said the U.K. had been dealing with the highly transmissible delta variant of the virus longer than its European neighbors, and "because we've had high infections in the past, we've probably a bit more natural immunity in the population." Britain is also now rolling out booster vaccine doses to everyone 40 and up.

Oxford University professor of medicine John Bell said he didn't think the U.K. would face another Christmas lockdown, as it did last year.

"My advice is, order that turkey, because it'll all be fine," he told Times Radio. But, he added, "if you're planning a skiing holiday in Austria, things may not go so well."

Bomb

Meanwhile, the taxi driver injured when his passenger's homemade bomb exploded in the northwest England city of Liverpool a week ago said Sunday that it's a "miracle" he is alive.

In a message issued through the police, David Perry said he was "so thankful that no one else was injured in such an evil act."

British police have called the Nov. 14 explosion a terrorist act and are trying to determine the motive of the bomber, Emad Al Swealmeen, who died in the blast outside Liverpool Women's Hospital. Police say the device contained explosives and ball bearings and could have caused "significant injury or death" if it had gone off under different circumstances.

Investigators say Al Swealmeen, who was originally from Iraq and had applied unsuccessfully for asylum in Britain, appears to have acted alone.



Javid

Harris less popular than her unpopular boss

Biden's standing fuels Democratic worry

COLUMBUS, Nov 21, (AP): It was supposed to be a moment of triumph for Joe Biden. The Democratic president had just signed into law the most significant infrastructure package in generations. And he had done it by bringing Democrats and Republicans together, just as he promised during last year's campaign. But when Biden arrived in New Hampshire last week to promote the \$1 trillion package at the foot of a crumbling bridge, not all of his VIP guests were in the mood to celebrate.

"Democrats are concerned," former state House Speaker Steve Shurtleff, a longtime Biden supporter who attended the ceremony, told The Associated Press when asked about Biden's political standing. "I'm concerned about where we may be in another couple of years when people really start to gear up and start making trips to New Hampshire."

Reelection

Shurtleff was openly saying what a growing number of Democrats have been whispering for months: Biden's political standing is so weak less than a year into his presidency that he may not be able to win reelection in 2024 if he were to run again. Such anxiety-fueled parlor games are common among Washington's political class, but this one has spread to the states and constituencies that will play a central role in the next presidential election.

Vice President Kamala Harris is facing her own political conundrum with polls suggesting she may be less popular than her unpopular boss. A dynamic leader who made history by becoming the first Black woman and first person of South Asian descent to step into her office, Harris has been given few opportunities by the Biden White House to shine.

She delivered her first solo speech to promote the new infrastructure law on Friday in Ohio's capital city, addressing a mostly empty union hall largely absent of political dignitaries at roughly the same time Biden was issuing the White House's annual turkey pardon in Washington.

"In America, we have the courage to see

Several people given citations
Hundreds protest Rittenhouse acquittal across US

PORTLAND, Nov 21, (AP): Law enforcement in Portland declared a riot Friday night as about 200 demonstrators protested the acquittal of a teen who killed two people and injured another in Wisconsin.

The protesters were breaking windows, throwing objects at police and talking about burning down a local government building in downtown Portland, the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office said. The crowd had dispersed by about 11 p.m., KOIN TV reported.

The Portland Police Bureau said several people were given citations, but only one person who had an outstanding warrant from another matter was arrested.

The protesters gathered following the acquittal of Kyle Rittenhouse, 18, in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Rittenhouse killed two people and injured another during a protest against police brutality in Wisconsin last year.

Protests have been held in several other

U.S. cities into Saturday over the verdict, including New York, Los Angeles and Chicago.

About 1,000 people marched through downtown Chicago Saturday afternoon, organized by Black Lives Matter Chicago and other local activist groups. According to the Chicago Tribune, protesters held signs that stated, "STOP WHITE SUPREMACY" and "WE'RE HITTING THE STREETS TO PROTEST THIS RACIST INJUSTICE SYSTEM" with a picture of Rittenhouse carrying a weapon.

Tanya Watkins, executive director of Southsiders Organized for Unity and Liberation, spoke at a rally in Federal Plaza before the march, according to the Tribune.

"While I am not surprised by yesterday's verdict, I am tired. I am disappointed. I am enraged. ... I have lost every ounce of faith in this justice system," said Watkins, who is Black.

In North Carolina, dozens of people gath-

ered Saturday near the state Capitol building to protest the verdict, the Raleigh News & Observer reported. Speakers led the crowd of roughly 75 people in chants of "No justice, no peace!" and "Abolish the police!" Police officers on motorcycle accompanied the protesters and blocked traffic for them as they marched down a street past bars and restaurants.

After the murder of George Floyd last year by police in Minneapolis, there were ongoing, often violent protest in Portland. Some activists complained that the police were heavy-handed in their response. Shortly after the Rittenhouse verdict, Portland Police Bureau Chief Chuck Lovell said that officers were working on plans for Friday night and the weekend.

By about 8:50 p.m., about 200 protesters had gathered in downtown Portland and blocked streets. By 9 p.m., windows were broken and doors of city facilities were damaged.

beyond the crisis - to believe that the future and a future we imagine is possible - and then, to build it," Harris said to a smattering of polite applause in Columbus.

At least for now, there's little to suggest the legislation, which will strengthen infrastructure in every state and potentially create hundreds of thousands of jobs, will quickly improve Democrats' political standing.

As Biden struggles, speculation has intensified about the short list of would-be successors should Biden not seek reelection, although the 79-year-old president has said publicly and privately that he will. The list is led by Harris, of course, but includes other 2020 presidential candidates such as Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg and New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker. Just last week,

Booker announced plans to appear at a party fundraiser next month in New Hampshire, which traditionally hosts the nation's first presidential primary election.

Booker's team sought to tamp down chatter that he was positioning himself to run in 2024, and allies say he is very close to Harris and would not challenge her in the event Biden retires. Still, the mere existence of such conversations so soon into a new presidency is unusual.

The frustrations boiling over now may be long forgotten by the time Biden - or another Democrat - leads the party in the 2024 presidential election. The truth is, no one knows what the standing of Biden or Harris will be next year, never mind in three years. While Biden's approval ratings are hovering

in the low 40s, they are better than Donald Trump's at the same time of his presidency.

Barack Obama also faced headwinds at the end of the first year of his presidency. His party would go on to suffer historic losses in the 2010 midterm elections. But Obama recovered in time to win a second term. Bill Clinton similarly overcame setbacks, including a devastating midterm cycle in 1994, to win reelection in 1996.

Democratic strategist Bill Burton, who worked in the Obama White House, noted that any number of factors could completely upend the political climate, such as Trump's reemergence, a Supreme Court decision ending or dramatically limiting abortion rights, an improving economy and the end of the pandemic.

Special Offer

Subscribe Now or renew
your subscription for 2 years in:

ARAB TIMES K.D 55 only

& get a
Portable Disinfectant Device

55629928 www.arabtimesonline.com

[arabtimeskuwait](#)
[arabtimeskuwait](#)
[arabtimeskuwait](#)
[arabtimeskuwait](#)

Join us on Telegram

MEDICAL CLASSIFIEDS

Take care of your health

To advertise in this page please call: (+965) 24813566 Ext.: 513 or E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

To advertise on this page

Please call: 24813566 Ext 513 E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

www.arabtimesonline.com

مرکز شفاء الجزيرة الطبي
SHIFA AL JAZEERA MEDICAL CENTRE
الفروانية FARAWANIYA

Dental & Cosmetic Department

- ◆ SCALING & GUM TREATMENT
- ◆ COSMETIC SMILE RECONSTRUCTION
- ◆ GUM & ORAL SURGERY
- ◆ BAD BREATH TREATMENT
- ◆ SURGICAL TREATMENT
- ◆ ROOT CANAL TREATMENT
- ◆ COSMETIC FILLING
- ◆ FIXED & REMOVABLE DENTURES
- ◆ CROWN TREATMENT
- ◆ SIMPLE & SURGICAL EXTRACTION

Dr. Shajahan V.M
BDS, MDS
Dental Surgeon

Dr. Ayham Askar
BDS
Dental Surgeon

Dr. Raina Fernandes
BDS
Dental Surgeon

WORKING HOURS: 8 am to 9 pm Open on Friday

Phone : 24 734 000 - Hotline: 60 749 749

Behind Maghateer Commercial Complex & Opp. Police station -Farwaniya
info@shifaaljazeera.com.kw - www.shifaaljazeera.com.kw