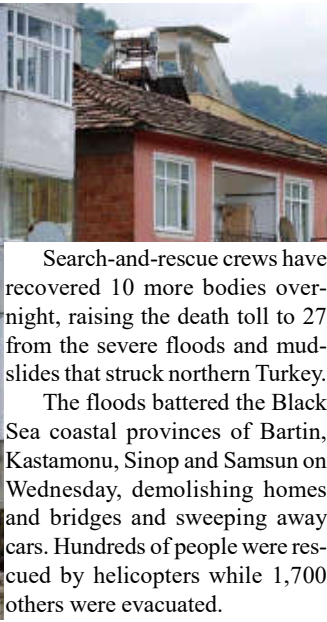


USD	01	GBP	01	INR	1000	PKR	1000	EUR	01	BDR	1000	AFN	01
AFN	86.55	AFN	111.20	AFN	1001	AFN	498	AFN	95.18	AFN	0.37	AFN	21.22

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Death toll from severe floods in northern Turkey reaches 27



Search-and-rescue crews have recovered 10 more bodies overnight, raising the death toll to 27 from the severe floods and mudslides that struck northern Turkey.

The floods hit the Black Sea coastal provinces of Bartin, Kastamonu, Sinop and Zonguldak on Wednesday, demolishing homes and bridges and sweeping away cars. Hundreds of people were rescued by helicopters while 1,500 others were evacuated.

The Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency, or AFAD, and rescue rescuers in more bodies in worst-hit Kastamonu on Friday, bringing the number of dead to 27. A 56-year-old woman was reported missing in Bartin province.

More than 5,000 personnel, 19 helicopters and 500 vehicles were involved in rescue efforts, backed by NGOs and the military. Floodwaters inundated much of the town of Bartin, in Kastamonu, where one building collapsed and a second structure was severely damaged. In Bartin province, at least 13 people were injured when a section of a bridge crumbled.

Five bridges collapsed in the floods while others were damaged. AFAD said. Hundreds of villages went left without power and several roads were blocked.

Speaking in Bilecik last Thursday, Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu described the scene as "the most severe flood disaster I have seen".

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan expressed his condolences to the families of those who died in the floods.

"We will continue to work day and night to rescue anyone stuck in flood areas, to reactivate the transportation arteries that were partially or completely closed, and to eliminate all the grievances caused by the floods," Erdogan said on Twitter.

Turkey's Black Sea region is frequently struck by severe rains and flash flooding. In last six people were killed in floods that hit the eastern Black Sea coastal province of Rize last month.

The disaster struck as firefighters in southeast Turkey worked to extinguish a wildfire in Mughl province, an area popular with tourists that runs along the Aegean Sea.

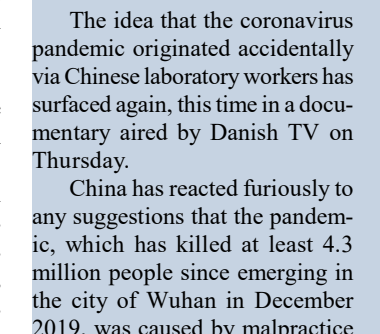
The fire, which was brought under control on Thursday, was one of more than 200 wildfires in Turkey since July 26.

At least eight people died and thousands of residents have had to flee their homes.

Chinese scientists say there is little doubt that climate change from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas is driving more extreme events, such as heat waves, droughts, wildfires, floods and storms.

Such calamities are expected to happen more frequently as the planet warms.

WHO scientist puts COVID lab leak theory back under spotlight



The idea that the coronavirus pandemic originated accidentally via Chinese laboratory scientists surfaced again, this time in a documentary aired by Danish TV on Thursday.

China has denied previous to any suggestions that the pandemic, which has killed at least 4.3 million people since emerging in the city of Wuhan in December 2019, was caused by negligence involving one of its laboratories.

But this is part of the "probable" assumption, according to the head of the World Health Organization, suggesting the origin of the pandemic.

The possibility of a lab leak infected while working in a lab where he was working as a scientist in 2019, was caused by negligence involving one of its laboratories.

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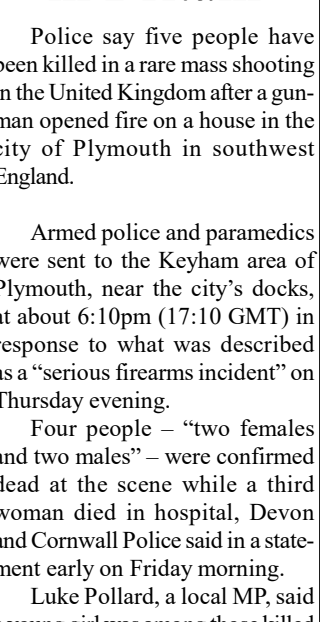
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Five people killed in rare mass shooting in Britain



Police say five people have been killed in a rare mass shooting in the United Kingdom after a gunman opened fire on a house in the city of Plymouth in southwest England.

Armed police and paramedics were sent to the Keston area of Plymouth, near the city docks, at about 6.15pm (17.16 GMT) in response to what was described as a "serious firearms incident" on Thursday evening.

Four people - "two females and two males" - were confirmed dead at the scene while a third person died in hospital, Devon and Cornwall Police said in a statement early on Friday morning.

Luke Pollard, a local MP, said a young girl was among those killed in an incident he described as "unprecedented".

"A further male, believed to be the offender, was also deceased at the scene. All are believed to have died from gunshot wounds," the police statement said.

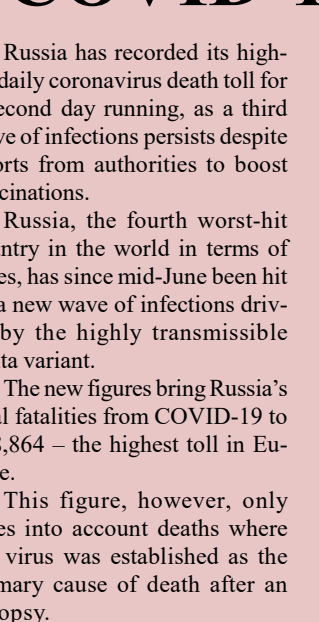
"Devon & Cornwall Police would stress this is not a terrorist-related incident," it added.

The UK has strict rules on gun ownership and one of the lowest rates for gun killings in the world. Mass shootings are rare and gun regulations were tightened further after a mass with the legal right to own a firearm burst into a primary school in the Scottish town of Dunblane in 1989 and opened fire on children and teachers, killing 17.

Sharon Turner, who lives behind the scene of the shooting, told The Times newspaper that a gunman had "broke in" the front door of a semi-detached house before shooting a young mother and her daughter, who was aged about five.

Turner, 37, said she had been told that the man, who was dressed in black and grey, was armed with a semi-automatic weapon.

Russia reports record-high COVID-19 deaths



Moscow has recorded its highest daily coronavirus death toll for a second day running, as a third wave of infection persists despite the country's vaccination drive and President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly called on Russians to get vaccinated.

While Russia has three home grown vaccines available to the population, it does not distribute any of the Western-made jabs.

That as of Friday just over 30 million of Russia's 146 million people had been fully vaccinated, according to the Gagarin website which tracks COVID-19 data in the region.

This figure, however, only takes into account deaths where the virus was established as the primary cause of death after an autopsy.

Under a broader definition for deaths linked to the coronavirus, statistics agency Rosstat said that Russia has seen more than 300,000 fatalities as of the end of June.

Authorities have faced a vaccine-scarce population, with a poll by the independent Levada Centre this week showing that 55 percent of Russians do not want to get vaccinated.

Moscow on Friday proceeded with filling virus restrictions with major Sberbank-Sberbank cancelling the obligation for employers to keep at least 50 percent of employees working from home.

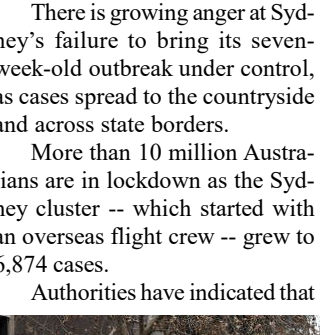
Sberbank said on its website that the pandemic "continues to exist" and the number of new hospitalizations in the capital has more than halved when compared with mid-June. In total, Russia has so far registered 5,577,088 cases, according to Rosstat.

He said. For all the latest headlines follow our Google News channel online or on the app.

Moscow's conservative government has largely delegated responsibility for the pandemic response to states.

In Leningrad, testing, travel restrictions and vaccine rollout are mostly dictated by state governments who have often publicly backed about strategy.

Growing Sydney COVID-19 outbreak prompts new borders inside Australia



A Sydney lockdown could remain in some form until October, but have returned from further city-wide restrictions. Residents are still allowed to leave their homes for exercise, shopping, health care and essential work.

More than 10 million Australians are in lockdown as the Sydney cluster - which started with an overseas flight case - grew to 6,874 cases.

Authorities have indicated that Western Australia premier Mark McGowan said five Tuesday would be travelers will have to secure accreditation to enter his state, provide a negative COVID-19 test, show proof of at least one vaccine dose, undergo 14 days home quarantine and install tracking app on their phone.

McGowan said he expects 500 a day, travelers will have to undergo mandatory 14-day home quarantine and exceptions will be limited to a small number including the armed forces.

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