



Receiving a coronavirus test in Tampa, Fla. New limits were placed on bars in the state in response to an alarming surge in cases. EVE EDELHEIT FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Russia Offered Afghans Bounty To Kill U.S. Troops, Officials Say

This article is by Charlie Savage, Eric Schmitt and Michael Schwartz.

WASHINGTON — American intelligence officials have concluded that a Russian military intelligence unit secretly offered bounties to Taliban-linked militants for killing coalition forces in Afghanistan — including targeting American troops — amid the peace talks to end the long-running war there, according to officials briefed on the matter.

The United States concluded months ago that the Russian unit, which has been linked to assassination attempts and other covert operations in Europe intended to destabilize the West or take revenge on turncoats, had covertly offered rewards for successful attacks last year.

Islamist militants, or armed criminal elements closely associated with them, are believed to have collected some reward money, the officials said. Twenty Americans were killed in combat in Afghanistan in 2019, but it was

Trump Administration Has Spent 3 Months Debating Response

not clear which killings were under suspicion.

The intelligence finding was briefed to President Trump, and the White House's National Security Council discussed the problem at an interagency meeting in late March, the officials said. Officials developed a menu of potential options — starting with making a diplomatic complaint to Moscow and a demand that it stop, along with an escalating series of sanctions and other possible responses, but the White House has yet to authorize any step, the officials said.

An operation to incentivize the killing of American and other NATO troops would be a significant and provocative escalation of

Whom Should Biden Choose? A Poll Shows No Front-Runner

By ALEXANDER BURNS and KATIE GLUECK

Joseph R. Biden Jr. appears to face limited political pressure from voters about whom to choose as his running mate, with no contender emerging as a clear favorite and the great majority of people saying that race should not be a factor in his decision, according to polling conducted by The New York Times and Siena College.

Mr. Biden has pledged to select a woman as his nominee for vice president, and his advisers are vetting more than half a dozen people for the job. In recent weeks, amid continuing demonstrations against racism and police violence, a number of prominent Democrats have pressed Mr. Biden to select an African-American woman. And his search committee has been reviewing at least five black women, one Latina and one Asian-American candidate.

Earlier this month, Senator Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, a white moderate, removed herself

A Majority Is Against Picking a Running Mate by Race

from consideration for vice president after sustained criticism of her record as a prosecutor, and she publicly urged Mr. Biden to put a woman of color on his ticket.

In the Times poll, four in five registered voters said that race should not be a factor in Mr. Biden's selection of a running mate. That group included three-quarters of the black voters polled, and more than 8 in 10 white and Hispanic voters.

About a fifth of black voters said they would like to see Mr. Biden choose a black running mate. The largest group with that preference was very liberal voters, at 37 percent; 27 percent of voters with postgraduate degrees said the same.

STATES BACKTRACK ON RELAXED LIMITS AS CASES EXPLODE

New Restrictions in Florida and Texas — West and South See New Highs

This article is by Patricia Mazzei, Sarah Mervosh and Shawn Hubler.

MIAMI — As coronavirus cases surge across much of the United States, leaders are urgently rethinking their strategies to curb the spread, which the nation's top infectious disease expert said on Friday were “not working.”

For the first time, some governors are backtracking on reopening their states, issuing new restrictions for parts of the economy that had resumed.

Leaders in Texas and Florida abruptly set new restrictions on bars, a reversal that appeared unthinkable just days ago. And Gov. Gavin Newsom of California told rural Imperial County, where hospitals have been overwhelmed with patients, that it must reinstate a stay-at-home order, the most restrictive of requirements.

Florida, Utah and South Carolina hit daily highs on Friday for reported new cases, but even leaders outside of the new hot zones in the South and West expressed mounting anxiety.

“This is a very dangerous time,” Gov. Mike DeWine of Ohio said in an interview on Friday, as cases were trending steadily upward in his state after appearing to be under control for more than a month. “I think what is happening in Texas and Florida and several other states should be a warning to everyone.”

“We have to be very careful,” he said.

The stock market responded badly, with the S&P 500 dropping 2.4 percent. Losses accelerated after the Texas announcement, adding to investors' concerns that the virus continued to be a threat to the economy.

The shifting assessments of the nation's handling of the virus stretched to the highest levels of the federal government, where Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, made clear that the standard approach to controlling infectious diseases — testing sick people, isolating them and tracing their contacts — was not working. The failure, he said, was in part because some infected Americans are asymptomatic and unknowingly spreading the virus but also because some people exposed to the virus are reluctant to self-quarantine or have no place to do so.

In a brief interview on Friday, he said officials were having “intense discussions” about a possible shift to “pool testing,” in which

TRACKING AN OUTBREAK

DENIAL In the West Wing, little reaction to a pandemic's new turn. White House Memo. PAGE A6

REVERSAL New York and Florida have changed places on surging cases and quarantines. PAGE A4



Tubing in Texas. The governor has paused the state's reopening. ERIC GAY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Economic Woes Increase Stakes For Obamacare

By ABBY GOODNOUGH and REED ABELSON

The Affordable Care Act, the landmark health law that has been a subject of caustic debate for more than a decade, is being tested as never before, as millions of Americans lose their jobs and medical coverage in the midst of the nation's gravest health crisis in a century.

The law is offering a vast majority of newly unemployed people a path to stopgap health coverage, providing a cushion that did not exist during the last crushing recession — or ever before. But the crisis has also highlighted fundamental weaknesses with its patchwork system — ones magnified by Republican efforts to undermine and dismantle it, but also seized on by some Democrats pushing for a sweeping overhaul.

On Thursday, as the coronavirus pandemic surged and the country reported a daily record in new virus cases, the Trump administration continued the Republican Party's push to abolish the law. Shortly before midnight, the Justice Department filed a brief asking the Supreme Court to overturn the law, in a case brought by a group of Republican attorney

Latinos Bearing Heavier Burden In the Outbreak

This article is by Shawn Hubler, Thomas Fuller, Anjali Singhvi and Juliette Love.

DINUBA, Calif. — When the coronavirus first spread to the fields and food processing factories of California's Central Valley, Graciela Ramirez's boss announced that line workers afraid of infection could stay home without pay.

A machine operator at Ruiz Foods, the nation's largest manufacturer of frozen burritos, Ms. Ramirez stayed on the job to make sure she did not lose her \$750-a-week wages.

“I have necessities,” Ms. Ramirez, a 40-year-old mother of four, said in Spanish. “My food, my rent, my bills.”

Soon her co-workers started to get sick, and when Ms. Ramirez became congested and fatigued and could not smell the difference between the rice on her stove and the sopa de fideo in her soup bowl, her test, too, came back positive.

It was a variation on what has become a grim demographic theme, and not just in California. Infections among Latinos have far outpaced the rest of the nation, a testament to the makeup of the nation's essential work force as the American epidemic has

Black Activists Welcome White Allies, but Wonder if They’ll Stay

By NIKITA STEWART

Cherish Patton recalled springing into action when a friend sent her a message that a New York City police officer had grabbed a petite protester by her hood and had flung her to the pavement.

Ms. Patton, who has organized several Black Lives Matter protests, posted a plea on social media for help identifying the officer. She also called her friend for details on the protester, who had been whisked to the emergency room. “Oh, it's Michelle,” her friend told her.

“Wait, white Michelle who I argued with for three years? White Michelle?” asked an astonished, and confused, Ms. Patton, who is black. The hurt protester was a former classmate, Michelle Moran, 18, whose conservative commentary on politics and social issues had made Ms. Patton, 18, cringe in high school in Manhattan.

George Floyd's death in police custody in Minneapolis pushed anguished black people into the streets, as had happened countless times after police killings of black people. But this time, the black protesters have been joined en masse by white people, in rallies across New York City and



Cherish Patton, a Black Lives Matter organizer, has been heartened by the white presence at rallies. SIMBARASHE CHA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

around the country.

Now, though, the protests in New York City are ebbing somewhat, though they are still drawing thousands of people to some events, particularly on weekends.

And outside City Hall, there is a growing encampment of diverse demonstrators who are demanding deep cuts in the police budget.

And so that naturally raises a question for black activists who

have long been dedicated to the movement: Will the commitment of white protesters endure?

Some of the white protesters identify as liberal and said they

TRACKING AN OUTBREAK A4-10

Cut, Coiffured and Styled

As the city's salons and barbershops reopened, New Yorkers relished the opportunity to freshen up. PAGE A8

Heat Outweighs Risk in U.K.

Crowds of Britons have flocked to beaches, parks and streams despite a continuing lockdown. PAGE A10

INTERNATIONAL A11-13

Championing India's Aesthetic

Many designers in the country have looked to the West for inspiration. Divya Thakur seeks to change that. The Saturday Profile. PAGE A12

6 Injured in Glasgow Attack

The Scottish police responded to a hotel in the city center, though details of the episode were unclear. Officers shot a male suspect dead. PAGE A12

BUSINESS B1-7

The Toll of Productivity

Companies say employees might be more efficient when they work from home, but at what cost? PAGE B1

NATIONAL A14-20

Biden Trails Party on Policing

Interviews with top Democrats found strong support for diverting funds from the police — far beyond what Joseph R. Biden Jr. has proposed. PAGE A14

Trapped, Then Tear-Gassed

How the police response to a peaceful protest on a Philadelphia freeway ended in chaos, injuries and an inquiry into what went wrong. PAGE A16

House Votes to Add a 51st Star

For the first time, a chamber of Congress has approved statehood for the District of Columbia. The bill is all but certain to die in the Senate. PAGE A20

ARTS C1-7

From Spotlight to Sidelines

With most orchestral concerts canceled, conductors, like Susanna Malkki, above, have been largely invisible. PAGE C1

Artists Aim for ‘One Tulsa’

Talking with two organizers of the movement to reclaim the long-ignored history of Black Wall Street. PAGE C1

SPORTSSATURDAY B8-10

Also on Tour: Coronavirus

Despite the PGA Tour's precautions, eight golfers have pulled out of a tournament after positive tests. PAGE B8

Still Going to Disney World

As Covid-19 rises in Florida, the N.B.A. moved forward with plans to restart its season at Walt Disney World. PAGE B8

EDITORIAL, OP-ED A22-23

Roger Cohen PAGE A22

