

2 injured in fourth Texas bombing

Police maintain a cordon near the site of an incident reported as an explosion in southwest Austin, Texas

#PollToday



Opponents accuse Putin of vote rigging. Do you think Putin has committed fraud to win?

Yes No Cant Say



"The result of the election in Russia did not surprise us any more than the circumstances of this election. We certainly cannot talk in all respects about a fair political contest as we know it. In this respect, we assume that Russia will remain a difficult partner."

-Heiko Maas
Foreign Minister

Rest in sight

90 Australian houses destroyed by wildfires



At least 90 houses and properties were destroyed by wildfires raging in various parts of southeastern Australia over the weekend.

Brit woman killed fighting in Syria

A British woman fighting alongside Kurdish forces in Syria has been killed.

B'desh SC stays Khaleda's bail

The Bangladesh Supreme Court ordered a stay on the bail granted to opposition leader and former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in a corruption case where she was handed a five-year sentence.

Madagascar storm kills 17

At least 17 people died when a tropical storm hit eastern Madagascar over the weekend.

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Boy, 9, shoots dead sister over video game controller

Washington

A nine-year-old boy shot dead his sister, 13, in the southern US state of Mississippi following an argument about a video game controller, local media reported yesterday.

The tragedy took place Saturday when the girl refused to give up the controller, Monroe County Sheriff Cecil Cantrell said according to reports. The boy then opened fire, striking his sister in the back of the

head.

The bullet pierced through girl's brain, and she was taken to a hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, in critical condition. She died Sunday.

An investigation was opened to determine how the young boy had access to a firearm and to what extent he was aware of the danger.

Such accidents are not rare in the United States, where the debate on gun control rages on. (AFP)

Holdout Philippines takes first big step to legalising divorce



Philippine Catholics take part in a "Walk for Life" protest at a park in Manila

Manila

The mainly Catholic Philippines, the only country apart from the Vatican to ban divorce, took a first big step towards legalising it yesterday when the lower house of congress passed a bill.

The measure, which would allow a divorced partner to marry another person of the opposite sex, passed on third reading by 134-57 with two abstentions, the House of

Representatives secretariat said.

The bill will become law if the Senate (upper house) also passes it and President Rodrigo Duterte fails to use his veto.

"In divorce and dissolution of marriage proceedings, there is no more marriage to protect or union to destroy because the marriage has long perished," said opposition leader Edcel Lagman, one of its sponsors. (AFP)

West wary as Putin wins fourth term with record vote

Russia presidential election



Source: Central Election Commission Pictures: Associated Press © GRAPHIC NEWS

Moscow

Russia's Vladimir Putin secured another six years in power after a record election win, but international leaders were slow to congratulate him yesterday amid a new spike in tensions, as opponents

accused him of vote rigging.

Putin, who has ruled Russia for almost two decades, recorded his best-ever election performance with 76.66 per cent of the vote but appeared to reject the possibility of staying in power indefinitely. (AFP)

Texas city rocked by fourth bomb blast

Police in Austin, Texas, are warning that a fourth device that exploded in the city, injuring two men, may be connected to three parcel bombs that have killed or injured four other people since early March

Houston

Two people were injured in another explosion in Texas' capital Austin, the fourth mysterious bombing in the city this month, sparking panic among the residents, police said on Sunday.

The latest blast occurred on Sunday night in a suburban neighbourhood in southwest Austin.

Authorities believe the explosion may have been triggered by a tripwire, but cautioned that they were still processing the scene.

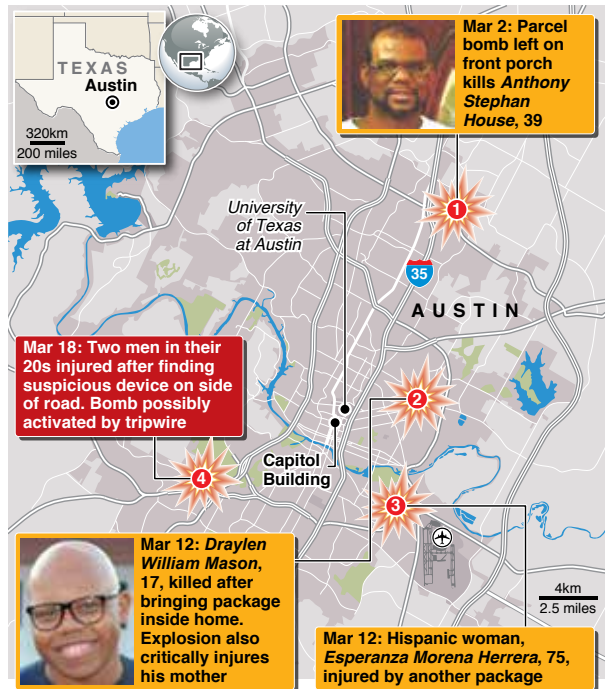
Austin police Chief Brian Manley said on Sunday that based on the evidence that had been seen they believe a bomb did detonate.

Manley said that police were "working under the belief" that the explosion was related to the three others, but investigators still had yet to process the entire scene.

"We want to put out the message that we've been putting out and that is, not only do not touch any packages or anything that looks like a package, do not even go near it at this time," Manley said.

Two men in their 20s suffered non-life threatening injuries in the blast.

A reward of \$115,000 has been offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or people responsible for the



Both men killed were African-American, police have not ruled out racism as possible motive. Reward of \$115,000 offered for information
Source: Austin Police Department Pictures: FBI © GRAPHIC NEWS

mysterious blasts.

Sunday's explosion was the fourth to rock Austin within three weeks. However, the three previous blasts occurred on the eastside of the city.

The first was a package bomb that exploded at a northeast Austin home on March 2, killing a 39-year-old man. Two more package

bombs then exploded farther south on March 12, killing a 17-year-old, wounding his mother and injuring a 75-year-old woman.

Police said all three of those were likely related and involved packages that had not been mailed or delivered by private carrier but left overnight on doorsteps. (PTI)

Missing giant yellow duck found in Australia

Sydney

A giant yellow inflatable duck named Daphne that made a break from its moorings in Australia has been located after a week on the lam, its swimming club owners said yesterday.

Daphne -- the oversized mascot of the Cockburn Masters Swimming Club in Perth -- made a bid for freedom on March 11, drifting out into the Indian Ocean and sparking an appeal for help along Australia's west coast.

Reports of sightings flooded in, including one from 440 kilometres (270 miles) away. (AFP)



The enormous inflatable duck that broke its moorings in Australia (file photo)