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'Worse than Voldemort': Global students' strike targets climate change



Inside C2

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Suspected white supremacist charged with murder after New Zealand mosque shootings



Omar Nabi speaks to the media about losing his father Haji Daoud in the mosque attacks, at the district court in Christchurch

CHRISTCHURCH/WELLINGTON, New Zealand (Reuters) - Australian Brenton Harrison Tarrant, 28, a suspected white supremacist, was charged with murder on Saturday after 49 people were killed and dozens wounded in mass shootings at two New Zealand mosques. Tarrant, handcuffed and wearing a white prison suit, stood silently in the Christchurch District Court where he was remanded without a plea. He is due back in court on April 5 and police said he was likely to face further charges. Friday's attack, which Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern labeled as terrorism, was the worst ever peacetime mass killing in New Zealand and the country had raised its security threat level to the highest. Footage of the attack on one of the mosques was broadcast live on Facebook, and a "manifesto" denouncing immigrants as "invaders" was sent to politicians and media outlets and posted online via links to related social media accounts. The video showed a man driving to the Al Noor mosque, entering it and shooting randomly at people with a semi-automatic rifle. Worshippers, possibly dead or wounded, lay on the floor, the

video showed. Sports canceled as traumatized New Zealand mourns shooting victims Sports canceled as traumatized New Zealand mourns shooting victims At one stage the shooter returns to his car, changes weapons, re-enters the mosque and again begins shooting. The camera attached to his head recording the massacre follows the barrel of his weapon, like some macabre video game. Forty-one people were killed at the Al Noor mosque.

Police said the suspect took seven minutes to travel to the second mosque in the suburb of Linwood, where seven people were killed. No images have emerged from there.

Tarrant was arrested in a car, which police said was carrying improvised explosive devices, 36 minutes after they were first called.



"The offender was mobile, there were two other firearms in A woman places flowers at a memorial as a tribute to victims of the mosque attacks, near a police line outside Masjid Al Noor in Christchurch

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‘Worse than Voldemort’: Global students’ strike targets climate change

SYDNEY/LONDON (Reuters) - Tens of thousands of school students around the world walked out of classes on Friday in a global strike to protest against government inaction on climate change. “Climate change is worse than Voldemort,” read a handmade sign carried by one student in Wellington, referring to the evil wizard in the hugely popular Harry Potter books and films. “The oceans are rising, so are we,” read another in Sydney.

In Europe, students packed streets and squares in Paris, Madrid, Rome, Brussels and other cities for “Fridays for Future” protests. Demonstrations also took place across the United States. In Washington, some 1,500 students rallied in front of the Capitol chanting “climate action now!” and waving homemade placards with slogans such as “Our planet, our future.” The worldwide student strike movement started in August 2018, when 16-year-old Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg began protesting outside her parliament on school days. She has since been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize at a Stockholm demonstration. Other rallies were held in 100 towns around Sweden.

“We have only been born into this world, we are going to have to live with this crisis our whole lives. So will our children and grandchildren and coming generations,” Thunberg said. “We are not going to accept this. We are striking because we want a future and we are going to carry on.”

Thousands marched through central London with banners reading “The future is in our hands” and “We’re missing lessons to teach you one.”

“Education is important but climate change is more important,” 14-year-old Molly Powell said.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres tweeted his support on Friday evening. “Young people can, and do, change the world,” he said. “You understand we are in a race for your lives; your commitment & activism makes me confident we will win it.”

“CLIMATE CATASTROPHE” Scientists say fossil fuel use releases greenhouse gases that trap heat and lift global temperatures, bringing more floods, droughts, heatwaves and rising sea levels.

The 2015 Paris climate conference pledge to keep the increase in global average temperatures to below 2 degrees Celsius (35 F) above pre-industrial levels requires a radical cutback in use of coal and fossil fuels. In Düsseldorf, Germany, some 2,000 school children paraded with a carnival float depicting a giant effigy of Thunberg with “Do something about the climate catastrophe at last” written on her raised arms.

They stopped around the city, home to the headquarters of many of Germany’s largest manufacturers, reading out calls for change. “The clock is ticking and time is against us!” they shouted. “We are the last generation that can fix this.”

About 60 students protested at government house in Bangkok, holding cardboard signs to campaign against plastic. Thailand is one of the world’s worst marine plastic polluters.

“As youths who will inherit the land, we gather here to demand that the government work with us to solve these problems,” said 17-year-old Thiti Usanakul, of student-led group Grin Green International.



Protesters demanding action on climate change gather at Te Ngakau Civic Square in Wellington On Friday



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Editor's Choice



Democratic 2020 presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke during a three-day road trip across Iowa



Democratic 2020 presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke during a three-day road trip across Iowa



Demonstrators march during civic protest in Podgorica



Activists hold up signs during a "Hands Off Venezuela" march outside the White House in Washington



Opponents of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro shout at members of a "Hands Off Venezuela" rally outside the White House in Washington



Opponents of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro shout at members of a "Hands Off Venezuela" rally outside the White House in Washington



Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaidó, who many nations have recognised as the country's rightful interim ruler, takes part in a rally against Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's government, in Guacara



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro takes part in a video conference with members of the government and military high command members in Caracas

A Sky Full Of Driverless Flying Cars Predicted In Just A Decade



The Ford Mach I Levacar, 1959. It never went into production. (Photo/Getty) OVERVIEW

Carmakers are in a frantic race to own the driverless road. But a little-noticed parallel contest is under way in the world of autonomous vehicles...

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Why it matters: The competition to control the air could more profoundly impact how we live and work...

“Jetsons” has become a catch-all metaphor for almost any futuristic vision, but Boeing CEO Dennis Muilenburg...

In January, Boeing flew a prototype of its small pilotless vehicle. In the early part of the next decade...

And then, in just a decade, he said, the skies in U.S. cities will be filled with electric, autonomous flying vehicles...

“We will see cities like Washington, DC

with three-dimensional traffic patterns instead of two-dimensional.” — Dennis Muilenburg



Reality check: There is no telling whether this future will materialize like Muilenburg and others forecast. For one thing, no one knows whether masses of people want to fly in taxis...

But if it does happen as predicted, cities will utterly change, requiring ways to charge, direct and facilitate such transportation. Housing will adapt to accom-

modate flying taxis. This is a much faster timetable than the widespread deployment of fully autonomous cars...

What’s happening: Boeing, Airbus and Uber are among the largest players in this evolving new industry. There are also numerous small startups in Silicon Valley...

What’s surprising is how fast these vehicles seem likely to become commonplace. Muilenburg said it’s all happening now because of a convergence of technological breakthroughs...



Venkat Viswanathan, a professor at Carnegie Mellon University who advises flying vehicle startups, tells Axios that enormous improvements in lithium-ion batteries are a key enabler of this new age...

It’s all about the economics: Developers are relying on autonomous electric technology because they cheapen the cost-per-mile operation of such vehicles over internal combustion systems...

Having access to a pilot for that number of flying taxis will be nearly impossible,” he said.

Currently, Viswanathan said, commercial electric car batteries can last about 1,000 cycles of charging and recharging, enough for hundreds of thousands of miles of driving.

But flying passenger vehicles, even if

they are for just two people, will require batteries that can endure many thousand more cycles, he said, in order to make the vehicles work economically.

That is the next hurdle — developing more durable lithium-ion batteries. (Courtesy https://www.axios.com/)

Related What Traffic? Sky May No Longer Be The Limit For Future Cars



The future is set to be frightening for those with a fear of heights. In Aston Martin’s farsighted flight plan, pilotless drones will transfer passengers around town.

The Volante Vision Concept is the precursor of an hybrid-powered autonomous aircraft that ferries commuters around urban areas and between cities.

The far-fetched idea fast-forwards to a Blade Runner reality where the sky is no longer the limit as you skim over the rooftops on your daily commute.

Powered by a combination of gas turbines and hybrid technology, the concept is intended to be capable of vertical take-off and landing - so it can drop you (not literally) right to your doorstep.



Volante Vision Concept explores future mobility.

To achieve the currently unthinkable, Aston Martin has teamed up with Rolls-Royce, Cranfield University in the UK and Cranfield Aerospace Solutions to explore the future of personal mobility. Each organisation brings its own exper-

tise with Aston Martin designing, Rolls-Royce powering, Cranfield Aerospace engineering and Cranfield University researching the future technology.

Aston Martin boss Andy Palmer views autonomous air travel as the future of transport solutions as urban areas expand and congestion increases.



“With the population in urban areas continuing to grow, congestion in towns and cities will become increasingly demanding,” says Palmer.

“We need to look at alternative solutions to reduce congestion, cut pollution and improve mobility.

“With Aston Martin and our ‘dream team’ of British innovation across industry and academia, we are positioned to change the future of transportation, giving our customers a new dimension of freedom.”



Future flag fall: Virtual instrument panel on the autonomous drone.

Cranfield Aerospace boss Paul Hutton is keen to explore ideas as the first step to an aerospace revolution.

“The introduction of autonomous and electric propulsion technologies into new aircraft designs is both inevitable and challenging,” says Hutton.

“And as the UK’s leading aircraft design and production (enterprise) we are excited to be playing this key role in the Volante Vision Concept and so to be at the vanguard of this revolution in aerospace.”

Rolls-Royce is already a leading supplier of aircraft engines and is keen to expand its hybrid propulsion technology, which is already used on ships and trains. (Courtesy https://www.themorningbulletin.com.au/)

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The Fourth Industrial Revolution

Robots, Drones And Sensors
Are Changing The Way We Farm

The Future Of Farming Is Here - High-Tech Brings Agriculture Into The 21st Century



Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Last spring, farmer Brian Tischler was sitting in his tractor when he had an idea. What if his tractor was fully autonomous? Thanks to AgOpenGPS – a software he developed that tracks where crops are seeded – he’s had more time to think of new ideas to improve his workflow. Tischler began creating on the spot, envisioning features for the autonomous tractor like remote control via smartphone, the ability to sense obstacles, and geolocation to ensure the tractor stays within a field. Across the farming industry, tech innovations like Tischler’s are revolutioniz-

ing the way agriculture is done. These applications come at a critical time. The world population is expected to swell to 9.8 billion by 2050. Climate change and infectious disease are looming threats to livestock production and crop yield. Tischler made the tractor program open source, sharing it online so farmers from across the globe can download and develop additions. Tischler, who recently won the 2018 ASTech Award for Outstanding Achievement in Agricultural Innovation, views the software as a way of giving back to the farming community. A lot of

leading-edge technology is not affordable for smaller operations.



“What inspires me is connecting with other people who share how they’re using [the software],” says Tischler.

Such innovations have made the \$3 trillion industry more efficient, resourceful, and productive. In recent years, there have been varied applications of agriculture technology: crop-watering drones, software that uses satellites to manage nut and citrus orchards, virtual trials of new farming techniques, genomics testing that can ward off food contamination, and more. **Recent innovations have made the \$3 trillion farming industry more efficient, resourceful and productive.**

The DJI “Agricultural Wonder Drone” makes it possible for a single farmer to feed or spray pesticide on as much as 80 acres of crops a day. By comparison, a worker on foot may cover less than one acre in the same amount of time. Using the DJI drone, the farmer maps out the field by walking through it and the unit’s controller creates a flight path, almost like a flying Roomba.

In Canada, the R2B2 team of scientists are researching rural connectivity and precision agriculture. Their studies utilize digital devices, applications, and databases of geospatial techniques to analyze and respond to variability in the field.

R2B2 looks at how wireless optimization and tools like sensors and drones support sustainable farming practices. For example, by using sensors to measure moisture and nutrients in the soil, farmers avoid loading up fields with excess irrigation and pesticides, saving money and protecting the environment.



Using linked technologies, a connected farm can also employ solar wireless devices like Ecorobotix, a solar-powered weeding robot. Dr. Helen Hambly, R2B2’s lead scientist explains, “In the next generation of farming, there is a lot of monitoring done through connected and wireless devices. Wireless has changed things substantially.”

These innovations come at a critical time, as the world population is expected to swell and climate change and infectious

disease are looming threats to livestock production and crop yield.

Many farmers have adopted precision agriculture practices. Christian Gastón Palmaz, CEO of Napa’s Palmaz Vineyards, created VIGOMany farmers have adopted precision agriculture practices. Christian Gastón Palmaz, CEO of Napa’s Palmaz Vineyards, created VIGOR (Vineyard Infrared Growth Optical Recognition), smart software that marries infrared imagery with soil moisture measurements. The algorithmic approach ensures that the vines grow at the same rate and that the exact amount of water needed is used—reducing water use by an estimated 20 percent.

Palmaz says, “Big data analytics has had a profound impact on understanding and addressing slight amounts of difference, which would otherwise propagate over time.”



Technology can also help manage livestock wellness and reproduction. Remote Insights developed ear tags that monitor sows’ behavior, movements, eating and drinking. The data is collected and analyzed to check that the animal has a healthy appetite and normal mobility. Moocall created monitors to check when a female cow is in heat and a pregnant one is ready to give birth. Such forward-thinking equipment can save a farmer numerous trips to the field or barn to review the herd. There’s palpable excitement within the field about the myriad of technological possibilities, strengthening old farming traditions, by using technology to answer existing needs. As Hambly says, “This is the farming of the future.” (Courtesy <https://www.verizon.com>)



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