

as we grieve for the hundreds of Black Americans killed by racial injustice and police brutality, including George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and so many others.”

Earlier this month, Pelosi urged the removal of Confederate statues from the Capitol and the renaming of U.S. military bases that honor Confederate Army officers.

declined to comment as they left the courtroom.

Norham recently ordered the statue's removal, citing the pain gripping the nation over the killing of Floyd.

Simu was appointed ambassador to Ireland by President Bill Clinton. She played a “pivotal role” in the Northern Ireland peace process, Irish President Michael Higgins said.

NATION & WORLD WATCH

Seattle police union expelled from regional labor group

SEATTLE – The largest labor group in the Seattle area has expelled the city's police union, saying the guild failed to address racism within its ranks. The vote Wednesday night by the King County Labor Council to exclude the Seattle Police Officers Guild came after weeks of protests in the city over police brutality and racism following the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. The Seattle Times reported that the delegate vote was 45,435 to expel, with 36,760 voting to keep the police union in the council.

US has hit agreed troop-cut target of 8,600 in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON – The United States has reduced its troop presence in Afghanistan to 8,600, fulfilling its obligation as part of a February deal with the Taliban. Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie gave no indication of when, or at what pace, U.S. forces would be further reduced, but told n Aspen Strategy Group webinar “we have met our part of the agreement.” He noted that the February deal requires the U.S. to fully withdraw its forces by next May, but he called that an “aspirational” commitment that depends on actions by the Taliban.

US offers \$10 million for arrests of 2 Colombian rebel chiefs

BOGOTA, Colombia – The United States is offering rewards of up to \$10 million each for the arrests of two prominent Colombian rebels who were key figures in the nation's historic peace. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the U.S. Department of State offered the prizes Thursday for help in bringing Luciano Marín, alias Iván Márquez, and Seuxis Hernández, alias Jesús Santrich, to justice. Both men had been given seats in Colombia's congress but fled amidst accusations that they had continued drug trafficking.

Japan's ex-justice minister arrested in vote-buying case

TOKYO – Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's former justice minister and the minister's lawmaker wife were arrested Thursday over allegations they engaged in vote buying during last year's election. The Tokyo Public Prosecutors Office said it arrested the former minister, Katsuyuki Kawai, and his wife, Anri Kawai. Local media including Kyodo News reported the arrest was over allegations that the couple offered cash to dozens of voters in the 2019 upper house election in which Anri Kawai won a seat. The couple has denied any wrongdoing.



DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE

Closing: 26,080.10
Change: -2%
YTD % Chg: -8.6%

-39.51

S&P 500 • STANDARD & POOR'S

Closing: 3,115.34
Change: +1%
YTD % Chg: -3.6%

+1.85

NASDAQ COMPOSITE

Closing: 9,943.05
Change: +.3%
YTD % Chg: +10.8%

+32.52