

Race against time to pass terror bill

The Government faces a race against time to pass emergency legislation as police chiefs warned the threat of terrorism was “not diminishing.”

A target of February 27 has been set to rush the Bill through Parliament in order to prevent the automatic release of any further terrorists.

It is understood one offender is due for release on February 28, with about five expected to be let out in March.

Metropolitan Police assistant commissioner Neil Basu, head of UK counter-terror policing, said the “threat is, despite our best efforts, not diminishing”, after a third attack in as many months.

The UK’s terror threat level is currently set at “substantial”, meaning an attack is likely.

Trump is free to plan for election

President Donald Trump was today free to plan his re-election campaign after winning an impeachment acquittal in the US Senate.

The decision has brought to a close only the third presidential trial in American history.

A majority of senators expressed unease with Mr Trump’s pressure campaign on Ukraine that resulted in the two articles of impeachment. But the final tallies fell far short for a guilty verdict.

Only one Republican, Mitt Romney of Utah, the party’s defeated 2012 presidential nominee, broke with the Republican party to vote guilty.

‘Anguish’ over star’s no-show

Compensation awarded to two South Korean football fans for the cost of tickets and so-called “mental anguish” because Cristiano Ronaldo did not play in a pre-season exhibition match in Seoul is just the beginning, a lawyer said.

Promoters of the game between Italian giant Juventus and a K-League All Star team last July advertised that Ronaldo would play for at least 45 minutes.

But the Portuguese star stayed on the bench for the entire match, angering sections of the 65,000-strong crowd.

A court in Incheon, west of Seoul, ordered The Fasta to pay 371,000 won (£240) each to the two fans.

Seoul-based lawyer Kim Kwang-sam said the company will face more legal action from disgruntled fans.

Agency nurse suspended over ‘unexpected death’ report

An agency nurse has been suspended from working at the trust running Shropshire’s two main hospitals following an ‘unexpected death’, a new report has revealed.

It was one of eight serious incidents reported in December by The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust board, which runs Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and Princess Royal Hospital in Telford.

A new report to the trust board, which meets today, says the death was being investigated and concerns had been raised relating to “appropriate observations” in the emergency department.

It says: “An agency nurse involved in this incident has been suspended from working at the trust pending completion

of the investigation.” There were also two serious incidents recorded surrounding maternity services.

The report says one related to the monitoring of a mother after a caesarean section and the other was recorded because a mother was not referred to triage in line with guidelines after an ultrasound scan.

A message was sent to all staff regarding protocol for an abnormal ultrasound scan and referral to triage.

An inpatient fall which resulted in fractures was also recorded as a serious

incident. Another three were recorded for a “delayed diagnosis”.

One was for delay in treatment of a bowel cancer, another for bowel cancer not being identified in a screening and a third for a delay in treatment for a liver cancer.

Unit

The last serious incident was recorded for there being a delay of two hours until medication was given to a patient for high potassium.

The report says awareness was raised among staff regarding the handover of patients to the acute medical unit.

In a separate report to the board, SaTH’s director for clinical effective-

ness Edwin Borman says the trust has been embedding an executive serious incident review group which has provided the means for all cases that may meet the national criteria to be reviewed, on a regular basis, by the relevant members of the executive team.

It says ‘key learning points’ from serious incidents are identified to reduce risk and improve quality and safety of care.

The directorate for clinical effectiveness was created in order to provide greater capacity within the trust to deal with the broad range of challenges that it is addressing, and to allow the trust to identify, at an earlier stage, areas requiring improvement.

It began functioning in June last year.

‘Significant work’ is still needed to improve county A&E departments

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Hospital bosses will hear today there have been consistent improvements in maternity services but there is still “significant work” to do to address concerns with Shropshire A&Es.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) reinspected The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust in November – two years after it was placed in special measures.

It then said urgent action was needed to protect patients at the emergency departments at both Princess Royal Hospital in Telford and Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

Conditions in place regarding the A&E departments were extended in relation to managing patients with possible sepsis, under 18s and those needing mental health risk assessments.

A new report, which was due to be discussed by SaTH’s board at a meeting today, outlines the recent steps taken by the CQC and how the trust has responded.

Hospital bosses were told there must be an “effective system” in place to manage these types of patients. Staff were told they had to record the number of patients under the age of 18 who are not triaged within 15 minutes. However, the report reveals this has not always happened in the past month.

No new conditions were imposed on maternity services following the inspection in November.

In the report, deputy director of nursing Kara Blackwell says: “The maternity unit has consistently demonstrated improvements.



Stephen and Edward Jones from Ellesmere who have stuck a deal to sell their quinoa in Morrisons in Oswestry

Locally-grown quinoa in store

Quinoa grown in Shropshire will soon be on dinner plates in the county.

Morrisons in Oswestry is now stocking the products grown and harvested by the British Quinoa Company.

Stephen Jones, who runs the business with his father Edward in Ellesmere hopes shoppers will pick up a packet and try the grain which originates from South America.

He said: “It’s great that our local community will be able to get quinoa which was grown right on their doorsteps. After it is harvested it can take anywhere

between a month and two years to make it into stores. This is because once we clean it and pack it down, we can store it for years as it is a grain.

“I hope that seeing our local product will encourage more people to try it. It can be used as a replacement for rice or couscous and it is healthier than both of them. The rise in veganism and healthy eating has seen more of a demand for quinoa but there is still many more who haven’t tried it and are unaware of the benefits.”

After trying a small amount if quinoa

in 2005, Stephen, who studied agriculture at Harper Adams University, attempted to grow his own and was surprised at how well the crop thrived.

Stephen added: “It’s usually grown in South America, very high up where it’s cool and dry. When we get those kind of conditions over here in Shropshire, you can grow it quite well.

“We’ve had our quinoa sold before under other brands but this is the first time we’ve got it in a local shop as the British Quinoa Company. I hope it will roll-out further nationally in the future.”

£100k funding for endoscopy care

The Department of Health has approved £100,000 worth of funding for endoscopy services at the trust running Shropshire’s two main hospitals.

Endoscopy is the insertion of a tube directly into the body to observe an internal organ or tissue in detail.

The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital

NHS Trust, which runs Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and Princess Royal Hospital in Telford, will use the funding to increase capacity for gastrointestinal procedures and update technology.

Ageing equipment will be replaced with Windows 10 devices within the trust’s two endoscopy departments.

Charity brings in new trial for wards

People who need a hospice bed won’t have to travel as far in future when a charity trials a new set-up for its wards.


Severn Hospice, which cares for people in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin and Mid Wales living with an incurable illness, says it wants to match the demand for beds and better meet patient preference. Evidence collated from admissions data shows that 50 patients a year,

on average, were being cared for in the hospice’s Shrewsbury wards when they actually lived nearer the beds in Telford.


In response, the hospice is to carry out a year-long trial of whether a redistribution of the current bed capacity will make life easier for patients and families.

The trial will maintain the same level of ward service for patients across the region, including those in Mid Wales.

WEATHER

 Today
6C (43F)
Sunset 5.03pm

Another chilly start with mist and fog clearing to give another dry and bright day with periods of sunshine

 Tomorrow
8C (46F)
Sunset 5.05pm

On Friday once early fog or mist clears, it will be dry with a good deal of sunshine for most of the day