



RAPPERS SOULJA BOY & 2 CHAINZ ALLEGE ARIANA GRANDE COPIED SONG 'PRETTY BOY SWAG' FOR HER TRACK '7 RINGS'



THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO LIVE PAYCHEQUE-TO-PAYCHEQUE: LADY GAGA URGES TRUMP TO PUT GOVT BACK IN BUSINESS

Kamala joins Tulsi in run for White House

California Senator, Dubbed 'Female Obama', Seen As Frontrunner For Democratic Nomination

Chidanand.Rajghatta
@timesgroup.com

Washington: Indian-Americans, and US Democrats at large, will face a choice between Tulsi and Kamala among others in a race from the left to challenge Donald Trump for the White House in 2020.

In an announcement that was not entirely unexpected, Kamala Harris, the Indian-American first-term Senator from California, announced on Monday that she is running for president in 2020, saying that the time has come to fight against "the injustices... of the Trump presidency". However, to get into the final stretch of the race Harris will first have to clinch the Democratic nomination in what is adding up to be a crowded field. Aside from Hawaii Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard, a Hindu-American of Caucasian descent, two other women have been exploring the field—Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren and New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand. Then there are the men: Former vice-president Joe Biden and Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders among them.

In purely numerical terms, the Democratic field is starting to resemble the Republican gaggle of 17 candidates that ran for the GOP nomination in 2016 when New York businessman Donald Trump, rather unexpectedly, clambered over the likes of Jeb Bush, Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio and others to win the party ticket to face Hillary Clinton. For 2020, it is Trump who appears to be a shoo-in for the Republican ticket with more than a dozen Democrats du-

Kamala Harris is daughter of an Indian mother and Jamaican father who met in Berkeley, California, at the height of the civil rights movement. If she wins, Harris would be the first Indian-American as well as the first black woman in the Oval Office



“Truth, justice, decency, equality, freedom, democracy. These aren't just words. They're the values we as Americans cherish, and they're all on the line now. That's why I'm running for president of the United States” —KAMALA HARRIS SAID IN A VIDEO ANNOUNCING HER CANDIDACY

TRUMP CRITIC | Popular with liberals for her tough questioning of Trump appointees, including SC nominee Brett Kavanaugh and former AG Jeff Sessions, during Senate hearings

► Pushed hard for deal to protect Dreamers from deportation



SYMBOLISM Enters race on Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, an overt nod to historic nature of her candidacy

FIRST woman and first person of colour to be attorney general of California (2011-2017)



FOURTH woman to join Democratic presidential race. Senators Elizabeth Warren (top left) of Massachusetts and Kirsten Gillibrand (centre) of New York are in the fray. Representative Tulsi Gabbard (right), a Hawaii Democrat, has also said she is running

SISTER Maya Harris was part of the Hillary Clinton's campaign in 2016

► Timing meant to evoke Shirley Chisholm, the New York congresswoman who became the first woman to seek the Democratic Party's nomination for president 47 years ago this week

Will hold her first campaign event on Friday in South Carolina where black voters are the dominant force

in the past about her influential Indian past that involved summer holidays in Chennai's Besant Nagar, where she visited her maternal grandfather, P V Gopalan, a freedom fighter and an Indian diplomat.

She later attended Howard University in Washington, DC, where she majored in political science and economics, before returning to California, where she earned her Juris Doctor (JD) from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law, and was subsequently admitted to the State Bar in 1990 before going to become the first-ever female district attorney in San Francisco and the first black DA in all of California.

Harris is married to Doug Emhoff, a media, entertainment and intellectual property partner with two children from his earlier marriage. Her sister Maya, who will be her campaign chair, is a former senior adviser to Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign. She announced that her campaign headquarters will be based in Baltimore.

Harris's declaration of a White House run, while dispensing with the exploratory committee preamble, was timed with the Martin Luther King Jr Day, and her campaign noted that Shirley Chisholm, the first black woman to run for president in a major party, launched her campaign 47 years ago this week. "The thing about Dr. King that always inspires me is that he was aspirational... like our country is aspirational," Harris said. "I'm honoured to be able to make my announcement on the day we commemorate him."

WhatsApp limits forwards to 5 chats for users globally



FIRST IMPLEMENTED IN INDIA: The five-recipient limit expands globally a step that WhatsApp had put into place in India after the spread of rumours on social media led to killings and lynching attempts. Previously, a user could forward a message to 20 individuals or groups

Jakarta: Facebook Inc's WhatsApp messenger service is globally limiting the number of times a user can forward a message to five, in a bid to fight "misinformation and rumours", company executives said on Monday.

"We're imposing a limit of five messages all over the world as of today," Victoria Grand, vice-president for policy and communications at WhatsApp, said in the Indonesian capital. In a blog post on Monday, the firm said the move will help keep "WhatsApp focused on private messaging with close contacts".

Previously, a WhatsApp user could forward a message to 20 individuals or groups. The five-recipient limit expands globally a measure WhatsApp put into place in India in July. The Facebook-owned company had faced flak from the Indian government after a series of mob-lynching incidents, triggered by rumours circulating

on WhatsApp, claimed lives. Under pressure, WhatsApp had then restricted forwarding messages to five chats at once as well as removed the quick forward button for media messages in India — a market that has over 200 million WhatsApp users.

WhatsApp, which has around 1.5 billion users, has been trying to find ways to stop misuse of the app, following global concern that the platform was being used to spread fake news, manipulated photos, videos without context, and audio hoaxes, with no way to monitor their origin or full reach.

The app's end-to-end encryption allows groups of hundreds of users to exchange texts, photos and video beyond the purview of independent fact checkers or even the platform itself. WhatsApp will roll out an update to activate the new forward limit, starting Monday, WhatsApp's head of communications Carl Woog said. REUTERS

Chinese cos warn Pak against delay in Gwadar CPEC plan

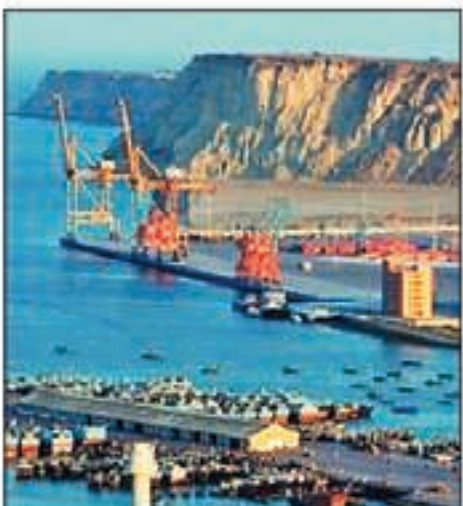
Omer Farooq Khan | TNN

Islamabad: Chinese companies upset over the delay in the approval of the master plan for the smart port city along the southwestern coastal town of Gwadar have warned Islamabad that it will have to pay the extra cost caused due to such impediments.

According to media reports, the "Gwadar Smart Port City Master Plan" was prepared by two Chinese companies, China Communication Construction Company Limited and Fourth Harbor Engineering Investigation, at a cost of Rs 521 million, including a Chinese grant of Rs 425 million and Rs 91 million provided by the government of Pakistan.

The companies had started work on the master plan in August 2017 and completed it in December 2018. Following the completion, the governing body of the Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) had approved the plan and then forwarded it to the federal government for approval. The government, however, has not yet taken any step for the approval of the plan and it is still pending with the steering committee of the planning and development department for further decision.

"Chinese companies have expressed their reservation and displeasure over the delay in approving the plan by steering committee of the planning and development department. They have warned that in case of increase in the cost of the plan, the go-



A general view of Gwadar port

vernment of Pakistan will be bound to pay the extra cost," an official privy to the developments told local media.

The official said any further delay in the approval of the implementation of the plan would also have an adverse impact on several development projects of GDA.

The \$60 billion-plus China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has been receiving one setback after another since the Imran Khan-led Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) government took over last year. Before coming to power, Khan had been criticising former PM Nawaz Sharif for the lack of transparency and corruption in the CPEC projects.

Last week, the PTI government cancelled 1,320 MW Rahim Yar Khan power project, a major CPEC project, after finding it financially nonviable. In September, Khan's top aides had claimed that Beijing was pumping in money into Pakistan for CPEC but much of the opportunity was exploited by Chinese companies rather than Pakistani ones while the financial burdens were still obscured.

Taliban attack on Afghan security base 'kills over 100'

Kabul: A Taliban attack in central Afghanistan on Monday killed scores of security personnel, officials said, with some estimates putting the death toll at more than 100, amid government silence about one of the most deadly insurgent attacks in months.

Attackers rammed a captured military Humvee packed with explosives into a training centre of the National Directorate for Security in Maidan Wardak province, west of the capital Kabul. At least two gunmen followed up, spraying the compound with gunfire before they were shot down.

"We have information that 126 people have been killed in the explosion inside the military training centre, eight special commandos are among the dead," said a senior official in the defence ministry in Kabul, speaking on condition of anonymity. Local officials also said that scores of troops and NDS personnel were killed in the attack but there was no official confirmation of the casualty toll, with officials ordered not to talk to media for fear of damaging morale.

The complex attack on a highly secured base underlined the heavy pressure facing Afghan security forces as increasingly confident Taliban fighters have stepped up operations.

Taliban insurgents claimed responsibility for the attack, which spokesman Zabullah Mujahid said killed 190 people. The attack, the most serious against Afghan forces in months, occurred on the same day that Taliban representatives met Zalmay Khalilzad, the US special envoy for peace in Afghanistan, in Qatar. REUTERS

May unveils Brexit Plan B, looks lot like Plan A; oppn furious

Naomi Canton

London: British PM Theresa May's "Plan B" which was revealed to a packed House of Commons on Monday is nothing but a revised version of the deal she had already agreed with the European Union and falls short of calling for a second referendum, extending "Article 50" withdrawal notice or ruling out a no-deal Brexit, angering some opposition MPs.

The main change in the deal, which sets out the terms under which the UK will leave the EU on March 29, is that it will have the controversial Irish backstop, an insurance policy to ensure there will be no return to border checks between the British province and Ireland, "changed".

In her statement to the House of Commons, May said she was exploring various options on how to change it and she would see which option secured the support of the House and take it back to Brussels to get the original deal amended. "All agree we should not allow a hard border," the PM said.

Workers' rights and environmental standards, currently protected by the EU, will not be eroded, she confirmed. The government will table a motion on the revised deal — which will be put to a vote on January 29 — that will be amendable. May hopes she will be able to push this through parliament so the UK can

leave the EU with a deal.

May refused to extend Article 50, saying it was "deferring the point of decision", and refused to rule out a no-deal Brexit. Instead she confirmed that £4.2 billion had so far been spent on Brexit planning and that contingency arrangements for Brexit included "3,500 troops on Brexit standby".

She announced that EU citizens would have their 565 fees waived to obtain settled status in the UK post-Brexit, even though EU member states have not yet given reciprocal assurances for UK citizens.

She also said parliament would have a greater say on the political declaration and future partnership and

was upbeat about the UK's post-Brexit trade prospects, saying she had not only discussed an free-trade agreement with New Zealand PM Jacinda Ardern over lunch but also being a member of TPP-11, the third-largest free trade agreement in the world. She rejected calls for a second referendum, saying it could damage social cohesion by undermining faith in our democracy.

Opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn said: "The PM is in deep denial. We now see she is going back to Brussels to get concessions on backstop. What makes her think she will get in January what she tried for in December? Labour wants a new customs union with the EU and a single market agreement."



Worst actors? Trump & Melania bag Razzie nominations

Los Angeles: John Travolta's mob movie flop "Gotti" and President Trump were nominated on Monday for the Razzie Awards for the worst films of 2018 after a year that organizers called full of disasters — both on and off screen. The new Sherlock Holmes comedy "Holmes & Watson" garnered six mentions, including for its stars Will Ferrell and John C Reilly, who were cited for "trashing two of literature's most beloved characters." The tongue-in-cheek Razzies, created in 1980, serve as an antidote to Hollywood's Oscars ceremony. Nominees were announced a day before Tuesday's Academy Awards nominations.

Trump got two worst actor nominations for appearing as himself in the 2018



DUBIOUS HONOUR: Trump got two worst actor nominations for appearing as himself in documentaries "Death of a Nation" and "Fahrenheit 11/9". Melania got nod for worst supporting actress for archival footage in "Fahrenheit 11/9"

documentaries "Death of a Nation," from conservative filmmaker Dinesh D'Souza, and liberal Michael Moore's "Fahrenheit 11/9." Trump previously won a Razzie for his cameo as a businessman in the 1989 crime comedy "Ghosts Can't Do It." On Monday, Trump's wife, Melania, and White House aide Kellyanne Conway both got nods in the worst supporting actress field for their archival footage in "Fahrenheit 11/9."

"Gotti," about late New York Mafia boss John Gotti, took in just \$4.3 million at the box office last summer and notched six nods, including worst picture, screenplay, actor and "worst screen combo" for stars Travolta and his wife, Kelly Preston. Nominees and winners

of the Razzies are voted for online by around 1,000 Razzie members from 24 countries, who sign up online and pay a \$40 membership fee.

Other nominees this year are Johnny Depp and his ex-wife Amber Heard for worst actor and worst actress for "Sherlock Gnomes" and "London Fields" respectively. Past Oscar winner Helen Mirren has her first Razzie nomination for "Winchester". Melissa McCarthy, who is nominated for worst actress for both "The Happytime Murders" and "Life of the Party", is one Razzie nominee who could also get an Oscar nomination on Tuesday for playing author-turned-conwoman Lee Israel in "Can You Ever Forgive Me?". AGENCIES

'Moscow project talks went on through '16 polls'

Washington: President Donald Trump's lawyer Rudy Giuliani left open on Sunday the possibility that Trump and former personal attorney Michael Cohen might have discussed Cohen's congressional testimony. But, he added, "so what" if he did?

He also acknowledged in a separate interview that conversations about that project stretched throughout 2016, including possibly up until October or November of that year. Giuliani's suggestion that dialogue about the Trump Tower project in Moscow could have extended into the fall of 2016 extends the timeline for negotiations well beyond what the president has publicly acknowledged. AP

Google fined \$57m under EU privacy rules in France

Paris: France's data privacy watchdog fined Google 50 million euros (\$57 million) on Monday, the first penalty for a US tech giant under new European data privacy rules that took effect last year. The National Data Protection Commission said it fined the US internet giant for "lack of transparency, inadequate information and lack of valid consent" regarding ad personalization for users.

It's one of the biggest regulatory enforcement actions since the EU's General Data Protection Regulation, or GDPR, came into force in May. The rules are aimed at clarifying individual rights to personal data collected by companies, which are required to use plain language to explain what they're doing

with it. Even though Google is headquartered in the US, they still have to comply with the new rules because they have millions of users in Europe. The commission said Google users were "not sufficiently informed" about what they were agreeing to as the company collected data for targeted advertisements.

Users have to take too many steps to find out how and why their data is being used, the commission said. Google's description of why it's processing their data is "described in a too generic and vague manner," it added. The firm's infringements "deprive the users of essential guarantees regarding processing operations that can reveal important parts of their private life," the commission said. AP

AROUND THE WORLD



RACE TO THE WINE-ING LINE: Runners competed in a 10 km race in the world's largest wine cellar on Sunday, navigating by the light of headlamps as they hurtled through limestone caves that stretch some 200km underground near the capital of Moldova. The state-owned Milesti Mici winery entered the Guinness World Records in 2005 for storing the largest number of bottles of wine in the world. It now holds 2 million

Flyers shiver through 16-hour ordeal on tarmac

A medical emergency and a mechanical problem left passengers on a United Airlines flight stuck for about 16 hours on the frigid tarmac of a Canadian airport in the plane's barely heated interior, the CBC network reported. United Flight 179 had taken off late Saturday from Newark, New Jersey en route to Hong Kong with about 250 passengers on board. When a passenger suffered a medical problem the plane made an emergency landing at Goose Bay airport in Newfoundland on Canada's east coast, the airline told CBC. But after paramedics took him to hospital, the plane was unable to take off, reportedly because

bitterly cold temperatures of -30° Celsius had caused a door to freeze. With no customs officers on duty overnight, passengers were forced to stay on board, many shivering under the thin blankets. With food and water running short roughly 10 hours into the ordeal, officials finally arrived to deliver supplies from a fast-food chain. A relief aircraft arrived on Sunday.

Prince Philip's car crash: Debris for sale on eBay Debris, said to be from a crash involving 97-year-old Prince Philip, has been put up for sale on eBay. Prince Philip, the husband of Queen Elizabeth, was unhurt in the crash on Thursday in which his Land Rover Freelander landed on its side after a collision with a Kia car. Seller morbius777 claimed the parts were from the collision

on Thursday. The listing said the items "may even have Phil's DNA on it, if you wanted to clone him or anything". It said all money raised from the auction would go to Cancer Research UK, with the current price sitting at £65,900 with 139 bids. The eBay post said the listing was for three plastic parts, not glass.

McDonald's accused of backing Taiwan freedom Chinese nationalists are accusing a McDonald's ad in Taiwan of supporting independence for the self-ruled island. The ad for a sandwich, broadcast only in Taiwan, shows a glimpse of a woman's identity card that lists her nationality as "Taiwan". Comments on internet accused McDonald's of violating Chinese law by supporting independence for Taiwan, which Beijing claims as part of its territory.