

ELSEWHERE



Pope criticises U.S. bishops over scandal

VATICAN CITY
Pope Francis accused U.S. bishops on Thursday of failing to show unity in the face of a sexual abuse crisis, saying internal bickering had to end. In a long and highly unusual letter sent to U.S. bishops, the Pope said the handling of the scandal showed the urgent need for a new approach to management and mindset within the Church. **REUTERS**

Russia charges U.S. citizen with espionage

MOSCOW
Russian prosecutors have charged an American ex-Marine detained in Moscow last week with espionage, his lawyer said on Thursday, the latest in a series of rifts between Moscow and Washington. Paul Whelan, who has denied the charges, could face up to 20 years in prison if found guilty. **AFP**

Pak. scraps visa on arrival for Afghans

ISLAMABAD
Pakistan on Thursday scrapped the long-standing facility of on-arrival visas for Afghan nationals, authorities said, citing security risks amid a spike in terror attacks. Citizens from 24 countries are now issued 'on-arrival' visas in Pakistan. **PTI**

Death sentence sought for 5 in Khashoggi murder case

Saudi has not released names of the defendants; no date set for the next hearing

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
RIYADH

Saudi Arabia's Attorney-General sought the death penalty for five of 11 defendants charged with the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi as their high-profile trial opened in Riyadh on Thursday.

All 11 accused were present with their lawyers at the first session of the trial, the Attorney-General said in a statement carried by the country's official Saudi Press Agency (SPA).

Saudi Arabia had twice submitted formal requests for evidence from Turkey — where Khashoggi was murdered inside the kingdom's Istanbul consulate on October 2 — but had received no response, the statement added. The names of the defendants have not been officially released. Five top officials in Saudi Arabia — including royal court insider Saud al-Qahtani — were sacked over the Khashoggi murder, but there is no proof they are among those charged.

'Rogue operation'

Khashoggi was murdered in what Riyadh called a "rogue" operation, tipping the kingdom into one of its worst diplomatic crises. The 59-year-old Saudi insider-



Trial begins: It is unclear if top aides of Prince Mohammed bin Salman, suspected to be behind the murder, are among those charged. A poster with a picture of Jamal Khashoggi. **REUTERS**

turned-critic was strangled and his body cut into pieces by a team of 15 Saudis sent to Istanbul for the killing, according to Turkish officials. There have been reports that his remains, which have never been found, were dissolved in acid.

The defence team on Thursday requested a copy of the chargesheet and a time-frame within which to review the charges. The prosecution agreed to both requests, SPA said. No date has been set for the next hearing.

The Khashoggi murder shocked the world at a time when Saudi Arabia and its *de facto* leader, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, were pushing an aggressive

public relations campaign to re-brand the kingdom as a modern state. The U.S. has slapped sanctions on 17 Saudis in connection with the Khashoggi murder. France and Canada have also imposed sanctions on Saudis.

CIA's conclusion

The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency has reportedly concluded that Prince Mohammed very likely ordered Khashoggi's murder. A bipartisan resolution approved by the U.S. Senate last month held the Crown Prince responsible for the killing. But in November, the Saudi Attorney-General ruled out any involvement by the young Crown Prince, whose reformist credentials abroad

have been seriously tarnished by the murder.

The UN and human rights groups have called for an independent investigation into the killing.

"Given the possible involvement of Saudi authorities in Khashoggi's murder and the lack of independence of Saudi Arabia's criminal justice system, the impartiality of any investigation and trial would be in question," Samah Hadid, a West Asia director at Amnesty International, said on Thursday. "This is why a UN-led and independent investigation is needed into the murder."

It was unclear whether Mr. Qahtani and Ahmad al-Assiri, two senior aides to Prince Mohammed initially implicated in Khashoggi's murder, were among those on trial. Saudi officials said in November that Mr. Qahtani — who has not spoken publicly since then — had been banned from travel pending the investigation but authorities have refused to disclose his whereabouts.

Ankara, which has pledged repeatedly to allow nobody to escape justice in the case, has sought the extradition of the suspects to stand trial in Turkey. But its requests have been repeatedly rebuffed by Riyadh.

'N. Korean envoy has gone into hiding, sought asylum'

Seoul says he escaped Italy's diplomatic compound in Nov.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SEOUL

North Korea's top diplomat in Italy has sought asylum and gone into hiding, Seoul lawmakers told reporters after a closed-door meeting with South Korean intelligence officials on Thursday.

It would mark the latest high-profile defection by a senior North Korean envoy since the Deputy Ambassador in London abandoned his post in 2016.

"Acting Ambassador Jo Song-gil's term was ending in late November last year and he escaped the diplomatic compound in early November" with his wife, South Korean lawmaker Kim Min-ki told reporters.

Mr. Jo, 48, has been acting Ambassador in Rome since October 2017 after Italy expelled the then Ambassador Mun Jong-nam in protest at a North Korean nuclear test a month earlier in violation of UN resolutions.

Italy is an important diplomatic mission for Pyongyang, as it handles relations with the Rome-headquartered UN Food and Agriculture Organisation and North Korea suffers from chronic food shortages.

Another member of the South Korean Parliament, Lee Eun-jae, told reporters that the country's National



Jo Song-gil, who has reportedly sought asylum in an unidentified country. **AP**

of the diplomat, but did not know Mr. Jo's whereabouts, adding that the replacement had arrived in Rome.

The NIS briefing to lawmakers came after South Korea's *JoongAng Ilbo* daily reported that Mr. Jo had sought asylum in an unidentified Western country with his family.

"He sought asylum early last month," *JoongAng* quoted a diplomatic source in Seoul as saying.

Italian authorities were "agonising" over what to do, the official was cited as saying, but added that they were "protecting him in a safe place". Mr. Jo is "known to be a son or son-in-law of one of the highest-level officials in the North's regime", *JoongAng* cited an unnamed North Korea expert as saying.

Most North Korean diplomats serving overseas are normally required to leave several family members — typically children — behind in Pyongyang to prevent their defection while working abroad.

Mr. Jo however came to Rome in May 2015 with his wife and children, suggesting that he may be from a privileged family, *JoongAng* said, adding the reason for his defection bid was still unclear.

'Yellow vest' leader arrested

Eric Drouet's detention criticised by Macron's opponents

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

One of the leaders of the "yellow vest" anti-government demonstrations was detained by police in Paris late on Wednesday for organising an unauthorised protest, signalling a harder line by the authorities against the movement.

Eric Drouet — who already faces a trial for carrying a weapon at a previous protest — was held while heading for the Champs-Élysées, which has been the scene of violent clashes over the last month.

"It's called respecting the rule of law," Economy Minister Bruno Le Maire said on Thursday, as he defended the arrest which drew criticism from some leftist opponents of the government.



Eric Drouet. **AFP**

A few dozen demonstrators had gathered outside a McDonald's restaurant near France's famous Arc de Triomphe war monument and had been waiting for Mr. Drouet to arrive early on Wednesday evening.

Call for demonstration

Mr. Drouet, a truck driver who appears on television as

a spokesman for the "yellow vests", had called for the demonstration in a video posted on his Facebook page.

Mr. Drouet, who was filmed on Wednesday night being forced into a police vehicle by dozens of riot police in protective gear, was first arrested last month after he was found carrying a wooden stick at a demonstration.

He faces trial on June 5 for "carrying a prohibited category D weapon", a judicial source said.

Radical leftist leader Jean-Luc Mélenchon, a fierce critic of Mr. Macron, tweeted: "Again Eric Drouet arrested, why? Abuse of power. A politicised police targeting and harassing the leaders of the yellow vest movement."

Trump could meet Kim again soon

We'll set that up in the not-too-distant future, says President on next meeting

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump said on Wednesday that he had received a "great" letter from North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and would probably meet him again in the not-too-distant future as part of efforts to persuade him to give up his nuclear weapons.

Speaking to reporters, Mr. Trump defended the stuttering negotiations with Mr. Kim, saying that if it had not been for his administration "you'd be having a nice big fat war in Asia."

Mr. Trump said he had watched coverage of Mr. Kim's New Year speech. "They said that in Chairman Kim's speech, he really wants to get together, he



Historic handshake: U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in Singapore in June 2018. **NYT**

wants to denuclearise and a lot of good things are happening," Mr. Trump said.

"They really do want to do something. Now, does that mean it's going to be done? Who knows? A deal's a deal,

you never know, but I tell you, we've established a very good relationship with North Korea."

"We'll probably now have another meeting. He'd like to meet, I'd like to meet," Mr.

Trump said. "We'll set that up, we'll be setting that up in the not-too-distant future."

On Syria pullout

Further, in a Cabinet meeting on Wednesday, Mr. Trump also said that the U.S. will get out of Syria "over a period of time" and would protect the U.S.-backed Kurdish fighters in the country as Washington draws down troops. He said he had never set a reported four-month timetable for the withdrawal of the 2,000 American troops.

"We're getting out and we're getting out smart," Mr. Trump said. "I never said I'm getting out tomorrow." He declined to be specific about how long troops would remain in Syria.

Ireland to seek EU aid over Brexit

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DUBLIN

Ireland will seek hundreds of millions of euros in aid from Brussels if Britain crashes out of the EU without a deal, the Agriculture Minister was quoted on Thursday as saying.

"You're looking at hundreds of millions here," Michael Creed told *The Irish Independent*.

The emergency aid would aim to buttress sectors such as beef, dairy and fishing — those most exposed to customs and regulatory changes likely to arise if Britain severs all ties. Nearly 80% of Irish exporters deliver products to Britain, according to 2016 government figures.

Russia blast toll rises to 38, with 3 still missing

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOSCOW

The number of dead from a New Year's Eve gas explosion in a Russian apartment block jumped to 38 on Thursday as rescuers recovered more bodies from the rubble of the partially collapsed building.

Russian news agencies quoted the Emergencies Ministry as saying a 38th body

had been recovered, leaving three people unaccounted for. Six people, including two children, have been rescued at the site in the city of Magnitogorsk but no survivors have been found since Tuesday when a 10-month-old boy was retrieved.

The explosion tore through the 10-storey building in the early hours of Monday.

'Detained Canadians violated Chinese law'

REUTERS
BEIJING

China's top prosecutor said on Thursday that two Canadians detained after Canada arrested Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou had "without a doubt" violated the law. Authorities in Beijing had previously said the two men, Michael Kovrig, a former diplomat, and businessman Michael Spavor,

were suspected of endangering state security.

"Without a doubt, these two Canadian citizens in China violated our country's laws and regulations, and are currently undergoing investigation according to procedure," Zhang Jun, China's prosecutor general, said. He said the investigation process had been handled according to law.

Lion Air ends search for black box

REUTERS
JAKARTA

Lion Air has ended its search for the cockpit voice recorder (CVR) from its Boeing 737 MAX jet that crashed into the Java Sea in October, killing all 189 people on board. However, Indonesian investigators said that they plan to launch their own probe.

The main wreckage and the CVR, one of two so-called black boxes, were not recovered in an initial search. Lion Air said in December it was funding a 38 billion rupiah (\$2.64 million) search using the off-shore supply ship *MPV Everest*. The search using the ship ended on Saturday, Danang Mandala, the spokesman for Lion Air Group, said.

Bangladesh Opposition renews call for fresh vote

BNP members boycott swearing-in ceremony of MPs

REUTERS
DHAKA

Opposition members of Bangladesh's Parliament boycotted a swearing-in ceremony on Thursday, after rejecting results of an election that they said was rigged to give Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina her third straight term.

While newly elected Members of Parliament from the ruling bloc, including Ms. Hasina, were sworn in, the seven Opposition members stayed away. "Why should we take the oath when we've rejected this election?" Mirza Fakhrul Islam, secretary general of the main Opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party, told reporters. Mr. Islam is one of the seven Opposition mem-



Activists of Bangladesh's Left alliance demonstrating in Dhaka on Thursday to call for a fresh election. **REUTERS**

bers who won a seat.

The Election Commission has rejected an Opposition call for a new vote, but despite that, the alliance on Thursday submitted a new demand for a re-run of the polls. On Thursday, New York-based Human Rights

Watch said the run-up to the vote was characterised by "violence and intimidation against the Opposition ... and the misuse of laws to limit free speech". It called for an independent and impartial investigation of the accusations of electoral abuses.

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Model Competition for Smart Bus Shelter
As you are aware Mangaluru Smart City Limited is being implemented under Smart Cities Mission of Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India. Smart Bus Shelter and E toilets is one of the project undertaken in Smart City Mission. On their behalf MSCL is organizing a Model Competition of Innovative Smart Bus Shelter design. The contest is open for all citizens including Engineering colleges and Architects.
The proposed model should include Elevation, Plan and 3D Elevations of Bus shelters considering all weather conditions of Mangaluru.
The Winners will be rewarded with a cash prize of
• 1st Prize = Rs. 10,000/-
• 2nd Prize = Rs. 5,000/-
• 3rd Prize = Rs. 3,000/-
Along with a certificate, the selected plans may be recommended to include as a part or a whole.
For further information visit Mangaluru Smart City Limited office located on MCC building, 2nd floor, M.G. Road, Lalbagh, Mangaluru-575003, Contact No: 0824-2986321, email id: smartcitymangaluru@gmail.com
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TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System)(Through e-procurement Portal only)
No: KPCL/2018-19/PS/WORK_INDENT8080 Date: 26.12.2018
Tender through e-procurement portal mode are invited from the contractors/agencies who are reputed individuals/Company and having past experience in the work namely, "Operation and Maintenance of Chlorine Dioxide generator for generating and dosing of chlorine dioxide at CWP/PH rebay-1, 2, 3 & 4 daily at a required quantity to maintain a residual level of 0.05-0.1ppm for a period of one year at RTPS". The bids will be received through e-procurement portal mode only. The last date for submission of tender: On or before 28.01.2019 at 16.00 hrs. Date & time of opening of Part-I (Technical bid) of tender: 31.01.2019 16:30 hrs. Date & time of opening of Part-II (Price bid): 02.02.2019 16:30 hrs. EMD (Compulsory): Rs. 1,51,000/- through e-procurement portal. The detailed notification regarding subject enquiry in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to GOK e-Procurement portal website: <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> Further details can be had from the Office of the Deputy General Manager (Chem), KPCL, RTPS, Shaktinagar-584170, Raichur District.