

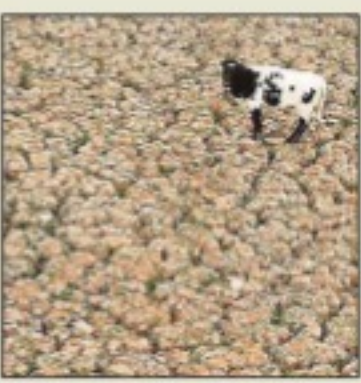
10 THE WORLD



MEANWHILE HARVARD SUED OVER PHOTOS OF SLAVES

Harvard University has "shamelessly" turned a profit from photos of two 19th-century slaves while ignoring requests to turn the photos over to the slaves' descendants, according to a lawsuit. Tamara Lanier, of Norwich, Connecticut, is suing the Ivy League school for "wrongful seizure, possession and expropriation" of images she says depict two of her ancestors. Her suit demands that Harvard immediately turn over the photos, acknowledge her ancestry and pay an unspecified sum in damages.

TOP OF THE WORLD



Lake Aculeo has been dry since last May. Reuters

CHILE Drought wipes popular lake from the map

Paine: A drought has wiped out Santiago's weekend playground Lake Aculeo from the map. Lake Aculeo's demise is so sudden and complete it seems as if someone had pulled a giant plug and let all the water out. So sudden was it that as recently as 2011 the 12 square-km lagoon was a thriving weekend getaway for people from the Chilean capital an hour away. Thousands came here to swim, water-ski, sail or simply cool off in the long austral summer. They camped along its shores and lined up for tables at busy lakeside restaurants. Once boasting a depth of 20 feet, the water level began to fall from 2011. By last May, the lake had dried out completely.

NEARLY THREE YEARS AFTER BRITAIN VOTED TO LEAVE EU

UK asks for 3-month Brexit delay

May seeks time till June 30, EU says extension must be either till May 23 or 'significantly longer'

REUTERS
LONDON, MARCH 20

PRIME MINISTER Theresa May requested a three-month delay to Brexit on Wednesday after her failure to get a deal ratified by Parliament left the United Kingdom's divorce from the European Union in turmoil.

Nearly three years the UK voted to leave the EU and nine days before the formal exit deadline, British politicians are still arguing over how, when or even if the country should leave the bloc it first joined in 1973.

When May set the March 29 exit date two years ago by serving the formal Article 50 divorce papers, she declared there would be "no turning back" but Parliament's refusal to ratify the withdrawal deal she agreed with the EU has thrust her government into crisis.

Now, May has written to European Council President Donald Tusk to ask for a delay until June 30.



Theresa May in Parliament on Wednesday. Reuters

"As Prime Minister, I am not prepared to delay Brexit any further than the 30th of June," May told a rowdy session of Parliament. "I have therefore this morning written to President Tusk, the president of the European Council, informing him that the UK seeks an extension to the article 50 period until the 30th June," she said. She said she planned to ask Parliament to vote a third time on her Brexit deal, which lawmakers have already voted down twice. The Opposition Labour Party said that by choosing a short delay May was forcing British lawmakers to decide between accepting a deal they have already rejected twice or crashing out of the European Union without a deal. For its part, the EU said any extension should either be until May 23 or "significantly longer"

EXPLAINED EU elections pose a hurdle to May's Brexit delay plan

THE EUROPEAN Parliament elections, set to be held from May 23 to May 26 pose a problem for both sides in Brexit delay negotiations. The EU wants Brexit to happen before the elections, but May has sought an extension till June 30, knowing that it will take time for her to get the UK Parliament's approval for her twice-rejected Brexit deal. However, the EU has said that if Britain stays beyond the date of the elections, it must take part in the polls and Brexit must be delayed "significantly longer". For the UK, it is an unsavoury scenario to be taking part in the elections three years after it voted to exit the EU. Britain also does not want a long Brexit delay, which Brexiters fear could eventually lead to no Brexit at all. The UK and the EU will now have to navigate this hurdle to take the Brexit process further.

and require Britain to take part in European elections in May. An EU Commission document seen by Reuters said the EU should offer Britain just one extension as multiple delays would leave the bloc in limbo. "Our position is to send the British a clear and simple message... ratify the Withdrawal Agreement or exit without a deal," French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian told the French Parliament.

Syrian refugee father and son buried as Christchurch victims' funerals begin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHRISTCHURCH, MARCH 20

A SYRIAN refugee and his son were buried in New Zealand on Wednesday in the first funerals of those killed in the twin mosque massacre as Kiwis braced for days of emotional farewells following the mass slayings.

An Australian white supremacist gunned down 50 Muslim worshippers at two mosques in the southern city of Christchurch last Friday in a killing spree that he live-streamed and which has sparked global revulsion.

Hundreds of mostly Muslim mourners gathered Wednesday morning at a cemetery not far from Linwood Mosque, the second of the two mosques targeted.

There they prayed and laid to rest Khalid Mustafa and his 15-year-old son Hamza, their names broadcast over a loudspeaker.

The family arrived last year as refugees from the Syrian maelstrom only to find tragedy in a land where they had sought sanctuary.

In a sign of the lingering tensions, mourners said the PA system at the funeral broadcast a message announcing proper evacuation procedure from the venue in the event of an emergency.



People attend the burial ceremony for the victims of the mosque attacks, at the Memorial Park Cemetery in Christchurch on Wednesday. Reuters

The grief of the families has been compounded by the failure of authorities to hand bodies to families in time for a speedy burial as required under Islam. Only six of the 50 victims have been returned so far. Police chief Mike Bush said the process was slow because of the need to identify victims to avoid hindering the prosecution.

Man sacked and deported from UAE for praising mosque attacks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI, MARCH 20

AN EMPLOYEE at a Dubai-based security company was fired and deported for celebrating the New Zealand mosque attacks under a fake identity on Facebook, the group said Wednesday.

"Over the weekend, a Transguard employee made inflammatory comments on his personal Facebook account celebrating the deplorable mosque attack in Christchurch, New Zealand," the Transguard security group said in a statement.

"Despite posting under a false name, the employee responsible for last weekend's inflammatory (Facebook) comments has been identified, terminated as per Transguard policy and handed over to the authorities." Transguard, which is affiliated with the Emirates Group that includes Emirates Airline, said the man had been deported by the UAE government. It did not name him or reveal his nationality.

PAKISTAN

Zardari, Bilawal appear before anti-graft body

Islamabad: Pakistan's former president Asif Ali Zardari and his son Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari appeared before the country's anti-graft body, which questioned them for about two hours on corruption charges. They were at the National Accountability Bureau office here in connection with a loan obtained by the Park Lane Estate Company, a Karachi-based real estate firm co-owned by Zardari and Bilawal. At a press conference later, Bilawal termed the NAB action as political vendetta. "Whenever I criticise the government, NAB becomes active," he said.

AFGHANISTAN

Presidential polls postponed to September

Kabul: Afghanistan's presidential election has been postponed by two months to September 28, as authorities try to iron out problems with the voting process, the election board said on Wednesday. The election was pushed back for the second time to allow time for reforms to the voting system, Independent Election Commission spokesman Abdul Aziz Ibrahim said. It was originally scheduled for April but was delayed to July 20 due to concerns about winter conditions and security.

AUSTRALIA

Priest charged with sex abuse of boy: Police

Sydney: Australian police said on Wednesday they had charged a Catholic priest with indecent assault of a 15-year-old boy more than two decades ago, the latest member of the clergy caught in the church's global sex-abuse scandal. The announcement comes a week after Australian Cardinal George Pell was sentenced to six years in prison for child abuse. Police said the man, whose identity was not released, was arrested Tuesday for assaulting the boy at a school in 1993.

Kazakhstan renames capital Nursultan after ex-president

AGENCIES
ALMATY, MARCH 20

KAZAKHSTAN'S PARLIAMENT on Wednesday voted to rename the country's capital in honour of longtime ruler Nursultan Nazarbayev, a day after he resigned as president, state media reported.

"Astana is now officially renamed Nursultan," the state-owned Kazinform news agency said after a parliamentary vote. Kazakhstan's new interim president Kassym-Jomart Tokayev proposed renaming the capital after he was sworn in following Nazarbayev's shock resignation on Tuesday.

In his first official act, Tokayev proposed that Astana — the gleaming new capital Nazarbayev erected in the country's vast steppes — be renamed "Nursultan", or "Sultan of Light". Astana replaced Kazakhstan's largest city Almaty as the capital in 1997 and was transformed from a minor provincial town into a futuristic city. Its name meant "capital" in Kazakh and there had long been speculation it could at some point be renamed after the leader who shaped it.

Italy to join China's Belt and Road initiative

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MILAN, MARCH 20

PREMIER GIUSEPPE Conte pledged Tuesday to make Italy the first Group of Seven nation to join China's ambitious Belt and Road initiative, despite objections from the United States and concerns within his governing coalition.

Speaking to Parliament, Conte said that Italy's signing of a memorandum of understanding for the infrastructure-building venture, which is due to happen during the Chinese premier's visit this week, would not "in the least" put into question Italy's position within the strategic trans-Atlantic alliance or with European partners.

Italy's signature would be considered a major legitimization of the project that envisions overland and maritime routes connecting China with Europe. A White House official has warned Italy against joining, calling it a Chinese "vanity project." European governments declined to sign a joint declaration on the "Belt and Road" at a forum last year in Beijing. They argued it lacked standards on financing and transparency. In his first remarks to lawmakers on the deal on the eve of Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit, Conte said the details have been worked out over months of consultations at every level of government. He emphasised that the memorandum is not legally binding and that it would give Italy access to an enormous market. "We want to first and foremost rebalance our trade, which is not favourable to us now. Our exports to China are far lower than other European countries," Conte said. "The infrastructure will redefine commercial traffic routes. We will have new airports, new trade corridors, and it will certainly influence our economic growth. We don't want to lose any opportunity." China's foreign ministry said Wednesday that Xi will visit Sicily in addition to Rome, with plans to meet with Italian President Sergio Mattarella as well as Conte.

China clones 'Sherlock Holmes' police dog to cut training time

REUTERS
SHANGHAI, MARCH 20

SCIENTISTS IN southwest China's Yunnan province have cloned what they called the "Sherlock Holmes" of police dogs in a programme they hope will help cut training times and costs for police dogs, state media reported on Wednesday.

The dog, named Kunxun, was cloned from a police sniffer dog by the Beijing-based Sinogene Biotechnology Company and the Yunnan Agricultural University, with support from the Ministry of Public Security, the state-owned tabloid *Global Times* reported.

Sinogene is hoping to make it possible to achieve "volume production" of cloned police dogs in order to significantly reduce training times, the company's deputy general manager Zhao Jianping told the *Global Times*, but he added that cloning costs remain a major obstacle. Kunxun, now three months old, will undergo extensive training in drug detection, crowd control and searching for evidence, and will become a fully fledged police dog when it is about 10 months old, the official *China Daily* said.

Training usually takes about five years and costs as much as 500,000 yuan, with no guarantee of success, the paper said, citing an animal expert at the Yunnan Agricultural University. The paper did not say how much a cloned dog would cost. South Korean scientists created the world's first cloned dog in 2005, and two years later the country began employing cloned Labrador retrievers to sniff out drugs for the customs service, *China Daily* said.

US regulator approves first drug designed to treat postpartum depression

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TRENTON, MARCH 20

THE US Food and Drug Administration has approved the first drug specifically developed for severe depression after childbirth.

The agency on Tuesday approved Sage Therapeutics' Zulresso, an IV drug given over two-and-a-half days. Sage said Zulresso will cost \$34,000 without insurance, plus costs for staying in a hospital or infusion centre. Whether the treatment gets covered by insurance is determined by each insurance company, which also sets the out-of-pocket costs, depending on the plan.

In a company-funded study of new mothers with moderate or severe postpartum depression, half the women given Zulresso had depression end within 2 1/2 days, about double the rate of those in a comparison group given dummy treatments. Postpartum depression affects about 400,000 American women a year. It often ends on its own within a couple weeks, but it can continue for months or even years. It can be treated with antidepressants, which can take six to eight weeks to work and don't help everyone, or with counselling. "Postpartum depression is a serious condition that, when severe, can be life-threatening," Dr Tiffany Farchione of FDA's Division of Psychiatry Products said in a statement.



Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte with Deputy PM Matteo Salvini in the Italian Parliament Wednesday. Reuters

connecting China with Europe. A White House official has warned Italy against joining, calling it a Chinese "vanity project." European governments declined to sign a joint declaration on the "Belt and Road" at a forum last year in Beijing. They argued it lacked standards on financing and transparency. In his first remarks to lawmakers on the deal on the eve of Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit, Conte said the details have been worked out over months of consultations at every level of government. He emphasised that the memorandum is not legally binding and that it would give Italy access to an enormous market. "We want to first and foremost rebalance our trade, which is not favourable to us now. Our exports to China are far lower than other European countries," Conte said. "The infrastructure will redefine commercial traffic routes. We will have new airports, new trade corridors, and it will certainly influence our economic growth. We don't want to lose any opportunity." China's foreign ministry said Wednesday that Xi will visit Sicily in addition to Rome, with plans to meet with Italian President Sergio Mattarella as well as Conte.

BIOTECH COMPANY HOPES TO ACHIEVE 'VOLUME PRODUCTION' OF CLONED POLICE DOGS

China clones 'Sherlock Holmes' police dog to cut training time



A researcher interacts with Kunxun, the dog cloned from another known as the Sherlock Holmes of police dogs. Reuters

Germany initiates EU move to designate Masood Azhar as a global terrorist

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

GERMANY HAS initiated a move at the European Union to designate Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist, days after China blocked a bid at the United Nations to ban him, sources said.

They said Germany was in touch with several member-nations of the European Union to list Azhar as a terrorist, which will result in his travel ban as well as freezing of his assets in the 28-country bloc.

Germany has floated a proposal to ban Azhar by the European Union, but no resolution on the issue has been moved yet, diplomatic sources said on Tuesday.

They said all 28 member-countries of the European Union will have to support the move to ban the Pakistan-based terrorist as the bloc decides on such issues under the principle of consensus.

On March 15, France imposed financial sanctions on Azhar and said it will work with its European partners to put the Jaish chief's name on the European Union list of persons and entities involved in terrorist acts.



Masood Azhar is the leader of Jaish-e-Mohammad, the terror group which claimed responsibility for the Pulwama attack.

The decision by France came two days after China put a hold on a fresh move to designate Azhar a global terrorist by the Sanctions Committee of the United Nations Security Council.

The proposal to designate Azhar under the 1267 al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee of the United Nations Security Council was moved by France, the United Kingdom and the United States, in the wake of the Pulwama terror attack in which 40 CRPF personnel were killed. JeM had claimed responsibility for the attack.

Fourteen out of the 15 members of the UN Security Council supported the proposal, but China was the only country which did not go with the move.

Pak Chief Justice constitutes 7-judge bench to determine definition of terrorism

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD, MARCH 20

PAKISTAN WILL soon have a definition to the word 'terrorism'. This was decided by Supreme Court Chief Justice Asif Saeed Khosa on Wednesday when he constituted a seven-member bench to determine the definition of 'terrorism' and the cases that fall within the category, Pakistani media reported.

The apex court's decision comes amid intense pressure on Pakistan government to rein in terror groups like the Jaish-e-Mohammed, which claimed responsibility for the Pulwama terror attack that killed 40 CRPF soldiers.

Pakistan has witnessed a number of major terror attacks in the past. At least 595 people, including Pakistani security officials, have been killed and 1,030 others injured in 262 terror attacks in Pakistan during 2018, the Pak Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS), an Islamabad-based independent think tank said in January.

Pakistani media reported that since 1997, it is not determined that which case comes in the ambit of terrorism, Chief Justice Khosa said.

The seven-member bench headed by Chief Justice Khosa, will determine and decide the exact definition of terrorism, *Dawn* newspaper reported.

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