

ELSEWHERE



Ivanka begins Africa tour to promote jobs initiative

ADDIS ABABA
Ivanka Trump began a four-day tour of Africa on Sunday to promote a \$50 million United States initiative aimed at encouraging women's employment in developing countries. The initiative aims to empower 50 million women by 2025. REUTERS

One dead after shooting outside Australian club

SYDNEY
A shooting outside a nightclub in the Australian city of Melbourne inflicted "horrific injuries" that killed a security guard and wounded three men, police said on Sunday, but there was no suggestion yet that the attack was terror-related. Three security guards and a man queuing to enter were taken to hospital with injuries, police said. REUTERS

Assange willing to cooperate with Sweden

However, he will continue to resist attempts by authorities to extradite him to the United States, says lawyer

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Julian Assange would cooperate with Swedish authorities if they reopen a rape case against him but will continue to resist any bid to extradite him to the U.S., his lawyer said on Sunday. "We are absolutely happy to answer those queries if and when they come up," Jennifer Robinson told Sky News television about the rape claims. "The key issue at the moment is U.S. extradition, which we have warned about for many years," she added. Mr. Assange is in custody in London awaiting sentencing for breaching his British bail conditions in 2012 by seeking refuge in Ecuador's London Embassy to avoid extradition to Sweden.

U.S. extradition warrant
He was arrested at the Embassy on Thursday after Ecuador gave him up, and is now also fighting a U.S. extradition warrant relating to



A defiant posture: Wikileaks founder Julian Assange at the balcony of the Ecuador Embassy in London in May 2017. AFP

the release by WikiLeaks of a huge cache of official documents.

The Australian has always denied the claims of sexual assault and rape in Sweden. The first expired in 2015 and the other was dropped in 2017, but the alleged rape victim has now asked for the case to be reopened.

If Stockholm makes a for-

mal extradition request, the British government will have to decide whether to consider it before or after that of the U.S. Ms. Robinson said Mr. Assange would seek assurances from Sweden that he would not be sent on to America, saying: "That is the same assurance we were seeking in 2010 and the refusal to give that is why he

sought asylum." She added: "He's not above the law. Julian has never been concerned about facing British justice or indeed Swedish justice. This case is and has always been about his concern about being sent to face American injustice."

The U.S. indictment charges Mr. Assange with "conspiracy" for working with former U.S. Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning to crack a password stored on Department of Defence computers in March 2010. He faces up to five years in jail.

The conspiracy charge against him seems intended to sidestep limits on prosecution potentially arising from the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment guarantee of press freedom. But Ms. Robinson insisted: "This indictment clearly engages newsgathering activities and the kinds of communications that journalists have with sources all the time."

Father calls on Australia to bring son home

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SYDNEY

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange's father on Sunday called on Australia to bring his son home, saying he was shocked to see his son's condition after his arrest in London last week.

"DFAT (Department of Foreign Affairs) and the Prime Minister should in a nuanced way do something," John Shipton told Melbourne's *Sunday Herald Sun*.

"It can be resolved simply to the satisfaction of all. There has been some talk in a meeting between a Senator and a senior DFAT official to extradite Julian to Australia."

Mr. Shipton said he was shocked to see the state of his son when he was arrested at the embassy on Thurs-



John Shipton

day. "...I'm 74 and I look better than him and he's 47. It's such a shock," he said.

"For months and months he has been living like a high-security prisoner, he can't even go to the toilet. There have been cameras watching his every move."

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said on Friday that Mr. Assange would receive "no special treatment" from Canberra.

Trump wishes no ill will towards anyone: official

U.S. President had criticised Ilhan Omar

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders on Sunday defended Donald Trump against accusations that he was inciting violence against a Muslim congresswoman after the President tweeted a video of her spliced with footage of the 9/11 attacks.

Ilhan Omar, a Democratic lawmaker from Minnesota, has been at the centre of an escalating row following a speech she made about Islamophobia in which she was

accused by conservatives of downplaying the deadliest attacks on U.S. soil by characterising the event as "some people did something".

Mr. Trump on Friday tweeted a video that juxtaposed the snippet with images of the destruction wrought by the hijacked planes.

Ms. Sanders defended Mr. Trump on Sunday, telling ABC news: "The President is wishing no ill will and certainly not violence towards anyone."

3 killed after Nepal plane hits parked chopper

The crash happened at Tenzing Hillary Airport, the gateway to Mount Everest

REUTERS
KATHMANDU

A small plane operated by a private airline in Nepal hit a parked helicopter on Sunday while preparing to take off in a mountainous area near Mount Everest, killing three people including a co-pilot, an airport official said.

The Twin Otter aircraft crashed into the helicopter at Tenzing Hillary Airport at Lukla, known as the gateway to the world's highest mountain, 125 km northeast of capital Kathmandu.

The plane, operated by Summit Air, was not carrying passengers as it was try-



Dangerous terrain: The site of Sunday's aeroplane crash in Lukla, Nepal. REUTERS

ing to leave what is considered to be one of the world's most dangerous airports. Officials said the cause of the incident was not im-

mediately known. "Two people died on the spot and the third one died while undergoing treatment in a hospital in Kathmandu," airport offi-

cial Pratap Babu Tiwari said.

The dead included two guards who were near the helicopter.

Pilot injured

The plane's pilot was among three people injured, though the lone stewardess escaped unhurt.

The Lukla airport was built by New Zealand mountaineer Sir Edmund Hillary — who together with Sherpa Tenzing Norgay became the first to reach the 8,850-metre Everest peak in 1953 — as a gift to the people of the remote Solukhumbu region where it is located.

Grave of Iraq Kurds killed by Saddam unearthed

They were made to 'disappear' in 1980s

REUTERS
SAMAWA

Iraq must never forget Saddam Hussein's crimes or allow his party to return, President Barham Salih said on Sunday after attending the unearthing of a mass grave of Kurds killed by the former leader's forces three decades ago.

The grave, found in the desert about 170 km west of the city of Samawa, contained the remains of dozens of Kurds made to "disappear" by Saddam's forces, Mr. Salih's office said.

They were among up to 1,80,000 people who may have been killed during Saddam's "Anfal" campaign that targeted Iraqi Kurds in the late 1980s when thousands of Kurds were forced into camps.

"He killed them because they did not accept the continuation of this regime, because they wanted to live a free and dignified life," said Mr. Salih, a Kurd. "The new Iraq must never forget these crimes that were committed against Iraqi people from all groups," he said.

+ 121 killed in Libya clashes: WHO

More than 560 wounded since fighting began on April 4

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TRIPOLI

Fighting near Tripoli has killed 121 people since Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar launched an offensive earlier this month to take the Libyan capital, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Sunday.

In clashes between Field Marshal Haftar's forces and those of the UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA), both sides have proclaimed "advances" but neither appears to have taken a substantial lead on the ground in recent days.

With more than 560 people wounded since the fighting started on April 4, WHO said it was sending more medical supplies and staff to Tripoli.

The mounting violence has sparked global alarm about the oil-rich country



A member of Libyan National Army commanded by Khalifa Haftar. REUTERS

that has been in turmoil since NATO-backed forces overthrew former dictator Muammar Qadhafi in 2011.

In the chaos since, a bewildering array of militias have been seeking to take control, and fighting has flared again shortly before a conference had been scheduled to discuss Libya's future, an event since cancelled.

Field Marshal Haftar, who leads the self-styled Libyan National Army (LNA), has pushed from his power base in the country's east toward the Libyan capital in the west, the seat of the UN-backed unity government led by Fayez al-Sarraj.

Haftar meets Sisi

On Sunday, he met with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi in Cairo, where the duo were "discussing the latest developments in Libya" according to state media.

With gunfire now echoing through city blocks and tanks rumbling through towns and districts south of Tripoli, many panicked residents have fled their homes.

More than 13,500 people had been displaced and over 900 are now living in shelters, said OCHA.

Iraq begins trial of IS suspects

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BAGHDAD

Iraq has begun trial proceedings for nearly 900 Iraqi suspected members of the Islamic State (IS) group caught fleeing jihadist territory in Syria, a judicial source said on Sunday.

They were handed over to Iraqi authorities by the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), which ousted IS from swathes of eastern Syria.

"We received the interrogation files of nearly 900 Iraqi Daesh (IS) members coming from Syria," a court official said.

The nearly 900 suspected jihadists were transferred by the SDF to Iraqi custody in recent months as the remnants of IS's self-declared "caliphate" collapsed in Syria.

Uighurs in Australia seek answers

They want the government to step up its criticism of camps run by China

VICKY XIUZHONG XU
JAMIE TARABAY
ADELAIDE

Growing up as a member of the Uighur ethnic group in China's far west, Farhad Habibullah never felt that his people were oppressed by the state. He came from a family of Communist Party loyalists, part of an elite segment of Uighur society celebrated by the party as model minority members.

But now he has joined other Uighurs in doing what was once, to him, unthinkable, and unthinkable dangerous, even in his new home in Australia: calling for an independent Uighur nation.

Indoctrination camps

"My parents worked for the Chinese Communist Party all their lives, and look at what has happened to them," Mr. Habibullah said. They and several other relatives, he said, are among as



A new home: An Uighur-language school in Gilles Plains, Adelaide, an area where many ethnic Uighurs live. NYT

many as one million Uighurs and other Muslims held in indoctrination camps in China.

About 3,000 Uighurs have found sanctuary in Australia. But as some of them draw attention to China's camps, they are putting their adopted homeland in an awkward position, pressing it to speak out against its largest trading

partner. Former detainees say China's camps are meant to root out devotion to Islam and replace it with loyalty to the state. Some Uighurs also say they have been harassed by Chinese authorities even while living in Australia. And they feel powerless over the fate of relatives back home.

Mr. Habibullah finds support at gatherings like one

held in an Adelaide dinner hall on a recent Monday, attended by about 300 Uighurs. Zuluhumaer Aibibula, 32, showed several pictures of relatives who were missing in China's far western region of Xinjiang, including her 35-year-old brother.

The Chinese government depicts its detention camps as schools that steer Uighurs away from violent extremism by providing skills training. The Uighurs want the Australian government to step up its criticism of China's camps. Australia was relatively muted about the issue until November, when it joined other Western nations in urging China to release the detainees.

Australia's Foreign Affairs Department said in a statement that the country "continues to urge China to cease the arbitrary detention of Uighurs and other Muslim groups." NY TIMES