

## ELSEWHERE

**Indian-origin official picked for UN Women**

**UNITED NATIONS**  
Indian-origin official Anita Bhatia, a veteran in strategic partnerships and resource mobilisation, has been appointed by United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres as the Deputy Executive Director in UN Women, the agency focussed on women empowerment and gender equality. **PTI**

**Iran's nuclear materials stock within limit: IAEA**

**TEHRAN**  
Iran's stocks of key nuclear materials have increased but are still within the limits set by a 2015 deal, the latest International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) report said on Friday. As of 20 May, Iran had 174.1 kg of enriched uranium, up from 163.8 kg in February but again well within the relevant limit of 300 kg. Further, the country's stock of heavy water, at 125.2 metric tonnes, was within the 130-tonne limit. **AFP**

**1,300 civilians killed in anti-IS fight: coalition**

**BEIRUT**  
The U.S.-led coalition said Friday it had unintentionally killed more than 1,300 civilians in air strikes during its fight against the Islamic State (IS) group in Iraq and Syria since 2014. However, in a report released last month, Amnesty and air strike monitor Airwars found that air strikes killed 1,600 civilians just in the four-month blitz to oust IS from the Syrian city of Raqqa. **AFP**

# Riyadh seeks firm action against Iran

Saudi King Salman tells Arab leaders that Tehran's actions pose a risk to regional and global security

REUTERS  
MECCA

Saudi Arabia's King Salman told an emergency Arab summit on Friday that decisive action was needed to stop Iranian "escalations" following attacks on Gulf oil assets, as U.S. officials said a military deployment had deterred Tehran.

The right of Saudi Arabia and the UAE to defend their interests after the attacks on oil pumping stations in the kingdom and tankers off the UAE were supported in a Gulf Arab statement and a separate communiqué issued after the wider summit.

Tehran denies any involvement in the attacks. Iraq, which has good ties both with neighbouring Iran and the U.S., said it objected to the Arab communiqué, which stated that any cooperation with Tehran should be based on "non-interference in other countries".

"The absence of a firm deterrent stance against Iranian behaviour is what led to the escalation we see today," King Salman told the two consecutive meetings late on Thursday.

**Oil price**

The ruler of the world's top crude exporter said Shia Iran's development of nuclear and missile capabilities and its threats on world oil supplies posed a risk to regional and global security.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Thursday that attacks on four vessels near a major bunkering



**Emergency meet:** From left, Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah, Saudi Arabia's King Salman and Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi in Mecca on Thursday. **AP**

## 'Saudi Arabia is sowing division'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
TEHRAN

Tehran accused Riyadh Friday of "sowing division" in the region to Israel's advantage, after the Kingdom hosted summits of Gulf and Arab leaders to rally support against the Islamic republic.

Saudi Arabia has "continued to sow division between Islamic countries and in the region, which is the wish of the Zionist regime," Foreign Ministry

spokesman Seyed Abbas Mousavi said. "We see the attempts by Saudi Arabia to rally neighbouring and Arab countries against Iran as the continuation of futile attempts by America and the Zionist regime," he added.

Mr. Mousavi expressed disappointment that Riyadh intended to level the same "baseless allegations" against Tehran at a summit of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation in

Mecca early on Saturday, "exploiting" its role as host. Saudi Arabia's King Salman on Friday ratcheted up the rhetoric against arch-rival Iran, calling on Arab states to confront its "criminal" actions after attacks on oil installations sparked fears of a regional conflagration.

Tehran dismissed the accusation as "laughable" and accused the U.S. of pursuing "evil desires for chaos in the region."

U.S. National Security

Adviser John Bolton said on Thursday that evidence of Iran being behind the tanker attacks would be presented to the UN Security Council as early as next week. "The

attacks were claimed by the Iran-aligned Houthi group, which has been battling a Saudi-led military coalition in Yemen for four years. U.S. National Security

Adviser John Bolton said on Thursday that evidence of Iran being behind the tanker attacks would be presented to the UN Security Council as early as next week. "The

Kingdom is keen to preserve the stability and security of the region, to spare it the scourge of war and to realise peace and stability," King Salman said.

**Iraq's plea**

Iraqi President Barham Salih, asking the gathering to support Iraq's stability, said that rising tensions with Iran could spark a war if not managed well and voiced hope that Iran's security would not be targeted.

Mr. Pompeo has warned Iraqi leaders that if they failed to keep in check Iran-backed militias, which now form part of Baghdad's security apparatus, the U.S. would respond with force.

Tensions have risen between the U.S. and Iran after President Donald Trump a year ago withdrew Washington from a 2015 international nuclear deal with Iran, re-imposed sanctions and boosted its military presence in the Gulf. Mr. Bolton has said Iranian mines were "almost certainly" used in the tanker attacks.

The final communiqué said regional stability required the establishment of an independent Palestinian state along 1967 borders to include Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

U.S. special envoy for Iran, Brian Hook, said on Thursday that a repositioning of U.S. military assets in the region had deterred Iran, but that the U.S. would respond with military force if its interests are targeted.

# 'Assange has suffered psychological torture'

UN official expresses serious concerns

REUTERS  
GENEVA

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has suffered psychological torture from a defamation campaign and should not be extradited to the U.S. where he would face a "politicised show trial", a UN human rights investigator said on Friday.

Nils Melzer, the UN special rapporteur on torture who visited Mr. Assange in a high-security London prison on May 9 along with two medical experts, said that he found him agitated, under severe stress and unable to cope with his complex legal case.

"Our finding was that Mr. Assange shows all the symptoms of a person who has been exposed to psychological torture for a prolonged period of time. The psychiatrist who accompanied my mission said that his state of health was critical," Mr. Melzer told Reuters in an interview in Geneva.

**Too ill to appear**

Mr. Assange was too ill on Thursday to appear via video link from a British prison in a hearing on an extradition request from the U.S., his lawyer Gareth Peirce said. He is in a health ward.

"Mr. Assange has been deliberately exposed, for a period of several years, to progressively severe forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the cumulative ef-



WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange. **AFP**

fects of which can only be described as psychological torture," Mr. Melzer said in a statement. British Foreign Minister Jeremy Hunt, in a tweet posted within minutes of Mr. Melzer's statement, said: "This is wrong. Assange chose to hide in the embassy and was always free to leave and face justice."

"I am seriously, gravely concerned that if this man were to be extradited to the United States, he would be exposed to a politicised show trial and grave violations of his human rights," Mr. Melzer said.

However, Mr. Melzer said he did not expect U.S. authorities to subject Mr. Assange to physical torture such as water-boarding. "I would much more expect him to be subjected to prolonged solitary confinement, to very harsh detention conditions and to a psychological environment which would break him eventually," said Mr. Melzer

# North Korea executed envoy after failed Hanoi summit: report

Kim's interpreter sent to prison camp, says S. Korean paper

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
SEOUL

North Korea executed its special envoy to the United States following the collapse of the second summit between leader Kim Jong-un and President Donald Trump, a South Korean newspaper reported on Friday.

The *Chosun Ilbo* said Kim Hyok-chol, who laid the groundwork for the Hanoi meeting and accompanied Mr. Kim on his private train, was executed by firing squad for "betraying the supreme leader" after he was "won over to the U.S." during pre-summit negotiations. "Kim Hyok-chol was executed in March at Mirim Airport along with four senior Foreign Ministry officials following an investigation," the newspaper quoted an unidentified source as saying.

Asked about the account, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Washington was trying to verify it.

Kim Hyok-chol was the North's counterpart of U.S.



Kim Hyok-chol, who was North Korea's envoy for U.S. affairs. **REUTERS**

special representative Stephen Biegun in the run-up to the Hanoi summit in February. Some previous South Korean reports of North Korean purges and executions have later proved inaccurate.

**Other officials punished**

The paper also said Mr. Kim's interpreter Shin Hye-yong was sent to a prison camp for a mistake at the summit. She failed to translate Mr. Kim's new proposal when Mr. Trump declared

"no deal" and walked away from the table, *Chosun* reported, citing another unnamed diplomatic source.

Senior party official Kim Yong-chol, the North's counterpart to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in nuclear talks, was also sent to a labour camp, the paper said.

In April, South Korea's parliamentary intelligence committee said Kim Yong-chol had been censured over his handling of the summit.

Earlier, the *Chosun Ilbo* had incorrectly reported in 2013 that Hyon Song-wol, head of the North's Samjiyon Orchestra, was executed by firing squad for distributing and watching pornographic material.

News of the reported purge came as North Korea's official *Rodong Simmun* newspaper, mouthpiece of the ruling party, on Thursday warned that officials who committed anti-party or anti-revolutionary acts would face the "stern judgment of the revolution".

# U.S. to hit Mexico with tariffs over migration

First set of fines to be imposed in June

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
WASHINGTON

Washington will impose a 5% tariff on all goods from Mexico - increasing to as much as 25% - until "illegal migrants" stop coming through the country into the U.S., President Donald Trump said on Thursday.

"On June 10th, the United States will impose a 5% Tariff on all goods coming into our Country from Mexico, until such time as illegal migrants coming through Mexico, and into our Country, STOP," he tweeted. "The Tariff will gradually increase until the Illegal Immigration problem is remedied, at which time the Tariffs will be removed," he wrote.

According to a White House statement, the tariff will rise to 10% on July 1, then increase by 5% increments each month until topping out at 25% on October 1. "Tariffs will permanently remain at the 25% level unless and until Mexico substantially stops the illegal in-

flow of aliens coming through its territory," the statement said. The announcement came the same day that Mr. Trump kick-started the process of ratifying the new North American trade pact with Mexico and Canada - an agreement that now may be under threat.

The tariffs would have severe consequences on Mexico, which sends 80% of its exports to the U.S.

**Mexico's response**

Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador struck a conciliatory tone in a letter to Mr. Trump following the tariff announcement. "I express to you that I don't want confrontation," he wrote. "I propose deepening our dialogue, to look for other alternatives to the migration problem."

The announcement came a day after border agents in El Paso, Texas detained the largest single group of migrants they had ever encountered - 1,036 people.

# Use Huawei and lose access to our data, U.S. warns Germany

Pompeo threatens to cut intelligence sharing with Berlin

REUTERS  
BERLIN

The U.S. raised the pressure on Western allies in a war of attrition over next-generation networks on Friday, saying countries that allow China's Huawei to build their telecoms infrastructure could be cut off from crucial intelligence data.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo issued the warning after meeting Foreign Minister Heiko Maas of Germany, which has so far stood with Britain and France in declining calls to ban the state-owned manufacturer.

**European tour**

Mr. Pompeo, on the first leg of a five-day European tour, said that while countries would take a "sovereign decision" on which equipment



Mike Pompeo with German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Berlin on Friday. **AFP**

to use, that decision would have consequences.

"(There is) a risk we will have to change our behaviour in light of the fact that we can't permit data on private citizens or data on national security to go across networks that we don't have confidence (in)," he told a news conference.

Mr. Pompeo later met Chancellor Angela Merkel for brief talks before flying on to Switzerland, describing Germany as "a great, important partner and ally of the United States."

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, responding to similar comments on Huawei made by U.S. Vice-President Mike Pence on Thursday, said the U.S. had yet to prove that Huawei's products presented a security risk. "We hope that the United States can stop these mistaken actions which are not at all commensurate with their status and position as a big country," said spokesman Geng Shuang.

Mr. Pompeo also urged Germany to follow Britain in proscribing Lebanon's Hezbollah group.

# Won't give up search for Budapest victims: Seoul

21 missing 2 days after boat accident

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BUDAPEST

South Korea vowed on Friday not to give up hope in the search for 21 people still missing two days after a sightseeing boat carrying mainly South Korean tourists sank on the Danube.

Rescuers are battling strong currents on the swollen river in their search for any more survivors of the *Mermaid* sightseeing boat, which overturned and was swallowed by the Danube just seconds after it collided with a much larger cruise ship in pouring rain late on Wednesday. Hungarian police have detained the captain of the river cruise ship involved in the crash.

**Emergency task force**

South Korea's Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha has arrived in Budapest with an emergency task force and visited the site of the crash on Friday along with her



A woman paying tribute to the victims of the accident in Budapest, Hungary. **REUTERS**

Hungarian counterpart Peter Szijjarto. "We have firmly decided that we won't give up our hopes about the possibility of finding survivors" until all the missing are located, she told a press conference.

But the prospects of finding any more survivors are seen as slim, as attempts by Hungarian police and army rescuers to find the victims and reach the submerged vessel are hampered by fast-flowing currents. Only seven people are known to have survived so far.