

## ELSEWHERE



## Brazil court rejects request to free Lula

BRASILIA  
Brazil's Supreme Court on Tuesday rejected a request to free leftist icon Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva from prison while they consider whether Justice Minister Sérgio Moro, who was the convicting judge, was biased. AFP

## Iran never seeks war with the U.S.: Rouhani

TEHRAN  
Iran "never seeks war" with the U.S., President Hassan Rouhani said as he sought to rein in soaring tensions on Wednesday between the two countries. "Iran has no interest to increase tension in the region and it never seeks war with any country, including (the) U.S.," the President said, quoted by state news agency IRNA. AFP

## ICC to seek probe into crimes against Rohingya

THE HAGUE  
The International Criminal Court (ICC)'s prosecutor Fatou Bensouda said she wants to open a full investigation into Myanmar's alleged crimes against Rohingya Muslims, including killings and forced deportations, the court said on Wednesday. AFP

## Trump vows to veto border aid Bill

Legislation seeks to provide a \$4.5 billion aid package to address migrant surge on the Mexico border

REUTERS  
WASHINGTON

The U.S. House of Representatives on Tuesday approved a \$4.5 billion aid package to address the migrant surge along the U.S.-Mexico border, including new standards for migrants in custody following reports of poor conditions facing young children at overcrowded facilities.

The Democratic-led House voted 230-195, mostly along party lines, to pass the measure, but its future is uncertain.

The Republican-run Senate is working on its own version of the Bill, and President Donald Trump has vowed to veto the House legislation, with White House officials saying that such a move would hamstring the administration's border enforcement efforts.

Mr. Trump on May 1 requested the aid for programmes that house, feed, transport and oversee record numbers of Central American families seeking asylum in the U.S. and straining capacity at migrant shelters in border cities.

Attorneys raised alarms last week after finding more than 300 migrant children in an overcrowded Texas border patrol station, where they said some had been held for weeks in squalid conditions without adequate



Heartbroken: Rosa Ramirez, whose son Oscar Alberto Martinez Ramirez and granddaughter Valeria were found dead on Monday on the banks of the Rio Grande. •AP

food and water. Amid the outcry, the acting commissioner of the Customs and Border Protection agency, John Sanders, said on Tuesday that he was resigning.

Democrats emphasised on Tuesday that while they were approving the border aid to address the humanitarian crisis, they were not ratifying the administration's attempts to restrict and discourage immigration.

"Our legislation is a vote against the cruel attitude toward children of this administration. This Bill does not

fund the administration's failed mass detention policy. Instead it funds effective humane alternatives to detention that have a proven record of success," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said ahead of the vote.

## Wooing progressives

But Democratic leaders had to work to secure votes for the Bill from progressive lawmakers worried that the Trump administration might use the funds for other purposes, such as deportation of migrants.

On Tuesday afternoon, Democrat lawmakers added provisions to better protect the health of migrants in the custody of U.S. Border Patrol agents, including standards for medical care and nutrition. They also added language to set a three-month limit for any unaccompanied child migrant to spend at an intake shelter unless notice is given.

Another amendment said shelters run by contractors must meet standards of care within six months or risk losing their contracts.

## Photo of dead migrant child fuels criticism

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
WASHINGTON

A photograph of a Salvadoran man and his nearly two-year-old daughter drowned in Rio Grande river fuelled angry denunciations on Wednesday of the Trump administration's immigration policies.

"These families seeking asylum are often fleeing extreme violence," said California Senator Kamala Harris. "And what happens when they arrive?" she asked through a tweet. "Trump says 'Go back to where you came from.' That is inhumane. Children are dying. This is a stain on our moral conscience."

"This monster and his heartless Administration must be held accountable," tweeted Representative Rashida Tlaib.

Among those who also reacted to the photo was Pope Francis. "The Pope is profoundly saddened by their death, and is praying for them and for all migrants who have lost their lives while seeking to flee war and misery," said spokesman Alessandro Gisotti.

## Mueller to testify publicly on Russia investigation

It's presidential harassment: Trump

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
WASHINGTON

Former U.S. Special Counsel Robert Mueller is to testify in public about his report into Russian electoral interference, paving the way for a historic television moment in which Democrats will attempt to make the case for President Donald Trump's impeachment before the American people.

The scrupulously tight-lipped Mr. Mueller will appear at back-to-back hearings on July 17 of the House Judiciary and Intelligence Committees, which announced on Tuesday that the prosecutor had agreed to abide by subpoenas for his testimony.

## Contact with Russians

"Russia attacked our democracy to help Trump win. Trump welcomed and used that help," House Intelligence Committee chairman Adam Schiff said on Twitter. "As Mueller said, that should concern every American. And now, every American will get to hear directly from Mueller."

Mr. Trump's apparent response to the announcement came swiftly in a two-word tweet in which he complained, without referring to Mr. Mueller, of "Presidential Harassment."



U.S. Special Counsel Robert Mueller. •AP

The Mueller report released in April outlined numerous contacts between Mr. Trump's 2016 election campaign and government-linked Russians, as well as evidence that the President tried on several occasions to stymie the investigation.

The Democrats have been split on whether to launch impeachment proceedings against the Republican President but – fearing that much of the country is unaware of the Mueller report's contents – have been asking major figures in the probe to testify in public on its findings.

But the President has asserted executive privilege to bar current and former aides from cooperating with several congressional investigations into his conduct.

## Sirisena confirms signing death warrants for 4 drug offenders

They will be executed very soon, says Sri Lankan President

MEERA SRINIVASAN  
COLOMBO

President Maithripala Sirisena has signed death warrants for four drug offence convicts, lifting a four-decade-long moratorium on capital punishment in Sri Lanka. They will be executed "very soon", he told reporters on Wednesday.

"I have signed the death warrants of four convicts. They have not yet been informed about it. We don't want to announce the names yet because that could lead to unrest in prisons," Mr. Sirisena said. "Once they are informed, it is within their rights to appeal for clemency," he added, addressing local media heads and foreign media representatives here.

His remarks come even as the 'National Drug Prevention Week' is being observed from June 23 to July 1. Mr. Sirisena, who has vowed to combat the menace of drugs, in March announced that he had fixed a date to execute drug offenders.

Observing on Wednesday



Maithripala Sirisena. •REUTERS

that over 2,00,000 people in the country were affected by substance abuse, Mr. Sirisena said 60% of those in prison were drug offenders. "Rehabilitation centres and prisons are unable to tackle such huge numbers," he said.

## 'Political drama'

Speaking on a range of subjects, spanning domestic politics, foreign relations and national security, Mr. Sirisena rubbished a parliamentary panel probing the Easter bombings as "a political drama".

The Parliamentary Select Committee (PSC) has been recording testimonies from top security officials, politicians, religious leaders and bureaucrats on the terror attacks. Days after some evidence pointed to serious lapses in the security establishment – accused of having failed to act despite prior warnings – Mr. Sirisena sought to stop proceedings. With the Speaker and the MPs on the panel resisting, the sittings have continued.

"The PSC is a drama... it is rehearsed at Temple Trees every evening," he said, referring to the Prime Minister's official residence. "Then it is enacted in Parliament."

Further, he reiterated his earlier call to abolish the 19th Amendment, a 2015 legislation that clips the executive powers of the President, and termed it "a curse to the country". He cited the 19-A as the reason for "two drivers" for one vehicle, referring to himself and the Prime Minister as two centres of power.

## Licence of fertility doctor revoked

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
OTTAWA

A Canadian fertility doctor's licence was revoked on Tuesday for having used the wrong sperm, including his own, to inseminate patients over decades.

Dr. Bernard Norman Barwin's behaviour was deemed "appalling" and "reprehensible" by a College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario disciplinary panel, which also fined him Can\$10,000.

Dr. Barwin, 80, did not appear at the hearing, but through his lawyers pleaded no contest.

He had already given up his medical licence in 2014 after being disciplined in a prior case for artificially inseminating three women with the wrong sperm, which he had blamed at the time on simple errors.

By now revoking his licence, other medical regulators will be alerted if he seeks to practise medicine in other jurisdictions.

Dr. Barwin is also facing a lawsuit alleging 50-100 births with the wrong sperm, including 11 cases in which he used his own.

## 'U.S., N. Korea in talks for a possible third summit'

REUTERS  
SEOUL

The U.S. is in behind-the-scenes talks with North Korea over a possible third summit and has proposed working-level negotiations that have been stalled since the second such meeting in February, South Korean President Moon Jae-in said on Wednesday.

Mr. Moon, in written answers to questions posed by visiting foreign journalists, said there was no reason to talk of a "stalemate" just because there had been no official dialogue, aimed at the denuclearisation of North Korea.

"Both sides have been engaged in dialogue in regard to a third summit," Mr. Moon

said. "It's noteworthy that the behind-the-scenes talks have been preceded by the mutual understanding of each other's position gained through the Hanoi summit."

The U.S. had made a proposal for working-level talks, Mr. Moon said, urging North Korea to return to the negotiating table "at the earliest date possible".

Mr. Moon said North Korean leader Kim Jong-un had told him that he wanted to "finalise a denuclearisation process as soon as possible and to concentrate on economic development".

He called for the North to scrap the "passive stance" it has presented since the Hanoi summit and take action on its past promises.

## Gambia ex-President accused of sexual abuse

Rights groups issue report after probe

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
DAKAR

Former Gambian President Yahya Jammeh "hand-picked" women whom he would rape or sexually coerce, offering cash, gifts and other privileges in exchange, international rights groups said on Wednesday.

"Yahya Jammeh treated Gambian women like his personal property," said attorney Reed Brody of Human Rights Watch (HRW).

Mr. Jammeh ruled the West African state for 22 years before fleeing to Equatorial Guinea after losing elections to Adama Barrow in December 2016.

## Many women testify

An investigation was conducted by HRW and a Swiss NGO, TRIAL international, based on evidence from several women, eight former Gambian officials and several other witnesses. Mr. Jammeh had "protocol girls" who were required to be on call to provide him with sex,



Gambia's ex-President Yahya Jammeh. •AFP

according to their report, issued in Dakar, the capital of neighbouring Senegal. The "protocol girls" were overseen by his cousin, Jimbee Jammeh, who also procured other women for him, the report said. She fled with him to Equatorial Guinea.

Several women have gone on record with their experiences, it said. Gambia has set up a Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC), modelled on South Africa's post-apartheid Truth and Reconciliation Commission, to shed light on Mr. Jammeh's reign.

## U.S. companies sidestep ban on selling to Huawei

Labelling provisions offer them leeway

PAUL MOZUR  
CECILIA KANG  
SHANGHAI

U.S. chipmakers are still selling millions of dollars of products to Huawei despite a Trump administration ban on the sale of U.S. technology to the Chinese telecommunications giant, according to four people with knowledge of the sales.

Industry leaders, including Intel and Micron, have found ways to take advantage of a provision on labelling U.S.-made goods, said the people. Goods produced by U.S. companies overseas are not always considered U.S.-made. The components began to flow to Huawei about three weeks ago, the people said.

The sales will help Huawei continue to sell products such as smartphones and servers.

U.S. companies may sell technology supporting current Huawei products until mid-August. But a ban on components for future Hua-

wei products is already in place.

While the Trump administration has been aware of the sales, officials are split about how to respond, the people said. Some officials feel that the sales violate the spirit of the law, while others are more supportive because it lightens the blow of the ban for U.S. corporations. Huawei has said it buys around \$11 billion in technology from U.S. companies each year.

"As we have discussed with the U.S. government, it is now clear some items may be supplied to Huawei consistent with the entity list and applicable regulations," John Neuffer, the president of the Semiconductor Industry Association, wrote in a statement on Friday. "Each company is impacted differently based on their specific products and supply chains, and each company must evaluate how best to conduct its business and remain in compliance."

THE HINDU GROUP

**Number of prepositions in English**

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150

250

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2,51,456

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