



5 kids killed
in a fire at a Pennsylvania day
care centre. Victims' ages ranged
from 8 months to 7 years



Beijing	28	19	LC	Los Angeles	22	14	HR
Colombo	31	25	TDS	Melbourne	12	8	LC
Doha	46	34	SNY	Moscow	26	11	LC
Dubai	42	29	LC	New York	21	16	LC
Houston	32	23	TDS	Singapore	32	25	TDS
Istanbul	30	21	LC	Toronto	19	11	LR
London	20	12	LC	Washington	26	18	LR

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain
• TDS: Thunderstorm • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny



NEW YORK

Autopsy of Epstein done, details yet to be released

The details of how Jeffrey Epstein died in his Manhattan jail cell on Saturday have yet to be released, but medical officials have performed an autopsy on the high-profile inmate accused of sexually abusing underage girls and paying them hundreds of dollars in cash for massages. The 66-year-old was denied bail and was awaiting trial for his crimes.



BEIJING

Huawei's founder to create 'iron army' to fight US

Huawei's founder Ren Zhengfei has said in an internal memo that he plans to do a three- to five-year haul of the company, creating an 'iron army' that will help it survive a US onslaught while protecting its next-generation wireless lead. With US sanctions threatening the networking giant's cash-cow smartphone business, he said major structural shifts are in order.



SEREMBAN

Shaman joins the search for missing UK teen in Malaysia

A Malaysian shaman on Monday joined police from Ireland, France and the UK in the search for a 15-year-old London girl who mysteriously vanished from a nature resort eight days ago, as her parents offered a cash reward and appealed for information. Nora Anne Quoirin went missing from the Dusun eco-resort in southern Negeri Sembilan on August 4.



GUATEMALA CITY

Conservative Giammattei elected as Guatemala prez

Conservative Alejandro Giammattei has been elected president in Guatemala, sweeping to victory on promises to stem mass migrations to the United States by combating poverty, corruption and violence in the Central American country. Giammattei defeated former first lady Sandra Torres in a run-off Sunday, garnering more than 58 percent of the vote.



MOSCOW

Russians killed in blast were working on 'new weapons'

Russia's nuclear agency chief on Monday confirmed that five scientists killed last week were developing "new weapons" and vowed to continue testing "until the end", despite the explosion. The accident took place at an Arctic military facility on the coast of the White Sea on Thursday, but Russian authorities only admitted its nuclear nature on Saturday.



SEOUL

K-pop superstar group BTS to take a break from music

K-pop superstars BTS will take a 'long-term break' from the music scene, their agency BigHit Entertainment said Monday, after the boy band topped charts in the US and Britain earlier this year. The pause may only last a few weeks, as BTS — or Bangtan Sonyeondan (Bulletproof Boy Scouts) — is due to play a controversial show in Saudi Arabia on October 11.



LOS ANGELES

Change is inevitable: Miley Cyrus on her separation

A day after the news of Miley Cyrus and Liam Hemsworth parting ways made headlines, the singer apparently addressed their split in a social media post, saying "change is inevitable" and it is futile to fight evolution. Cyrus, 26, posted on Instagram when she appears to be on a nature trek. The couple tied the knot seven months ago in a private ceremony.

Migrants using public dole out of green card ambit

WASHINGTON

THE Trump administration is moving forward with one of its most aggressive steps yet to restrict legal immigration, denying green cards to many migrants who use Medicaid, food stamps, housing vouchers or other forms of public assistance, US officials announced on Monday.

Federal law already requires those seeking to become permanent residents and gain legal status to prove they will not be a burden to the US — a "public charge," in government speak — but the new rules detail a broader range of programs that could disqualify them.

It's part of a dramatic overhaul of the nation's immigration system that the administration has been trying to put into place. While much of the attention has focused on President Donald Trump's efforts to crack down on illegal immigration, the new change targets people who entered the United States legally and are



US President Donald Trump

seeking permanent status. Its part of an effort to move the US to a system that focuses on immigrants' skills instead of emphasizing the reunification of families.

US Citizenship and Immigration Services will now weigh public assistance along with other factors such as education, household income and health to determine whether to grant legal status.

The rules will take effect in mid-October. They don't apply to US citizens, even if the US citizen is related to an immi-

grant who is subject to them. The acting director of Citizenship and Immigration Services, Ken Cuccinelli, said the rule change fits with the Republican president's message.

Migrants make up a small percentage of those who get public benefits. In fact, many are ineligible for public benefits because of their immigration status.

Protections for endangered species overhauled

The Trump administration also rolled out some of the broadest changes in decades to enforcement of the landmark Endangered Species Act, allowing the government to put an economic cost on saving a species and other changes critics contend could speed extinction for some struggling plants and animals.

Democratic lawmakers, several state attorneys generals and conservation groups said the overhaul would hamper protections for endangered and threatened species. AP

HK airport shuts down amid protests

China slams violent demonstrations as 'terrorism'; over 5,000 activists flood into airport

HONG KONG

ALL passenger flights in and out of Hong Kong were cancelled on Monday after thousands of pro-democracy protesters flooded the city's airport to denounce police violence.

The abrupt shutdown at one of the world's busiest hubs came as the Chinese government signalled its rising anger at the protesters, denouncing some of the violent demonstrations as "terrorism".

Authorities said they were working to reopen the airport by 03:30 AM ISD on Tuesday morning, but hundreds of protesters remained in the arrivals hall well into the night with no sign of leaving.

The developments marked yet another dramatic escalation in a 10-week crisis that had already become the biggest challenge to Chinese rule of Hong Kong since the 1997 British handover.

A crowd of protesters that authorities said numbered more than 5,000 descended on Hong Kong airport on Monday carrying placards and chanting



At least 150 flights were cancelled at the world's eighth busiest airport, where Monday's rally was the first to have a significant impact on passengers | AFP

slogans about police violence.

Although other rallies had been held at the transport hub over the previous three days, Monday's was the first to have a significant impact on passengers.

The airport authority said operations "have been seriously disrupted as a result of the public assembly".

At least 150 flights were cancelled at the world's eighth bus-

iest airport, which handles around 200,000 passengers a day.

Hong Kong-based carrier Cathay Pacific warned the disruption could extend into Tuesday, and advised customers to "postpone non-essential travel".

At the airport, protesters held signs reading "Hong Kong is not safe" and "Shame on police".

They accuse the force of us-

Airline, luxury brands follow China's lead

The chief executive of Hong Kong's Cathay Pacific Airways warned Monday there will be "disciplinary consequences" for employees involved in "illegal protests," as the airline joins a slate of businesses that have appeared and apologized to China in recent days. Luxury fashion brands Givenchy, Versace and Coach have apologized after Chinese social media users lambasted the companies for selling T-shirts which listed Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan as their own countries. A Taiwanese bubble tea firm also apologised.

ing increasingly violent and disproportionate tactics to suppress protests.

Over the weekend police fired tear gas into subway stations and crowded shopping streets as they confronted protesters at nearly a dozen locations across the city.

Protesters responded by hurling bricks and spraying riot police with fire extinguishers and water hoses. AFP



A family wades through a flooded street in Karachi, Pakistan on Sunday. Large parts of the southern city are underwater | AP

161 killed since July as heavy monsoon rains lash Pakistan

ISLAMABAD

A total of 161 people have been killed and 137 others injured in rain-related incidents since July in the country due to monsoon-triggered heavy rains, confirmed an official from Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority.

Saqib Mumtaz, the focal person for media from the disaster management authority, told Xinhua news agency on Sunday that the current spell of rains is likely to subside from Karachi on Monday, with the rain-causing low air pressure receding to Arabian Sea off the Karachi coast, Xinhua reported.

At least 11 people were killed and dozens others injured in separate rain-related accidents in Karachi of Pakistan's south Sindh province over the last two days, local media reported Sunday.

Torrential rains, which was recorded as high as 192 mm per hour, caused urban

flooding by inundating low-lying areas and main thoroughfares in the city, trapping people inside their houses and disrupting road and railway traffic, local Samaa TV reported.

Most of the fatalities happened due to incidents of roof collapse and electrocution, the report said, adding that dozens of animals, which people bought to slaughter on Eid, which falls on Monday, have also been electrocuted or washed away in the flash floods caused by rains.

Chief Minister of Sindh Murad Ali Shah told a press briefing that dozens of people have been displaced by the rains, and they have made arrangements for them in makeshift tents where they are being provided with food, bedding and medicine.

Electricity supply was interrupted in 35 percent of the city, as about 500 electricity feeders were turned off due to bad weather conditions. IANS

A GAMING RENAISSANCE

There's been a renaissance in gaming over the last decade or so, says Lewis Ward, an analyst at market research firm IDC. The creative success of gaming companies is partly driven by cost-efficient tech components. We take a look

2 bn
people buy
video games
around the
world, fueling
a growing
diversity in
gaming



A soon-to-be-launched device, Playdate has old-style chunky buttons and, surprisingly, a hand crank | PAMC

\$174 bn
in revenue
video games
are expected
to generate in
2019,
according to
IDC

OUR STREAMING FUTURE

Streaming devices from giants such as Amazon, Apple and Google all double up as gaming consoles. There's been a huge push into cloud-based games from Tencent Holdings Ltd. and Nvidia Corp. that can be streamed over the Internet



GOOGLE STADIA

Beyond core consoles from Sony Corp., Microsoft and Nintendo, there's the smartphone, tablet and streaming-based hardware from the likes of Google and Roku

CONSOLE PIONEERS

Microsoft, Nintendo and Sony have over the years crushed console pioneers like Atari and Sega. Even still, the three fight severely for market share among themselves and against new entrants

Nintendo has watched its fortunes rise and fall and rise again between each new risky release. The Switch, with its mobile-inspired hardware, almost whimsical user experience and embrace of indie developers, has proven such a radical, and prosperous, departure from the Xbox and PlayStation



VR STILL IN THE GAME

Samsung Electronics Co., HTC Corp., Lenovo Group Ltd., Sony and Facebook are investing heavily in virtual reality

TEXT: BLOOMBERG

Farage calls Queen's mother 'overweight, gin drinker'

LONDON

BREXIT party leader Nigel Farage derided the royal family in an incendiary speech at an Australian right-wing political conference, calling the late Queen Mother an "overweight, chain-smoking gin drinker" and abusing Prince Charles. He also mocked the Duke and Duchess of Sussex for their "irrelevant" social justice and environment campaigns.

According to The Guardian, Farage's speech at Sydney's Conservative Political Action Conference ranged across his views on Brexit, media bias, the United Nations and the royal family. He lauded the Queen, calling her "an amazing, awe-inspiring woman, we're bloody lucky to have her".

But he reserved his fiercest condemnation for her son, grandson and mother. "Her mother, Her Royal Highness the Queen's mother was a slightly overweight, chain-smoking gin drinker who lived to 101 years old."



Far-right British politician Nigel Farage

Whether Prince Harry has two kids is irrelevant given there are now 2.6 billion Chinese and Indians on this Earth

Nigel Farage, the leader of Brexit Party

He also commented on Harry and Meghan's decision to have only two children. "We're all completely ignoring that the population of the globe is exploding but no one dares talk about it and whether Prince Harry has two kids is irrelevant given there are now 2.6 billion Chinese and Indians on this Earth."

SHORTCUT TO SUCCESS

Ivy League admission industry gets rich off Chinese students

BEIJING

FROM hiring ghostwriters and forging sports credentials to generous 'gift-giving', admissions middlemen in China are advising wealthy parents to take an array of 'shortcuts' to secure places at foreign universities.

The service comes with a hefty price tag, often running into tens of thousands of dollars, but nonetheless the industry is booming.

The lengths to which some are willing to go to were highlighted in the admissions scandal that shook US universities this year, where prosecutors



found one Chinese family had given \$6.5 million to an admissions agent to get their daughter to Stanford, while another had coughed up \$1.2 million for entry to Yale.

The case saw dozens of people -- including Hollywood stars and CEOs -- plead guilty to using bribery to ensure places at prestigious schools, but education experts

in China say it's not unusual to advise such practise to families keen on foreign universities.

"In the admissions world, it's called gift-giving instead of bribing. About \$10,000 is on the lower end of the spectrum. An average gift will be about \$250,000," one former college counsellor revealed, on condition of anonymity.

Six current and former employees of admissions agencies told AFP they suggested parents "find shortcuts" to circumvent the traditional process.

"I have done things I am not proud of including coaching parents on how to embellish transcripts or fake sports cre-

dentials. I have received mangled essays, which are then heavily edited by professionals," one advisor confessed.

Fu Rao's family spent 250,000 yuan (\$36,300) on her admissions consultant. The entire package included advice on how to correspond with professors, which courses to take to make sure her high school transcript was filled with A grades, and how to chat about American football.

It has been an 18-month process so far during which she has also taken the SAT exam four times -- so Fu Rao was certain she would get the score she needed. AFP