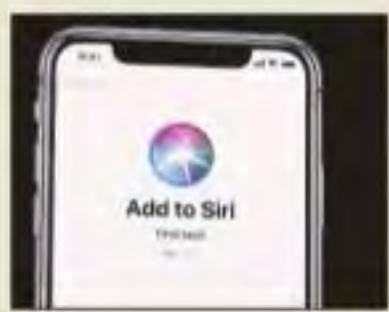


## TOP OF THE WORLD



Apple's digital assistant under scrutiny. AP

## TECHNOLOGY

## Apple apologises, changes how humans review Siri audio

New York: Apple is apologising and changing the way humans review audio recordings made through its Siri digital assistant. The company already suspended the practice following the discovery that Apple and other tech firms have been doing this. Apple now says only Apple employees, not contractors, will review the audio when the programme is resumed this fall. And Apple reiterated it won't be enabled by default. Rather, users can choose to participate. In its blog post Wednesday, Apple said the company wasn't living up to its ideals. Facebook, Google, Amazon, Microsoft and Apple have had people review recordings of users' interactions with AI assistants.

## YEMEN

## Govt forces storm Aden, seize airport

Aden: Yemen government forces on Wednesday captured Aden airport from southern separatists and attacked the city's eastern suburbs, residents and officials said, in renewed fighting that deepened a rift between supposed allies in a Saudi-led coalition. Forces of the Saudi-backed government have recaptured most of the neighbouring towns they had previously lost to the United Arab Emirates-backed separatists before moving on towards Aden, the temporary seat of the government.

## USA

## Sikh stabbed to death in California

Washington: A 64-year-old Sikh man from India was stabbed to death by an unidentified person in the US state of California while he was on his evening walk, according to a media report. Parmjit Singh was attacked in Gretchen Talley Park in Tracy around 9 pm on Sunday. He died from his injuries, ABC News reported. Detectives say a passerby spotted the man bleeding on the ground and immediately called 911. Police have launched a homicide investigation. Police don't have any clear suspects just yet.

# Uproar in Britain as Johnson moves to suspend Parliament ahead of Brexit

Sets Queen's Speech for Oct 14, effectively shutting House for a month, reducing time for MPs to block no-deal exit

WILLIAM JAMES & KATE HOLTON  
LONDON, AUGUST 28

PRIME MINISTER Boris Johnson will suspend Britain's Parliament for more than a month before Brexit, enraging opponents and raising the stakes in the country's most serious political crisis in decades. Cheered on by US President Donald Trump, Johnson launched his boldest move yet to take the country out of the European Union by October 31 with or without a divorce deal, by setting a new date for a state opening of Parliament.

Known as the Queen's Speech, the formal event will be held on October 14 and be preceded by a suspension of the House of Commons, meaning Parliament will not sit between mid-September and mid-October.

The move, which was approved by Queen Elizabeth, limits the time opponents have to derail a disorderly Brexit, but also increases the chance that Johnson could face a vote of no-confidence in his government, and possibly an election.

"Make no mistake, this is a very British coup," John McDonnell, the second most



Johnson argued that the move was designed to allow his government to press on with its domestic agenda. AP

powerful man in the opposition Labour Party, said. More than half a million people signed an online petition to object and the pound fell sharply.

In a sign that Johnson's move had marked a significant escalation in the long-running dispute, a group of cross-party lawmakers sought a legal injunction and the speaker of parliament said the nation's democratic process was at risk.

A spokeswoman for the European Commission, when asked about the British suspension of parliament, said it was a matter for Britain to answer.

## No-trust vote likely

On Tuesday, the leaders of Britain's opposition parties had agreed to seek to use parliamentary procedure to force Johnson to ask Brussels for a delay to Brexit beyond Oct. 31. They may now try to bring him down.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn said he would call a no-confidence vote when the time was right.

With Johnson holding a working majority of just one seat in the 650-seat parliament, members of his party who oppose a no-deal Brexit will have to decide where their loyalties lie.

## EXPLAINED

## Suspending House before Queen's Speech is normal; the timing is not

THE QUEEN'S Speech to the Parliament sets out the agenda of the government for the coming year and heralds the start of a new legislative session. Parliament is usually shut, sometimes for up to 20 days, before the Queen's Speech. None of this is controversial. However, the current parliamentary session has lasted for over two years because of the amount of legislative work that goes into Brexit. By setting Oct 14 as the date for the Queen's Speech and suspending Parliament for a month before that, Johnson has left very little time for MPs to legislate to prevent a no-deal Brexit on Oct 31. The fact that the move comes soon after a united opposition agreed to come together in Parliament to stop such an exit from the EU has been seen by opponents as an affront to democracy.

## MEANWHILE

## GRETA THUNBERG NEARS NEW YORK ON YACHT



Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg was due to sail into a New York harbour Wednesday after a 15-day journey crossing the Atlantic in a zero-carbon yacht. "Land!! The lights of Long Island and New York City ahead," the 16-year-old tweeted early Wednesday alongside a dark, blurry photo of lights in the distance.



The US military was sent to Afghanistan in 2001. Reuters

## Taliban: Close to agreement on pulling US troops out of Afghanistan

ABDUL QADIR SEDIQI & SAYED HASSIB  
KABUL, AUGUST 28

THE TALIBAN said on Wednesday it was close to an agreement with US officials on a deal that would see US forces withdraw from Afghanistan in exchange for a Taliban promise that the country would not become a haven for international militants.

Negotiations over how to end the 18-year war in Afghanistan have been held in Doha, capital of Qatar, since late last year. The ninth round of talks began last week.

"We hope to have good news soon for our Muslim, independence-seeking nation," said Suhail Shaheen, a spokesman for the Taliban's political office in Doha.

US officials engaged in talks with the Taliban in Doha were not immediately available for comment.

Two sources with knowledge of the negotiations said the US special representative for Afghanistan, Zalmay Khalilzad, who has been leading the talks, is scheduled to be in Kabul to brief President Ashraf Ghani about the agreement.

A senior security official in Kabul said the Taliban and US officials had agreed on a timeline of about 14 to 24 months for the withdrawal of the US forces. Details would be shared with the Afghan government before they were made public, the official said.

Ghani, who is seeking a second term in September, has repeatedly offered to hold direct talks with the Taliban, but the group demanded a complete withdrawal of foreign forces as a precondition to start negotiations. **RUETERS**

## Amid Amazon fire, Bolsonaro weakens environment agency

JAKE SPRING & STEPHEN EISENHAMMER  
BRASILIA, AUGUST 28

AS THE world recoils at the sight of fires ravaging Brazil's Amazon jungle, the nation's far-right government is undermining the agency charged with protecting the rainforest, *Reuters* has learned from interviews with ten current and former employees, public records and a review of internal government reports.

Conservative President Jair Bolsonaro has made no secret of his disdain for the public body, known as Ibama, which he has publicly rebuked as an impediment to the nation's development.

Since he took office on January 1, Ibama's budget has shrunk by 25 per cent as part of government-wide belt tightening, according to internal government data collected by the opposition PSOL party and shared with *Reuters*. Among the

cuts: funding for prevention and control of forest fires was reduced by 23 per cent.

New leadership at Ibama also has made it tougher for the agency to crack down on illegal logging, farming and mining that have despoiled nearly 12,000 square kilometres in the Amazon this year, all of the former and current employees told *Reuters*.

For example, field agents have seen new restrictions on their ability to destroy heavy equipment found at the scene of environmental crimes, a long-standing tactic to slow land-grabbers, five of the people said.

In addition, an elite corps of Ibama forest cops has not seen action in the Amazon this year, a first since the heavily-armed unit was launched five years ago, according to four of the people familiar with the matter. Instead, these special agents have been confined largely to desk duty, the people say, or assigned field tasks far from hot spots in the rainforest. **REUTERS**



A truck with logs illegally extracted from the Amazon. Reuters



## JAPAN ORDERS 870,000 TO FLEE HEAVY RAIN

Two people were confirmed dead on Wednesday as heavy rain pounded southwest Japan, prompting flood and landslide warnings and orders for 870,000 people to seek safety. More than a million more people were advised to leave their homes after the country's weather agency raised the alert to its highest level for parts of northern Kyushu. *Reuters*

## 26 killed in fiery attack on bar in southern Mexico

MARK STEVENSON  
MEXICO CITY, AUGUST 28

AN ATTACK on a bar in Mexico's Gulf coast city of Coatzacoalcas killed 26 people and injured about a dozen, officials said Wednesday, and they said it was apparently overseen by a man who had been recently arrested but released.

"The criminals went in, closed the doors, the emergency



After the attack on the bar in Coatzacoalcas, Mexico, on Tuesday night. Reuters

exits, and set fire to the place," President Andrés Manuel López

Obrador said at his daily morning news conference.

Veracruz police said the Tuesday night attack targeted the "Bar Caballo Blanco", or "White Horse Bar". It is located just off a busy street in Coatzacoalcas, a city whose main industry has long been oil and oil refining.

Gov. Cuitláhuac García identified the chief suspect as a man known as "La Loca" and gave his name as Ricardo N because officials no longer give the full names of suspects. **AP**

MZULQERNAIN  
LAHORE, AUGUST 28

A JUDGE in Pakistan received his transfer message through WhatsApp in the middle of the hearing of a high-profile political case at the special court in Lahore on Wednesday.

As the hearing in the drug case against opposition PML-N Punjab chief and former law minister Rana Sanaullah was underway at the Special Court for Control of Narcotics Substance, Lahore, presiding judge Masood Arshad announced that he had been asked to stop working through a "WhatsApp message", and therefore he could not continue the proceedings.

"I have just received a message on my WhatsApp. I have been asked to stop working and my services have been repatriated to the Lahore High Court," Arshad told the defence and prosecution lawyers.

During the proceedings the judge observed that the video the prosecution presented in the court regarding recovery of 15 kg heroine from the car of Sanaullah did not actually establish the recovery. The court was hearing the bail application of Sanaullah.

The judge's announcement came as a surprise for those in the court. "What happened today is unprecedented. The government is now deciding from which judge it wants to get a case heard. The manner in which the trial judge was stopped from working is highly questionable," said Sanaullah's counsel Azam Tarar.

The government's justice and law department on Wednesday also transferred the judges who were hearing the case of PML-N leaders Shabbaz Sharif, Maryam Nawaz and Hamza Shabbaz. **PTI**

## TREATIES SIGNED IN THE 18TH AND 19TH CENTURIES PROMISE THEM A SEAT, SAY MEMBERS OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBE

## Cherokee Nation seeks to send 1st delegate to US Congress, citing treaties

JOSE A DEL REAL  
AUGUST 28

FOR NATIVE American tribes, treaties with the US government have often led to displacement, removal and outright erasure.

But now, the Cherokee Nation is turning to treaties signed in the 18th and 19th centuries to push for a delegate to Congress for the first time in history. The treaties, the Nation claims, promised them a seat at the table.

"These treaties are sacred. They mean something. There's no expiration date on them," said Chuck Hoskin Jr, chief of Cherokee Nation, who last week announced he would fulfil a long-standing legal right to ap-

point a delegate to Congress. "What I'm asking is for the government of the United States to keep its word."

Dr Charles Gourd, 70, director of the Cherokee National Historical Society, said he and others had wondered with incredulity why no Cherokee Nation delegate had ever been seated in Congress despite assurances to that effect. Hoskin's renewed push, weeks after he was sworn in as the new chief, in part reflects how far the Cherokee have come in terms of governance, Gourd said.

"We've talked about it, yes, but we hadn't done anything about it because there were other things that had to be done to get to this point," said Gourd, who has



Kimberly Teehee, the vice president of government relations for the Cherokee Nation, has been nominated to represent the Nation as a delegate to the House of Representatives. AP

studied Native American sovereignty. "In a real sense there was not a fully functioning govern-

ment, and there have been some growing pains. I think this is a measure of the maturity of our

tribal government."

Settled in northeastern Oklahoma after the Trail of Tears, the Cherokee Nation today has nearly 400,000 enrolled members, making it the largest of nearly 600 federally recognised Native American tribes. There are also two significantly smaller, independent Cherokee tribes recognized by the federal government that are based in Oklahoma and North Carolina.

Their effort to seat a delegate in Congress — albeit, a nonvoting member — comes amid a broader push for visibility and political representation among Native Americans. In November, Democrats Deb Haaland (Pueblo of Laguna) of New Mexico and Sharice Davids (Ho-Chunk

Nation) of Kansas became the first Native American women elected to Congress. Congress now has four Native American members, including Tom Cole (Chickasaw Nation) and Markwayne Mullin (Cherokee Nation), both Republicans of Oklahoma.

The right for the Cherokee to send a "deputy" to represent them in the US Congress was first codified in the Treaty of Hopewell of 1785, which defined Cherokee borders and promised certain protections in return. The right to send a "delegate" specifically to the House of Representatives was affirmed in the 1835 Treaty of New Echota — which is better remembered for being the legal basis for the Trail of Tears, which removed Native Americans from

their homelands.

The House of Representatives already has several nonvoting delegates. They represent Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands and the US Virgin Islands. But there has never been a delegate representing a sovereign Native American government.

It remains to be seen how the plan will be greeted by congressional leaders.

In his role as chief, Hoskin has selected Kimberly Teehee as the delegate; she will be considered by the Nation's legislative branch this week. He said he expected Teehee to be confirmed easily by the Nation. **NYT**