

ELSEWHERE



**U.S. could have defence treaty with Israel**  
WASHINGTON  
U.S. President Donald Trump said on Saturday he had spoken with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu about a possible mutual defence treaty between the two nations, a move that could bolster Mr. Netanyahu's re-election bid just days before Israelis go to the polls. REUTERS

**Iranian companies sign gas field agreement**  
TEHRAN  
Two Iranian companies signed a \$440 million agreement on Saturday to develop a gas field in the sensitive Gulf. Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh said the deal between two government-owned firms Pars Oil and Gas Company and PetroPars, to develop the Balal field, would be the first of many agreements. AFP

**Turkey orders arrest of 223 over links to Gulen**  
ANKARA  
Turkey has ordered the arrest of 223 serving military personnel across the country and in the breakaway state of Northern Cyprus over suspected links to cleric Fethullah Gulen's network, which Ankara accuses of organising an attempted coup in 2016, state media said on Saturday. REUTERS

**11 killed in Brazil hospital fire**  
RIO DE JANEIRO  
At least 11 people, many of them elderly, were killed when a fire swept through a hospital in the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro as staff and desperate visitors battled to rescue patients from smoke-filled wards. Hospital authorities said the blaze late on Thursday was thought to have been caused by a short circuit in a generator. AFP

# Mugabe honoured at state funeral

### Zimbabwe leader's remains will be interred in about 30 days

**REUTERS HARARE**  
Zimbabwe's founder Robert Mugabe was honoured as an icon, principled leader and African intellectual giant at a state funeral on Saturday, after a week of disputes over his burial threatened to embarrass President Emmerson Mnangagwa.



Mourners with portraits of Robert Mugabe at a farewell ceremony on Saturday in Harare. ■AFP

The remains of Mr. Mugabe, who died in a Singapore hospital earlier this month at the age of 95, will be interred in a mausoleum at the National Heroes Acre in Harare in about 30 days, his nephew said on Friday.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa was booed by the crowd in the stadium after a wave of deadly riots and xenophobic attacks in South Africa earlier this month that triggered inter-

national anger. "I stand before you as a fellow African to express my regret and to apologise for what has happened in our country," Mr. Ramaphosa said, to cheering from the crowd. Kenya's Uhuru Kenyatta called Mr. Mugabe an intellectual giant, "a visionary leader and a relentless champion of

African dignity." Other heads of state who attended Saturday's funeral included long-ruling leaders from Equatorial Guinea and Congo while China, Russia and Cuba, which supported Zimbabwe's liberation movements that fought white minority rule, were represented by officials.

# Sikh preaches love, tolerance despite tragedy

### The brother of Sodhi, whose family migrated to U.S. after the 1984 riots, was killed days after 9/11

**ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOENIX**  
Indian Sikh immigrant Rana Singh Sodhi still preaches love and tolerance 18 years after his brother was gunned down in the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks by a man, who mistook him for a Muslim because of his turban and beard.

"I want there to be more awareness, more peace in the world," said Mr. Sodhi, who spent much of the first year after his brother Balbir Singh Sodhi's death speaking at schools and houses of worship. "I believe education is very important for our community. I made a commitment to reach as many people as I can."

The community will remember Balbir on the anniversary of his death on Sunday with a special meal at a local temple.

**Recognised by govt.**  
Often working through the Arizona Interfaith Move-

ment, Mr. Sodhi has been recognised by the State's chapter of the Anti-Defamation League and by the White House under President Barack Obama's administration.

The shooter Frank Roque is serving life in prison for the first-degree murder of Mr. Sodhi's older brother at his Mesa, Arizona, gas station on September 15, 2011. Balbir was the first of scores of Sikhs as well as Muslims targeted in hate crimes after 9/11.

Another brother, Sukhpal, was shot and killed 10 months later as he drove his cab in San Francisco. Authorities did not confirm the second killing as a hate crime, saying it appeared to be a stray bullet from a gang shooting, but the family doesn't doubt he died because of his Sikh identity.

In the case of Balbir, at least, "I feel like we got justice," Mr. Sodhi said.

Despite the loss of his



**Empathy and kindness:** Rana Singh Sodhi at a memorial in Arizona, for his brother, Balbir, in a 2016 photo. ■AFP

brothers, Mr. Sodhi, now 52, said he considers himself lucky to live in a country that was founded by immigrants and that allows him to practise his religion, even while the Trump administration makes it harder for newcomers to settle in the U.S.

Three years ago, Mr. Sodhi forgave Roque in a telephone call to him in prison. After hearing remorse in Roque's voice, he said: "If I had the power to take you

# Election first, peace talks later, says Kabul

### 'Nothing will impede presidential poll'

**ASSOCIATED PRESS KABUL**  
The Afghan government will only consider making a "legitimate" peace with insurgents after national elections are held this month, an official told reporters on Saturday.



Afghan spokesperson Sediq Sediqqi. ■AP

U.S. President Donald Trump abruptly called off talks with Taliban earlier this month. The Afghan government was largely shut out of the negotiations and concerned that any finalised U.S.-Taliban deal would delay the elections while a national unity government was formed, forcing the exit of President Ashraf Ghani.

"Nothing will impede the presidential election from happening," said the Afghan presidential spokesman, Sediq Sediqqi. He also suggested that there will be a "big change" toward improving security across the country ahead of the voting and fears over more violence.

Mr. Sediqqi pointed to a Taliban delegation's visit to Russia, just days after Mr. Trump called off talks, to say that the insurgents are faced with a "political failure" of their own. He added that the Taliban should hold talks directly with the Afghan government, which it has refused to do so far.

**Taliban team in Moscow**  
On Friday, a Taliban negotiating team visited Russia, where it held consultations with Zamir Kabulov, President Vladimir Putin's envoy for Afghanistan.

The Interfax news agency cited an unidentified Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying that the meeting underlined the necessity of renewing talks between the U.S. and the Ta-

liban, and that the Taliban confirmed its readiness to continue dialogue with Washington. It was the Taliban's first international visit following the collapse of talks with Washington. The team was led by Mullah Sher Mohammad Stanikzai.

Mr. Sediqqi said that the Afghan government has suspended its own peace efforts for now.

Separately in eastern Kapisa province, a bomb killed at least three civilians who had gathered to watch a volleyball game, said Nasrat Rahimi, spokesman for the Interior Ministry. Mr. Rahimi added that two other civilians were wounded when Friday's blast occurred in the Tagab district. No group immediately claimed responsibility.

Also in southern Kandahar province, in an insider attack, two policemen turned on their colleagues and shot dead at least nine police officers at a checkpoint, according to a provincial official who spoke on condition of anonymity. The attack happened in the Shah Wali Kot district late on Friday night and both attackers fled the area, the official said. A Taliban spokesman, Qari Yusuf Ahmadi, claimed responsibility for the attack.

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African dignity." Other heads of state who attended Saturday's funeral included long-ruling leaders from Equatorial Guinea and Congo while China, Russia and Cuba, which supported Zimbabwe's liberation movements that fought white minority rule, were represented by officials.

# Cameron apologises for Brexit divisions

### My approach failed, says former PM

**ASSOCIATED PRESS LONDON**  
Former British Prime Minister David Cameron, who called the Brexit referendum and then saw the public vote to leave the European Union (EU), said in an interview published on Saturday that he is sorry for the divisions it has caused.



Former U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron. ■AFP

"I deeply regret the outcome and accept that my approach failed... The decisions I took contributed to that failure. I failed," he said.

Mr. Cameron also attacked former allies Boris Johnson and Michael Gove, who helped spearhead the "Leave" campaign. Mr. Cameron says they "left the truth at home" during the campaign, citing among other things the claim that Britain could save £350 million pounds per week that was being sent to the EU and could use that money to improve the National Health Service.

# Hamza bin Laden is dead: Trump

### His death was reported earlier but not confirmed by the U.S.

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE WASHINGTON**  
U.S. President Donald Trump on Saturday confirmed that Hamza bin Laden, the son and designated heir of al-Qaeda founder Osama bin Laden, was killed in a counterterrorism operation along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.



Hamza, son of Osama bin Laden. ■AFP

U.S. media reported in late July and early August, citing intelligence officials, that the younger bin Laden had been killed sometime in the last two years in an operation that involved the U.S. Secretary of Defense Mark Esper confirmed the death last month, saying it was "his understanding" that Hamza was dead, but Mr. Trump and other senior officials had not publicly confirmed the news.

Osama bin Laden's son and designated heir of al-Qaeda founder Osama bin Laden, was killed in a United States counterterrorism operation along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

The statement did not specify the timing of the operation.

The 15th of Osama bin Laden's 20 children and a son of his third wife, Hamza, thought to be about 30 years old, was "emerging as a leader in the al-Qaeda franchise," the State Department said in announcing a \$1 million bounty on his head in February 2019 - perhaps after his actual demise. He had put out audio and video messages calling for attacks on the U.S. and other countries, especially to avenge his father's killing, the department said.

## SUDOKU

7		9	2					5
				7	4			9
			8		3		7	
2	3			4		7		
9								3
		4		7			6	8
	9		4		5			
3		7	1					
	1			3	2			6

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

**Solution to yesterday's Sudoku**

6	1	5	8	2	7	3	4	9
9	4	2	5	3	6	1	8	7
7	8	3	4	9	1	2	5	6
1	2	4	6	5	9	7	3	8
3	7	8	2	1	4	9	6	5
5	6	9	7	8	3	4	2	1
8	9	1	3	4	5	6	7	2
4	5	6	9	7	2	8	1	3
2	3	7	1	6	8	5	9	4