

# 15 THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



Sebastian Kurz is the favourite to win

EUROPE  
Austrians vote in snap election

Vienna: Sebastian Kurz is expected to emerge victorious in Austria's snap parliamentary election on Sunday, but it remains unclear whether the conservative leader will lean left or to the far right in seeking the coalition partner he needs for a majority. The election follows the collapse in May of Kurz's coalition with the far-right Freedom Party (FPÖ) after a video sting scandal that forced FPÖ Vice Chancellor Heinz-Christian Strache to step down. Kurz, 33, has remained largely unscathed from the scandal, even gaining voters from the FPÖ as its support has slipped to roughly a fifth of the electorate from a little more than a quarter in the last vote in 2017.

EGYPT  
Prominent dissident held

Cairo: Prominent Egyptian dissident Alaa Abdel Fattah was detained Sunday morning beyond his overnight probation, his family and a judicial official said. "We don't know where Alaa is... The police station says he's most probably at state security prosecution... we seriously don't have any information about him," his sister Mona Seif, also a well-known activist, said on Twitter early Sunday. Abdel Fattah, 37, is serving five years of probation after completing a five-year jail sentence in March for staging a protest against a 2013 law effectively banning public gatherings.

AFGHAN POLLS  
India congratulates Afghanistan on completed election

New Delhi: After the closing of polls in Afghanistan's contentious election, the Indian government congratulated the country "on the successful conduct of presidential elections". "India commends the people, the government and the security forces of Afghanistan for the successful conduct of Presidential elections on 28 September amidst challenging circumstances," the press release read. "We congratulate the Afghan people for once again demonstrating their faith in democratic governance and constitutional processes despite threats, intimidation and violence. These elections are an important milestone..." ENS

## Intense clashes erupt in Hong Kong ahead of China's 70th anniversary

'Anti-totalitarian' rallies held in Australia and Taiwan, more planned across Europe, North America

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
HONG KONG, SEPTEMBER 29

FIERCE CLASHES broke out between protesters and riot police in Hong Kong on Sunday as thousands marched through the strife-torn city, during a day of global protests aimed at casting a shadow over communist China's upcoming 70th birthday. Beijing is preparing for huge festivities from Tuesday to mark the founding of the People's Republic of China, including a massive military parade that will reveal in the country's emergence as a global superpower. But ongoing unrest in Hong Kong threatens to upstage those celebrations as the city boils with public anger over the erosion of its special freedoms.

Democracy activists in the financial hub had vowed to ramp up their nearly four-month-long campaign ahead of Tuesday's National Day celebrations, which Hong Kong protesters have dubbed a "Day of Grief". Sunday witnessed the most intense clashes in weeks as police used teargas, rubber bullets and water cannons at multiple locations for hours during running battles with hardcore protesters hurling rocks and petrol bombs.

Demonstrators had called for "anti-totalitarian" rallies to be held around the globe. Marches were held in Australia and Taiwan, with more planned in some 40 locations across Europe and North America later.

EXPLAINED  
E. Protesters see opportunity in high profile celebration

AS CHINA intends to put on a grand show to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Communist rule, protesters in Hong Kong see the event as an opportunity to amplify their voice against what they see as Beijing's increasing interference in the semi-autonomous territory. Hong Kong's China-backed government, on the other hand, is under pressure to keep things quiet as the mainland celebrates a major anniversary. This has resulted in Sunday witnessing some of the worst clashes in the city since the beginning of the mass protests in early June.

Clashes broke out before Hong Kong's unsanctioned march had begun after angry groups in the shopping district of Causeway Bay surrounded and heckled officers who were conducting stop and searches. But the teargas fired by police only emboldened the crowds, who then began walking through the streets in their thousands.



Protesters clash with police in Hong Kong on Sunday. AP

## Beijing set for parade showcasing supersonic drone, robot submarine

JOE MCDONALD  
BEIJING, SEPTEMBER 29

A PARADE Tuesday by China's secretive military will offer a rare look at its rapidly developing arsenal, including possibly a nuclear-armed missile that could reach the United States in 30 minutes, as Beijing gets closer to matching Washington and other powers in weapons technology. The Dongfeng 41 is one of a

series of new weapons Chinese media say might be unveiled during the parade marking the ruling Communist Party's 70th anniversary in power. Others include a supersonic drone and a robot submarine. The parade will highlight Beijing's ambition to enforce claims to Taiwan, the South China Sea and other disputed territories — and to challenge Washington as the region's dominant force. The People's Liberation Army,

the world's biggest military with 2 million men and women and the second-highest annual spending after the United States, also is working on fighter planes, the first Chinese-built aircraft carrier and nuclear-powered submarines. "There are quite a lot of observers, including the US military, who say, 'This is getting close to what we do,' and they are starting to worry," said Siemon Wezeman of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. AP

## UK PM apologised to Queen over suspension of Parliament: report

ADITI KHANNA  
LONDON, SEPTEMBER 29

BRITISH PRIME Minister Boris Johnson has reportedly apologised to Queen Elizabeth II over the Supreme Court verdict earlier this week against his decision to prorogue Parliament.

Johnson telephoned the Queen on Tuesday after the UK Supreme Court ruled that he had been "unlawful" to suspend Parliament for five weeks. *The Sunday Times* reported.

A No 10 Downing Street source told the newspaper: "He got on to the Queen as quickly as possible to say how sorry he was".

The Supreme Court rebuke has reportedly led to a breakdown of trust between Buckingham Palace and Downing Street. "They are not impressed by what is going on — at the very highest levels of the family," a government source was quoted as saying.

A royal source claims that the Queen's senior advisers are "fed up".

A palace official revealed that Johnson is now as distrusted as former British Prime Minister David Cameron, who had revealed details of his conversations with the Queen while promoting his memoir in a breach of protocol.

"It's difficult to tell which of them they are crosser with, Cameron or Boris," the source told the newspaper.

Johnson suspended, or prorogued, Parliament for five weeks earlier this month, saying it was to allow for a Queen's Speech to outline policies of his new government. PTI



## Johnson denies wrongdoing over businesswoman

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
LONDON, SEPTEMBER 29

BRITISH PRIME Minister Boris Johnson says he has "no interest to declare" in his links to an American businesswoman who allegedly received favourable treatment because of their friendship during his time as mayor of London.

Johnson was asked during a BBC interview on Sunday about his ties to Jennifer Arcuri after the Greater London Authority on Friday announced it was referring a "conduct matter" involving Johnson to the Independent Office for Police Conduct.

The case arose from a *Sunday Times* report saying Arcuri was given money and privileged access while on trade missions that Johnson led as mayor of London.

Johnson says "everything was done with full propriety". The independent office, which oversees police complaints in England, was asked to consider if there were grounds to investigate him for misconduct in public office.

## Imran Khan returns to Pakistan, resumes Kashmir rhetoric

SAJJAD HUSSAIN  
ISLAMABAD, SEPTEMBER 29

PRIME MINISTER Imran Khan on his return from the US on Sunday said that those standing by Kashmiris were doing "jihad" and Pakistan will support Kashmiris even if the world does not.

Prime Minister Khan, who focused on the Kashmir issue in his maiden address to the UN General Assembly, told his party workers at the airport here that "whether the world is with the Kashmiris or not, we are standing with them". "It (standing by Kashmiris) is jihad. We are doing it because we want Allah to be happy with us," he said.

"It is a struggle and do not lose heart when the time is not good. Do not be disappointed as the Kashmiris are looking towards you," he said.

He said Kashmiris would "win if the Pakistani people stood by their side".

Khan on Friday raised the Kashmir issue in his address to the UNGA and demanded that India release all "political prisoners".

He devoted half of his address to the Kashmir issue, warning that if there is a face-off between two nuclear-armed neighbours, the consequences would be felt far beyond their borders.

Pakistan has been trying to internationalise the Kashmir is-



Pakistan PM Imran Khan, who focused on the Kashmir issue in his maiden address to the UN General Assembly, told his party workers: "Whether the world is with the Kashmiris or not, we are standing with them."

sue after India withdrew the special status of Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, but New Delhi has asserted the move was an "internal matter". India's decision evoked strong reactions from Pakistan, which downgraded diplomatic ties and expelled the Indian ambassador.

India ended Jammu and Kashmir's special status by abrogating Article 370 of the Constitution on August 5. PTI

## SPACE X UNVEILS 'STARSHIP' FOR MARS MISSION



A prototype of SpaceX's Starship spacecraft in Boca Chica, Texas. Reuters

Elon Musk has unveiled a SpaceX spacecraft designed to carry a crew and cargo to the Moon, Mars or anywhere else in the solar system and land back on Earth perpendicularly.

In a livestreamed speech from SpaceX's launch facility near the southern tip of Texas, Musk said Saturday that the space venture's Starship is expected to take off for the first time in about one or two months and reach 65,000 feet before landing back on Earth.

He says it's essential for the viability of space travel to be able to reuse spacecraft.

Musk said Saturday marked the 11th anniversary of a SpaceX rocket reaching orbit for the first time.

## US govt amps up Clinton email probe: report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 29

DONALD TRUMP'S administration is amping up an investigation into Hillary Clinton's emails, *The Washington Post* reported Saturday, breathing new life into a pet issue used by the president to rail against his opponent during the 2016 elections.

The question of whether Clinton improperly used a private email account and server while



Trump is facing an impeachment probe

secretary of state led to Trump's repeat assertion that she deserved to be put in prison and frequent chants of "lock her up" at his polit-

ical rallies. Following an FBI investigation into the matter, former director James Comey did not recommend charges against Clinton but described her conduct as "extremely careless".

In recent weeks, up to 130 officials have been contacted by State Department investigators concerning emails they sent years ago which have been retroactively classified, nearly all of which were sent to or eventually made their way into Clinton's unsecured email ac-

count, the *Post* reported.

The paper said State Department investigators began contacting employees approximately 1.5 years ago, before the effort trailed off, only to be revived again in August.

Revelation of the renewed effort comes the same week that Democrats in Congress launched an impeachment investigation into Trump over accusations he tried to arm-twist the Ukrainian President into providing dirt on one of his election rivals, Joe Biden.

## Saudi King's bodyguard shot dead in 'row with his friend'

REUTERS  
RIYADH, SEPTEMBER 29

THE LONG-TIME personal bodyguard of Saudi Arabia's King Salman was shot dead by a friend while at a private residence in the western city of Jeddah, in what the state broadcaster described as "a personal dispute".

State media did not give details about the row that sparked the shooting on Saturday night of Major General Abdul Aziz al-Fagham, who was at another friend's home in Jeddah's al-Shatee district at the time, several km north of the palace where the king usually spends much of the summer.

A police statement, published by state news agency SPA on Sunday, said Fagham had a verbal exchange with Mamdouh bin Meshaal Al Ali, a man described as his friend, who then retrieved a firearm from outside and opened fire.

The shooter refused to surrender to police who had surrounded the site and who shot him dead, the statement said.

Another Saudi, a Filipino and five members of the security forces were also wounded by gunfire, the statement said.

Fagham, who was transferred to hospital but died from his wounds, had also served as the personal bodyguard of late King Abdullah, according to local media. His death prompted an outpouring of sympathy from Saudis on social media.

## THE FIRST US-INDIAN POLICE OFFICER IN TEXAS WAS SHOT DEAD DURING A TRAFFIC STOP IN HOUSTON

# US mourns Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal, trailblazing Sikh police officer

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
HOUSTON, SEPTEMBER 29

LT SANDEEP Singh Dhaliwal put the Sikh imperative of selfless service on display for all and touched a nation with his example, a senior US official has said, amid an unbridled outpouring of grief from many Americans over the killing of the first Indian-American police officer in Texas.

Dhaliwal, 42, who made national headlines when he was allowed to grow a beard and wear a

turban on the job in the US state of Texas, was gunned down while conducting a mid-day traffic stop in northwest of Houston on Friday.

Family, friends and strangers prayed on Saturday at Dhaliwal's memorial off Willacy Lane in northwest Harris County.

Dhaliwal's youngest sister Ranjeet Kaur joined the crowd and lit a candle for her brother. She remembered a man who loved his job.

"He was a really great person. He didn't deserve all this. He was a great person. He helped everybody. He never said no. He does

as much as he can. I think this was the wrong time and the wrong place," Kaur was quoted as saying by an US news channel.

Reacting to Dhaliwal's killing, US acting assistant secretary for South and Central Asia, Alice Wells said, "We mourn alongside colleagues, friends and family of Lt Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal, 1st Indian-American in Texas to serve as a police officer while maintaining articles of faith."

"Dhaliwal put the Sikh imperative of selfless service on display for all & touched a nation with his example," she tweeted.



Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal

A 10-year veteran of the Harris County Sheriff's office and its first Sikh deputy, Dhaliwal

was taken by helicopter to a hospital where he died, a decade after becoming the force's first Sikh and pushing for a historic expansion of religious rights in the department.

Dhaliwal worked with United Sikhs, a global humanitarian relief and advocacy nonprofit, to help organise the donation of truckloads of supplies for first responders after Hurricane Harvey.

"Sandeep was a trailblazer for the Sikh-American community. He served not just the Sikh community here in Houston with honour and dignity, but all of his

community," Bobby Singh, southeast regional director for the Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund said on Twitter.

Houston mayor Sylvester Turner called Dhaliwal "a bold and groundbreaking law enforcement officer in the eyes of our country, our state, our nation".

Texas senator Ted Cruz said the state was "mourning a hero". In 2012, Washington DC became the first major US police force to make explicit accommodations for Sikhs to preserve their appearance on duty. An estimated 500,000 Sikhs live in the

US as a whole.

"Community-led candlelight vigil was held tonight in honour of Deputy Dhaliwal. Please continue to keep his family & his Texas family in your thoughts & prayers. Deputy Dhaliwal was LOVED by this community," County Major Mike Lee said in a tweet.

"A grateful community remembers fallen Texas Deputy Dhaliwal. This makeshift memorial is growing as a steady flow of people have come from throughout the community to show their support. Deputy Dhaliwal loved serving this community and they

loved him back," Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez tweeted.

Starting as a detention officer in his late 20s, Dhaliwal was promoted to a deputy in 2015. The father of three young children was a practising Sikh.

In 2015, the Harris County Sheriff's Office made an official policy that allowed Dhaliwal to wear his beard and turban on duty.

"As a Sikh American, I felt the need to represent the Sikh community in law enforcement. It will give me the chance to open up the conversation," Dhaliwal told a news channel said at the time.