

TOPOF THE WORLD



Shamima Begum

BRITAIN
Woman who fled to join IS appeals loss of UK citizenship

London: A Bangladeshi-origin woman who fled the UK as a schoolgirl in 2015 to join the Islamic State terror group in Syria, launched an appeal against the government's move to revoke her citizenship and prevent her from returning to London. Shamima Begum left her home in east London with two other teenagers and travelled to Syria when she was 15. She lived under the rule of the IS for three years, before being found in a camp run by Kurdish forces in Syria in February. Now 20, she is fighting a legal battle to return to the UK and her appeal is being heard at the Special Immigration Appeals Commission this week.

USA
Library removes memorial featuring Bhindranwale

New York: A library in the US state of Connecticut has removed a memorial that featured a portrait of slain militant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, with the top Indian diplomat in New York welcoming the "wise decision" taken by it not to allow a divisive agenda to create rift within the Sikh community. The memorial to the Sikhs killed in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots was installed at the Otis Library in Norwich about three months ago and was placed on a wall of the library's main lobby, according to a report in *The Bulletin*. Bhindranwale, head of Sikh religious sect Damdami Taksal, was killed along with his armed followers during 'Operation Blue Star' at the Golden Temple Complex in June 1984.

PAKISTAN
Nawaz Sharif hospitalised

Lahore: Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Nawaz Sharif was hospitalised after his health condition deteriorated in the anti-graft body's detention centre due to critically low platelet count. Sharif, 69, is serving a seven-year prison term after being convicted in a corruption case. "Former premier Nawaz Sharif is detected to have critically low platelet count that could be due to multiple pathologies and requires immediate in-hospital care," Sharif's personal physician Adnan Khan said.

Canada's Trudeau wins 2nd term as PM, but party loses majority

Of 338 seats, Liberals win 157 and Conservatives bag 121

NELSON WYATT
MONTREAL, OCTOBER 22

CANADIAN PRIME Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberals held onto power after a closely fought election on Monday but were reduced to a minority government that will need the support in Parliament of a smaller left-leaning party.

The vote showed a deeply divided country with the defeated Conservatives winning the popular vote, while a resurgent separatist Bloc Quebecois made big strides in the mainly French-speaking province of Quebec.

The Liberals had won or were leading in 157 out of 338 seats in Monday's vote, according to Elections Canada. That put the Liberals far short of the 170 seats needed for a second straight majority government.

"You did it, my friends. Congratulations," Trudeau told supporters in Montreal on Tuesday as his opponents were giving concession speeches.

Trudeau, who took power in 2015 as a charismatic figure promising "sunny ways," saw his popularity drop over old photos of him in blackface and his handling of a corporate corruption



Canada PM Justin Trudeau and his wife Sophie Gregoire Trudeau in Montreal on Tuesday. Reuters

case. He will now have to rely on the New Democratic Party (NDP) to push through key legislation.

Although the NDP had a disappointing night, with the 24 seats it had won or was leading in down sharply from the 2015 election when it won 44, the party could exercise significant influence over Trudeau's next government.

"I think a Liberal government supported by the NDP is likely going to lean farther left," said John Manley, a former Liberal finance minister who now works

in the private sector.

Ahead of the vote, opinion polls showed a tight race between Trudeau and his main rival, Conservative leader Andrew Scheer. The Conservative Party has won 121 seats, up from the 95 it held before.

The Bloc Quebecois saw its support jump in Quebec, the only place where the separatist party contests elections. It was elected or ahead in 32 seats, more than three times what the party won in 2015. REUTERS

With 24 seats, Jagmeet Singh plays kingmaker

ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA
JALANDHAR, OCTOBER 22

INDIAN-ORIGIN CANADIANS have won 18 seats in the federal election that took place on Monday, and a leader from the community is set to play a key role in Parliament as Justin Trudeau's Liberals form a minority government.

With just 157 seats in the 338-member Parliament, the Liberal Party failed to get the 170 seats needed for a majority. But as the largest party, it will form the government. It will, however, need the backing of the National Democratic Party (NDP), which is led by Jagmeet Singh. Singh was born and brought up in Canada, but his family traces its roots to Punjab's Barnala district.

The NDP won 24 seats, substantially less than the 39 that it had won in the last election. But Singh's party will be key for the Trudeau government as the Liberals will need the NDP's support in Parliament to pass any legislation. This gives the left-leaning



Jagmeet Singh with his wife Gurkiran Kaur. AP

NDP influence to shape the government's policies.

"Thank you, Canada. What a night — and what an unforgettable journey this campaign has been. With our new NDP caucus in Ottawa, I'm incredibly excited to continue our critical work to achieve the priorities that we've heard from people across this country," Singh tweeted.

The election saw 13 winners of Punjabi-origin from the Liberal Party, four from the Conservative Party and one from the NDP. 12 sitting Punjabi MPs of the Liberal Party won again, including Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan from Vancouver South.

JAPAN's NARUHITO PROCLAIMS HIMSELF EMPEROR



Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe bows in front of Emperor Naruhito during a ceremony to proclaim his enthronement to the world at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo on Tuesday. Reuters

■ Japanese Emperor Naruhito formally proclaimed his ascendancy to the throne on Tuesday in a centuries-old ceremony attended by dignitaries from more than 180 countries, pledging to fulfil his duty as a symbol of the state.

■ Naruhito became emperor and his wife Masako became empress on May 1 in a brief ceremony, but Tuesday's "Sokui no Rei" was a more elaborate ritual at the royal palace in which he officially announced his change in status to the world.

■ "I swear that I will act according to the constitution and fulfil my responsibility as the symbol of the state and of the unity of the people," the 59-year-old emperor declared, his voice slightly hoarse, in front of about 2,000 guests.

In jail, Hafiz Saeed plays role of arbitrator

MZULQERNAIN
LAHORE, OCTOBER 22

UN-DESIGNATED TERRORIST and Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed is running the affairs of his banned Jamaat-ud Dawah (JuD) group from Lahore's Kot Lakhpat jail, where he recently played the role of an arbitrator in a high-profile case between the police and the family of a suspected ATM thief who died in police custody.

Salahuddin Ayubi, who was mentally challenged, died in police custody last month due to alleged torture after his arrest on charges of stealing money from



He was arrested in July on charges of terror financing

an ATM. His death sparked outrage across the country.

Saeed, who has been in the high security jail since his arrest on July 17 on charges of terror financing, last week met the de-

ceased man's family and convinced them to pardon the policemen allegedly involved in Ayubi's death.

The Lashkar-e-Taiba founder also received assurance by the authorities of construction of a carpeted road and supply of gas to the village of the victim's family in Gujranwala at an accumulative cost of Rs 800 million to settle the dispute.

"Since some members of the family of Ayubi were the followers of Saeed, police arranged their 'special meeting' with him in jail. After listening to both sides, Saeed gave the victim's family three options — receive blood money from the accused policemen, pardon

them in the name of Allah or pursue legal case against them. The family chose to pardon the policemen," a government official said.

When PTI contacted Ayubi's father Afzaal Ghumman, he confirmed that he and other family members pardoned the accused policemen on the "wish" of the JuD chief.

"When we visited him (Saeed) in jail last week, he gave us three choices. He said pardoning someone in the name of Allah is the far superior act. So we chose to pardon the suspects," Ghumman said.

A Station House Officer, an inspector and some constables named in the case are currently on an interim bail. PTI

MELTING ICE

RUSSIA DISCOVERS 5 ARCTIC ISLANDS

Russia's navy said Tuesday it had discovered five new islands revealed by melting glaciers in the remote Arctic. An expedition in August and September charted the islands, which have yet to be named and were previously hidden under glaciers.



Britain's PM Boris Johnson in Parliament on Tuesday. Reuters

Brexit in limbo as Johnson wins one vote, loses another

JILL LAWLESS & DANICA KIRKA
LONDON, OCTOBER 22

BRITISH PRIME Minister Boris Johnson won one vote and lost another in Parliament on Tuesday, a result that inches him closer to his goal of leading Britain out of the European Union — but effectively guarantees it won't happen on the scheduled date of October 31.

The good news for the Prime Minister was that lawmakers voted for a Brexit plan, backing by 329-299 a Bill to implement the agreement Johnson struck with the EU last week.

But minutes later, legislators rejected his fast-track timetable to pass the Bill. The vote went 322-308 against the government.

Johnson responded by stopping the legislation dead in its tracks. He had planned to push it through the House of Commons by Thursday. But he said he would "pause" the legislation until the EU had decided whether to agree to delay Britain's departure.

With the Brexit deadline looming and British politicians still squabbling over the country's departure terms, Johnson was forced to ask the EU for a three-month delay to Britain's departure date. He did that to comply with a law passed by Parliament ordering the government to postpone Brexit rather than risk the economic damage that could come from a no-deal exit. AP

Turkey, Russia strike deal to remove Syrian Kurdish YPG, launch joint patrols

Erdogan meets Putin for talks in Russia

DARYA KORSUNSKAYA & TUVAN GUMRUKCU
SOCHI, ANKARA, OCTOBER 22

TURKEY AND Russia agreed on Tuesday to remove the Syrian Kurdish YPG militia to beyond 30 km from the Turkish border, after which their troops will jointly patrol a narrower strip of land in a "safe zone" Ankara has long sought in northern Syria.

Beginning at noon on Wednesday, Russian military police and Syrian border guards will move in to facilitate the removal of YPG members and weapons to beyond the zone in a mission that should take about six days, according to the deal.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov hailed the deal as one that would end the bloodshed in the region, while Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Turkey had no designs on Syrian territory as it continued to push the YPG south.

The YPG, the key component in the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) that have for years fought alongside US troops against Islamic State, will also leave the towns of Tel Rifaat and Manbij under the deal struck between Erdogan and President Vladimir Putin in the Russian Black Sea resort of Sochi. "The main aim of the operation is to take out PKK/YPG terror organisations from the area and to facilitate the return of Syrian refugees," Erdogan told a joint news conference with Putin.

Ankara regards the YPG as terrorists because of their ties to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party.

"This operation also guarantees Syria's territorial integrity and political unity... We never had any interest in Syria's land and sovereignty," Erdogan added. REUTERS

EXPLAINED What the 2 votes mean for Brexit

THE TWO votes that took place in the UK Parliament on Tuesday had huge consequences for Johnson's plan to leave the EU on October 31.

INITIAL ASSENT
The first of those votes saw MPs, for the first time, giving their assent to a Brexit plan. Johnson was able to get a majority of MPs to back his Withdrawal Agreement Bill in principle. But this does not mean the Bill has been passed. The passage of the Bill will only come after multiple debates and more votes.

NO HURRIED TIMETABLE
Despite backing the Bill in principle, MPs voted against the tight schedule by which Johnson wanted the Bill to be debated and passed. This essentially rules out Brexit on Oct 31. Now, the Bill will be debated further and possible amendments will be added, which could stretch the Brexit process far beyond the deadline which the PM was adamant on meeting.



The Russian President receives his Turkish counterpart in the Black Sea resort of Sochi, Russia. AP

US troops leaving Syria cannot stay in Iraq: Baghdad

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BAGHDAD, OCTOBER 22

US TROOPS leaving Syria and heading to neighbouring Iraq do not have permission to stay in the country, Iraq's military said Tuesday as American forces continued to pull out of northern Syria after Turkey's invasion of the border region.

The statement appears to contradict US Defence Secretary Mark Esper, who has said that under the current plan, all US troops leaving Syria will go to western Iraq and the military would continue to conduct operations against the Islamic State group to prevent its resurgence in the region.

In a statement, the Iraqi Kurdish regional government said the positive role played by US-led coalition forces in northern Iraq, protecting and assisting its residents, should not be confused with an "unpopular political decision" that has been taken — a reference to Donald Trump's sudden move to withdraw troops from Syria.

TONNES OF RUBBISH COLLECTED FROM WORLD'S TALLEST PEAK BEING UPCYCLED

Trash to treasure: Everest garbage given new lease of life

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KATHMANDU, OCTOBER 22

A GROUP of tourists sip water at a five-star hotel in Kathmandu, unaware that the green glasses in their hands were once bottles discarded on Mount Everest — left by climbers eager to make their ascent.

In homes across the Nepali capital upcycled items, from pots to lamps, crafted from Everest waste products are slowly making their way as authorities and businesses look for fresh ways to tackle the damage caused by decades of

commercial mountaineering. Tonnes of trash — including empty cans and gas canisters, bottles, plastic and discarded climbing gear — litter the mountain, which has been dubbed the "highest dumpster in the world".

"Waste doesn't need to be wasted," Nabin Bikash Maharjan of local recycling organisation Blue Waste to Value (BW2V) said.

"We received a mix of materials from Everest — aluminium, glass, plastic, iron — much of which could be recycled," he explained, adding: "We need to up-cycle and add value to them."

After heavy criticism for the



Garbage collected at Everest base camp. Reuters

condition of one of its greatest natural resources, Nepal's government and mountaineering groups this year organised a six-

week clean-up.

Scaling almost 8,000 metres (26,300 feet) from base camp to the closest camp to the summit,

a 14-strong team retrieved more than 10 tonnes of trash that was flown or driven to recycling centres in Kathmandu.

Workers there manually sorted the materials — each type following a different path to re-birth: Iron was sent to rod manufacturing firms, shredded aluminium cans to utensil makers, and discarded bottles re-fashioned into household items.

"Waste is a taboo in our society, considered as dirt," mused Ujen Wangmo Lepcha of Moware Designs, which upcycles rubbish into light fixtures and glasses.

"When they see these kind of

products they are like 'wow', these things can be made and it is possible," she explained.

Their products are now used in upmarket hotels, restaurants, and homes around the capital, and Lepcha says there is growing consumer interest in goods made from salvaged Everest scraps.

Aanchal Malla of Hotel Yak & Yeti in Kathmandu said opting for the upcycled goods was in-line with the hotel's move towards environmentally friendly products. "It is not just better for us... it is encouragement of everyone who is trying to make the globe into a better place...," Malla said.