Japanese police are investigating a 200 million yen (\$1.84 million) diamond allegedly stolen from an international jewellery trade show near Tokyo. The 50-carat diamond was last seen sitting inside a glass showcase at 5 pm Thursday. An hour later, the diamond was gone and the jewellery case was unlocked, according to police.



Maria Butina. Reuters

#### **RUSSIA** 'Agent' freed by **US: 'Russians** don't surrender'

Moscow: Maria Butina clutched bouquets and exclaimed that "Russians don't surrender" as she arrived in Moscow on Saturday after serving nine months in a US jail for acting as a Russian government agent. Butina flew into Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport after being deported from Miami following her release Friday. "I didn't give up because I know I simply didn't have the right," Butina told a waiting crowd of journalists. "Russians don't surrender!" She was arrested in July 2018 on allegations of engaging in espionage.

#### **JAPAN**

#### Rescuers hunt for missing as landslides kill 10

Tokyo: Rescuers worked by hand to clear debris from a landslide triggered by heavy rains in central Japan on Saturday, as the toll from the storms rose to 10 dead with a further three people reportedly missing. Aerial footage showed emergency workers removing wreckage from two houses that were swept away in Chiba, just two weeks after a deadly typhoon barrelled through the area. Nine people were killed by landslides and floods in the region, including two elderly men found dead in submerged cars, officials and news reports said.

#### **PAKISTAN**

#### **Sharif suffers** angina attack at hospital

Islamabad: Former Pakistan prime minister Nawaz Sharif on Saturday suffered angina pain while undergoing treatment at a Lahore hospital, according to a media report. Sharif suffered angina pain in the morning while undergoing treatment at the hospital, the Dawn News reported quoting Services Institute of Medical Sciences (SIMS) Principal Dr Mahmood Ayaz. Earlier, Sharif's lawyer Khawaja Haris claimed the former premier had suffered a "minor heart attack" last night and that his "life is in danger".



TOLL IN IRAQ PROTEST CROSSES 40

Demonstrators during a protest over corruption, lack of jobs and poor services, in Baghdad on Saturday. Reuters

## US meets China, Russia, Pakistan to talk about peace in Afghanistan

**ASSOCIATED PRESS** ISLAMABAD, OCTOBER 26

REPRESENTATIVES OF Russia, China, the United States and Pakistan agreed Friday that negotiation is the only road to peace in Afghanistan, including an early resumption of direct US talks with the Taliban.

The day-long talks in Moscow came ahead of an intra-Afghan dialogue to be hosted by China. The Beijing talks, which are to be held next week, were postponed, according to officials familiar with the talks. Speaking on condition they not be identified because of they were not authorized to talk about the subject, they said the postponement would be brief but no new date was given.

There has been no official announcement of a postpone-

**SIMON MARKS** 

people.

Wednesday.

ADDIS ABABA, OCTOBER 26

WEEKS AFTER receiving the

Nobel Peace Prize, Prime

Minister Abiy Ahmed is coming

under harsh criticism over his

silence in the face of protests

this week that police said had

resulted in the deaths of 67

meeting of African leaders in

the Black Sea resort town of

Sochi, Russia when thousands

of people took to the streets of

the Ethiopian capital and sev-

eral regional towns on

by a prominent critic of the

prime minister who had ac-

cused the police of plotting an

attack on him. The critic, Jawar

Mohammed, is the founder of

an independent media net-

work, and claimed that there

was a plan to arrest or possibly

kill him at his house in the cap-

The protests were spurred

Abiy remained at a summit

67 killed in Ethiopia

unrest, Nobel-winning

prime minister silent



At the site of suicide attack in Jalalabad. The Taliban claimed the attack. AP

ment, but previous intra-Afghan talks have been delayed while both sides squabbled over participants. Earlier on Friday, a government official, who also spoke on condition of anonymity for the same reason, had said Ghani

Abiy Ahmed was awarded

the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize

Thirteen of those who died in

the protests were killed by secu-

rity forces and the remainder

died in sporadic fighting that

broke out between rival groups,

said Kefvalew Tefera, the re-

gional police commissioner for

were injured. He did not say

what the root cause of that fight-

ing was or what groups were

He said that another 213

ital, Addis Ababa.

the Oromia region.

finalise a peace deal too fell apart in September. Afghanistan's President, Ashraf Ghani, who had objected to any talks not led by his government, is also likely to send envoys. As the conflict has led to over 8,000 civilian casual-

was opposed to participation in the talks. It wasn't clear what changed Ghani's mind or whether he had requested a postponement, but a number of prominent Afghans

from Kabul are expected to at-

tend the China meeting, including former President Hamid Karzai, who has been a strong proponent of direct talks with the Taliban. He participated in earlier sessions of talks with the Taliban held in Moscow.

Picking up from talks

in July, September

THE MOSCOW talks are a prelude to the China-hosted dia-

logue, which will be the first time the warring Afghan forces

will meet face-to-face since July. Since then, a US attempt to

ties this year alone, the most pressing demand is likely to be

a reduction of violence while a post-war future is discussed.

## Bigger role for women in Catholic Church? 185 men will decide

**ELISABETTA POVOLEDO** ROME, OCTOBER 26

THE VATICAN'S extraordinary three-week meeting of bishops from the Amazon region, which ends this weekend, has generated intense debate within the church over the possibility of ordaining older, married men in remote areas.

But those gathered will also make important proposals about the role of the region's women in the Roman Catholic Church. While a handful of those women have been present for the conversation, as usual, none of them

will actually have a say. That imbalance at the synod, as the meeting is known, has disappointed women from organizations that have been lobbying for the church to give women more

decision-making power. Instead, the decisions will be left to 185 men, who are discussing the possibility of women

🌈 🌈 In Brazil, most Catechists are women, leaders of local communities are women... they bring the ministry forward... but they are not visible because they don't have institutional recognition.' - NILMA DO CARMO DE JESUS

MISSIONARY

sharing pastoral responsibilities with priests or even the potential ordination of women deacons.

Those voting on the proposals include bishops, priests, and one religious brother, but no women, though nearly three dozen women were invited to

take part as experts and auditors. Catholic women activists carried a banner that read, "Empowered Women Will Save the Earth, Empowered Women Will Save the Church." **NYT** 

#### **'RULING AFFIRMS HOUSE AUTHORITY'**

# Trump impeachment probe legal, release Mueller papers: Judge

**JAN WOLFE&** SARAHNLYNCH OCTOBER 26

AUS judge on Friday validated the legality of the Democratic-led impeachment inquiry against President Donald Trump and ordered his administration to hand over an unredacted copy of former special counsel Robert Mueller's report detailing Russian meddling in the 2016 election.

US District Judge Beryl Howell, handing a major victory to the Democratic-led House of Representatives, undercut an argument that Trump's fellow Republicans have made in attacking the impeachment inquiry. The judge said the House need not approve a resolution formally initiating the effort.

The US Constitution gives the House wide latitude in handling impeachment. Democrats began the inquiry without putting such a resolution to a vote. The judge gave the Justice Department until next Wednesday to provide the blacked out material from the Mueller report that was subpoenaed by the House Committee.

"The reality is that DOJ and the White House have been openly stonewalling the House's efforts to get information by subpoena and by agreement, and **GIULIANI ACCIDENTALLY CALLS REPORTER** TWICE; SPOKE ABOUT CASH, BIDENS

#### **RUDOLPH GIULIANI**

President Trump's personal lawyer, and a key figure in the impeachment inquiry, managed to inadvertently telephone an *NBC News* reporter and leave a voice message filled with snippets of an overheard conversation

**WE NEED SOME MONEY** In the recording, Giuliani is heard discussing business in Turkey and Bahrain. At one point, he declares: "The problem is we need some money... We need a

few hundred thousand"

the White House has flatly stated that the Administration will not cooperate with congressional requests for information," the judge wrote, using an acronym for the Justice Department. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi

called the ruling "another blow to President Trump's attempt to put himself above the law." "This critical court ruling af-

firms Congress's authority to ex-

pose the truth for the American

**NOT THE FIRST TIME** In an earlier voice mail message left in September, he can be heard railing against the family of

Joseph R Biden Jr,

suggesting with no

evidence that he knows

the former vice president

of corrupt activities by

people," Pelosi said in a statement The Justice Department had argued that the redacted information could not be disclosed because it contained material from grand jury proceedings that was required to be kept secret

"DOJ is wrong," Howell said, adding that the committee's need for disclosure of the materials "is greater than the need for continued secrecy." **REUTERS** 

but the judge strongly disagreed.



Recep Erdogan

### Will clear 'terrorists' from border if deal fails: Erdogan

**REUTERS** ANKARA, OCTOBER 26

PRESIDENT RECEP Tayyip Erdogan said on Saturday that Turkey would "clear terrorists" on its border in northern Syria if Syrian Kurdish militia did not withdraw by the end of a deadline agreed with Russia.

"If the terrorists are not cleared at the end of the 150 hours, we will take control and clean it ourselves," Erdogan said during a televised speech.

Erdogan and Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed a deal in the Black Sea resort of Sochi in which Moscow will "facilitate the removal" of the fighters and their weapons from within 30 km (18 miles) of the border.

Erdogan said Turkey had "to a large extent" reached its goal in terms of setting up a "safe zone" to protect against attacks from the IS extremist group and the Kurdish YPG militia.

#### **REUTERS** MOSCOW, OCTOBER 26

RUSSIA'S DEFENCE ministry on Saturday attacked US plans to maintain and boost the American military presence in eastern Syria as "international state banditry" motivated by a desire to protect oil smugglers and not by real security con-

**US Defense Secretary Mark** Esper said on Friday Washington would send armoured vehicles and troops to the Syrian oil fields in order to prevent them from falling into the hands of Islamic State militants.

His comments came after President Donald Trump earlier this month pulled some 1,000 US military personnel out of northeast Syria, a move that prompted Turkey to launch a cross-border incursion targeting the Kurdish YPG militia, a former

US ally against Islamic State. Trump's decision drew an angry backlash from Congress, including key Republicans who saw the pullout as a betrayal of the Kurds and a move that could

bolster Islamic State. In a statement, Russia's defence ministry said Washington had no mandate under international or US law to increase its military presence in Syria and

#### **HEADED TO SYRIA**

■ The US will send armoured vehicles and troops to eastern Syria to keep oil fields from falling into the hands of IS militants, **Defense Secretary** Mark Esper said

■ Adding armored reinforcements could mean sending several hundred US troops to the region

Sending an armored force to eastern Syria would partially reverse the ongoing shrinkage of the United States' troop presence in Syria.

said its plan was not motivated by genuine security concerns in the region.

"Therefore Washington's current actions — capturing and maintaining military control over oil fields in eastern Svria is, simply put, international state banditry," it said.

US troops and private security companies in eastern Syria are protecting oil smugglers who make more than \$30 million a month, the statement said.

### TECHNOLOGY DOMINATES TOP 10, OVERTAKES INVESTMENTS TO GET THIRD PLACE

involved. **NYT** 

## In China rich list: Jack Ma retains top spot; pork producers jump to top 20

**SOWMIYA ASHOK** 

BEIJING, OCTOBER 26

SELLING 5.8 million pigs in a China riddled by African Swine Fever catapulted a pig farmercouple into the top 20 spot of the 2019 Hurun China Rich List, released in early October.

Qin Yinglin (54) and his wife Qian Ying (53), owners of Shenzhen-listed Muyuan, broke into the higher echelons of the country's rich list when their wealth tripled after selling pigs in a market where pork prices shot up due to an outbreak of swine fever. The list is the ranking of the richest individuals in China with a wealth cut off of

CNY 2 billion (\$290 million).

While 'Hotpot King' Zhang Yong and his wife Shu Ping who own Haidilao, a chain of hotpot restaurants, made it to the top 10, 'Soya Sauce King' Pang Kang saw his wealth grow as well. As many as 1,819 individuals made the wealth cut-off of CNY 2 billion, with an average age of 54. Eleven people born in the 90s made the list, of them two selfmade 27-year-olds: Chen Xiaoliang of online advertiser Duiba and Ge Yuesheng of Bitcoin miner Bitmain.

Over a week after the list was released, a Credit Suisse report revealed that the US (\$3.8 trillion), China (\$1.9 trillion) and Europe (\$1.1 trillion) contributed the

most to global wealth growth. Moreover, China now accounts for 100 million of the richest 10 per cent of people in the world.

Technology dominated the top 10 of the Hurun China Rich List this year. Specifically, the top two spots of the list: former chairman of Alibaba Group Jack Ma remained the richest man on the Chinese mainland with a net worth of \$39 billion according to the list released annually.

He was followed by Chairman and CEO of Tencent Holdings Pony Ma — not related to Jack — with a net worth of \$37 billion.

Though tech overtook investments to assume third place, manufacturing and real estate



Jack Ma retained the top spot with a net worth of \$39 billion

still make up just under 40 per cent of the list. Of the proportion of women on the list, 70 per cent are self-made, according to Hurun Research Institute. The country's richest woman is Yang

Huiyan, 38, scion of property developer Country Garden with \$25 billion.

"You might say that China has 1.4 billion people, and the US only has over 300 million people. Of course, China has more billionaires. But you have to realize that in 1978, the Chinese had nothing. If you count the billionaires on a list like this, it signifies many things," Renmin University Business School Associate Professor Majid Ghorbani told *The Indian Express*.

Ghorbani said that in contrast, many Chinese billionaires are "self-made". "Not only does China has the highest number of self-made billionaires, but also self-made women billion-

aires, which indicates more equal opportunity for women... compared to many other countries." he said.

While the list is seen as a snapshot of China's private sector on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, it is also the first time in 21 years that it has shrunk for two consecutive years.

"While last year could be put down to a 20 per cent drop in the stock exchange, on the back of a slowing economy and the US-China trade, this year - in a year when stock markets have risen slightly - the shrink in the list is due to the impact of the digital economy. Tech entrepreneurs

ditional powerhouses of manufacturing and real estate," Rupert Hoogewerf, Chairman and Chief Researcher of Hurun Report said in a statement. "Wealth is concentrating into the hands of those who are able to adapt to the digital economy." China's capital city of Beijing

are replacing those from the tra-

has the highest concentration of rich listers - 16% of the list while Shenzhen, Shanghai Hangzhou, Guangzhou and Hong Kong followed. Fun fact about rich listers' Chinese star signs: "Those born in the Year of the Rabbit top the list for the eighth consecutive year, followed by dragons. Rats are still the worst performers this year."