

5-year reign of terror ends

Islamic State (IS) leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi left behind a horrific trail of beheadings, mass executions, rapes, abductions and ethnic cleansing in his five years as the self-proclaimed 'caliph'. A look at the somewhat-reclusive jihadist leader and his cult-like status among his followers:

RISE AND FALL OF THE 'CALIPHATE'



June 2014: IS proclaimed its caliphate after seizing Mosul. Baghdadi stood inside the al-Nuri mosque to assert his leadership

2016: It had lost much of its territory on the Syria-Turkey border to Kurdish forces and also Falluja in Iraq



2017: IS lost both its capital Raqqa in Syria and the historic city of Mosul in Iraq, signifying the beginning of its reign's end

March 2019: Five years after the caliphate was declared, the IS was driven out of the last pocket of land it held in Baghuz

He spent his last moments in utter fear, in total panic and dread, terrified of the American forces bearing down on him
DONALD TRUMP, U.S. President on Baghdadi

BAGHDADI'S TRAIL

1971: Born Ibrahim Awad Ibrahim al-Badri. Grows up in a religious family in Jallam; later moves to Samarra

1991: Enrols in the Shariah college of Baghdad University. Later obtains doctorate from Saddam University

2003: Joins Al-Qaeda in Iraq following the U.S.-led invasion, later becomes the leader of Islamic State in Iraq (ISI)

2005: Captured by U.S. forces in the Iraqi city of Fallujah and held at Abu Ghraib and Camp Bucca detention facilities. Released after 10 months

2010: Emerges as leader of Islamic State in Iraq

2011-2013: U.S. places \$10 million bounty on Baghdadi's head after a series of bomb attacks in Iraq

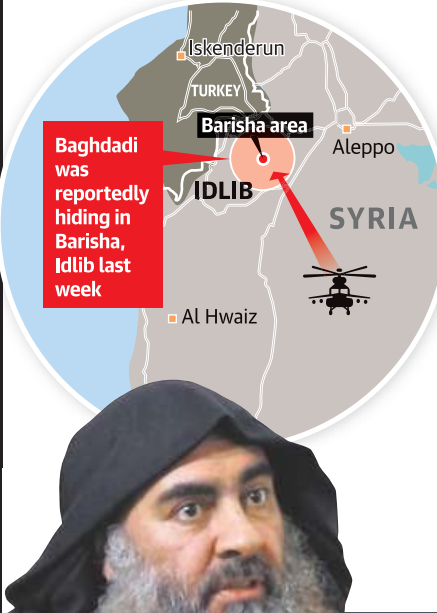
June 2014: Declares himself Caliph

Nov. 3, 2016: Baghdadi cites Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and other countries where the IS has established affiliates

Aug. 23, 2018: Downplays the importance of the group's territorial losses in a recording

April 29, 2019: Baghdadi re-emerges in an 18-minute video, claims that the Easter Sunday attacks in Sri Lanka were acts of revenge for the defeat in Baghuz, Syria

Oct. 27: President Donald Trump claims Baghdadi is dead after a U.S. raid in Idlib



KEY NUMBERS

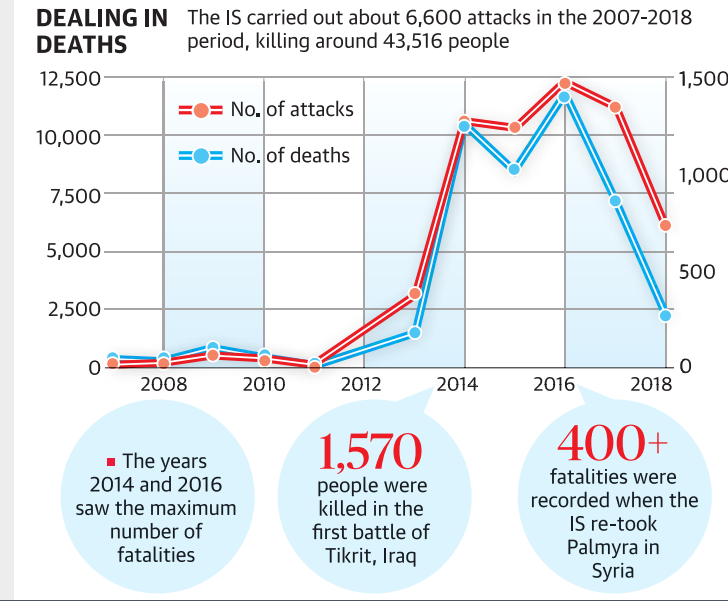
1,00,000 sq km
Territory controlled by the IS when it declared its caliphate in mid-2014

30,000-35,000
Number of foreign fighters once in the group from more than 80 countries

11 million
Number of people once under its occupation

\$1-\$2 million
Oil revenues it earned per day, making it one of the richest terrorist organisations

\$2 billion
Value of assets once in control of the group due to its hold over natural resources, taxation criminal activities



CORNERED AND CRUSHED Here is how the operation to capture and kill Baghdadi unfolded in the last few days:

May 2019: Joint U.S., Turkish and Iraqi operation captures senior IS leaders. Fighters reveal that Baghdadi is present in Idlib

Oct. 24: White House learns there is "high probability" that Baghdadi is at a compound near Idlib's Barisha village

Oct. 25: Military options are given to Trump

Oct. 26, 5 p.m.: Trump enters Situation Room to watch raid in real time. Delta Force commandos in eight helicopters - mostly CH-47 Chinooks - take off from Al-Asad airbase in Iraq

12 midnight: Helicopters arrive at Barisha. U.S. Special Forces attack building

■ Baghdadi flees into network of underground bunkers and tunnels

■ Pursued by U.S. forces and their dogs, Baghdadi ignites suicide vest, killing himself and three children. Tunnel caves in on him

Oct. 27, 1.00 a.m.: Troops dig through debris to recover body parts. Technicians conduct onsite DNA tests and positively identify Baghdadi

■ Troops remain in compound for two hours and recover material about the IS group

3.00 a.m.: Troops leave. U.S. fighter jets fire six rockets at compound, levelling it (left)

Source: Wilson Center, Center for International Security and Cooperation, AP, Graphic News, Global Terrorism Database | GRAPHIC: A. GANESHAN

U.S. could release part of Baghdadi raid video, says Trump

Believed to have aerial footage of operation

REUTERS
WASHINGTON/MOSCOW

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Monday that he may declassify and release part of the video taken on Saturday of the raid in Syria in which Islamic State (IS) leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was killed. The video is believed to include aerial footage and possibly footage from cameras mounted on the soldiers who stormed Baghdadi's compound. "We're thinking about it. We may," Mr. Trump told reporters before flying to Chi-



In the situation room of the White House, U.S. President Donald Trump watched as Special Operations forces closed in on Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. •AFP

cago. "We may take certain parts of it and release it." World leaders welcomed Baghdadi's death, but said the campaign against the Islamic State (IS) was not over, with so-called lone wolves

likely to seek revenge. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov declined to say if the U.S. had told Russia about the operation in advance. But he added: "If this information is confirmed, we

can talk about a serious contribution by the President of the United States to the fight against international terrorism."

'Fight goes on' French President Emmanuel Macron said Baghdadi's death was a major blow against the IS but "the fight continues to finally defeat this terrorist organisation". British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said: "We will work with our coalition partners to bring an end to the murderous, barbaric activities of Daesh (Islamic State) once and for all." In Southeast Asia, an important focus for IS, officials said security forces were preparing for a long battle to

thwart the group's ideology. The Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia, home to some of Asia's most organised Islamist militants, said they were braced for retaliation by Islamic State loyalists, including "lone wolf" attacks by radicalised locals. U.S. foe Iran, which accuses the U.S. and its allies of creating Islamic State, was dismissive. Information Minister Mohammad Javad Azari-Jahromi, tweeted: "Not a big deal, You just killed your creature". The group has claimed responsibility for or inspired attacks in cities including Paris, Nice, Orlando, Manchester, London and Berlin, and in Turkey, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

Who could be the next IS leader?

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BEIRUT

The U.S. declaration of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi's death opens the question of his succession at the helm of the Islamic State (IS) and analysts say the list looks short. It was limited further on Sunday night after Kurdish fighters in Syria said they had killed IS spokesman Abu Hassan al-Muhajir - another prominent figure - in a joint operation with U.S. forces. IS social media channels have not confirmed President Donald Trump's announcement on Sunday that Baghdadi had been killed in a U.S. raid in Syria, nor al-

luded to potential successors. But Hisham al-Hashemi, an Iraqi expert on IS, said two potential candidates stand out: Abu Othman al-Tunsi and Abu Saleh al-Juzrawi, who is also known as Hajj Abdullah. The first - a Tunisian national - heads the IS's Shura Council, a legislative and consultative body, Mr. Hashemi said. The second - a Saudi - runs the jihadist group's so-called Delegated Committee, an executive body, he added. These "possible options" would nonetheless be controversial, according to the IS expert, because neither is

a Syrian or Iraqi national, who make up the bulk of IS's guerrilla force. "This could lead to defections," he said. Aymenn Jawad Tamimi, an academic and expert on jihadists, also identified the elusive Hajj Abdullah as a potential successor. "He turns up in leaked IS documents as a deputy of Baghdadi and to my knowledge, he is not dead," he said. Whoever gets the job will inherit the difficult task of leading a frayed organisation that has been reduced to scattered sleeper cells after continuous offensives stripped it of its territory in Iraq and Syria.

Refrain from giving opinions, Pak. regulator tells TV anchors

'Hosts should not appear as subject matter experts'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's electronic media regulator has barred television anchors from giving "opinions" during talk shows and has limited their role of being a "moderator", a report said on Monday. In an order issued on Sunday, the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) also directed anchors hosting regular shows

"not to appear as experts" in talk shows in their own or other channels, the Dawn newspaper reported. As per the PEMRA code of conduct, the role of anchors is to moderate the programmes in an objective, unbiased and impartial manner, excluding themselves from their personal biases on any issue. "Therefore, anchors hosting exclusive regular shows should not appear in

talk shows, whether own or other channels," as subject matter experts," the report said, citing the order. The order comes following a ruling by the Islamabad High Court last week in the matter of *Shahbaz Sharif vs. the state* that took cognisance of various TV talk shows in which anchors, in violation of the code of conduct, tried to malign the judiciary, the report said.

Third Brexit delay comes with conditions

European Union won't renegotiate divorce agreement, says official

REUTERS
LONDON/BRUSSELS

French President Emmanuel Macron had been the main hurdle to giving Britain a Brexit extension, arguing there had to be a good reason for a delay and that the British needed to break their own political deadlock. But a source close to Mr. Macron said the prospect of an election in Britain had strengthened significantly. The source stressed that the third Brexit delay would come with conditions, in-

cluding a refusal to renegotiate the divorce agreement and giving a green light to other EU countries to meet without Britain to discuss the bloc's future. Britain's departure has already been delayed twice - from March 29 and April 12 - after Mr. Johnson's predecessor, Theresa May, failed three times to get her deal ratified by Parliament. With British politics still paralysed over carrying out Brexit three-and-a-half years after a 52%-48% referendum



A pro-Brexit placard near Parliament in London. •AP

vote in favour of leaving the EU, Mr. Johnson is demanding that Parliament approve an election on December 12 in return for more time to adopt his deal. But he needs

the support of two-thirds, or 434, of the 650 lawmakers for a new election. The EU is fatigued by Britain's Brexit crisis but keen not to be held responsible for an economically tumultuous "no-deal" rupture. An EU diplomat said the hope was that the British would use the postponement wisely. Even though the United Kingdom is set to leave, it will have a legal obligation to nominate a new commissioner for the EU's powerful executive body.

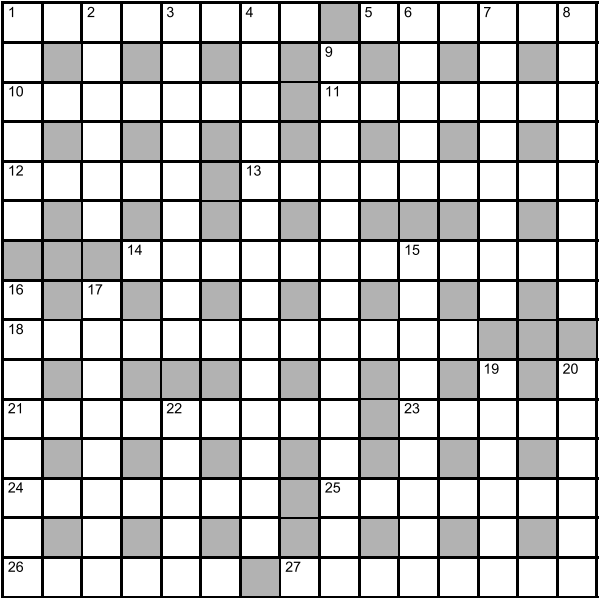
ELSEWHERE



Truck driver remanded over death of 39 migrants
LONDON
A U.K. court on Monday remanded in custody truck driver Maurice Robinson over the deaths of 39 Asian migrants he had been smuggling. Robinson was charged on Saturday with 39 counts of manslaughter, money laundering and conspiracy to assist unlawful immigration. REUTERS

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12766

Log on to www.crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles



To play an interactive version of this crossword online, scan the QR code

ACROSS

- 1 Dogs hide and step back (8)
- 5 Service provided over a palm (6)
- 10 Arrays of exotic carpets (7)
- 11 Beginning now, a side can enter nine times (7)
- 12 30's music is child's play (5)

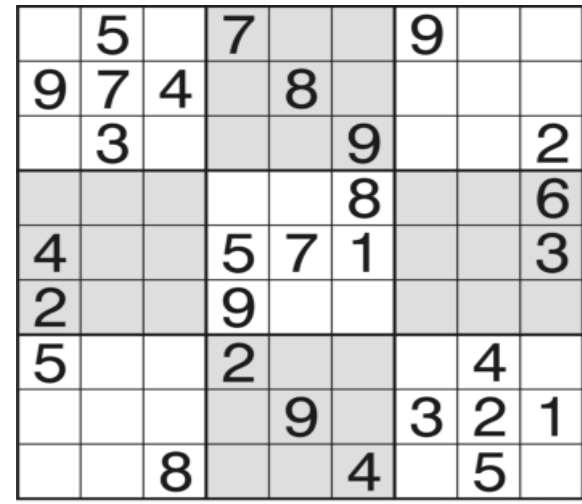
DOWN

- 1 The most learned is checking direction (6)
- 2 "I live" - song came up from part of Europe (6)

(set by Arden)

- 3 Again a top novel from Southern part of Argentina (9)
- 4 Can relent, stand out as being supernatural (14)
- 6 Like to place what you have (5)
- 7 Free to pick a name, sign of nervousness as one's agitated (8)
- 8 Best friend's large toe got crushed (5,3)
- 9 Order single support for a piece on board (6,8)
- 15 Irritating for short distance, will take you far (5,4)
- 16 First murder victim in Spanish island was a Queen (8)
- 17 A ship providing amusement (3-5)
- 19 Strip and have run-in with mob (6)
- 20 Relax with one in tow regularly (6)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12765

V	A	C	I	L	L	A	T	I	N	G	W	O	K
L	A	T	I	N	T	I	P	E	R	A	R	E	
E	A	A	I	A	N	I	N	I	N				
N	A	R	C	I	S	S	U	S	A	N	T	R	E
C	A	T	I	S	D	H	S						
I	N	C	E	N	S	E							
A	T	I					N	S	P				
B	H	S	E	T	E	E	T	E	R				
A	F	O	O	T	P	I	S	T	O	N	R	O	E
R	T	L	O	S	P								
B	E	A	T	I	T	U	D	E	T	W	A	I	N
I	N	F	S	R	E	R	C						
E	L	Y		E	M	E	R	A	L	D	I	S	L

Solution to Sunday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Gita is a sastra

The Gita is more a sastra than a grantha, say the wise. It is spoken by the very Lord Himself, and His promise that one need not doubt His protection if only he surrenders at His feet, has continued to guide countless jivatmas to understand the value of human birth and strive to get liberated, pointed out Sri B. Sundarkumar in a discourse. In one of the dhyana slokas prefaced to the Bhagavad Gita, the Mahabharata is compared to a lotus that has bloomed on the waters of the poesy of Vyasa, the son of Parasara. Its stamens are the narratives that extol the glory of the Lord. The extraordinary fragrance is the message that the Gita propagates, and this can easily drive away the doshas of Kali Yuga. The generations of people who have been studying, debating and discoursing on it are compared to the bee that extracts the honey from it. It is no wonder that the text is treasured by great acharyas, thinkers, philosophers, etc. Adi Sankara hails the Bhagavad Gita as an epitome of the essentials of the whole Vedic teaching. A knowledge of its teaching leads to the realisation of all human aspirations. Under the pretext of relieving Arjuna's delusion, the Lord has explained the nature of the self and of the Supreme Brahman and also the paths of karma, jnana and bhakti, which are the means for attaining the highest spiritual fulfillment. This alone can clear the confusion caused by misplaced ideas about duty and righteousness. Samsara is full of problems. One who is born has to face death and during his lifetime lives in dread of old age, disease, etc. Like the waters of the sacred Ganga that have the power to purify the sins of those who have a dip in it, study of the Gita has the sanctifying power to cleanse one of the dirt of samsara itself.