

TOP OF THE WORLD



Portugal's Prime Minister Antonio Costa in Lisbon on Monday. *Reuters*

PORTUGAL

Ruling Socialists win election but fall short of outright majority

Lisbon: Portugal's ruling Socialists won Sunday's parliamentary election but fell short of an outright majority, meaning Prime Minister Antonio Costa will need to negotiate a new deal with one or both of his far-left allies in the previous legislature. A few weeks ago, opinion polls showed that Costa, with ratings boosted by a strong economy, was within reach of a full majority. But the gap narrowed, leaving his Socialist party (PS) stronger than in the 2015 election but still needing allies.

ITALY

At least nine die as migrant boat sinks off Sicily

Palermo: At least nine people died when a boat carrying dozens of migrants sank off the coast of the island of Lampedusa, south of Sicily, Italy's coastguard said on Monday. The coastguard said rescue vessels had picked up 22 people, and search operations for other survivors were underway after an alert was received late on Sunday night that a boat carrying some 50 people was in difficulty. The UN migration agency said the boat had set sail from Tunisia and had been carrying Tunisian and west African migrants.

NUCLEAR TALKS N Korea: New talks depend US approach

Beijing: North Korea's chief nuclear negotiator said Washington must alter its approach if more talks are to occur between the sides, after weekend discussions broke down. Kim Myong Gil made the remarks Monday at Beijing's airport on his way back to North Korea following talks with his US counterpart, Stephen Biegun, Saturday in Sweden. Kim said, "Whether or not there are further talks will depend on the US."

MbS snubbed Imran, recalled his private jet from US: Pak newspaper

'Saudi Crown Prince upset by Pak PM's actions in New York'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD, OCTOBER 7

SAUDI CROWN Prince Mohammad bin Salman was so upset by some actions of Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan in New York that he reportedly "snubbed" him by ordering his private jet to deboard the Pakistani delegation, according to a Pakistani newspaper.

Salman, also known as MbS, gave Khan his private jet to travel to the US on a week-long visit and to attend the 74th session of the UN General Assembly in New York last month. Khan went to Riyadh and held talks with the Crown Prince first before leaving for the US.

It was reported that the special jet developed a "technical glitch" as Khan was returning to Islamabad from New York on September 28, forcing the PM and his delegation to return to New York and then take a commercial flight back to Pakistan.

However, according to a report



Prince Salman had given Imran Khan his private jet to travel to the US to attend a UNGA session in New York last month. *Reuters*

in weekly newspaper *The Friday Times*, the Crown Prince recalled the plane as he was unhappy with some of Khan's actions.

"Inexplicably, the Saudi Crown Prince, Mohammad bin Salman, was so alienated by some dimensions of the Pakistani prime minister's diplomacy in New York — he couldn't have been happy at the prospect of Imran Khan, Recip Tayyip Erdogan and Mahathir

Mohammad planning to jointly represent the Islamic bloc, nor with Pakistan's interlocation with Iran without his explicit approval — that he visibly snubbed Imran by ordering his private jet to disembowel the Pakistani delegation," says the editorial written by veteran journalist Najam Sethi.

Pakistan dismissed as "utter fabrication" the report published in the newspaper.

MINISTER: PAKISTAN TO ENGAGE CHINA ON CPEC PROJECTS DURING KHAN'S VISIT

Islamabad: Pakistan will engage China at the highest level for talks on several big projects in the fields of hydropower, oil refinery and steel mills as part of the \$60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) during Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to the country, a senior minister has said. Khan will arrive in Beijing on Tuesday on a two-day visit to China, during which he will meet President Xi Jinping. Pakistan's Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms, Makhdum Khusró Bakhtyar, said Pakistan would start formal negotiations on additional CPEC projects, including a major overland LNG terminal, 7,000-megawatt Bunji hydropower project, Pakistan Steel Mills, oil refineries as well as joint ventures in businesses and technology, *Dawn* reported. **PTI**

IMRAN TO U.S. SENATORS: NO TALKS WITH INDIA UNTIL SITUATION IN KASHMIR CHANGES

Islamabad: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan told a visiting US Congressional delegation on Monday that talks with India were out of the question in view of the situation in Kashmir after India revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status. Khan held a meeting with US senators Chris Van Hollen and Maggi Hassan, who had visited Pakistan-occupied Kashmir on Sunday, *Geo News* reported. Khan said he was the biggest supporter of Pakistan-India talks, but stressed that it would be impossible until the situation, according to him, changes for the better in Kashmir. **PTI**

Judge orders Trump to produce his tax returns; ruling on hold after appeal

LARRY NEUMEISTER
NEW YORK, OCTOBER 7

A US federal judge Monday emphatically rejected President Donald Trump's challenge to the release of his tax returns to New York prosecutors, saying the president's broad claim of immunity from all criminal investigations is at odds with the Constitution. But an appeals court blocked any handover of the records for now.

At issue is a request from Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R Vance Jr that Trump's accounting firm turn over eight years' worth of his business and personal tax returns for an investigation into the payment of hush money to two women who claimed to have had affairs with the president.

US District Judge Victor Marrero turned down Trump's attempt to keep the records under wraps. The President's



lawyers immediately appealed to the 2nd US Circuit Court of Appeals, which granted a stay of the judge's ruling pending an expedited review.

"The Radical Left Democrats have failed on all fronts," Trump fumed on Twitter, "so now they are pushing local New York City and State Democrat prosecutors to go get President Trump. A thing like this has never happened to any President before. Not even close!"

The criminal investigation in New York is unfolding with Trump already under siege on Capitol Hill from a fast-moving impeachment drive set off by his attempts to get Ukraine's leader to investigate his political rival Joe Biden. **AP**



CLIMATE PROTESTERS BLOCK ROADS AROUND WORLD

Activists practice yoga at Westminster Bridge during the Extinction Rebellion protest in London on Monday. *Reuters*

■ Thousands of climate-change protesters took to the streets in cities around the world on Monday, launching two weeks of peaceful civil disobedience to demand immediate action to cut carbon emissions.

■ In London, 217 activists from the Extinction Rebellion group were arrested as they blocked bridges and roads in the city centre, while protesters in Berlin halted traffic at the Victory Column roundabout.

■ Dutch police stepped in to arrest more than 100 climate activists blocking a street in front of the country's national museum and there were similar protests in Austria, Australia, France, Spain and New Zealand.

US to step aside for Turkish assault on Kurds in Syria

Republican leaders join chorus of criticism; Trump defends move, says time to end 'ridiculous war'

ZEKE MILLER, LOLITA C BALDOR, ROBERT BURNS & JILL COLVIN
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 7

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump's sudden decision to pull back US troops from northern Syria drew quick, strong criticism Monday from some of his closest allies in Congress. It was condemned, too, by Kurdish fighters who would be abandoned to face a likely Turkish assault after fighting alongside Americans for years against the Islamic State.

EXPLAINED Move raises questions on fate of US's Kurdish allies, their IS prisoners

THE SYRIAN Democratic Forces (SDF), a coalition of militias led by Kurdish fighters, have been one of America's closest allies in the fight against the IS in Syria. However, Ankara considers the SDF closely aligned to militants who have fought a years-long insurgency in Turkey. The SDF consider the US move to step aside for a Turkish attack on them as a betrayal of their alliance. The SDF are also responsible for many jailed IS fighters, and there are fears of a potential IS revival if the SDF are wiped out by Turkish forces.

The announcement threw the military situation in Syria into fresh chaos and injected deeper uncertainty into US relations with European allies. Republican Senator Lindsey Graham called it "a disaster", while Syria's Kurds accused the US of turning its back on allies and risking gains made in the yearslong fight against ISIS.

Trump defended his decision, acknowledging in tweets that "the Kurds fought with us" but adding that they "were paid massive amounts of money and equipment to do so". "I held off this fight for almost 3 years, but it

is time for us to get out of these ridiculous Endless Wars, many of them tribal, and bring our soldiers home," he wrote.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has threatened for months to launch a military operation across the Syrian border. He views the Kurdish forces as a threat to his country.

Nikki Haley, who served as US ambassador to the United Nations, said the US "must always have the backs of our allies, if we expect them to have our back... Leaving them to die is a big mistake." **AP**

FBI: Most prolific serial killer in US murdered at least 50

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 7

A 79-YEAR-OLD man murdered at least 50 people, making him the most prolific serial killer in US history, the FBI said Sunday.

Samuel Little confessed to 93 killings — mostly of women — between 1970 and 2005, the FBI said.

Although investigators have only confirmed his involvement in 50 of them, they believe all of Little's confessions are credible.

The FBI has set up a website showing his videotaped recollections of unidentified killings, alongside sketches — drawn by Little — of the people he claims to have murdered.

"Many of his victims' deaths, however, were originally ruled overdoses or attributed to accidental or undetermined causes. Some bodies were never found," the FBI wrote on the website.

He was jailed for life in 2014 after being convicted of three murders. "For many years, Samuel Little believed he would not be caught because he thought no one was accounting for his victims," FBI analyst Christie Palazzolo said.

WESTERN CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS HAVE OFTEN BEEN BENEFICIARIES OF RICH RUSSIANS

Oligarchs, as patrons of art, present a softer image of Russia to West

GRAHAM BOWLEY
OCTOBER 7

VLADIMIR POTANIN, a Russian billionaire who made his fortune in banking and natural resources, has been a donor and board member of the Guggenheim Museum since 2002. More recently he gave \$6.45 million to the Kennedy Center in Washington, which used some of the money to install the "Russian Lounge," a meeting space, in the performing arts complex created, in part, by Congress. His name is now inscribed on a wall there.

At the New Museum in

Manhattan, another wealthy oligarch, Leonid Mikhelson, helped underwrite a 2011 exhibition through his foundation, which is dedicated to the appreciation of Russian contemporary art. Two years later, the museum named him a trustee, a position he held until last year — three years after the company he directs was placed under sanctions by the US government.

Fort Ross, a California state historic park that commemorates a 19th-century Russian settlement in Sonoma County, was struggling in 2010 when Viktor Vekselberg, another oligarch, stepped in to help financially. His

foundation continued as a patron until last year, when sanctions were imposed on him and his company, and the Justice Department told the park's caretakers to stop taking his money.

Since the fall of the Soviet Union, rich Russians have emerged as influential patrons of the arts, and Western cultural organisations have often been the beneficiaries. Carnegie Hall, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Brooklyn Academy of Music and Lincoln Center are among those who have received gifts from moneyed Russians or the companies they control over the



Members of the Bolshoi Ballet at a performance in Washington that was sponsored by a Russian bank under sanctions. *NYT*

past decade.

Though wealthy patrons have long used the arts to ad-

vance their individual tastes and social standing, much of the Russian giving is different. While

oligarchs also promote their personal preferences and support a wide range of cultural activities, they often employ philanthropy to celebrate their homeland, depicting it as an enlightened well-spring of masterworks in dance, painting, opera and the like.

These patrons have been quite public in their philanthropy, and there is little evidence that their donations have been directed or coordinated by Moscow. But they all enjoy good relations with the Kremlin — a prerequisite to flourish in business in Russia — and their giving fits seamlessly with President Vladimir Putin's expanding efforts to use the "soft

power" of cultural diplomacy as a tool of foreign policy.

The effect, however cultivated, helps burnish the image of a nation whose aggression in Ukraine and election meddling have led it to be viewed by many as a hostile power.

"When Western publics think about Russia, Putin wants them to think about Pushkin, Tolstoy, Tchaikovsky," said Andrew Foxall, a Russia expert at the Henry Jackson Society in London. "What he does not want Western publics to think about is the actions of his regime that goes to war with its near neighbours."

Russian giving, and strained

relations between the countries, created something of a minefield for US cultural organisations, many of which depend on philanthropic support and embrace shared aesthetic experiences as opportunities for bridge-building. It presents them with an ethical challenge: Are they putting themselves at risk, however unwittingly, of helping promote a one-sided view of a country that the United States is officially sparing with?

Experts said accepting such donations runs counter to the spirit of US policy designed to isolate some Russian interests. **NYT**