

# 7 THE WORLD



## JAPAN IMPERIAL COUPLE IN ENTHRONEMENT PARADE

Japan's Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako waved and smiled from an open car in a parade Sunday marking Naruhito's enthronement as more than 100,000 delighted well-wishers cheered, waved small flags and took photos from packed sidewalks. Naruhito succeeded his father, Akihito, on May 1 following his abdication.

### TOP OF THE WORLD



Amazon had said Allen breached a deal by making insensitive remarks about the #MeToo movement.

### USA Woody Allen and Amazon end legal battle

New York: Woody Allen and Amazon.com have ended their legal battle. The filmmaker had sued Amazon in February after the online giant ended his 2017 contract without ever releasing a completed film, *A Rainy Day in New York*. Amazon had responded that Allen, whose daughter Dylan has accused him of molesting her when she was a girl, breached the 4-movie deal by making insensitive remarks about the #MeToo movement. Allen has repeatedly the allegations made by his daughter. In papers filed Friday in US District Court, Allen and Amazon agreed that the case should be dismissed without prejudice. Terms were not disclosed.

## RELIEF FOR INDIANS WHO ARE BIGGEST BENEFICIARIES OF OBAMA-ERA RULE

# US court refuses to strike down work permits for spouses of H-1B holders

Trump administration has said it wants to revoke rule that it claims has adverse effect on US workers

LALIT K JHA  
WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 10

IN A temporary relief to thousands of Indians living in America, a US court has refused to strike down, for the time being, an Obama-era rule that allowed spouses of H-1B visa holders to work in America.

The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows the US companies to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations.

A 2015 rule issued by US President Donald Trump's predecessor Barack Obama allowed work permits for certain categories of H-4 visa holders, primarily spouses of those having H-1B work visas waiting for their Green Card, to work in the US.

Indians were the greatest beneficiary of this rule, which



A 2015 rule allowed work permits for certain categories of H-4 visa holders, primarily spouses of those having H-1B work visas waiting for their Green Card, to work in the US

has been challenged by several American workers with the current Trump administration supporting their cause, saying that it wants to rescind the rule.

A three-judge bench of the

Courts of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit on Friday sent the case back to a lower court noting that it is "best to remand" to give the district court an opportunity to thoroughly assess and fi-

nally determine the merits in the first instance. "Accordingly, we reverse the district court's grant of summary judgment and remand for further proceedings consistent with this opinion," the federal court said in its order on the lawsuit filed by Saves Jobs USA.

Saves Jobs USA comprises of American workers who claim that they have been laid off due to the policy of the Obama administration to provide work permits to H-4 visa holders.

By making H-4 visa holders eligible for lawful employment, the Department of Homeland Security, which oversees immigration, sought to "ameliorate certain disincentives that currently lead H-1B non-immigrants to abandon efforts to remain in the US while seeking (lawful permanent resident) status, thereby, minimising interrup-

tions to US businesses employing such workers", the court said.

It noted that the government has explained that H-1B non-immigrants and their families often face long delays in the process of obtaining permanent residence, and H-4 visa holders' inability to work during these delays leads to "personal and economic hardships" that worsen over time, "increasing the disincentives for H-1B nonimmigrants to pursue lawful permanent resident status and thus increasing the difficulties that US employers have in retaining highly educated and highly skilled non-immigrant workers".

The judges also observed that the rule will cause more H-1B visa holders to remain in the US than otherwise would — an effect that is distinct from that of the H-1B visa holders' initial admission to the country. PTI



A house damaged during Cyclone Bulbul in Khulna, Bangladesh, on Sunday. Reuters

## 10 killed as Cyclone Bulbul wreaks havoc in Bangladesh

ANISUR RAHMAN  
DHAKA, NOVEMBER 10

AT LEAST 10 people were killed as Cyclone Bulbul smashed into the low-lying areas of Bangladesh on Sunday, bringing in its wake torrential rains coupled with howling gales.

The cyclone packed winds of up to 120 kilometres per hour when it made a predawn landfall before weakening into a deep depression, forcing the authorities to evacuate over 21 lakh people from the low-lying areas.

Private TV channels quoting unofficial sources said the Cyclone Bulbul claimed 10 lives. However, the Disaster Management Ministry confirmed only eight deaths.

"Eight people were killed as the cyclone hit our coastlines — most being victims of collapse of houses and tree fall in six of the (southwestern) coastal districts," Disaster Management Ministry Secretary Shah Kamal told PTI.

The cyclone has also damaged hundreds of houses, the officials said.

The authorities have ordered a temporary ban on boat and ferry movements in internal riverine routes and coastal waters, besides closing air traffic operations near coastal airports for nearly 24 hours.

The health directorate's Health Emergency Operation Centre and Control Room confirmed the death of eight people on Sunday, bdnews24.com reported.

Two people died after being crushed by trees upended during the storm in Khulna's Dighalia and

### PROMPT EVACUATIONS SAVED LIVES: OFFICIALS

■ Around 21 lakh people from all of Bangladesh's 13 coastal districts huddled in about 5,558 shelters on Saturday night.

■ Outside, wind speeds rose to between 100 and 120 km per hour and some low-lying coastal areas were flooded.

■ Prompt evacuations saved many lives and the worst was over, officials said on Sunday.

■ Wind speeds have now come down to between 70 and 80 kph, authorities said.

Dacope Upazilas, while an elderly man died after a tree fell on his house in Patuakhali, the health officials said.

In similar incidents, a woman died after her house was rattled by strong winds in Madaripur Sadar Upazila, while an elderly woman died under a fallen tree in Barishal in the municipal town of Uzirpur, the report said, quoting a senior government official.

An elderly woman died after falling sick in Barguna Sadar Upazila and a man died when a tree toppled by strong wind gusts landed on his house in Pirojpur's Nazirpur Upazila, the report said.

At least 15 people were injured in four coastal districts. PTI

### Pressure mounts on Polanski over new rape charge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
PARIS, NOVEMBER 10

OSCAR-WINNING DIRECTOR Roman Polanski faced mounting pressure Sunday after threatening to sue over claims by a former actress that he violently raped her in the 1970s, the latest in a string of sexual assault accusations against him.

The 86-year-old filmmaker rejected the allegation, but few from the world of French cinema have come out in support of Polanski, who fled to France in 1978 after admitting to raping a 13-year-old girl at the Los Angeles home of Jack Nicholson.

Jean Dujardin, the star of Polanski's latest film, which comes out in France on Wednesday, has abruptly cancelled a prime-time TV interview set for Sunday. And the French artists' guild ARP could meet soon to discuss his exclusion, its vice president said.

Valentine Monnier, a photographer and former actress, accused Polanski of an "extremely violent" assault and rape at his chalet in the Swiss resort of Gstaad in 1975, when she was 18.

## Iran's Rouhani announces discovery of massive oil field

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
TEHRAN, NOVEMBER 10

IRAN HAS discovered a massive new oil field, President Hassan Rouhani said Sunday, a find that would boost its proven reserves by about a third in a rare piece of "good news" for an economy battered by US sanctions.

In a speech aired on state TV, Rouhani said the country's economy had stabilised despite punishing US measures against its



Protesters in La Paz, Bolivia, on Saturday. Reuters

## Facing massive protests, Bolivia's President promises new election

ANATOLY KURMANAEV & MONICA MACHICAO  
NOVEMBER 10

FACED WITH unrelenting protests over the results of disputed elections in which he claimed victory, President Evo Morales of Bolivia announced on Sunday that he would call new elections.

The announcement came hours after the Organisation of American States released a preliminary report of its audit of the Oct 20 vote. The group, whose charter promotes democracy among member organisations in

the Western Hemisphere, said that it would not certify Morales's victory and that the results should be annulled because of widespread irregularities. The company that provided vote-counting machines for the election had also disavowed the results.

Speaking in a televised address on Sunday, Morales, Bolivia's first Indigenous leader, called for peace and said he would replace the Electoral Tribunal before holding a new vote in the South American country. He did not specify a date for the repeat election. The tribunal has been criticised as too loyal to Morales. NYT

### EXPLAINED Bolivian crisis: A referendum ignored, an election disputed

EVO MORALES became Bolivia's first Indigenous president in 2006. Though he presided over a steady period of growth, he lost a referendum in 2016 in which voters refused to allow him to run for a fourth term, and put a two-term limit for presidents. Anger grew when he moved court against the term limit, and a Supreme Court packed with his allies ruled that the restriction was a violation of his human rights. After the presidential election in October this year, with more than 80% of the votes counted and Morales and his opponent looking set to go into a second round, counting was stopped. 24 hours later, it was revealed that Morales won an outright victory. The ongoing protests were triggered by this disputed result.



President Hassan Rouhani delivers a speech in Yazd, Iran. Reuters

senior leaders, banking and finance sectors.

The vast field in the southwestern province of Khuzestan holds an estimated 53 billion barrels of crude, he said.

The 80-metre deep reservoir stretches nearly 200 kilometres from Khuzestan's border with Iraq to the city of Omiidiyeh.

"This is a small gift by the government to the people of Iran," he said in a speech from the central city of Yazd. "We announce to America to-

day that we are a rich nation, and despite your enmity and cruel sanctions, Iranian oil industry workers and engineers discovered this great oil field." The find would add around 34 per cent to the OPEC member's current proven reserves, estimated by energy giant BP at 155.6 billion barrels.

Iran sits on what were already the world's fourth-biggest oil reserves. The new reserves, if proven, would lift it to third place, just before regional arch-rival Saudi Arabia.

## DISCUSSION OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN LIMITED TO A FEW EDGY TV SHOWS

# Triggered by video implicating MP, Tunisia's #MeToo breaks taboos

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
TUNIS, NOVEMBER 10

VIRAL IMAGES of a Tunisian lawmaker allegedly masturbating outside a high school have sparked the country's own #MeToo moment, with sex abuse victims breaking taboos under the hashtag #EnaZeda.

Discussion of sexual harassment had previously been limited to a few edgy TV shows, but now, thousands of women in the

North African nation are sharing their experiences from lecherous remarks to paedophilia.

A video showing the moustachioed politician sitting in a car with his trousers dropped to his knees was shot last month by a student who shared it online alongside accusations of harassment.

The newly elected lawmaker denies inappropriate conduct and has said he was urinating due to a medical condition — even threatening his accuser

when pursued by prosecutors.

#EnaZeda — Tunisian Arabic for #MeToo — was inspired by the huge global movement that bloomed in 2017 in the wake of sexual assault allegations by multiple women against Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein.

It has given some in Tunisia the confidence to confront their harassers face-to-face.

"Tonight, I have cried all the tears from my body. Tonight, I was harassed and nobody took the trouble to react," wrote one



#EnaZeda — Tunisian Arabic for #MeToo — was inspired by the global movement that bloomed in 2017

Internet user, Lina Kaboudi.

But "unlike all the other nights, I dared to respond to the perpetrator. I did not keep walking, pretending I had not heard. I stopped, and I held him to account".

Tunisia is considered a pioneer on women's rights in the Arab world and was the first predominantly Muslim country to abolish polygamy in 1956. But the taboo on confronting sexual misconduct remains strong, especially within the family.

It is rare for victims to pursue

formal complaints, despite sexual harassment in public places being punishable by a one-year prison term and a fine of 3,000 dinar (around Rs 75,000) since July 2017.

To catalogue the avalanche of testimony, Tunisian activists have set up private Facebook groups including one simply named #EnaZeda, which has more than 20,000 members.

Poignant accounts, some anonymous, are shared daily in the group — ranging from rape

and incest to inappropriate behaviour by teachers or celebrities and molestation on public transport.

Activists say they have been surprised by the volume and variety of the stories, and NGO Aswat Nissa (Voice of Women) says it has collected more than 70,000 testimonies.

"At first, we created a group to defend the young girl who filmed the lawmaker, because she had suffered a lot of criticism and pressure," said Myriam Bouattour, who heads Aswat Nissa.

"Then women, and sometimes men too, shared their stories, so now we are trying to organise workshops with psychologists."

Bouattour said she has received messages from parents who have "broken the family taboo by talking about sexual harassment with their children, after reading testimonies about paedophilia".

Traditional attitudes and apathy among some in power mean the nascent #EnaZeda initiative faces an uphill battle.