

# 17 THE WORLD

**TOPOF THE WORLD**



Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis

**BRITAIN**  
**UK chief rabbi suggests Corbyn unfit for office**

London: Britain's most senior rabbi on Tuesday suggested Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn's handling of anti-Semitism allegations made him "unfit for high office", in an unprecedented intervention ahead of next month's election. Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis said "gripped by anxiety" before the December 12 poll. In a comment piece in *The Times*, Mirvis described Corbyn's claim to have dealt forcefully with all accusations of anti-Semitism as "mendacious fiction" and that he was responsible for "a failure of leadership".

**MALI**  
**13 French soldiers killed in copter collision**

Paris: A midair collision between two helicopters has killed 13 French soldiers fighting against extremists in Mali, French President Emmanuel Macron said Tuesday. Macron expressed "deep sadness" at the news of the Monday evening crash, which took place during a combat operation. French defence minister Florence Parly said an investigation has been opened to determine the exact circumstances of the accident. The operation in West and Central Africa involves 4,500 personnel and is France's largest overseas military mission.

**MALAYSIA**  
**Australian grandmother wins drugs death sentence appeal**

Putrajaya: An Australian grandmother won her final appeal against a death sentence for trafficking in Malaysia and walked free, after claiming she fell for an online love scam and was tricked into transporting drugs. The ruling brings down the curtain on a saga that began in 2014 when Maria Elvira Pinto Exposto was arrested with crystal meth in her backpack while transiting in Kuala Lumpur. The 55-year-old, who was detained while heading home to Australia, had said she was tricked into carrying the bag after travelling to China to see someone she met online called "Captain Daniel Smith", who claimed to be a US serviceman.

## Pak SC suspends Imran's move to extend Army Chief's tenure by 3 yrs

Entire process was upside down, says Chief Justice; govt revokes notification to extend Bajwa's services

**SAJJAD HUSSAIN**  
ISLAMABAD, NOVEMBER 26

Pakistan's Supreme Court on Tuesday suspended the three-year extension given to the powerful Army Chief, General Qamar Javed Bajwa, till Wednesday and said the entire process was "upside down", in an embarrassment to Prime Minister Imran Khan who cited "regional security environment" for his decision to grant the top general another term in office.

The unprecedented move by the apex court to suspend Khan's decision on August 19 could raise the tension between the judiciary and the Pakistani Army. It also came just three days ahead of 59-year-old Bajwa's retirement on November 29 as the Chief of the Army Staff in his first stint.

"The entire process was upside down. First, the Cabinet should have given the approval, then the Prime Minister and President should have been advised," Geo News quoted Chief Justice Asif Saeed Khosa as saying.

Reacting to the development, Khan chaired an emergency Cabinet meeting and took back the notification to extend services of Bajwa.



When General Qamar Javed Bajwa was appointed Pakistan's Army Chief by former PM Nawaz Sharif, he superseded three other generals. Reuters

Minister for Education Shafiqat Mahmood told journalists that the Cabinet took back the earlier notification and also took measures to address the concerns of the apex court.

He said the Cabinet also changed the Pakistan Defence Services Rules and added word "extension" as pointed out by the Supreme Court.

"A summary was sent to the

President to issue a fresh notification after approval by the Cabinet," the minister said.

Pakistan's Law Minister Farogh Naseem also resigned on Tuesday to represent the government in the case regarding Bajwa's extension in the Supreme Court.

The petition against Bajwa's extension was filed by a person named Raiz Rahi, who later filed an application to withdraw it.

However, the Chief Justice rejected his withdrawal bid and took up the petition as a public interest litigation under Article 184, Pakistani media reported.

During the hearing, the Chief Justice said the government notification on August 19 mentioned an "extension" while the notification issued by the Prime Minister's Office says the Army Chief has been "reappointed".

"As per rules, there is no authority of extending Army Chief's tenure or his reappointment. The government can only suspend his retirement and the Army Chief has not retired yet," Justice Khosa said.

The Chief Justice adjourned the hearing until Wednesday.

Pakistan's powerful Army, which has ruled the country for more than half of its existence, has wielded considerable power in deciding matters concerning security and foreign policies.

On August 19, Khan approved a three-year extension to the Bajwa's tenure, citing "regional security environment".

Ties between India and Pakistan worsened following India's decision on August 5 to revoke Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370. PTI

**MEANWHILE**

### TRUMP HONOURS DOG IN BAGHDADI RAID

US President Donald Trump lavished praise on Conan, the military service dog who helped in the raid that led to the death of ISIS chief Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. The Belgian Malinois dog was injured in the mission. It made an appearance Monday at the White House along with Trump, who said he had given Conan a plaque and called the dog "so brilliant, so smart".



## Tamil signboards in Sri Lanka defaced to stall Gotabaya's India visit: Mahinda

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
COLOMBO, NOVEMBER 26

SRI LANKAN Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa has ordered a probe into the defacing of Tamil-language street signboards, asserting that the "heinous move" was aimed at disrupting the November 29 India visit of his brother and the country's President, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, according to a report.

The Prime Minister instructed the officials on Monday to put up the Tamil signboards again and called for the immediate arrest of those involved in the acts of vandalism.

Mahinda Rajapaksa told some of his confidantes that he believed the recent complaints of defacement of Tamil-language street signboards was done by a group of people who wanted to disrupt Gotabaya Rajapaksa's upcoming visit to India, *The Daily Mirror* reported.

The Prime Minister instructed senior police officials that the matter be probed immediately and those responsible for these acts be arrested, it said.

The "heinous move" was aimed at creating a rift between the Tamil community and the in-



The Rajapaksa brothers returned to power with the recent elections in Sri Lanka, as Gotabaya was elected President and Mahinda became Prime Minister

terim government and to strain the Sri Lanka-India ties, the Prime Minister reportedly said.

Officials from the Police Media Division said that following the Prime Minister's orders, all senior police officers had been informed to remain vigilant in areas where the defacement took place.

Officers have been instructed to scrutinise CCTV footage and identify all those responsible. No arrests have been made, so far.

On the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Gotabaya Rajapaksa will visit India on November 29. This will be his first official visit after being elected to the office of the President this month.

## US-Indian student sexually assaulted, killed in Chicago

**LALIT K JHA**  
WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 26

A 19-YEAR-OLD Indian-American student was sexually assaulted and then strangled to death in Chicago, police said.

Ruth George, originally from Hyderabad and an honours student at the University of Illinois, was found dead in the back seat of a family-owned vehicle in a campus garage on Saturday.

The suspected assailant, Donald Thurman, 26, was arrested Sunday from a Chicago metro station. He is not associated with the university. On Monday, he was formally charged with first-degree murder and aggravated sexual assault.

The medical examiner ruled George's death a homicide by strangulation.

According to the university, George was a sophomore, and a kinesiology major.

The university said in a

statement that George's family reported to the University Police on Saturday that she had not been heard from since Friday evening.

Her phone was "pinged" to the Halsted Street Parking Garage, and police and family members responded to find George unresponsive in the back seat of a vehicle owned by her family.

According to the university, police retrieved video footage from existing university cameras of the offender who was seen walking behind George on Saturday.

She entered the garage on foot at approximately 1.35 am, followed by the offender. The offender is seen again on video footage at 2.10 am walking on Halsted Street.

Thurman, who has a criminal history, was arrested on Sunday near the Blue line train station at Halsted and Harrison streets. He was taken into custody and reportedly gave a full confession to the crime. PTI

## POWERFUL QUAKE KILLS AT LEAST 16 IN ALBANIA



Emergency personnel work near a damaged building in Thumane, Albania, on Tuesday. Reuters

■ At least 16 people were killed when the most powerful earthquake to strike Albania in decades shook the capital Tirana and the country's west and north on Tuesday, tearing down buildings and burying residents under rubble.

■ After the 6.4 magnitude tremor struck shortly before 4 am (local time), the Balkan country was jolted by 100 aftershocks after the big tremor, two of them of magnitude 5, testing already strained nerves.

■ The quake was centred 30 km west of Tirana, the US Geological Survey said, and was also felt across the Balkans and in the southern Italian region of Puglia.

■ Albania is the poorest country in Europe, with an average income of less than a third of the EU average, according to Eurostat data.

## Malta PM's chief of staff quits over journalist murder case

Valletta: Maltese Prime Minister Joseph Muscat said Tuesday his chief of staff had resigned amid an ongoing probe into the murder of investigative reporter Daphne Caruana Galizia.

Sources said the chief of staff, Keith Schembri, "was called in for questioning by police" on Tuesday after his name was mentioned by the main suspect in the case, Yorgen Fenech, who was arrested last week.

Galizia, a popular journalist, was killed in a car bomb in October 2017 after exposing corruption. Galizia's family has accused Muscat of protecting those involved.

Leaked emails related to the Panama Papers data leak appeared to show that companies owned by Schembri and former energy minister Konrad Mizzi — currently the tourism minister — stood to receive payments from a Dubai company owned by mogul Fenech, 17 Black.

Galizia had written in her blog about 17 Black some eight months before her death. PTI

**IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY**

## Court orders former Trump official to testify

**CHARLIE SAVAGE**  
WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 26

FORMER WHITE House counsel Donald McGahn must testify before House impeachment investigators about President Donald Trump's efforts to obstruct the Mueller inquiry, a judge ruled Monday, saying that senior presidential aides must comply with congressional subpoenas and calling the administration's arguments to the contrary "fiction".

The 120-page decision by Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson of the US District Court for the District of Columbia handed an-

**EXPLAINED**  
**Ruling has big implications for impeachment probe**

THE COURT ruling that former White House lawyer Donald McGahn must comply with the congressional subpoena could offer the Democrats a big boost in their impeachment inquiry. The ruling states that no former or current administration official can claim immunity from complying with a summons from Congress. The Trump administration has claimed that its officials did not have to testify even if subpoenaed. The ruling will be appealed, but if it is upheld, it could lead to testimony by key witnesses such as former NSA John Bolton and other high-ranking officials.

other lower-court victory to House Democrats in their fight to overcome Trump's stonewalling.

"Presidents are not kings," wrote Jackson, adding that current and former White House of-

ficials owe their allegiance to the Constitution. "They do not have subjects, bound by loyalty or blood, whose destiny they are entitled to control."

The Justice Department, which is representing McGahn in the lawsuit, will appeal, a spokeswoman said.

John Bolton, Trump's former national security adviser, has let it be known that he has significant information about the Ukraine affair at the heart of the impeachment inquiry but is uncertain whether any congressional subpoena for his testimony would be constitutionally valid. He wants a judge to decide. NYT

## Nepal PM Oli hospitalised, put on ventilator; condition 'stable'

**YUBARAJ GHIMIRE**  
KATHMANDU, NOVEMBER 26

Nepal Prime Minister K P Oli, who has been on regular dialysis for the past five weeks, has been admitted to a hospital and put on ventilator after his appendix was removed.

A bulletin issued by the hospital said he had a stomach pain on Monday night, and his appendix was removed the next morning. His condition was said to be stable.

Hospital sources, however, said the 68-year old Prime



Minister was not in good health, and has had to regularly use steroids. They said he had been consulting doctors for a kidney transplant.

"He has been given 'lonotropes' — a medicine to bring heart beat to normal pace

— after the operation," hospital sources said.

After spending about two weeks in Singapore National Hospital last month for treatment, Oli was believed to be contemplating the kidney retransplant for the second time either in the US or in Nepal, and had been undergoing regular dialysis pending a final decision.

Doctors said Oli was in the intensive care unit of the Manmohan Cardiothoracic Vascular and Transplant Centre, and no visitors were allowed to see him.

**LARGESCALE REDUCTION OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REQUIRED, UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME REPORT SAYS**

## On current course, global temperatures to increase 3.2 degrees by 2030: UN

**ESHAROY**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26

A NEW report released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on Monday said that even if the present Paris Agreement commitments were met, global temperatures were expected to rise by 3.2 degrees Celsius by 2030. The UNEP's annual Emissions Gap Report stated that unless global greenhouse gas emissions fall by 7.6 per cent annually between 2020

and 2030, "the world will miss the opportunity to get on track towards the 1.5°C temperature goal of the Paris Agreement".

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has warned that global warming of more than 1.5°C from pre-industrial levels meant the "bringing of even wider-ranging and more destructive climate impacts", including storms and heatwaves. A UN climate change conference is scheduled to be held in 2020 in Glasgow and will look at the Paris Agreement commitments.

"Our collective failure to act early and hard on climate change means we now must deliver deep cuts to emissions — over seven per cent each year, if we break it down evenly over the next decade. This shows that countries simply cannot wait until the end of 2020, when new climate commitments are due, to step up action. They — and every city, region, business and individual — need to act now. We need quick wins to reduce emissions as much as possible in 2020, then stronger Nationally Determined Contributions to



The report says global greenhouse emissions must fall by 7.6% annually between 2020 and 2030 to keep the goals of the Paris agreement on track. Reuters

kick-start the major transformations of economies and societies. If we don't do this, the 1.5°C goal will be out of reach before 2030," said Inger Andersen, UNEP's executive director.

G20 nations collectively account for 78 per cent of all emissions, but only five G20 members have committed to a long-term zero emissions target. In the short-term, developed countries will have to reduce their emissions quicker than developing countries, for reasons of fairness and equity, the report stated. Crucially,

the report said all nations must substantially increase ambition in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), as the Paris commitments are known, in 2020 and follow up with policies and strategies to implement them.

Each year, the Emissions Gap Report assesses the gap between anticipated emissions in 2030 and levels consistent with the 1.5°C and 2°C targets of the Paris Agreement. The report finds that greenhouse gas emissions have risen 1.5 per cent per year over the last decade. Emissions in 2018, includ-

ing from land-use changes such as deforestation, hit a new high of 55.3 gigatonnes of CO2 equivalent.

To limit temperatures, annual emissions in 2030 need to be 15 gigatonnes of CO2 equivalent lower than current unconditional NDCs require for the 2°C goal; they need to be 32 gigatonnes lower for the 1.5°C goal. On an annual basis, this means cuts in emissions of 7.6 per cent per year from 2020 to 2030 to meet the 1.5°C goal and 2.7 per cent per year for the 2°C goal.