

NEWS IN BRIEF

Trump wanted to 'swap' Puerto Rico for Greenland

President Donald Trump wanted to sell Puerto Rico or swap it for Greenland because he viewed the US territory as dirty and poor, a former senior administration official said Wednesday.

Google services restored for users around the world

Popular Google services including Gmail, Docs and Drive were down for many users around the world yesterday, but were restored after a few hours, the US technology giant said.

US formally ends three accords with Hong Kong

American authorities on Wednesday formally notified Hong Kong that the United States has withdrawn from three bilateral deals with the semi-autonomous Chinese city on extradition and taxation.

SOURCE: REUTERS, AFP



Flames surround Lake Berryessa during the LNU Lightning Complex fire in Napa, California, on Wednesday. Thousands of people fled their homes in northern California on Wednesday as hundreds of fast-moving wildfires spread across the region, burning houses and leading to the death of a helicopter pilot.

PHOTO: AFP

Harris accepts VP nod

Obama says Trump never took presidency 'seriously'

REUTERS, Washington

US Senator Kamala Harris accepted the Democratic nomination for vice president on Wednesday, imploring Americans to elect Joe Biden in November and accusing President Donald Trump of failed leadership that had cost lives and livelihoods during a pandemic.



want. We must elect Joe Biden," she said. Former US President Barack Obama, speaking just before Harris, also delivered a sharp rebuke of his Republican successor, saying Trump had used the power of his office only to "help himself and his friends."

Thai cops arrest 4 anti-govt protesters

Thai police yesterday said they have arrested four anti-government activists over a July 18 protest that triggered a wave of student-led demonstrations demanding a new constitution and elections.



Israeli soldiers detain a Palestinian demonstrator during a protest against Jewish settlements near Tulkarm in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

No Israel deal without Palestinian peace

Says S Arabia; Pakistan says won't recognise Israel

Saudi Arabia has said it will not follow the United Arab Emirates in establishing diplomatic ties with Israel until the Jewish state has signed an internationally recognised peace accord with the Palestinians.

In an interview with local broadcaster Dunya News, Khan said on Tuesday Islamabad would not follow suit in recognising Israel as a state, in a thinly veiled reference to the United Arab Emirates which struck a United States-brokered deal last week to normalise ties with Israel.

UAE could get F-35 jets in side agreement to Israel peace deal

Israeli troops kill one Palestinian as tanks shell Gaza

Junta, opposition close ranks in Mali

REUTERS, Bamako

Mali's opposition coalition yesterday dismissed efforts by regional powers to block a coup-driven change of government, saying it would work with the junta that ousted the president to restore stability to the country.

45 migrants die off Libya coast

AFP, Geneva

At least 45 migrants and refugees perished off Libya this week in the deadliest shipwreck there so far this year, the United Nations said on Wednesday.

REIMPOSITION OF UN SANCTIONS ON IRAN

US to trigger controversial 'snapback' mechanism

Iran unveils new ballistic and cruise missiles

AGENCIES

President Donald Trump announced Wednesday that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will activate a controversial mechanism aimed at reimposing UN sanctions on Iran, escalating a row with European allies that has huge repercussions for the Iranian nuclear deal.



China and Russia, who will argue that they are defending the UN from US unilateralism, while the Europeans distance themselves from Washington, added Gowan, who works at the International Crisis Group think-tank.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) featuring a table with shipping schedules and contact information.