

US tourist gang-raped in India

AFP, New Delhi

An American tourist was allegedly gang-raped by a truck driver and two of his accomplices in Himachal Pradesh, police said yesterday.

"The 30-year-old was raped by men in a truck on Monday night. They offered her a lift and she accepted it," police inspector Abhimanyu Kumar told AFP.

The incident took place in Manali, a tourist destination 500 kilometres from New Delhi.

Kumar said the medical tests have confirmed that the tourist was raped and police were hunting for the accused men.

Kumar said every truck driver in Manali had been ordered to report at the local police station as part of the investigation.



PHOTO: REUTERS

THE SYMBOL OF PROTEST
A Turkish riot policeman uses tear gas against a woman as people protest against the destruction of trees in a park brought about by a pedestrian project, in Taksim Square in central Istanbul on May 28, 2013. Endlessly shared on social media and replicated as a cartoon on posters and stickers, the image of the woman in red has become the leitmotif for female protesters during days of violent anti-government demonstrations in Istanbul.

Sharif to be sworn in as Pak PM today

PTI, Islamabad

Nawaz Sharif is expected to be sworn in for a record third term as Pakistan's prime minister today with a very small cabinet comprising close aides shortly after he is formally elected to the post.

Sharif's election in the National Assembly or lower house of Parliament is a foregone conclusion as his PML-N party has over 180 members in the 342-member strong House.

The election of the prime minister will be done by a division of the House.

63-year-old Sharif's nomination papers for the election to the post were submitted by PML-N leaders Ishaq Dar, Khwaja Asif and Abdul Qadir Baloch this afternoon.

Contesting the election against Sharif are Javed Hashmi of the Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf and the Makhdoom Amin Fahim of the



Pakistan Peoples Party, which led the previous government. Their nomination papers were also filed yesterday.

Sharif is expected to retain the crucial foreign affairs and defence portfolios with himself for his third stint as premier.

Though reports have suggested that less than 20 ministers will be sworn in along with Sharif today, PML-N insiders told PTI that the cabinet could be limited to only 8 to 10 members and would comprise only close aides holding key portfolios.

Sources said Sharif is expected to keep his cabinet small for various reasons, including the new government's desire to cut spending and lobbying within the party for key portfolios.

Sharif, served as premier during two times but was ousted from office before he could complete his term - once on corruption charges and later because of a military coup led by Pervez Musharraf.

Unions join Turkey protests

Two killed as govt apologises to protesters

AGENCIES

Trade unions claiming 240,000 members are throwing their weight behind anti-government demonstrations across Turkey.

The KESK confederation of public sector workers was calling a two-day strike starting from Tuesday to protest what it called the "fascism" of the governing party of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who has become one of the focal points of demonstrators' anger.

They have united demonstrators from across the political spectrum against a common foe: security forces who unleashed tear gas and water cannons on them in response to what had been largely peaceful protests against Erdogan's government.

Meanwhile, Turkey's Deputy PM Bulent Arinc has apologised to protesters injured in demonstrations opposing the demolition of an Istanbul park.

The original protests over the redevelopment of Gezi Park were "just and legitimate", he said. He also offered to meet the organisers of the protests against the park redevelopment.

However, Arinc, speaking at a news conference in Ankara, added: "I do not think we need to apologise to those who create destruction of public property in the streets and who try to prevent the free-

dom of the people in the streets."

The Turkish Medical Association claimed that at least 3,195 people had been injured in clashes Sunday and Monday. Only 26 of them were in serious or critical condition, it said.

One protester, Mehmet Ayvalitas, died of his injuries, the association said. And the governor of Hatay in southeastern Turkey said that a 22-year-old man, Abdulah Comert, was killed with a firearm by unknown suspects during demonstrations late Monday.

The medical association reported that the bulk of the injuries occurred in Istanbul, where the protests began before spreading to Ankara, Izmir, Adana and other locations.

The protests began after plans were made to raze Gezi Park, the last green space in central Istanbul, and replace it with a replica of 19th-century Ottoman barracks. The development would contain a shopping mall.

What began as a sit-in by a handful of angry residents quickly grew into a larger protest after police used tear gas and water cannon to disperse them.

Outraged by the behavior of security forces, demonstrators began attacking police. The protests have since morphed into larger complaints against Erdogan, whom protesters call paternalistic and authoritarian.

Manning gave US secrets to Laden

AP, Fort Meade

Prosecutors said Monday that Bradley Manning put US military secrets into the hands of Osama bin Laden himself, as the Army intelligence analyst went on trial over leaking hundreds of thousands of classified documents.

Manning's lawyers countered by arguing that he was a "young, naive but good-intentioned" soldier whose struggle to fit in as a gay man in the military made him feel he "needed to do something to make a difference in this world."

Manning, 25, has admitted turning over the material to the anti-secrecy website WikiLeaks, pleading guilty earlier this year to charges that could bring 20 years behind bars. But the military pressed ahead with a court-martial on more serious charges, including aiding the enemy, which carries potential life sentence.

Prosecutors said they will present evidence that bin Laden requested and obtained from another al-Qaeda member Afghanistan battlefield reports and State Department cables published by WikiLeaks.

The material WikiLeaks began publishing in 2010 documented complaints of abuses against Iraqi detainees, a US tally of civilian deaths in Iraq, and America's weak support for the government of Tunisia a disclosure that Manning supporters said helped trigger the Middle Eastern pro-democracy uprisings known as the Arab Spring.

Queen Elizabeth marks coronation anniversary



Britain's Queen Elizabeth leaves Westminster Abbey after celebrating the 60th anniversary of her coronation in London yesterday. The queen returned to the scene of her coronation to mark a reign that has weathered six decades of social transformation and the end of her country's global empire. PHOTO: REUTERS

ODDLY enough

Mother gives birth to twins; 3 times in a row

YAHOO NEWS ONLINE

A Scottish woman has defied odds of 500,000 to one by giving birth to twins for the third time.

Karen Rodger, 41, welcomed her first pair of girls after having twice given birth to twin boys.

Karen says her husband Colin was equally stunned when the pair learned they were going to have their fifth and sixth child.

The average couple has about a 3 percent chance of having twins when not accounting for fertility drugs. And with each subsequent pregnancy, the odds of producing twins become exponentially less likely.

Man becomes woman after visiting a doc!

AFP, Hong Kong

A 66-year-old who lived his whole life as a man was given a surprising diagnosis after visiting the doctor in Hong Kong with a swollen abdomen - he was a woman.

Doctors realised the patient was female after they found the swelling came from a large cyst on an ovary, the Hong Kong Medical Journal reported.

The condition was the result of two rare genetic disorders; Turner syndrome.

The doctors said there have been only six cases where both genetic disorders have been reported in medical literature.



PHOTO: REUTERS

A rescue team on a dinghy evacuates a man from the flooded district of the Bavarian town of Passau, about 200 km (124 miles) north-east of Munich yesterday. Swathes of suburban Prague, Germany were under water yesterday after floods which have killed 11 people swept across central Europe, and the deluge moved towards Germany.

RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT Indian parties divided with Congress

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Political parties in India were divided yesterday whether they should be answerable to citizens under the Right to Information (RTI) Act with ruling Congress and a few others rejecting it while main opposition BJP saw nothing wrong in such a move.

A day after the Central Information Commission (CIC), a quasi-judicial body, gave its ruling, Congress termed it as an "adventurist" approach that would "harm" democratic institutions.

Its view was echoed by CPI(M) and BJP's ally Janata Dal(U) which also rejected the order passed by the quasi-judicial body.

"It is not acceptable. We totally disagree with it. Such adventurist approach will create a lot of harm and damage to democratic institutions," Congress General Secretary Janardan Dwivedi told reporters here.

CPI(M) said in a statement that it "cannot accept" the CIC order that political parties are to be treated as "public authorities" and brought under the purview of the Right to Information Act.

Expressing "astonishment and shock", Janata Dal(U) chief Sharad Yadav said the order was "no way justified" as "political parties are not shops".

BJP, however, felt nothing wrong in the CIC order.

The CIC held that six national parties -- Congress, BJP, Nationalist Congress Party, CPI(M), CPI and Bahujan Samaj Party -- have been substantially funded indirectly by the central government and they have the character of public authority under the RTI Act as they perform public functions.

Egypt court convicts 43 NGO employees

BBC ONLINE

A court in Cairo yesterday convicted 43 Egyptian and foreign employees of non-governmental (NGO) organisations for working illegally in Egypt.

The court sentenced the defendants - most of them in absentia - to jail terms of up to five years. It also ordered the closure of offices and the seizure of assets in Egypt belonging to several US NGOs.

The case - which began in 2012 - has strained relations between Cairo and Washington.

US officials had threatened to cut off the roughly \$1.5bn (£980m) in aid paid to Egypt every year.

On Tuesday, the Cairo court sentenced 27 defendants to five years in prison. Another five received two years and 11 were given one-year terms.

'Canned hunting'

The South African lions bred for slaughter

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

They are adorably cute, with grubby brown fur so soft it seems to slip through my fingers like flour. It is only when one of the nine-week-old cubs playfully grabs my arm with its teeth and squeezes with an agonising grip that I remember - this is a lion, a wild animal. These four cubs are not wild, however. They are kept in a small pen behind the Lion's Den, a pub on a ranch in desolate countryside 75 miles south of Johannesburg. Tourists stop to pet them but most visitors do not venture over the hill, where the ranch has pens holding nearly 50 juvenile and fully-grown lions, and two tigers.

Moreson ranch is one of more than 160 such farms legally breeding big cats in South Africa. There are now more lions held in captivity (upwards of 5,000) in the country than live wild (about 2,000). While the owners of this ranch insist they do not hunt and kill their lions, animal welfare groups say most breeders sell their stock to be shot dead by wealthy trophy-hunters from Europe and North America, or



for traditional medicine in Asia. The easy slaughter of animals in fenced areas is called "canned hunting", perhaps because it's rather like shooting fish in a barrel.

A fully-grown, captive-bred lion is taken from its pen to an enclosed area where it wanders listlessly for some hours before being shot dead by a man with a shotgun, hand-gun or even a crossbow, standing safely on the back of a truck. He pays anything from £5,000 to £25,000, and it is all completely legal.

Malnutrition behind 5pc of world GDP loss

DPA, Rome

Up to five per cent of global economic output may be lost due to malnutrition, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said yesterday, noting that increasing obesity was compounding chronic undernourishment problems.

The direct health care costs and long-term damage from lost productivity could amount to \$ 3.5 trillion per year, or \$ 500 per person, the Rome-based agency said in its yearly The State of Food and Agriculture report.

FAO estimated that while 12.5 per cent of the world's population — 868 million people — does not have enough to eat, there are 2 billion people who suffer from nutritional deficiencies and 1.4 billion people who are overweight, including 500 million who are obese.

The agency stressed that malnutrition "remains by far the greater problem, especially in low-income countries".

NEWSIN brief

ICRC to pull Afghan foreign staff

REUTERS, Kabul

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is removing some international staff and curtailing operations in Afghanistan following last week's fatal attack on their Jalalabad compound, a spokesman said yesterday.

The ICRC has held emergency meetings since the May 29 attack in the east of the country in which an Afghan guard was shot dead and three people, including one international staff member, were wounded.

Assange talks on June 17: Ecuador

REUTERS, Quito/london

Ecuadorean Foreign Minister Ricardo Patino said on Monday he would meet Britain's Foreign Secretary William Hague this month to discuss a possible solution to the year-long diplomatic standoff over WikiLeaks' founder Julian Assange.

Assange, 41, took refuge in Ecuador's tiny embassy in London last June to avoid extradition to Sweden, where he is wanted for questioning over sex assault and rape allegations. He denies the allegations.

Yahoo pushes users to new e-mail

CNN ONLINE

For Yahoo users who prefer old-school e-mailing, your grace period is over.

Monday is the first day that users will be required to upgrade to the latest version of Yahoo's e-mail service, which according to various assessments is either the second or third most popular on the Web.

This change has been in the works since December, when Yahoo, under the guidance of new CEO Marissa Mayer, announced a major and long-awaited overhaul of e-mail.

Pak diplomat assaulted in India

IANs, New Delhi

Two people, including a woman, have been arrested for allegedly getting into a scuffle with a Pakistani diplomat and his wife after an accident, officials said yesterday.

In the "minor road accident" Monday evening, the driver of the car bearing a diplomatic number plate of the Pakistan High Commission had hit a motorcycle at Ber Sarai, near JNU campus, the ministry of external affairs said in a statement.

Zirgham Raza, first secretary (trade) of the Pakistan High Commission, suffered "minor bruises" during the scuffle which took place while he was returning to his Vasant Kunj home.