

NEWSIN brief

Sudan floods kill 76

REUTERS, Cairo

Floods and heavy rain in Sudan have killed 76 people and destroyed thousands of homes in recent days, the interior minister said yesterday. Ismat Abdelrahman said 13 of Sudan's 18 provinces had been affected by flooding. Reports said the Nile is at its highest levels in more than a century.

Iran executes 20 Sunni 'terrorists'

AFP, Tehran

Iran yesterday said it had hanged 20 "terrorist" Sunni prisoners, in one of the Islamic republic's biggest mass executions in recent years. The men, who were hanged on Tuesday, were accused of carrying out a string of attacks against civilians and religious leaders in Iran's western Kurdish region, state media reported.

Mytery illness kills 30 kids in Myanmar

AFP, Yangon

An undiagnosed disease has killed more than 30 children in a remote part of Myanmar, officials said yesterday, with health authorities struggling to treat victims. The illness, with measles-like symptoms, has hit the far corner of Myanmar's northern Sagaing region, a remote and mountainous area which borders eastern India and is populated by people from the Naga tribes.

Rape videos on sale for Rs 50-150 in UP

TNN, Uttar Pradesh

In shops across UP, India, right under the nose of the police and the administration, rape videos are being sold in hundreds, perhaps thousands, every day. Depending on the "exclusivity" of the clips, which are 30 seconds to even 5 minutes long, they are priced anywhere from Rs 50 to 150. Individuals or organised gangs download such stuff from Twitter or Facebook accounts and sell them.



Refugee crowned 'wine queen' in Germany

BBC ONLINE

A Syrian refugee has been crowned "queen" of one of Germany's top wine-making regions, the first asylum seeker to receive such an accolade. Student Ninorta Bahno, 26, fled the civil war in Syria more than three years ago. The Syrian Christian was crowned wine queen in the city of Trier, western Germany, in the Moselle wine region near the border with Luxembourg. Last year, Germany received more than one million migrants, many of them fleeing the war in Syria.



A woman walks past a crime scene in Russell Square in central London, yesterday, following a knife attack in which a US woman was killed and five others injured. The attack was attributed to a man with suspected mental health issues who went on a rampage with a knife in central London, but police said there was no evidence that the attack was terrorism related.



TURKEY FAILED COUP

Arrest warrant for Fethullah Gulen issued

AFP, Ankara

Turkey issued a formal on Thursday for US-based preacher Fethullah Gulen after the July 15 coup attempt aimed at ousting President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, state-run media reported.

An Istanbul court issued the warrant, the first after the failed putsch for the reclusive cleric in Pennsylvania, the Anadolu news agency said.

In the warrant, Gulen stands accused of "ordering the July 15 coup", Anadolu reported.

Gulen strongly denies any involvement and the movement he leads insists it is a charitable network promoting tolerant Islam.

Turkey previously issued an arrest warrant for Gulen in December 2014 on charges of setting up and directing an "armed terrorist organisation" as well as using intimidation to deprive a person of their freedom.

Ankara has frequently called on the United States to extradite Gulen, sending two sets of documents to Washington since the coup as evidence of his involvement in the putsch attempt.

Turkey has yet to make a formal extradition request to the US for Gulen.

Erdogan yesterday also vowed to choke off businesses linked to the U.S.-based cleric, describing his schools, firms and charities as "nests of terrorism" and promising no mercy in rooting them out.

Business is the arena in which the network of Fethullah Gulen is still the strongest, Erdogan said in a speech from his palace broadcast live.

Erdogan accuses Gulen of harnessing an extensive network of schools, charities and businesses, built up in Turkey and abroad over decades, to infiltrate state institutions and build a "parallel structure" that aimed to take over the country.

A rogue faction within the military tried to wrest control of the country on July 15, launching attacks on parliament and the president's palace.

At least 238 people were killed and nearly 2,200 injured after people took to the streets and squares against the putschists. Since then thousands have been purged from their roles in the judiciary, police, military and education system, accused of being members of the coup movement while more than 18,000 people have been detained.

Hillary Clinton 'founder of IS'

Under fire, Trump tries to unite a divided GOP after a disastrous week

AGENCIES

Donald Trump has tried to shift attention away from the perceived disarray in his campaign and in the Republican Party by dubbing Hillary Clinton the "founder of IS".

The New York mogul made the incendiary remarks at a rally in Daytona Beach, Florida, after days of campaign pandemonium triggered first by his feud with the father of a Muslim-American soldier slain in Iraq and then his refusal to back the re-election of House speaker Paul Ryan.

In Florida, which is likely to emerge as one of just a few swing states that will determine who wins the White House in November, Trump appeared to be following the advice of some in his party and concentrate his fire exclusively on his opponent.

The Republican nominee offered a list of things that had gone awry in places like the Middle East and Libya, asserting that the fault on each occasion lay with Clinton who served

as Secretary of State in Obama's first term. Among the disasters, he says, was the rise of IS.

"It was Hillary Clinton," Trump declared flatly. "She should get an award from Isis as the founder of Isis." The assertion just came a few days after he called his Democratic foe "the



devil" in an interview with Fox News.

He also directly addressed the ruckus created by his assertion to The Washington Post on Tuesday that he was not inclined to support the re-election bid of Ryan or that of Senator John McCain, whose path back to Capitol Hill this November is looking

particularly rocky. It caused a tempest of Republican handwringing and claims the party was irreversibly split.

It also prompted a firestorm of speculation that somehow Trump would be forced to abandon the race for president and the job of finding a replacement would be taken up by the Republican National Committee chairman, Reince Priebus. The latter, according to numerous reports, was livid with Trump for refusing to back the two top Republicans.

"He feels like a fool," a Republican source familiar with the situation said of Priebus.

But Trump rebuffed all the turmoil in his usual manner. "The campaign is doing really well," Trump insisted as he started the rally in Daytona Beach.

"I would say right now it's the best we've been in terms of being united," he went on, though on what grounds he could possibly claim such a thing was unclear. The party, "has never been more united," he attempted again.

Woman detained for reading Syrian art book on plane!

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A Muslim NHS worker was detained at a UK airport and questioned under terror laws after a cabin crew member spotted her reading a Syrian culture book on board her honeymoon flight.

Faizah Shaheen, who helps prevent teenage mental health patients from becoming radicalised, was returning from honeymoon in Marmaris, Turkey, when she was stopped by South Yorkshire Police at Doncaster Airport on 25 July.

The 27-year-old was pulled over because a Thomson Airways cabin crew member on her outbound flight a fortnight earlier had reported her for suspicious behaviour.

Police officers questioned her for 15 minutes under Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act and told her the suspicions related to the holiday book she had been reading - Syria Speaks: Art and Culture from the Frontline.

The award-winning book by Malu Halasa is a collection of essays, short stories, poems, songs, cartoons and photographs from Syrian authors and artists.

Shaheen, from Leeds, said she was left angry

and in tears by the experience - and with a feeling she had been discriminated because of her faith.

She said she now intends to make formal complaints against the police and Thomson Airways.

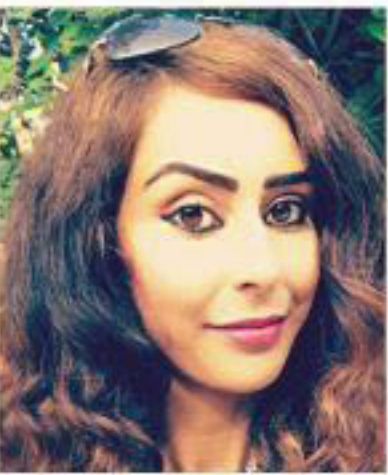
She said: "I was completely innocent - I was made to feel like a culprit."

She was given an information leaflet explaining that Schedule 7 legislation is used by police to determine whether a person appears to be or has been involved in terrorism.

The book she was reading was the winner of an English PEN award. Shaheen bought it after it was recommended to her at Bradford literature festival in May.

A spokesperson for Thomson Airways told The Independent: "We appreciate that in this instance Ms Shaheen may have felt that overcaution had been exercised. However, like all airlines, our crew are trained to report any concerns they may have as a precaution."

When asked by The Independent if the airline will issue an apology to Ms Shaheen, a spokesperson for Thomson Airways declined to comment further.



Rival supporters of African National Congress (ANC) and South African Communist Party (SACP) dance and sing in celebration near Durban on Wednesday. Early results from South Africa's fiercely contested local elections show that the ruling ANC, which ended apartheid losing support, is losing support. Final results are expected today.

Italy passes law to fight food wastage

All supermarkets asked to give unsold food to needy

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The Italian government has overwhelmingly backed a new set of laws aimed at cutting down the vast amounts of food wasted in the country each year.

A bill passed by 181 Senators will encourage families to use "doggy bags" to take home unfinished food after eating out and removes hurdles for farmers and supermarkets seeking to donate food to charity.

The goal to cut the five million tonnes of food wasted every year by at least one million tonnes was only opposed by two Senators and abstained from by one when put to a vote in Italy's upper house on 2 August.

Ministers have said that food waste is costing Italy's business and households more than €12 billion (£10 billion) a year, or about 1 per cent of GDP.

Italy's highest court ruled only three months ago that stealing small amounts of

food because of hunger was not a crime.

Innovative ways to store foods in transit to prevent rotting and lengthen their life on the shelf, as well as a public campaign about food waste, will also be developed with a €1m grant from the agricultural ministry. Another €1m will back a "doggy bag" campaign, in which families will be encouraged to take home unfinished food home after a regional pilot scheme proved a success.

The UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) has said 40 per cent of all food is wasted across Europe. World-wide, the figure is lower at one third.

"The food currently wasted in Europe could feed 200 million people," said the FAO.

Similar measures have been passed elsewhere, albeit with a more punitive bent. French supermarket owners now face fines of up to €75,000 (£62,800) if they do not sign contracts with food donation charities.



LEADERSHIP DISPUTE IN BOKO HARAM

Shekau fumes as IS appoints new chief

BBC ONLINE

The disputed leader of Boko Haram has said he is still in charge of Nigeria's militant Islamist group despite a statement by so-called Islamic State that he had been replaced.

Abubakar Shekau denounced the IS declaration that Abu Musab al-Barnawi was now leader. Shekau accused al-Barnawi of trying to stage a coup against him.

In a 10-minute audio message in both Arabic and Hausa, Shekau appeared to distance Boko Haram from IS, but still called its leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi "caliph".

He said that some in Boko Haram had stopped him communicating with al-Baghdadi. He said he had sent eight different letters to IS leaders but they did not act on them, only to hear the news that he had been replaced.

Shekau had been accused of hoarding food and ammunition and also of driving away IS military advisers.

BBC's Abuja bureau editor Naziru Mikailu says this split is likely to have a major impact on the way the group operates and could be a turning point in the fight against the insurgents.

Shekau took over as the group's leader in July 2009. Under his leadership Boko Haram became more radical, carried out more killings and swore allegiance to IS in March 2015.

PRESIDENT'S IMPEACHMENT BID IN BRAZIL

Senate body recommends removing Dilma Rousseff

AFP, Brasilia

A Brazilian Senate committee yesterday voted to recommend the full upper house remove suspended president Dilma Rousseff from office in an impeachment trial, sending the nation's political drama into its end game.

The decision -- passed by a vote of 14 to five -- is non-binding, but delivers Rousseff yet another setback on the eve of the Olympics opening ceremony in Rio de Janeiro.

Instead of presiding over the opening of an Olympics once meant to showcase Brazil's growing economic power and political stability, Rousseff now takes another step toward what looks increasingly like her political downfall.

Rousseff is accused of spending money without congressional approval and taking out unauthorized loans from state banks to make the national budget look better than it really was

as she campaigned for re-election in 2014.

She says such maneuvers were common practice under previous administrations, and calls the impeachment procedure a coup in disguise.

But opponents on the impeachment committee delivered a damning verdict.

"The president will be removed from office for the extremely serious crimes she committed," said Senator Cassio Lima of the opposition PSDB party.

"It was the biggest fiscal fraud in the country's history."

On August 9, the full Senate will vote on whether to proceed with the impeachment trial. A simple majority would suffice and the measure is expected to pass easily. Then a final and decisive session in the full Senate is scheduled for August 29, a week after the Olympics close, when a two-thirds majority is required to eject Rousseff.

