

Hezbollah launches
Syria border ops

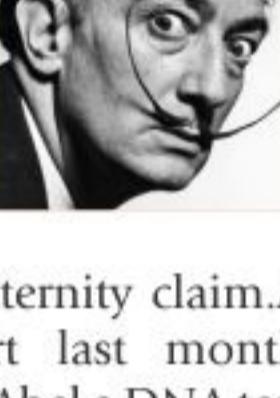
AFP, Beirut

Lebanon's powerful Hezbollah group yesterday said its fighters had begun an operation against militants on both sides of the country's border with Syria. The operation has been anticipated for several weeks, and comes after Lebanese soldiers carrying out raids on Syrian refugee camps in the area were met with suicide bombings and a grenade attack.

Dali's moustache
intact after 28 yrs

AFP, Madrid

Surrealist master Salvador Dali's trademark moustache is in perfect shape in its "ten past ten" position, the foundation that runs his estate said yesterday, a day after his remains were exhumed



to settle a paternity claim. A Madrid court last month granted Pilar Abel a DNA test to determine whether she is Dali's child, as she claims.

2 more protesters
killed in Venezuela

AFP, Caracas

Two people were killed in clashes Thursday in Venezuela during a nationwide strike against President Nicolas Maduro's plans to re-write the country's constitution. The 24-hour stoppage affected areas of the capital and other regions, including the country's second-biggest city of Maracaibo, with businesses shuttered, public transport stalled and streets often deserted. The deaths bring to 99 the death toll in anti-government protests since April.



(From left, anti-clockwise) A man stands in front of a damaged building following an earthquake off the island of Kos, Greece; a car is seen under the debris of a collapsed building in the same tourist island; and damaged boats are seen after a tsunami in the resort town of Gumbet in Mugla province, Turkey. A 6.7-magnitude undersea quake hit the Greek holiday island of Kos and the Turkish resort of Bodrum yesterday, killing two people and injuring hundreds in areas abuzz with nightlife.

PHOTO: REUTERS

CORRUPTION REPORT INTO FAMILY WEALTH

Pakistan top court weighs dismissal of PM Sharif

REUTERS, Islamabad

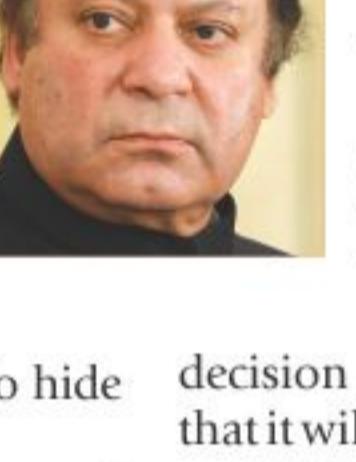
Pakistan's Supreme Court yesterday finished hearing arguments on a scathing corruption report into the family wealth of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, and will begin deliberating whether to disqualify the premier.

The court is expected to make a decision in a week or two, with analysts split on whether it will dismiss Sharif outright or recommend a fresh investigation and corruption trial by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB).

Few expect the judges to drop the Panama Papers Case, since the Supreme Court appointed the investigatory panel that alleged the Sharif family's wealth was beyond its means. It further accused his children, including presumed heir Maryam, of signing forged documents to hide ownership of posh London flats.

Sharif has denied wrongdoing and slammed the 254-page report by the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) as biased and slanderous. He has also rejected opposition demands to stand down.

Sharif's lawyers have been arguing that



the JIT overstepped its remit, and disputed its findings.

Ejaz Afzal Khan, who heads the three-judge Supreme Court panel hearing Sharif's case, yesterday announced the hearings had been concluded by saying: "Judgement reserved".

Khan did not say when the Supreme Court would announce its decision, however.

Opposition parties believe Sharif is wobbling and expect the Supreme Court to deliver a knockout blow to his premiership by employing a little-used constitutional provision to dismiss a sitting official.

"From our legal perspective it's crystal clear: he can't survive this," said Shafqat Mahmood, a lawmaker with the opposition PTI party.

Sharif's allies interpret the court's decision not to summon him as indicating that it will order a NAB investigation.

Meanwhile, a US official said yesterday the Pentagon will not make the remaining military reimbursements to Pakistan for fiscal year 2016 after US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis told Congress Islamabad had not taken sufficient action against the Haqqani network.

Parrot witness helps convict husband killer

Independent.co.uk

A woman has been convicted of murdering her husband after his last words were repeated by the pet parrot who witnessed the attack - and has been saying the words "don't f***ing shoot."

Glenna Duram, 49, shot Martin Duram, 46, five times before turning the gun on herself in a failed suicide attempt.

Ms Duram was found guilty of first-degree murder after eight hours of deliberation by Newaygo County jury in Michigan.

Her husband's African Grey parrot, Bud, may have

repeated the pair's final conversation to Mr Duram's ex-wife, Christina Keller.

Ms Keller took the parrot in after the attack in May 2015, and has said: "I believe with all my heart that those are the last words of Marty."

"I recognise two different voices screaming and yelling and it always ends with 'don't f***ing shoot'."

The parrot has not been used in court proceedings, though this possibility was initially considered by the prosecutor.

The victim's mother, Lillian Duram, reportedly said: "That bird picks up everything and anything, and it's got the filthiest mouth around."

Ms Duram will be sentenced on August 28 on a murder and firearm charge.

African Greys are known for their ability to mimic human speech and can have the cognitive ability of a young child.

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