

# NEWS IN brief

## Knife attacker injures 9 on Germany bus

AFP, Berlin  
Nine people were injured in a knife attack on a bus by a 34-year-old German citizen of Iranian origin, German officials said, although his motive remained unclear. The assailant has been arrested. Germany has been on high alert after several deadly Islamist extremist attacks in recent years.

## 17 killed in US 'duck boat' tragedy

AFP, Chicago  
Nine members of one family were among 17 people killed when an amphibious US tourist boat capsized during a sudden storm on a Missouri lake. The hybrid vessels, with wheels allowing them to drive on city roads but which can also travel on water, are popular with tourists in many cities.

## At least 10 dead in Vietnam floods

AFP, Hanoi  
At least 10 people have died after floods spurred by Typhoon rains struck central and northern Vietnam, authorities said yesterday. Typhoon Son Tinh -- the third tropical storm to hit Vietnam since the start of the year -- made landfall Wednesday night, damaging infrastructure and crops through Thanh Hoa and Nghe An provinces.

## Negotiations with US useless: Khamenei

AFP, Tehran  
Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei yesterday said that negotiations with the United States are "useless" because it does not abide by agreements. Having withdrawn from the landmark 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers, Washington is determined to isolate Iran and pile on economic pressure with a full reimposition of sanctions, starting in August.



Relatives of Palestinian militant Mohammed Abu Dakah, 31, who was killed in an Israeli strike, mourn during his funeral in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip, yesterday. A truce between Israel and Hamas, the Islamist group that controls the Gaza Strip, largely held yesterday a day after one of the most fierce flare-ups along the volatile border in years. PHOTO: REUTERS

# Love only way to build a nation

## Rahul slams Modi's 'hate' a day after hugging the Indian PM

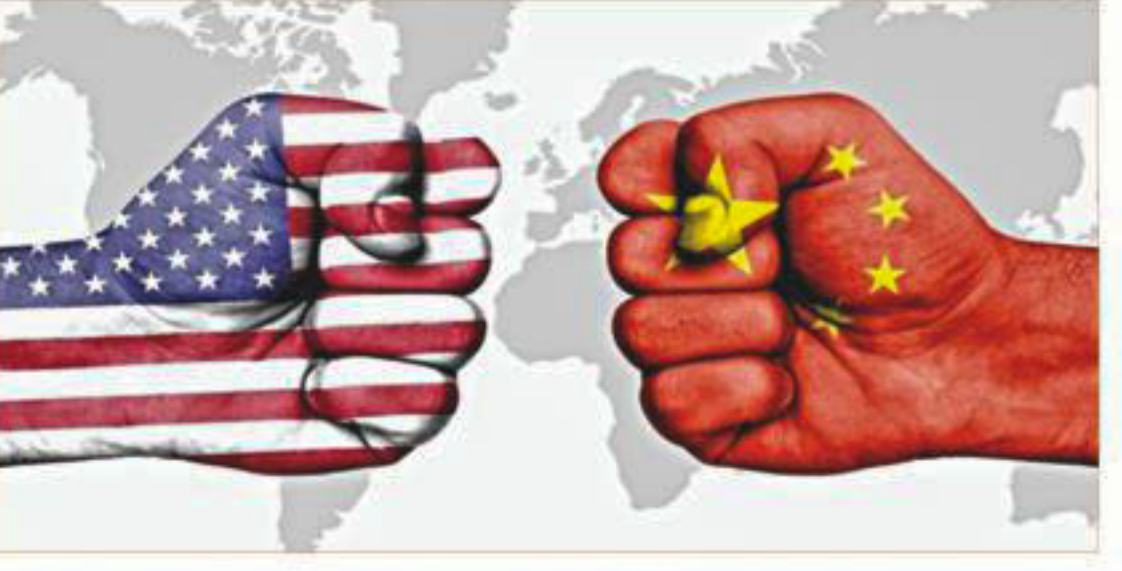
OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi  
A day after creating a flutter in the Lok Sabha by hugging Indian PM Narendra Modi and later winking, Congress President Rahul Gandhi yesterday said the only way to build a nation is by harnessing love and compassion of people. Speaking at the debate on Friday's no-trust motion in Parliament, Rahul had talked about the prime minister using "hate, fear and anger" in the hearts of some people to build his narrative and the Congress party countering that through love and compassion. Carrying on from there, Rahul yesterday tweeted that the "PM uses Hate, Fear and Anger in the hearts of some of our people to build his narrative. We are going to prove that Love and Compassion in the hearts of all Indians, is the only way to build a nation (sic)." Gandhi had given a nearly hour-long fiery speech during the no-confidence motion debate accusing Modi of giving false assurances and promises to people on a range of issues including demonetization, joblessness, the state of economy, lynching, women's safety and alleged atrocities on Dalits. After concluding his speech, Rahul walked across the aisle to where the prime minister was sitting and hugged him. After Rahul returned to his seat among the opposition benches, he winked at two of his party lawmakers. His hug and wink set off a storm in the social media and grabbed much of the media focus.

# China waging a 'cold war'

## CIA says Beijing wants to replace Washington as world superpower

CNN ONLINE  
The goal of China's influence operations around the world is to replace the United States as the world's leading superpower, the CIA's Michael Collins said Friday. Speaking at the Aspen Security Forum during a session on the rise of China, Collins, the deputy assistant director of the CIA's East Asia Mission Center, said Chinese President Xi Jinping and his regime are waging a "cold war" against the US. "By their own terms and what Xi enunciates I would argue by definition what they're waging against us is fundamentally a cold war, a cold war not like we saw during the Cold War, but a cold war by definition. A country that exploits all avenues of power licit and illicit, public and private, economic and military, to undermine the standing of your rival relative to your own standing without resorting to conflict. The Chinese do not want conflict," Collins said. "At the end of the day they want every country around the world, when it's deciding its interests on policy issues, to first and foremost side with China and not the United States, because the Chinese are increasingly defining a conflict with the United States and what we stand behind as

a systems conflict." By looking at the writings of Xi, whose "thought" or world view was recently enshrined in China's constitution, it's clear, Collins says, that the threat China presents is the greatest global challenge the US currently faces. "It sets up a competition with us and what we stand behind far more significantly by any extreme than what the Russians could put forward," Collins said. Collins' comments on the third day of the forum echoed those of other senior US officials there, including FBI Director Christopher Wray and Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats, who both pointed to China as the most significant danger for the US today. "I think China, from a counterintelligence perspective, in many ways represents the broadest, most challenging, most significant threat we face as a country," Wray had told his audience on Wednesday. Coats said Thursday that the US needed to decide if China was a "true adversary or a legitimate competitor." He criticized Chinese state efforts to steal business secrets and academic research. "I think that's where we begin to draw the line," he said.



# Trump denies wrongdoing

REUTERS, Washington  
US President Donald Trump yesterday denied any wrongdoing a day after reports that his onetime attorney Michael Cohen had recorded them both discussing buying the rights to a story by a woman who said she had an affair with Trump. The president said in a tweet it was "perhaps illegal" for a lawyer to record a client. An attorney for Cohen called Trump's statement "false." "Inconceivable that the government would break into a lawyer's office (early in the morning) - almost unheard of," Trump tweeted, in an apparent reference to an FBI raid on Cohen in April. "Even more inconceivable that a lawyer would tape a client - totally unheard of & perhaps illegal. The good news is that your favorite President did nothing wrong!" Trump added. Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani told Reuters on Friday Cohen recorded a conversation with Trump in September, two months before the 2016 election, in which they discussed buying the rights to a story by a former Playboy model, Karen McDougal, who said she had an affair with Trump. Yesterday, Giuliani told Reuters the conversation was held at Trump's office in Trump Tower and that Cohen used a hidden device to record the conversation. In New York state, it is legal to record a conversation if one party consents. Giuliani said no campaign funding was involved in the discussion between Trump and Cohen, who has distanced himself from Trump in recent months as the FBI investigates Cohen's business dealings. If campaign funds were used, that could run afoul of federal election law, legal experts say. Before the election, the Trump campaign denied any knowledge of payment to McDougal, but the taped conversation could undermine those denials. The existence of the audio recording was first reported by the New York Times, which said Trump and Cohen discussed a potential payment to McDougal.



Trump Cohen

# ISI 'meddling' in judicial affairs

## Pak justice makes startling allegations

DAWN ONLINE  
Islamabad High Court (IHC) judge Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui yesterday made serious allegations against personnel of a security agency, claiming that they were manipulating judicial proceedings. He also claimed the agencies approached the IHC chief justice to ensure Nawaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz remained behind bars for the elections. "In today's era, the ISI is fully involved in manipulating judicial proceedings," Justice Siddiqui alleged, in a speech delivered before the Rawalpindi District Bar Association. "Their personnel get benches formed at their will." While he alluded to agency interference in judicial matters, he did not provide evidence during his speech to support his claims. He also claimed that the agency approached the IHC chief justice Muhammad Anwar Khan Kasi and said: "We do not want to let Nawaz Sharif and his daughter come out [of the prison] until elections, do not include Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui on the bench (hearing Sharif's appeals)." He alleged that the judiciary's freedom has been divested and that it is now in control of "those with guns". Justice Siddiqui also put the blame on the judiciary for the current situation in Pakistan.

# Pak polls too close to call: survey

AGENCIES  
A public opinion survey yesterday showed that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) enjoys a slim lead at the national level over the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLN). This, however, does not take into account the fact that 13 per cent of the respondents remain undecided. PMLN, in turn, is leading the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) by 5 percentage points. In the election's main battleground, Punjab, the survey shows a competitive race: PMLN has a province-wide lead of 7 percentage points over PTI. The Herald-SDPI survey finds that 14 per cent of the respondents in Punjab remain undecided. It is this group of voters that will clearly determine the final result of the 2018 election. This finding is consistent with the polls conducted by Gallup and Pulse Consultants during May 2018 which also show that undecided voters hold the election in Punjab in the balance. To win a majority in the province, therefore, PTI has to swing a substantial portion of the undecided voters to its side. PMLN, too, will need to ensure that a large part of these voters ultimately vote for it. Outside Punjab, PMLN is facing another challenge: While 40 per cent of the survey respondents in the province support the party, backing for it falls dramatically in other provinces. It has 10 per cent support in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 11 per cent in Balochistan and only 4 per cent in Sindh. To have a chance of forming the next



Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto waves to supporters during an election campaign rally in Karachi, early yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

federal government, it has to not only hold on to its lead in central Punjab but also win by more than a slim margin in the province's districts outside this region. For PTI, the path to forming the federal government runs through Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The survey shows that 42 per cent of the respondents in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa support PTI which has a 30 percentage point lead over other main contenders — PPP, Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) and PMLN. The survey shows that 54 per cent of the respondents in Sindh support PPP, giving it a substantial lead of 40 points over its challengers — PTI and Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA). The party's continued dominance in Sindh is likely to make it an important player in the next parliament.

# PAK POLLS 2018 TRAGEDY!

DAWN ONLINE  
Mirza Muhammad Ahmed Mughal, an independent candidate from Faisalabad's NA-103, has committed suicide after being disillusioned with not being able to secure the backing of his own family. Mughal shot himself dead after an alleged dispute with his sons, police said. In a video he had recorded a day before his death, Mughal accused his sons and daughter-in-laws of "going from home to home in the neighbourhood and asking people to not vote for him". Disheartened with the development, Mughal, in the video, vowed to take his own life the next day. Polls in the NA-103 constituency have been delayed.

# 'LeT CANDIDATES!'

DAWN ONLINE  
The United States remains concerned about the participation of Lashkar-e-Taiba-affiliated (LeT) individuals in the elections and has conveyed its concern to Islamabad as well, says the US State Department. "We have repeatedly expressed our concerns to the Pakistani government about LeT, including the participation of LeT-affiliated individuals in the elections," the statement added. In a statement issued in Brussels, the European Union urged Islamabad to ensure that electoral activities in all parts of Pakistan continued in "safe and secure conditions". Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono said last week that Japan strongly hoped the general election would be held this month freely, fairly and peacefully, without giving in "to terrorists who wanted to disturb the democratic process in Pakistan."

# Eying India, Mattis calls for waivers on Russia sanctions

AFP, Washington  
US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis on Friday spoke in support of waivers for sanctions being imposed against nations buying military gear from Russia. The move comes amid concerns that imposing sanctions, particularly in the case of India and other Asian allies, could threaten friendly relationships that the US has been working to bolster in recent years. India, the world's top defense importer, has purchased Russian military hardware and expertise for decades, and has been in talks with Moscow to buy S-400 long range surface-to-air missile systems. Last year, US lawmakers, seeking to punish Russia for its efforts to undermine Western democracy, passed the Counter America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act, or CAATSA. "Russia should suffer consequences for its aggressive, destabilizing behavior and its illegal occupation of Ukraine," Mattis said in a statement. "However, as we impose necessary and well-deserved costs for their malign behavior, providing the Secretary of State with a CAATSA waiver authority is imperative." Under CAATSA, any entity doing business with Russia's state, semi-state and private defense and intelligence sectors could face economic sanctions. Appropriate CAATSA waivers allow "nations to build a closer security relationship with the US as they continue to transition from reliance on Russian military equipment," said Mattis, who visited India last year. India has increasingly turned to the US and France for arms purchases, but is still reliant on Russian hardware and expertise to maintain its existing arsenal. Mattis said the main question is whether the US wants to strengthen "partners in key regions or leave them with no other option than to turn to Russia."



# 'Cow vigilantes' kill Muslim man in India

AFP, New Delhi  
A Muslim man died early yesterday after he was attacked by vigilantes while transporting cows in Rajasthan state, police said. India has witnessed a spate of lynchings by Hindu extremist "cow vigilantes" targeting Muslims and low-caste Dalits accused of killing cows or eating beef. Akbar Khan, 28, was walking with another person and two cows through Alwar district when some local villagers attacked them late Friday night. Police told AFP two primary suspects who had been in police custody had since been arrested.

# The town that doesn't vote

REUTERS, Rabwah  
There are no campaign posters in the Pakistani town of Rabwah, and no election rallies on its streets. Though they could be an influential bloc in a key electoral battleground, nearly 90 percent of its residents will not vote in a July 25 poll. The people of Rabwah, in Punjab, are predominantly Ahmadi Muslims, and abstain from elections due to what they say are discriminatory laws that target their minority sect. Pakistan's election laws place Ahmadis on a separate voter registration list categorising them as non-Muslim. Community leaders say this violates their right to religious self-identify as Muslim. "It's a matter of our faith so there can be no compromise on that," community spokesman Salim Ud Din told Reuters. Pakistan's Election Commission did not respond to requests for comment. In a letter sent to Salim Ud Din, the commission said it was "following law which cannot be changed by the commission". Community leaders say anti-Ahmadi rhetoric has intensified in the lead-up to Wednesday's general election, as politicians seek to shore up support among religiously conservative voters and head off the challenge posed by two new Islamist parties. The Ahmadis consider themselves to be Muslims but their recognition of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, who founded the sect in 1889, as a "subordinate prophet within the fold of Islam" is viewed by many of the Sunni majority as a breach of the Islamic tenet that the Prophet Mohammad was God's last direct messenger. By law they cannot call their places of worship mosques or distribute religious literature, recite the Quran or use traditional Islamic greetings, measures they say criminalise their daily lives. Election observers believe if the country's 500,000 Ahmadi were to participate, their vote could swing the results of more than 20 closely contested seats in Punjab, the most populous province where Pakistani elections are won and lost.