FIRST ROUND OF POLLS

Bhutan's prime minister conceded defeat yesterday, after

the ruling party was knocked out in the first round of the

term in the poll but fell short of two rival parties, who will

which won Bhutan's first-ever election when the kingdom

transitioned to democracy in 2008, attracted nearly

93,000 votes, narrowly beating Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa

their outstanding performance," Tobgay posted on Twitter.

"I congratulate DNT and DPT and their candidates (on)

Tobgay, a 52-year-old mountain-biking enthusiast, and

More than 291,000 people cast their vote in Saturday's

Bhutan has tried to shield itself from the downsides of

his People's Democratic Party won power from opposition

poll for a 66 percent turnout of registered voters, an election

modernisation, striving for "Gross National Happiness"

over over GDP growth, maintaining a carbon-negative

economy and keeping tourist numbers down with a daily

got television in 1999 and democracy arrived only in 2008

when its "dragon king" monarchy ceded absolute power.

The 800,000 inhabitants of Switzerland-sized Bhutan

fee of \$250 per visitor in high season.

Harvard educated Tshering Tobgay was seeking a second

Election officials said Druk Phuensum Tshogpa (DPT),

small Himalayan nation's third-ever election.

contest a runoff on October 18.

Bhutan's ruling

# NEWS<sub>IN</sub> brief

#### Palestinian stabs Israeli to death

REUTERS, Gush Etzion

A Palestinian fatally stabbed an Israeli at a shopping mall in the occupied West Bank yesterday before an armed civilian shot and wounded the assailant, Israeli police and medical officials said. The Palestinian was shot by a civilian at the scene and was in Israeli custody, a police spokesman said.

#### Dozens inmates flee Myanmar jail break

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar police are hunting dozens of escaped inmates who hijacked a delivery truck and smashed through the gates of their jail in a daring prison break yesterday, officials said. Forty-one prisoners escaped, according to state police chief Aung Myat Moe, but three have been recaptured while the hunt

#### US, India begin joint drills in Uttarakhand

intensifies for the rest.

NDTV ONLINE

A joint India-US military exercise began yesterday at Chaubattia in the foothills of the Himalayas in Uttarakhand's Almora dis-

trict. 'Yudh Abhyas 2018' is the 14th edition of the joint military exercise, which is hosted alternately by the two countries. The exercises set to conclude on September 29.

#### Syrians vote in first local polls since 2011

AFP, Damascus

Syrians in governmentcontrolled areas cast their ballots yesterday in the first local elections there since 2011 as President Bashar al-Assad regained control of much of the country. Voting is underway in more

than 6,550 voting centres across government-held parts of the country, state media reported.



A pickup truck is seen submerged in floodwater in Lumberton, North Carolina, on Saturday in the wake of Hurricane Florence.

North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper

Steve Goldstein of the National Oceanic

warned against such behavior as roads

and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

said some areas have already received two feet

of rain and could expect up to 20 inches more

as the system moved "slowly, nearly station-

on Saturday announced that a 61-year-old

woman had died when her car hit a downed

tree. CNN also reported a man and a woman

died in South Carolina's Horry County due to

without power and 21,000 people were being

deploying nearly 200 soldiers to assist in

storm response and recovery efforts, along

in Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina, after

housed in 157 shelters across the state.

with 100 trucks and equipment.

stalking the coastline for days.

More than 800,000 in North Carolina were

The military announced Saturday it was

Hurricane Florence made landfall Friday

Tornadoes remain a threat, with the NHC

South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster

became increasingly dangerous.

ary" over eastern North Carolina.

carbon monoxide poisoning.

Storm far from over

US officials warn as Florence weakens killing 13

PHOTO: AFP

## Give Britain another chance

AFP, New Delhi

(DNT).

in 2013.

official told AFP.

London mayor backs call for second referendum, says PM's plans 'mired in confusion'; May 'irritated' by leadership speculation

**BREXIT ROW** 

Britain is due to

leave the EU

on March 29

May's Brexit plans

still not accepted

by MPs

REUTERS, London

London Mayor Sadiq Khan has called for another referendum on Britain's European Union membership, saying the prime minister's handling of Brexit negotiations had become "mired in confusion and deadlock" and was leading the country down a damaging path.

Britain is due to leave the European Union on March 29. But with Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit plans still not accepted, some lawmakers, as well as union and business leaders are increasingly arguing for people to have a final say on any deal struck with Brussels.

May has repeatedly ruled out holding a second referendum following the vote two years ago to leave the EU. She

says members of parliament will get to vote on whether to accept any final deal.

saying that "a few tornadoes remain possible across North Carolina and eastern South But with time running out for London and Brussels to thrash out a Brexit deal, the British government is preparing

plans for a no-deal Brexit.

Khan, a senior member of Britain's opposition Labour

Writing in yesterday's Observer newspaper, Khan blamed the government's handling of the negotiations and said the threat to living standards, the economy and jobs was too great for voters not to have a say.

Party, said Britain was now facing either a bad deal or a no-

deal Brexit, both of which were "incredibly risky" for Britain.

"After careful consideration, I've decided the people must get a final say. This means a public vote on any deal or a vote on a no deal,

alongside the option of staying in the EU." he said. Meanwhile, May said yesterday she was "irritated" by speculation about

a leadership contest as she slammed former foreign secretary Boris Johnson, seen as her most likely

challenger.

The centre-right Conservative Party's leader said she was focused on securing a Brexit deal rather than her own future, in a BBC television interview marking the six-month countdown to Britain's departure from the European Union.

#### **CAMP DAVID SUMMIT**

AFP, New Bern

far from over.

A killer storm that left up to 13 people dead

weakened to a tropical depression on Sunday,

but US authorities warned the devastation it

caused -- including catastrophic flooding -- is

Most of the fatalities from Florence, which

made landfall Friday as a Category 1 hurri-

cane, have occurred in North Carolina, where

officials confirmed eight victims. They

included three who died "due to flash flood-

ing and swift water on roadways," the Duplin

casualties when a tree fell on their house, con-

tributing to a death toll that US media said had

reached 13 - 10 in North Carolina and three in

The National Hurricane Center (NHC)

downgraded Florence to a tropical depression

on Sunday morning, adding that "flash flooding

and major river flooding will continue over a

mum sustained winds had weakened to near 35

return home, driving through flooded high-

ways and armed with chainsaws to clear

miles (56 kilometers) per hour, the NHC said.

fallen pine trees that covered the road.

As of 5:00am (0900 GMT) yesterday, maxi-

On Saturday, some residents tried to

A woman and her baby were among the first

County Sheriff's Office reported.

South Carolina, according to CNN.

significant portion of the Carolinas."

### **KEY MOMENTS**

Four decades ago the leaders of Israel and Egypt reached a deal at an epic summit that led to the first peace treaty between the Jewish state and an Arab nation. The Camp David Accords, thrashed out over days of talks hosted by then US president Jimmy Carter, were signed on September 17, 1978. Here is a look back at that key moment in history.

SERIES OF WARS: In 1973, Egypt and Syria launch a surprise attack on Israel with the aim of forcing it to return territory seized from them in 1967. Egypt makes a significant advance, even though it is eventually repelled. Empowered, it agrees to attend a peace conference called in December in Geneva under the auspices of the United States and Soviet Union. It brings Israelis and Arabs together for direct negotiations for the first time. Syrians and Palestinians do not attend, however, and the meeting adjourns.

FIRST ARAB LEADER IN ISRAEL: On November 9, 1977 Egypt's president Anwar Sadat announces -- to the general surprise of all -- that he is prepared to visit Israel in a bid for peace. After receiving a formal invitation from Israeli prime minister Menachem Begin, Sadat arrives in Jerusalem on November 19, making the first visit by an Arab head of state to the Jewish nation. Sadat shakes hands with his foes in the Israeli leadership and calls for a "just and permanent peace" in the entire region. But it takes 10 more months of tough diplomatic exchange before further negotiations can take place.

AGREEMENT AT CAMP DAVID: In August 1978, Carter invites Sadat and Begin to meet in the United States. Their summit gets underway on September 5 at Camp David, the presidential weekend retreat 100 kilometres (60 miles) from Washington, in a forested area with about 20 chalets. For 13 days the three talk, surrounded by their diplomatic and military advisors, cut off from the rest of the world. They sketch out and discuss 23 versions of an eventual peace accord, making countless revisions. The negotiations continue into the night and at times the summit teeters on the edge of breakdown. Carter is in a constant backand-forth between Sadat and Begin. Eventually, it all comes together.



In this file photo taken on March 26, 1979, US President Jimmy Carter (C) congratulates Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat (L) and Israeli Premier Menachem Begin (R) in three-way handshake on the north lawn of the White House, Washington DC. PHOTO: AFP

WARM EMBRACE: Sadat and Begin sign the Camp David Accords on September 17, a determined Carter pushing negotiations until the very last minute. The two foes embrace, stunning the world. There are two documents: the "Framework for Peace in the Middle East", which outlines the basis of a peace settlement between Israel and its Arab neighbours, and "Framework for the Conclusion of a Peace Treaty between Egypt and Israel". Included are "side letters" confirming that Egypt and Israel remain in disagreement on the status of the holy city of Jerusalem and on the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

FROM NOBEL TO ASSASSINATION: Other Arab nations are enraged with Egypt, believing that the truce agreed by the military and political heavyweight, also the historical leader of pan-Arabism, has upended the regional balance of power in favour of Israel. They protest that the deal ignores the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the rights of the Palestinian people. In November, Sadat and Begin win the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts at Camp David. In Washington on March 26, 1979, they sign the first Arab-Israeli peace treaty, which sets the terms for Egypt recovering the Sinai from Israel in 1982. Arab countries slam the treaty as a "separate peace" and a betrayal, and break off relations with Egypt, suspending it from the Arab League. Sadat, also criticised in his own country, is assassinated in October 1981. In 1994, Jordan becomes the second Arab nation to normalise ties with Israel.

SOURCE: AFP

#### YEMEN WAR Clashes, raids kill 32 rebels

Carolina.

AFP, Aden

Fresh clashes and air strikes have killed 32 rebels around Yemen's Red Sea city of Hodeida, hospital sources said yesterday, as the UN envoy kept up peace efforts in Sanaa.

A military source told AFP the Saudi-led coalition fighting alongside the Yemeni government against Shia Huthi rebels carried out an air raid on a radio station tower in the port city of Hodeida.

Three people died in yesterday's raid, he said, while Huthi-run Al-Masirah television said four people were killed, three security guards and a station employee.

According to medical sources in Hodeida province, which is controlled by the Huthis, a total of 32 insurgents were killed and 14 others wounded in clashes and air strikes since Saturday.

The coalition accuses the Tehran-aligned Huthis of smuggling arms from Iran through Hodeida and has imposed a partial blockade on the port, which the rebels seized in 2014.

The UN's Yemen envoy, Martin Griffiths, arrived yesterday in the rebel-held capital Sanaa, without making any statement to the media.

Griffiths is pushing for new peace talks after a failed attempt to bring the two sides together in Geneva earlier this month. Saudi Arabia and its

allies intervened in 2015 in the conflict between embattled Yemeni President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi, whose government is recognised by the United Nations, and the Huthis.

Nearly 10,000 people have since been killed and the country now stands on the brink of famine.



A group of Myanmar protesters rally in Yangon yesterday in support of two Myanmar journalists who were sentenced to jail for seven years under the Official Secrets Act. Several dozen people rallied in central Yangon against the jailing of two Reuters journalists Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, lamenting the shrinking space for free expression in Myanmar despite the advent of civilian rule.

### 'Nothing new' in allegations

Says Dalai Lama on sexual abuse by Buddhist teachers since 1990s; paedophile priests' row rocks Dutch Catholic Church

AFP, The Hague

The Dalai Lama said Saturday that he has known about sexual abuse by Buddhist teachers since the 1990s and that such allegations are "nothing new".

The Tibetan spiritual leader, revered by millions of Buddhists around the world, made the admission during a four-day visit to the Netherlands, where he met on Friday with victims of sexual abuse allegedly committed by Buddhist teachers.

He was responding to a call from a dozen of the victims who had launched a petition asking to meet him during his trip, part of a tour of Europe.

"We found refuge in Buddhism with an open mind and heart, until we were raped in its name," the victims said in their petition.

"I already did know these things, nothing new," the Dalai Lama said in response on Dutch public television NOS late Saturday.

"Twenty-five years ago... someone

People who commit sexual abuse

allegations" at a conference for western

Buddhist teachers in Dharamshala, a

The Dalai Lama, 83, lives in exile in

hill town in northern India, he added.

Dharamshala.

Meanwhile, more than half of the Netherlands' senior clerics were involved in covering up sexual assault

mentioned about a problem of sexual "has consistently denounced such irre-

attention."

"don't care about the Buddha's teaching. So now that everything has been made public, people may concern about their

sentative of the Tibetan spiritual leader in

Europe, said Friday that the Dalai Lama

shame," he said, speaking in English. Tseten Samdup Chhoekyapa, a repre-

of children between 1945 and 2010, a press report claimed Saturday, further engulfing the Catholic Church in a global abuse scandal. Over the course of 65 years, 20 of 39 Dutch cardinals, bishops and their

sponsible and unethical behaviour".

meet in Dharamshala in November.

Tibetan spiritual leaders are due to

"At that time they should talk about

it," the Dalai Lama said in his televised

comments Saturday. "I think the

religious leaders should pay more

auxiliaries "covered up sexual abuse, allowing the perpetrators to cause many more victims", the daily NRC reported.

Most of the accused clerics have since died, and the statute of limitations has expired in all cases, she added. Those still alive declined to comment, NRC said.

#### Israeli missiles hit Damascus airport: report

AFP, Damascus

An Israeli missile attack targeted the Syrian capital's airport late Saturday, activating air defences which shot down a number of the projectiles, state news agency SANA reported.

"Our air defences responded to an Israeli missile attack on Damascus international airport and shot down a number of hostile missiles," a military source said, quoted by SANA.

The agency, without giving any information on casualties or damage, posted footage and images of the air

defences being activated. In a shaky video, a small, bright explosion is seen in the night sky, with city lights

in the distance. AFP's correspondent in

Damascus heard a loud blast late Saturday, followed by several smaller explosions.

The Israeli military declined to comment on the incident.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britainbased war monitor, said Saturday's strikes hit a weapons depot outside the airport.

"The missiles, suspected to be Israeli, destroyed an arms warehouse near the Damascus international airport," Observatory head Rami Abdel

Rahman told AFP. He had no immediate information on casualties.

Israel has vowed to prevent its arch-foe Iran, which is a main backer of Syria's government, from gaining a foothold in neighbouring war-torn Syria.

Earlier this month, Israel acknowledged having carried out more than 200 strikes in Syria over the past 18 months, mainly against Iranian targets.

It has also admitted to striking Syria to prevent what it says are deliveries of advanced weaponry to Lebanon's Hezbollah, an armed movement backed by Iran and which fights alongside Syrian troops.