

KHASHOGGI KILLING

Men transporting 'remains' in bags

Reveals new CCTV footage
AFP, Ankara
A Turkish television station has broadcast CCTV footage showing men carrying cases and bags which it says contained slain Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi's body parts.



WELCOME 2019 | Fireworks explode over the Marina Bay during New Year festivities in Singapore early today. As the world parties, many will also look forward to 2019 and wonder whether the turmoil witnessed during the previous year will spill over into the next. PHOTO: REUTERS

Afghan Taliban held peace talks: Iran

AFP, Tehran
Iran said yesterday that the Afghan Taliban have visited Tehran for a second round of peace talks in just a few days aimed at bringing an end to 17 years of conflict.

Iraq sentenced 616 foreigners for IS links

AFP, Baghdad
Iraq sentenced more than 600 foreigners including many women and dozens of minors in 2018 for belonging to the Islamic State group, the judiciary said yesterday.

69 migrants rescued off Malta: navy

AFP, Valletta
A group of 69 migrants on a rickety wooden boat were rescued Sunday off Malta, the navy said, while 49 more were still at sea waiting for a country to allow them to dock.

BITS OF HISTORY (DECEMBER 31)

- 1946: US President Harry Truman formally declared an end to all hostilities in World War Two.
1999: Russian President Boris Yeltsin stunned the world by announcing his resignation and naming Prime Minister Vladimir Putin as acting president.
1999: Panamanian President Mireya Moscoso formally took back control of the Panama Canal from the United States.
2001: The last day for national currencies in 12 European Union member states as the biggest monetary change-over in history takes place at midnight.

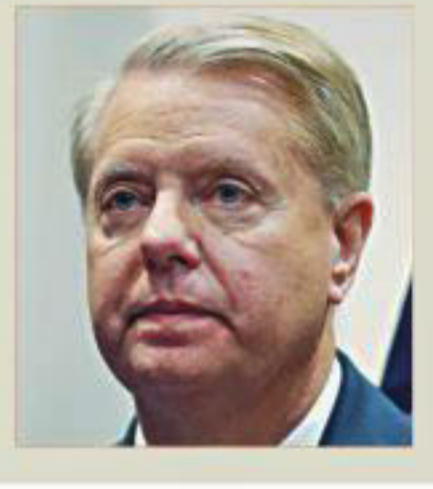
Trump hits pause on Syria

Says top US senator, warns removing all 2,000 troops would hurt national security, YPG militia

AGENCIES
A senior Republican US senator said he emerged from a White House meeting with President Donald Trump on Sunday reassured that Trump is committed to defeating Islamic State even as he plans to withdraw American troops from Syria.

Committee, told reporters at the White House.
"We still have some differences but I will tell you that the president is thinking long and hard about Syria - how to withdraw our forces but at the same time achieve our national security interests," Graham said.

ANTI-IS FIGHT
Pentagon considers plans for a 120-day pullout period
2018 death toll Syria war's lowest at under 20,000: monitor



SUSPECTED SPYING

Russia arrests US citizen in Moscow

AFP, Moscow
Russia said yesterday its security services had detained a US citizen in Moscow accused of spying, the latest in a series of espionage cases between Russia and the West.



Pull together in 2019

Angela Merkel urges divided Germans

REUTERS, Berlin
Acknowledging that her government disappointed many Germans in 2018, Chancellor Angela Merkel sought to pull the country together for 2019 with a call for solidarity and cooperation to overcome deep political divisions.



Emergency personnel work at the site of collapsed apartment building after a suspected gas blast in Magnitogorsk, Russia yesterday. Four people were killed and nearly 70 unaccounted for after the explosion rocked the high-rise building, leaving hundreds without a home in freezing temperatures on New Year's Eve. PHOTO: REUTERS

Kim sends message to Trump on nuclear talks

Says S Korea's newspaper citing source

REUTERS, Seoul
North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has sent a "conciliatory message" to US President Donald Trump amid stalled nuclear negotiations, South Korea's Chosun Ilbo newspaper reported yesterday.

to Trump when contacted by Reuters.
Moon's office could not confirm the Chosun Ilbo report.
"There is a dialogue channel between North Korea and the United States through which they exchange active communication, but I cannot know whether it took the form of letter or something else," Moon's spokesman told a news briefing yesterday.

UK, France pledge drive

AFP, London
Britain and France have agreed to boost bilateral cooperation over a spike in migrants trying to cross the Channel, the UK's Home Office said Sunday.

Chanel migrants
200 migrants arrived on Kent coast in past two months
faced criticism from the opposition and from within his own party for responding too slowly.

PIA fires pilots with fake school degrees

AFP, Islamabad
Pakistan's national flag carrier has fired 50 staffers including three pilots for holding fake high school degrees, an airline official said yesterday, in the latest embarrassing mishap to hit the troubled airline.

India's opposition stalls triple talaq bill in RS

TNN, New Delhi
The triple talaq Bill could not be taken up for discussion in Rajya Sabha (RS) yesterday, amid demands from the opposition that it be first referred to a select committee.

With no consensus emerging and opposition parties uniting in their demand, the house was adjourned for 15 minutes.
Once the house reassembled, Anand Sharma from Congress cited Goel's statement to say that it is the government which is politicising the bill. "If Lok Sabha has not put the bill through scrutiny of a standing committee and passed the bill, Rajya Sabha cannot be a rubber stamp."

