

Monsoon likely to arrive in India on June 6

AFP, New Delhi

Monsoon rains, which usually arrive on the southern tip of Kerala around June 1, are expected to arrive on the country's southern coast on June 6, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said yesterday. India receives 70 per cent of the annual rainfall in the monsoon season, which is key to the success of the agricultural sector. Meanwhile, temperatures pushed towards 50 degrees Celsius across much of India yesterday as an unrelenting heatwave triggered warnings of water shortages and left locals fearing for their livelihoods.

Trump to announce re-election bid on June 18

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump said Friday that he would formally announce his bid for re-election at a June 18 rally in Florida -- a state that was key to his victory in 2016. Trump's wife Melania, Vice President Mike Pence and his wife Karen will also be part of the evening event in Orlando at the Amway Center arena, Trump said on Twitter.

Taliban leader says no truce soon

AFP, Kabul

The Taliban are unlikely to call a ceasefire any time soon, the group's leader indicated yesterday, though he said the "doors of dialogue" with the US remain open. The rare message from Haibatullah Akhundzada comes after Afghan President Ashraf Ghani proposed a nationwide ceasefire at the start of Ramadan early last month. The Taliban rejected the offer.



In this handout photo taken and released by the All India Congress Committee (AICC) Communication Department yesterday, Indian Congress Parliamentary Party leader, Sonia Gandhi, and Congress President Rahul Gandhi (2L sitting) attend the Congress Parliament Party (CPP) meeting at the Parliament House in New Delhi.

PHOTO:
AFP

Sonia Gandhi elected as leader of Congress Parliamentary Party

THE HINDU ONLINE

India's United Progressive Alliance (UPA) chairperson Sonia Gandhi was elected yesterday as the leader of the Congress Parliamentary Party at a meeting in New Delhi.

Sonia Gandhi will now pick the party's floor leader in the Lok Sabha. There has been speculation that Rahul Gandhi, who resigned from the party president post, may opt for this position.

Sonia thanked Rahul Gandhi, who is unmoved by entreaties to rethink his decision to resign from the party president's post, for his relentless campaign during the polls.

At the meeting, Rahul thanked the voters and the party workers. "Every Congress member must remember that each one of you is fighting for the Constitution, for every person in India irrespective of the colour of his skin or belief," he said.

With 52 MPs, the post of Leader of the Opposition remains elusive again for the Congress. With 545 members in the House, the party that has 55 members is eligible for the position.

OIC backs Palestinians

Condemns any decision to recognise Jerusalem as Israel's capital

AFP, Makkah

A Saudi-hosted Islamic summit yesterday threw its support behind Palestinians ahead of a US-led peace plan suspected to be skewed in favour of Israel, as Muslim states rallied around Saudi Arabia over tensions with Iran.

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) meeting, the third and final Iran-focused summit in the holy city of Makkah this week, denounced controversial US moves to transfer its embassy to Jerusalem and recognise Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

The summit of the 57-member bloc, marked by the notable absence of Iranian and Turkish leaders, called for a "boycott" of countries that have opened diplomatic missions in the city.

Trump broke with decades of bipartisan policy to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel in December 2017.

The OIC's statement comes as Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner prepares to roll out economic aspects of his long-awaited Middle East peace plan at a conference in Bahrain later this month.

The plan, which has been heavily talked up by Trump and dubbed his "deal of the century", has already been rejected by the Palestinians, who say the president's

policies have shown him to be overwhelmingly biased in favour of Israel. The Palestinians see the eastern part of the disputed city as the capital of their future state.

Saudi King Salman told leaders of the OIC countries gathered at the summit: "The Palestinian cause is the cornerstone of the works of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, and is the focus of our attention until the brotherly Palestinian people get all their legitimate rights."

"We reaffirm our unequivocal rejection of any measures that would prejudice the historical and legal status of Quds (Jerusalem)."

OIC summit condemned the inhumane situation of Rohingya Muslims, urging a halt to violence. The summit in Mecca also stressed that Myanmar's government has the responsibility to protect its citizens, the statement added.

The OIC also backed Saudi Arabia in escalating tensions with Iran, as King Salman warned that "terrorist" attacks in the Gulf region could imperil global energy supplies.

Meanwhile, the head of the Lebanese Shia movement Hezbollah warned on that if there was a war against Iran the whole Middle East region would "erupt", amid escalating US-Iranian tensions.

Calls for a 'boycott' of countries that opened diplomatic missions in Jerusalem

Condemns inhumane situation of Myanmar's Rohingya

Summit backs Saudis over tensions with Iran; Hezbollah warns against regional chaos

Fake Saudi prince gets 18 years jail in US

A Florida man who posed as a Saudi royal for three decades and cheated people out of \$8 million will spend 18 years in prison for fraud, authorities said Friday. Anthony Gignac, 48, constructed a personal world of luxury from his regal scam involving fake diplomatic credentials and a coterie of bodyguards. Posing as Khalid Bin Al-Saud, he lived in a condo on Miami's posh Fisher Island, drove a Ferrari with a forged diplomatic license plate and eagerly courted investors and gift-givers. Dozens of people deposited money into his bank accounts, thinking Gignac, whose apartment bore a sign on its door reading "Sultan", would invest it. Instead, he spent it on everything from designer clothes to yachts to private jet rides. Amazingly, his years as a fraudster started to collapse like a house of cards around him when a real estate developer saw Gignac happily eating ham, bacon and other pork products that would normally be off-limits for a devout Muslim prince, according to the Miami Herald.

IS widow helped CIA in hunt for Baghdadi

The captured widow of an Islamic State group leader helped the CIA in its hunt for the organisation's elusive leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, a British daily said Friday. In an interview with The Guardian, Nisrine Assad Ibrahim -- also known as Umm Sayyaf -- claimed not to have played a willing part in the detention of US hostage Kayla Mueller at her home. She has been accused of helping to forcibly hold Mueller and other captives at the home, where the American woman was sexually assaulted by Baghdadi. But when she herself was detained by the US military, the 29-year-old helped the CIA and Kurdish intelligence gain a detailed overview of the extremist supremo's hideouts and networks, investigators told the daily. In February 2016, Ibrahim identified a house in the Iraqi city of Mosul in which Baghdadi was believed to have been staying, but the United States did not call in an air strike.



Biodegradable plate that you can eat too

Polish inventor and entrepreneur Jerzy Wysocki catches a brown plate -- still warm -- as it drops out of a machine and he begins to eat the crunchy, fibrous tableware. Taking a bite, the plate does not have much of a flavour. It calls to mind dry cereal flakes or maybe what you would imagine cardboard to taste like. But Wysocki says what matters is the tableware is biodegradable. "To make the plates, we only use wheat bran which we compress at a precise pressure point and temperature, using a machine made specifically for that purpose," he explains. Biotrem distributes the plates in Europe, Asia, North America and Australia. Biotrem is hoping to expand its offer to edible boxes for takeaway meals and catering. And you do not have to eat the plate or its packaging to be a friend of the environment. In favourable weather conditions, with a little humidity, wheat bran products decompose after a month, or even after two weeks if there is rain.

SOURCE: AFP, PTI

China must end threatening behaviour to neighbours

Warns acting Pentagon chief, vows to defend Asian allies

AFP, Singapore



The United States warned China yesterday against threatening its neighbours' sovereignty and said Washington is investing in new military technology to defend its Asian allies.

Washington and Beijing have been vying for influence in the region, which hosts potential flashpoints such as the South China Sea, the Korean Peninsula and the Taiwan Strait.

Ties between the two powers are once again taking centre stage at the weekend Singapore conference known as the Shangri-La Dialogue, which gathers defence ministers and top military officials from around the world.

While the forum is purely on security, the discussions are being held against a backdrop of Sino-US trade tensions and high-tech rivalry.

"China can and should have a cooperative relationship with the rest of the region ... But behaviour that erodes other nations' sovereignty and sows distrust of China's intentions must end," acting US Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan told the forum.

"Until it does, we stand against a myopic, narrow, and

parochial vision of the future, and we stand for the free and open order that has benefitted us all, including China."

Washington has been pushing back against Beijing's aggressive militarisation of the South China Sea, where China has staked "indisputable" ownership over almost the whole area and rejects partial claims by Taiwan, Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam.

Beijing is also regularly angered by US and other warships transiting through the Taiwan Strait, which it considers

part of its territorial waters.

A French warship entered the Strait in April, prompting a warning from China's navy.

Yesterday, French minister of the armed forces Florence Parly said her country's forces will not be forced from the region.

For the first time since 2011, China has sent its defence minister, General Wei Fenghe, to the Singapore gathering. Wei is scheduled to speak today, when he is expected to respond to Shanahan's remarks.

The Sino-US rivalry has placed many Asian countries in a bind as they have deep military ties with Washington but enjoy strong trade relations with Beijing.

Guaido renews call for Maduro to step down

AFP, Sabaneta

Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido renewed calls for President Nicolas Maduro to resign on Friday while campaigning in the birthplace of former leader Hugo Chavez, following inconclusive talks in Norway to end the country's crisis.

West-backed Guaido has been leading a push to oust leftist firebrand Maduro, who has presided over a crumbling economy after succeeding Chavez in 2013.

During a brief speech before a handful of followers in the small town of Sabaneta, Guaido called for a "large mobilization" of protesters to rally against the government over shortages of gasoline and prolonged blackouts in the country.

Sabaneta has been turned into a shrine for the hugely popular Chavez, who mixed a larger-than-life personality with a man-of-the-people style and generously-funded social programs through oil revenues.

But Maduro struggled to find his mentor's shoes and he quickly lost favor after a fall in oil prices in 2014 precipitated a massive economic crisis.

He added that several candidates in the Conservative leadership race had asked for his support, without revealing who.

US pulls tax exemption from Pak diplomats

AFP, Washington

The United States said Friday that it had suspended tax exemption privileges enjoyed by Pakistani diplomats due to parallel disputes with Islamabad in the latest dust-up between the countries.

Under the 1961 Vienna Convention, diplomats around the world do not pay taxes in countries where they are posted, with embassy staffers in Washington routinely flashing State Department-issued exemption cards when dining out or shopping.

The State Department said it withdrew tax exemptions for Pakistani diplomats and their dependents as of May 15, citing pending tax issues faced by US diplomats in Pakistan.

"The issue is the subject of ongoing bilateral discussions, and we hope to be able to resolve the issue and restore the tax privileges," a State Department spokesman said.

While the latest issue was not linked to politics, the United States last year restricted Pakistani diplomats in Washington from traveling outside a 25-mile (40-kilometer) radius around the US capital after charging that Pakistani police routinely harass US diplomats, including through time-consuming traffic stops.

The Pakistani embassy in Washington said that 22 officials enjoyed the tax exemption.

Pakistan is a Cold War ally of the United States but the two countries have had bumpy relations in recent years, with President Donald Trump cutting off some \$300 million in military aid, saying Islamabad had failed to curb Islamist extremists who stage attacks in Afghanistan and India.

Pakistan has tried to revive ties by using its contacts with the Taliban to facilitate negotiations with the Trump administration, which wants to withdraw troops from Afghanistan and end America's longest war.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

পুরিশ স্টাফ কলেজ বাংলাদেশ

সেকশন-১৪, মিরপুর, ঢাকা

সীমিত দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য টিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠান তালিকাভুক্তির বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন-২০০৬ এবং পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা-২০০৮ ও তদীয় সংশোধনী মোতাবেক ২০১৯-২০২০ অর্থ বছরে পুরিশ স্টাফ কলেজ বাংলাদেশ এর বিভিন্ন প্রকার ক্লায়ে, সেবা ও মেরামত কাজ সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতিতে সম্পাদনের লক্ষ্যে টিকাদারী/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান তালিকাভুক্তির এবং তালিকাভুক্ত প্রতিষ্ঠান নবায়নের জন্য আগ্রহী বাংলাদেশী টিকাদারী/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে শর্ত সাপেক্ষে আবেদন আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

১. মুসলিময়েবিভাগ ১০ শর্টে মস্তুলায়ুর ১. সাস্থা পুরিশেশ পুরিশ ১. প্রকিউরিং এন্টার্টেইন নাম ১০ রেস্টোর, পুরিশ স্টাফ কলেজ বাংলাদেশ ১. আহানের উদ্দেশ্য ১০ নতুন টিকাদার তালিকাভুক্ত এবং তালিকাভুক্ত টিকাদার নবায়ন করণ ৫. প্রকিউরিং পদ্ধতি ১০ উন্নতু ১. বাজেট এবং অর্থের উৎস ১০ রাজবংশ ৭. আবেদনপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির শেষ শাখা, পুরিশ স্টাফ কলেজ বাংলাদেশ, মিরপুর-১৪, ঢাকা ৭. আবেদনপত্র জমা প্রদানের শেষ তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান ৮. আবেদনপত্র জমা প্রদানের শেষ তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান ৮. পুরিশ স্টাফ কলেজ বাংলাদেশ, সেকশন-১৪, মিরপুর, ঢাকা এবং অফিস কক্ষ, পুরিশ স্টাফ কলেজ বাংলাদেশ প্রশাসন ও অর্থ ১০/০২/২০১৯ইং অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত। প্রশাসন শাখা, পুরিশ স্টাফ কলেজ বাংলাদেশ, সেকশন-১৪, মিরপুর, ঢাকা ১২/০২/২০১৯ইং অফিস কক্ষ, পুরিশ স্টাফ কলেজ বাংলাদেশ, সেকশন-১৪, মিরপুর, ঢাকা ১২. অফিসের নাম ও টিকানা ১০ পুরিশ স্টাফ কলেজ বাংলাদেশ, সেকশন-১৪, মিরপুর, ঢাকা ১০/০২/২০১৯ইং বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটকায় উপ-প্রিচালক (প্রশাসন ও অর্থ) এবং অফিস কক্ষ, পুরিশ স্টাফ কলেজ বাংলাদেশ, সেকশন-১৪, মিরপুর, ঢাকা (আবেদনকারীদের সম্মত, যদি কেবল উপস্থিত থাকেন)।

১১. আবেদনকারীর যোগ্যতা ১০ (ক) হালনাগাদ ট্রেক লাইসেন্স এর কপি (খ) টিআইএন স্টার্টারকেট ও হালনাগাদ অয়েল প্রদানের প্রতিক্রিয়া করণ করে নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ের পর কোন আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ করে নির্ধারিত তারিখের পর কোন আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ করে নির্ধারিত তারিখের পর কোন আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ করে নির্ধারিত তারিখের পর কোন আবেদনপ