

NEWSIN brief

Niqab banned in Tunisian gov offices

AFP, Tunis
Tunisia's premier yesterday banned the niqab Muslim face covering for women in government offices, citing security concerns after attacks in the North African country. Prime Minister Youssef Chahed signed a government circular "banning access to public administrations and institutions to anyone with their face covered... for security reasons," his office said. The ban on the niqab, which covers the entire face apart from the eyes, comes at a time of heightened security following a June 27 double suicide bombing in Tunis that left two dead and seven wounded.

Libya migrant camp death toll rises to 53

AFP, Tripoli
The casualty toll of an air strike on a detention camp for migrants near the Libyan capital has climbed to 53 dead and 130 wounded, the World Health Organization said yesterday. The UN agency said the deaths in Tuesday night's strike had raised to almost 1,000 dead and 5,000 wounded the overall toll of an assault on Tripoli launched by military strongman Khalifa Haftar in April.

Unesco lists Babylon as World Heritage Site

AFP, Baghdad
Unesco's World Heritage Committee voted yesterday to list the sprawling Mesopotamian metropolis of Babylon as a World Heritage Site after three decades of lobbying efforts by Iraq. Straddling Iraq's Euphrates River about 100 kilometres (60 miles) south of Baghdad, the city was the centre of the ancient Babylonian empire more than 4,000 years ago. Babylon occupies a special place in religion, appearing in the Bible, Hebrew scripture, and even mythical prophecies.



Fireworks explode over the Lincoln Memorial during the Fourth of July celebrations in Washington, DC, on Thursday. *Inset*, People gather during Fourth of July Independence Day celebrations at the National Mall in Washington, DC. President Donald Trump sang the praises of the US military and American heroes of the past two and a half centuries Thursday, skirting politics in a rousing Independence Day speech in Washington.



PHOTO: AFP

Satirists mourn as Mad folds

AFP, Washington
Mad Magazine has amused and outraged readers for nearly seventy years but now it is being pulled from newsstands, triggering testimonials from comedians and cartoonists.
The rollicking satirical mag with its freckled, big-eared mascot Alfred E Neuman will be published monthly with original satire only until September, its publisher DC Comics told ABC news on Thursday.
But "after issue #10 this fall there will no longer be new content -- except for the end-of-year specials which will always be all new," it said in a statement.
"I am profoundly sad to hear that after 67 years, MAD Magazine is ceasing publication," comedian, musician and former guest editor Weird Al Yankovich tweeted.
The Simpsons' writer Josh Weinstein also tipped his hat to the publication's comic power.
"Goodbye, Mad Magazine. Thanks for inspiring generations & generations of comedy & most of all, thanks for the laughs."

India eyes to cut fiscal deficit

Raises import tariffs, taxes on the super rich in budget

REUTERS, New Delhi
Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government yesterday raised import tariffs on nearly 75 items including gold and automobile parts in its federal budget and increased taxes on the rich to hold down the fiscal deficit as it tries to revive growth.
Aiming to restart investment that's at its weakest level in years, the government also proposed giving foreign investors a bigger role in India's giant insurance and aviation sectors, which have been tightly controlled for decades.
Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman unveiled the proposals while presenting the budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2020 to parliament, the first since the Hindu nationalist-led government was re-elected in a vote in April and May.
Modi, boosted by a recent election victory, has set a target of growing India into a \$5 trillion economy by 2024/2025 from \$2.7 trillion.
GDP growth slumped to 5.8% in January-March, the lowest in 20 quarters. Growth for the last fiscal year, at 6.8%, was also a five-year low. All important indicators of economic activity, like the dipping index of industrial production (IIP) and plummeting automobile sales, confirmed the slowdown.
But the government, in its first budget since the re-election, did not announce a big jump in public spending

as was widely expected. Sitharaman said the fiscal deficit would be trimmed to 3.3% of GDP in the fiscal year ending March 31, 2020 - which analysts said was likely based on expectations of higher tax collections.
Sitharaman raised import duties on gold and other precious metals to 12.5% from 10%, and levied an import tax of one rupee per tonne on crude oil to boost federal revenue just as global oil prices have softened from their highs.
The government also increased local levies on a litre of petrol and diesel by two rupees each, stoking fears of inflation.
The finance minister said the government would provide state-owned banks 700 billion rupees of additional capital that are laden with bad debt which has affected their ability to lend and also spur economic growth. Indian banks and financial institutions, in all, hold bad debt of over 10 trillion rupees (\$150 billion).
The government raised income tax surcharge on people with an annual income of more than 20 million rupees (\$291,930) who make up the top end of Indian society.
Currently, India imposes 10% surcharge where total income is between 5 million rupees and 10 million, and 15% on income above 10 million rupees. The new rate will include 25% surcharge on income between 20 million and 50 million rupees, and 37% on income exceeding 50 million rupees a years.



India eyes naming roads, trains after good taxpayers

Fancy having a school or a train named after you, or getting priority boarding at airports? In India, this could soon be true for people who pay their taxes in exemplary fashion. In proposals aimed at improving the Asian giant's low tax intake, the top 10 taxpayers in a district over a decade "could be recognised by naming important buildings, monuments, roads, trains, initiatives... in their name", the annual Economic Survey released on Thursday suggested. Other sweeteners could include faster boarding at airports and special "diplomatic-type" lanes at immigration counters, the government report compiled by India's chief economic advisor said. The proposals are inspired by the "nudge" theory of behavioural economics, which gently encourages people towards better economic and social behaviour, the report said. The proposals did not say what criteria would be used to judge a top taxpayer.

India finance minister ditches 'colonial' budget briefcase

India's Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chose to ditch the "colonial" briefcase while presenting her maiden budget to parliament. Sitharaman, instead, carried a bright red traditional ledger known as bahi-khata in Hindi. Her chief economic adviser Krishnamurthy Subramanian said it symbolised a "departure from the slavery of western thought". She is the first female finance minister after Indira Gandhi who also held the portfolio in 1970-71 while she was prime minister. Her bold choice of budget-carrying accessory has caused a lot of chatter on Indian social media. While there were many who lauded her commitment to Indian tradition, others ridiculed it, asking questions like why she drove to parliament in a vehicle instead of travelling there by bullock cart and asking if her speech was printed on palm leaves.



Rule of law in Venezuela 'eroded': UN rights chief

The rule of law has eroded in Venezuela, the UN rights chief warned yesterday, pointing to attacks on political opponents and activists, including torture and thousands of killings by security forces. Presenting a damning report to the UN Human Rights Council, Michelle Bachelet said that attempting to exercise the most basic rights like freedom of opinion, expression, association and assembly "entails a risk of reprisals and repression". "Essential institutions and the rule of law in Venezuela have been eroded," she said. She decried attacks against "actual or perceived political opponents and human rights defenders ranging from threats and smear campaigns to arbitrary detention, torture, ill-treatment, sexual violence, killings and enforced disappearance." Venezuela immediately slammed the report, which was published late Thursday.



Rajiv Gandhi's assassination accomplice gets parole

An Indian court yesterday granted a 30-day parole to a woman convicted three decades ago over her role in the 1991 assassination of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi by militants. Gandhi and 14 others were killed in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu by a female suicide bomber belonging to Sri Lanka's Tamil separatist group the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). Nalini Sriharan, an Indian national, was arrested soon after the bombing and found guilty -- together with her husband and 25 others -- of conspiracy and helping the teenage bomber, Thenmozhi Rajaratnam. Her death sentence was commuted on a clemency plea by Gandhi's widow in 2000. Three others are still awaiting execution. A court in Chennai yesterday suspended Sriharan's life imprisonment sentence for a month after she filed a plea for a six-month parole to make arrangements for her daughter's wedding. Gandhi -- prime minister between 1984 and 1989 -- was campaigning for mid-term national elections in 1991 when militants targeted him over his decision to send the Indian army to Sri Lanka. SOURCE: AFP, BBC



Demonstrators hold up lights from their phones during a rally organised by Hong Kong mothers in support of extradition law protesters, in Hong Kong, yesterday. A Hong Kong street artist was charged yesterday with assaulting a police officer and criminal damage, the first prosecution against an anti-government protester since the city was rocked by unprecedented demonstrations.

CRISIS OVER TRANSITIONAL GOVERNING BODY

Sudan military, protesters agree power-sharing deal

AFP, Khartoum
Crowds of jubilant Sudanese took to the streets of Khartoum yesterday to celebrate a landmark deal between protest leaders and the country's ruling generals aimed at turning the page on months of political unrest.
The power-sharing deal, reached in the early hours after two days of hard-won talks brokered by Ethiopian and African Union mediators, came after a previous round of negotiations collapsed in May over who should lead the new body -- a civilian or soldier.
"The two sides agreed on establishing a sovereign council with a rotating military and civilian (presidency) for a period of three years or little more," African Union (AU) mediator Mohamed El Hacem Lebabat told reporters.
Sudan has been gripped by political deadlock since the generals ousted longtime president Omar al-Bashir in a

palace coup in April following months of mass protests nationwide.
The key protest group that initially launched demonstrations against Bashir in December hailed the deal.
"Today, our revolution has become victorious and our victory shines," the Sudanese Professionals Association said in a statement.
Tension between the two sides had soared after a brutal raid on a longstanding protest camp outside army headquarters in Khartoum that killed dozens of demonstrators and wounded hundreds on June 3.
Lebabat did not specify the exact make-up of the new ruling body, but prominent protest leader Ahmed al-Rabie told AFP it would comprise six civilians, five of them protest movement nominees, and five military representatives.
The SPA said a final draft of the agreement would be ready for signing by the two sides by Monday.

e-Tender Notice

Board of Intermediate & Secondary Education, Dinajpur

Memo No: মাউশিবোদি/প্রশা/ই-জিপি-০২/২০১৯(২), তারিখ- ০৪/০৭/২০১৯ e-Tender Notice No. ইজিপি-০২/২০১৯-২০

E-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the following procurement-

| Tender ID No. | Package No. | Description | Online tender notice publication date and time | Online tender closing date and time |
|---------------|----------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| 339516 | G8/2019/JSC/EXAM/AAS | Procurement of Additional Answer Scripts for JSC Exam 2019 | 04-Jul-2019 10:00 | 22-Jul-2019 14:00 |

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.
The fees for last selling/downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to date & time.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Prof. Md. Aminul Haque Sarker
Secretary, Board of Intermediate & Secondary Education, Dinajpur
e-mail: secretary@dinajpureducationboard.gov.bd
Phone: 0531-51884

GD-1190

Thousands protest in Algeria

AFP, Algiers
Thousands of people protested for a twentieth consecutive week in Algeria's capital yesterday, defying a major police presence and after the interim president renewed a plea for dialogue.
"Go, liberate Algeria!", protesters chanted, waving the national flag, as they kept up pressure for regime insiders to step aside, more than three months after forcing longtime ruler Abdelaziz Bouteflika into resigning.
Amid shouts of "Long live Algeria! Our claims are legitimate!", hundreds of the protesters successfully forced their way through a police cordon and headed for the esplanade of the main post office, a symbol of the protest movement.
Around a dozen protesters were arrested, witnesses said.

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)

PKSF Bhaban, E-4/B, Agargaon Administrative Area Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh
Telephone: 880-2-8181658-61, 8181664-9, 8181169 Fax: 880-2-8181671 8181678 e-mail: pksf@pksf-bd.org; www.facebook.com/PKSF.org

Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) for Hiring Consulting Firm for Development and Implementation of Workflow Management System and Document Management System for Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), an apex development organization, has been working for poverty alleviation in Bangladesh since 1990. PKSF wants to implement Workflow Management System & Document Management System to integrate it with its Integrated Information System (IIS).

Competent national IT firms are invited to express their interest in the above service. They are requested to collect Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) with short-listing questionnaire forms from the office of PKSF during office hours (9am to 4pm) or from PKSF website (www.pksf-bd.org).

Last date of Submission of REOI is 25/07/2019, upto 12.00 noon.

Request for Proposal (RFP) will be issued to the short-listed IT firms for the submission of proposals. Firm will be selected based on "Quality and Cost Base Selection (QCBS)" method.

PKSF reserves the right to accept or reject any or all expressions of interest without assigning any reasons.

Dr. Md. Jashim Uddin
Deputy Managing Director