

NEWS IN brief

Trump names new acting intel chief

President Donald Trump said on Thursday that Joseph Maguire, the current chief of the National Counterterrorism Center, will become the acting director of national intelligence...

Kyrgyz court holds ex-president after raid

A court in Kyrgyzstan has ordered the country's former president to be held in pre-trial detention after he was seized from his compound in raids that left one person dead and plunged the country in crisis...

Super Typhoon barrels towards China

China issued a red alert for incoming Super Typhoon Lekima which is expected to batter eastern Zhejiang province early today with high winds and torrential rainfall...



An Israeli soldier hurls a sound grenade towards Palestinian demonstrators during a protest against the nearby Jewish settlement of Qadomem, in the village of Kofr Qadom in the Israeli-occupied West Bank yesterday.

Economic downturn to hit Hong Kong like 'tsunami'

Hong Kong's leader Carrie Lam yesterday warned that two months of pro-democracy demonstrations were causing economic chaos in the city but ruled out making concessions to "silence the violent protesters..."



Protesters have continued to stage almost daily rallies despite increasingly violent confrontations with police that have prompted several countries to issue Hong Kong travel warnings for their citizens.

'MIXED SIGNALS' TO IRAN

Trump lashes out at French president

President Donald Trump on Thursday accused his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron of getting in the way of US policy and sending "mixed signals" to Iran...

POWER STRUGGLE IN ITALY

Pope warns against rise of nationalism

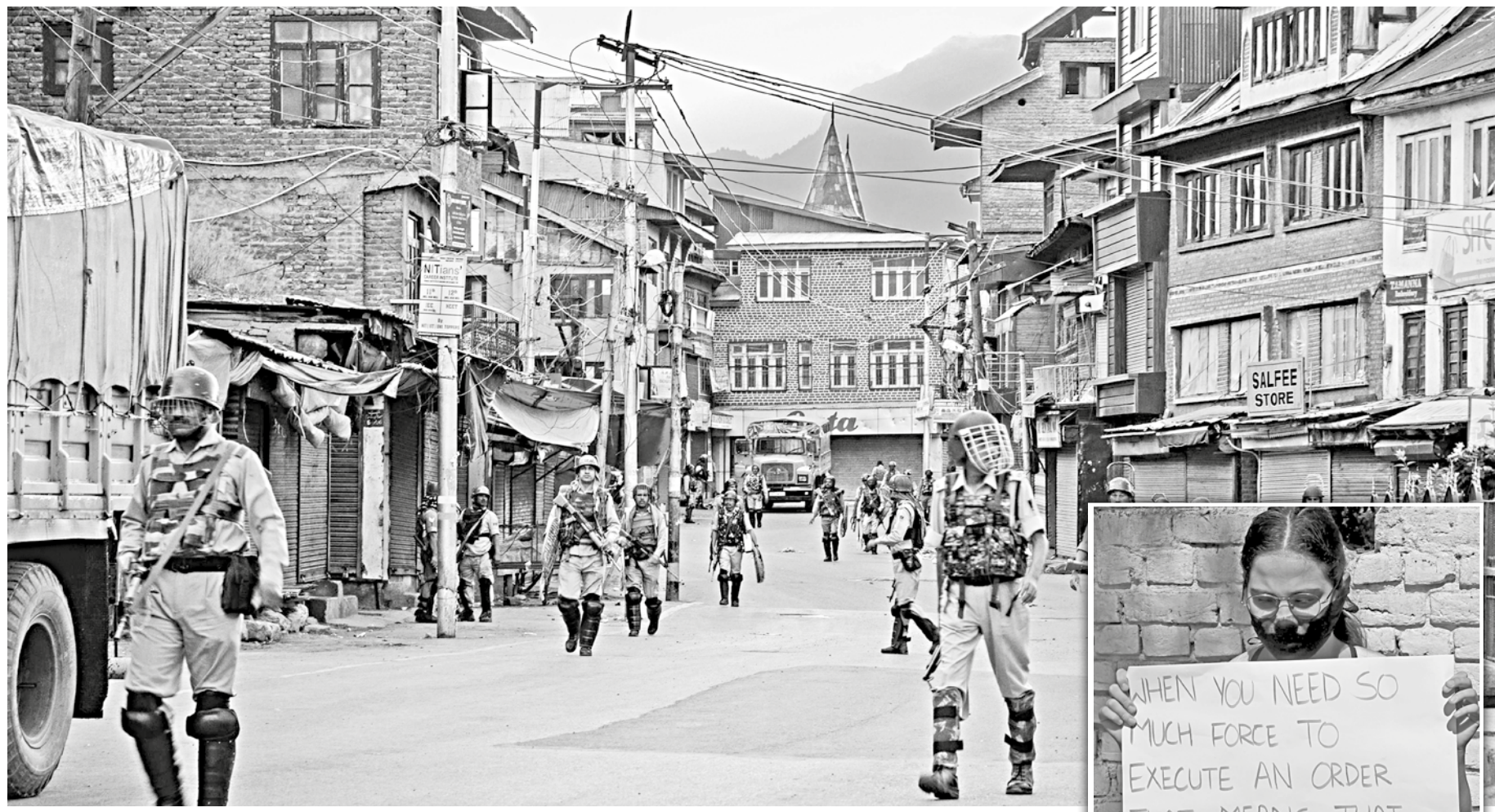
Pope Francis yesterday warned against European nationalism, raising the "frightening" spectre of Hitler in comments published a day after Italy's far-right interior minister bid to strengthen his hold on government...



The pope warned in an interview published yesterday in newspaper La Stampa that "sovereignism reveals an attitude toward isolation..."

Decision on Congress chief today: source

A new Congress president will be chosen when the party's top decision-making body meets today, sources said yesterday after a meeting at Sonia Gandhi's home...



Indian security personnel walk on a street in Srinagar yesterday, as widespread restrictions on movement and a telecommunications blackout continued in place after the Indian government stripped Jammu and Kashmir of its autonomy. Inset, An activist protests with a placard in New Delhi.

J&K state assembly polls soon

Promises Modi, says region will be converted to full-fledged state again. Prime Minister Narendra Modi told the people of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday that elections would be held soon in the state for the local assembly...



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Pak court allows remand of Maryam Nawaz

Some supporters of Pakistan's largest opposition party threw punches yesterday in clashes with police as a top leader, Maryam Nawaz, was remanded to custody on corruption charges filed by a national anti-graft agency...



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It's up to EU to avoid no-deal Brexit: UK FM

Britain's foreign minister on Thursday pressed the European Union to amend the terms of Britain's EU withdrawal agreement, saying Brussels would have to take responsibility for a no-deal Brexit if it does not compromise...



British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said the British government wanted to leave the European Union with a deal, but would do so without one if EU negotiators did not alter their stance...



Abel Valenzuela, local of El Paso, meditates in front of the makeshift memorial for shooting victims at the Cielo Vista Mall Walmart in El Paso, Texas on Thursday night. The El Paso community is still reeling from the trauma of the mass shooting which left 22 dead and dozens injured.

Pelosi slams US treatment of migrants

House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi criticised US treatment of migrants during a visit to Guatemala, and raised doubts about whether the Central American country could cope with a migration deal agreed with the Trump administration...

Indigenous and women's rights can boost climate fight: UN

Thursday's IPCC report called for wiser land use, including protecting forests from being cut down for crops and grazing, and eco-friendly farming that uses fewer chemicals, such as fertiliser which emits planet-warming nitrous oxide...



Indigenous peoples said on Thursday that a United Nations report on climate change had for the first time recognised their land rights as important for curbing global warming...



In this photograph taken on Thursday, Indian Army personnel rescue people stranded in flood waters after heavy rains on the outskirts of Sangli in Maharashtra state.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Marine heatwaves kill coral instantly

Marine heatwaves are killing coral reefs far more quickly than previously believed, according to a new study released yesterday. Scientists have known that rising sea temperatures blam...

Moscow says US backed opposition protests

Moscow yesterday summoned a representative of the US embassy over what it said were calls to take part in opposition protests from the rallyes. The crackdown on the protests is the largest since demonstrations against Vladimir Putin's 2012 return to the Kremlin that Moscow also said were encouraged by the US...

Man stabs 4 people at Japanese hospital

A knife-wielding man stabbed three nurses and a policeman at a hospital in western Japan yesterday, police said, the latest stabbing incident in the country. The nurses were stabbed in the chest and abdomen but their wounds were not life threatening, police said, adding that a policeman was also wounded in his left arm...



The Russian foreign ministry said in a statement yesterday that it considered the posting of a map showing the location of a Moscow rally a "call to participate..."

COMMUNICATIONS BLOCKADE IN KASHMIR

Only 5 of 180 newspapers published

Kashmir has nearly 180 English and Urdu daily newspapers, but only five are publishing these days due to restrictions imposed by Indian authorities to prevent unrest after New Delhi revoked the state's autonomy. That is frustrating for the region's journalists, many of whom are veterans of covering a long insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir and operating under prolonged curfews...

Trump says another meeting with Kim Jong Un possible

President Donald Trump said he has received a "very beautiful letter" on Thursday from North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and added that he could have another meeting with him. Speaking to reporters, Trump did not say when such a meeting would take place. North Korea has been testing missiles despite a June 30 meeting between Trump and Kim at which the two agreed to revive stalled working-level talks, which have yet to resume...



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FINANCIAL TERRORISM

8 charged in Rakhine

A Myanmar court yesterday charged eight people with financing terrorism, including six deported from Singapore last month over allegations they had sent money to ethnic rebels in the conflict-torn Rakhine region. Recently, civilians have been caught up in clashes between the military and the Arakan Army, an insurgent group that recruits from the mainly Buddhist ethnic Rakhine population and is fighting for greater autonomy for the state. Myanmar has designated the Arakan Army a terrorist organization. The Myanmar army has battled various autonomy-seeking ethnic minority insurgent groups for decades but several have agreed to make peace in recent years.

Floods kill 22 in southern India

At least 22 people have died in the southern Indian state of Kerala after torrential monsoon rains caused landslides and flooding that cut off some areas, authorities said yesterday. Seasonal monsoon rains from June to September cause deaths and mass displacement across South Asia every year but they also deliver more than 70% of India's rainfall and are crucial for farm output and economic growth. In Kerala, the disaster forced the evacuation of more than 22,000 people and the closure of Cochin International Airport, the busiest airport in the tourist state. Located along the banks of the Periyar river, the airport will be shut until at least 1500 IST (0930 GMT) on Sunday, although the Indian Navy has opened an airfield at a naval base for use by commercial flights, officials said. Kerala was hit by devastating floods last August that killed more than 200 people and affected more than 5 million. The western Indian states of states of Maharashtra, Goa and Karnataka have also been hit with heavy rains and flooding. Officials said at least 38 people have been killed in the states this week due to the rains and more than 200,000 have been evacuated.