



# Mugabe resigns

Robert Mugabe

**Harare**  
**R**obert Mugabe resigned as Zimbabwe's president yesterday, a week after the army and his former political allies moved to end four decades of rule by a man once feted as an independence hero who became feared as a despot.

His former vice president, Emmerson Mnangagwa, whose sacking this month prompted the military takeover that forced Mugabe out, will be sworn in as president today or tomorrow, Patrick Chinamasa, legal secretary of the ruling ZANU-PF party, told Reuters.

The 93-year-old Mugabe had clung on for a week after an army takeover, with ZANU-PF urging him to go. He finally resigned moments after parliament began an impeachment process seen as the only legal way to force him out.

Wild celebrations broke out at a joint sitting of parliament

when Speaker Jacob Mudenda read out Mugabe's brief resignation letter and suspended the impeachment procedure. Mugabe, who has been confined to his Harare residence, did not appear.

People danced and car horns blared at news that the era of Mugabe -- who had led Zimbabwe since independence in 1980 -- was finally over. Some held posters of Mnangagwa and of army chief General Constantino Chiwenga.

Despite the outpouring of joy on the streets, his downfall was as much the result of in-fighting among the political elite as a popular uprising, although thousands of people rallied against him in the days after the army intervened last week.

The army seized power after Mugabe sacked Mnangagwa, ZANU-PF's favourite to succeed him, in a bid to smooth a path to the presidency for his wife Grace,

52, known to her critics as "Gucci Grace" for her reputed fondness for luxury shopping.

Since the crisis began, Mugabe has been mainly confined to his "Blue Roof" mansion in the capital where Grace is also believed to be.

ZANU-PF chief whip Lovemore Matuke told Reuters that Mnangagwa would be sworn in within 48 hours and that he would serve the remainder of Mugabe's term until the next general election, which must be held by September 2018.

"I am very happy with what has happened," said Maria Sabawu, a supporter of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), outside the hotel where the impeachment process was happening.

Mugabe has led Zimbabwe since a guerrilla struggle ended white-minority rule in the country formerly known as Rhodesia. (Reuters)

## Cigar-shaped asteroid came from another solar system

Washington

**A** rocky cigar-shaped object detected in space last month came from another solar system, astronomers said Monday as they confirmed an unprecedented observation.

The discovery may provide clues as to how other solar systems formed, said the researchers, who published their study in the British journal Nature.

The asteroid, named Oumuamua by its discoverers, is one-quarter mile (400 meters) long and highly elongated --perhaps 10 times as long as it is wide.



An artist's impression of the first interstellar asteroid

That odd shape is unprecedented among the some 750,000 asteroids and comets observed in our solar system where they formed, said the researchers.

They concluded that the

cigar-shaped thing is from another solar system due to data on its orbit.

Asteroids like Oumuamua enter our solar system about once a year, these scientists said. (AFP)

### #PollToday



Do you think sanctions will make national spirit of Koreans stronger as claimed by Kim Jong-un?

Yes  No  Cant Say



"The hostile forces' desperate efforts to block the advance of North Korea make the indomitable spirit of the Korean workers stronger and make them produce a great miracle startling the world,"

Kim Jong-un  
 North Korean leader

### Rest in sight

US conducts airstrikes on Afghan opium labs



The US has conducted a series of airstrikes targeting opium processing labs in Afghanistan as part of a campaign targeting the Taliban's \$200 million-a-year drug trade.

### U.S. threatens to sue Harvard

The U.S. Justice Department has threatened to sue Harvard University to force it to turn over documents as it investigates whether the Ivy League school's admission policies violate civil rights laws.

### Pakistan arrests 16 for illegal border crossing

Sixteen foreigners were arrested in Pakistan's Balochistan province for illegally trying to cross the country's border into Iran.

### China delivers 1,000 tonnes of rice to Syria

A total of 1,000 tonnes of rice donated by China has been delivered to Syria's northwestern city of Latakia.

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## Nigeria mosque attack: suicide bomber kills dozens



A suicide bomber has attacked a mosque during early morning prayers in Nigeria.

**Kano, Nigeria**

**A**t least 50 people were killed yesterday when a suicide bomber blew himself up in a mosque in northeast Nigeria, police said, in an attack blamed on Boko Haram jihadists.

The blast happened during early morning prayers at the Madina mosque in the Unguwar Shuwa area of Mubi, some 200 kilometres (125 miles) by road from the Adamawa state capital Yola.

It was the biggest attack in Adamawa since December 2016, when two female suicide bombers killed 45 people at a crowded market in the town of Madagali.

Security analysts said yesterday's bombing again underlined the threat posed by Boko Haram, despite an overall decline in deaths from attacks by the group last year.

Adamawa state police spokesman Othman Abubakar told AFP that at least 50 were killed in the Mubi attack.

"It was a (suicide) bomber who mingled with worshippers. He entered the mosque along with other worshippers for the morning prayers.

"It was when the prayers were on that he set off his explosives."

Asked who was responsible, Abubakar said: "We all know the trend. We don't suspect anyone specifically but we know those behind such kind of attacks."

The attack bore all the hallmarks of Boko Haram, the Islamist militants whose insurgency has left at least 20,000 people dead and more than 2.6 million others homeless since 2009. (AFP)

## Sharapova named in India luxury housing fraud probe



Maria Sharapova

New Delhi

**F**ive-time Grand Slam champion Maria Sharapova is under investigation by Indian police for cheating and criminal conspiracy after the collapse of a luxury housing project that she endorsed, a lawyer said yesterday.

The firm behind the development is alleged to have taken millions of dollars from homebuyers before the project folded.

Piyush Singh, a lawyer representing one of the buyers, said that police had filed initial charges of cheating and criminal

conspiracy against Sharapova as part of a wider case against the firm Homestead Infrastructure Development.

The 30-year-old tennis star travelled to India in 2012 to launch the luxury high-rise apartment complex -- named Ballet by Sharapova -- which prospective buyers were told would house a tennis academy, a clubhouse and a helipad.

The website of the project quotes Sharapova as saying her goal was to "make the owners feel like they own something special and different". (AFP)