

## world

## Brazil's Amazon chief Raoni tapped for 2020 Nobel Peace Prize nomination

Reuters | Brasilia

A group of Brazilian anthropologists and environmentalists has put forward Chief Raoni Metuktire of the Kayapó tribe as a candidate for the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize for a lifetime of work protecting the Amazon rainforest.

Raoni, an unmistakable Amazon icon with his large lip plate, yellow macaw-feather headdress and ear rings, became known internationally as an environmental campaigner in the 1980s with musician Sting at his side.

At 89, Raoni took to the road again this year seeking help to stop a surge in fires destroying the forest, which he has blamed on the plans of right-wing President Jair Bolsonaro to develop the Amazon economically and assimilate its indigenous people.

The Darcy Ribeiro Foundation, named after one of Brazil's first anthropologists, announced this week that it had formally proposed Raoni's name to the Norwegian Nobel Committee, which decides who wins the annual award.

The foundation has also written to French President Emmanuel Macron to call for his endorsement of the nom-



Raoni Metuktire

ination. Raoni met twice this year with Macron, who led criticism of Brazil's environmental practices at the recent Group of Seven wealthy nations summit in Biarritz.

A spokesman for the foundation, Toni Lotar, said on Saturday that the nomination had been initially accepted by the committee, but the foundation has yet to complete the full nomination process.

"Chief Raoni is a living symbol of the fight to protect nature and the rights of indigenous people in the Amazon," Lotar told Reuters.

"He is respected worldwide for a life dedicated to the survival of our planet that is so threatened by climate change," Lotar said.

The Brazilian government has denied encouraging recent fires allegedly set by farmers seeking to extend the agricultural frontier in the Amazon and blame the surge on the dry season.

# West African leaders agree anti-jihadist plan

The leaders of West African nations have announced a billion-dollar plan to combat the growing problem of Islamist violence in the region

● Jihadist groups have strengthened their presence across the arid Sahel region this year

AFP | Ouagadougou

West African leaders on Saturday announced a billion-dollar plan to fight the rising problem of jihadist violence in the region, at a summit in Burkina Faso.

The plan, to be funded from 2020 to 2024, was announced at end of the Economic Community Summit of West African States in Ouagadougou, where the ECOWAS nations were joined by Mauritania and Chad.

ECOWAS had decided to mobilise "the financial resources of up to a billion dollars for the fight against terrorism", said Niger's President Mahamadou Issoufou.

The money, paid into a common fund, would help reinforce



Presidents Muhammadu Buhari of Nigeria (L), Nana Akufo-Addo of Ghana (C) and Julius Maada Bio of Sierra Leone were among the leaders meeting in Ouagadougou

the military operations of the nations involved -- and those of the joint military operations in the region.

Full details of the plan would be presented to the next ECOWAS summit in December.

The fight against the rising tide of jihadist violence in the region has so far been hampered

by a lack of funds.

The G5 Sahel, a joint task-force, was created in 2014 to try to tackle the problem, backed by former colonial power France.

From July 2017, it pooled troops from Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger in a bid to drive back the jihadist groups.

But a lack of finance, training and equipment, limited their effectiveness and their numbers. For the moment, the force numbers 4,000 troops, when 5,000 were originally planned.

ECOWAS -- the Economic Community of West African States -- brings together 15 countries whose economies range from regional heavyweights Nigeria and Ivory Coast to the impoverished Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Landlocked Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger are non-coastal states.



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## Singapore smog worst in three years

Reuters | Singapore

Singapore's air quality deteriorated to "unhealthy" levels on Saturday for the first time in three years, data from the National Environment Agency (NEA) showed, threatening to

deepen a regional dispute over forest fires.

Every dry season, smoke from fires to clear land for palm oil and pulp and paper plantations in Indonesia clouds the skies over much of the region, raising concerns about public health

and worrying tourist operators and airlines.

The 24-hour Pollution Standards Index, which Singapore's NEA uses as a benchmark, was in a range of 87-106 in the afternoon. A reading above 100 is considered unhealthy.

## US park rangers debunk myth on tossing banana peels, apple cores

AFP | Los Angeles

Next time you toss a banana peel or apple core on the ground believing you're feeding nature, you may want to think twice.

That's the appeal issued this week by rangers at Glacier National Park in Montana -- one of the country's most famous parks -- who urged visitors not to leave food waste behind.

"These 'natural' food items will not decompose quickly," the rangers said in a Facebook post shared at least 50,000 times by Friday. "If animals don't eat the food waste, decomposition will likely take much longer than you expect."

"Some fruit products can take years to decompose depending on the environment they are in!"

A banana skin, for example, can take two years to degrade while an apple core can take



A squirrel eating a banana peel

eight weeks.

The rangers added in their post -- entitled "Myth Busters Banana Peel and Apple Core Edition" -- that so-called natural food items are "usually not so natural" as they may not be native to the area where they are discarded.

"If eaten by wildlife it will

likely not digest well since these animals are not accustomed to these foods," they wrote. "Fruit and vegetable seeds that end up on the ground could result in a non-native plant growth."

"Last but not least, no one wants to see your food waste decomposing on their visit to a pristine national park."



BAHRAIN AIRPORT COMPANY wishes to invite proposals for the following Public Tender:

Tender No.	Tender Title	Tender Doc. Fees	Initial Bond	Tender Closing	
				Day/ Date	Time
BAC/HBH/3/2019	Supply and Maintenance of Baggage Wrapping Machine for the New Airport Terminal	BD 15/- non-refundable	BD 500/-	8th October 2019	03:00 pm

• Companies with the required experience are kindly requested to collect the appropriate tender documents at Bahrain Airport Company (Building 124, Road 2403, Muharrag 224 Gulf Air Building 1st Floor Wing B) Procurement Department Tel: 17353385, 17353449 during the following working hours (08:00am - 03:00pm) after payment of tender fees specified above.

• Deposit each Tender Submission in the tender box provided at the Bahrain Airport Company, Procurement Department on the above closing date before 03:00 pm. Any submissions after the mentioned closing date & time shall not be accepted. Along with an initial bond for the amount specified above or at the rate of 1% of the quotation value whichever amount is the lesser, provided that no initial Bond's value shall be less than BD 500/-, in the form of a Certified Cheque, Bank Guarantee or Insurance Policy valid for the duration specified in the tender documents.

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1. Enclose a copy of the Commercial Registration Certificate for the current year, which must include the Tender Subject as one of its activities.
2. Enclose a copy of a valid Certificate of Compliance with the Employment Percentage for Bahraini Manpower issued by Ministry of Labour.
3. All documents submitted as part of the tender (original or copies) must bear the stamp of the bidding Company.
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