

## world

**Berlin to expel 9/11 accomplice: reports**

Berlin, Germany

Germany will expel to Morocco a convicted Moroccan accomplice in the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States, media reported.

Mounir el Motassadeq was sentenced in January 2007 by a German court to 15 years in jail for his role in the death of 246 passengers and crew aboard hijacked aircraft used in the September 11 attacks.

He was the first person ever convicted for complicity in the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

The Moroccan was flown at midday Monday by helicopter from the Hamburg jail where he has been serving his prison term to Frankfurt, according to Spiegel Online and Bild daily.

**Bishop granted bail in nun rape case**

New Delhi, India

An Indian bishop accused of raping a nun was granted bail Monday in a case that has triggered rare dissent within the country's Catholic Church.

Bishop Franco Mulakkal was arrested on September 21 in the southern state of Kerala on suspicion of raping the nun 13 times between 2014 and 2016.

Pope Francis suspended him the day before his arrest, appointing another bishop in his place.

**Air hostess falls out of plane**

Mumbai, India

A flight attendant fell out of an Air India plane while trying to close its door yesterday, the airline said, reportedly breaking her leg when she landed on the tarmac. The accident occurred at Mumbai's international airport as the crew were getting ready to welcome passengers aboard the New Delhi-bound flight.

"The cabin crew member fell off while closing the back door of the Boeing 777 and sustained injuries on Monday morning," Pravin Bhatnagar, a senior manager at Air India, said.

"An investigation will be carried out to determine the exact cause of the incident."

Indian media reports said the woman, a 52-year-old, was conscious but had leg fractures. A spokesperson for Nanavati Hospital, where the flight attendant was taken, was not immediately available for comment when contacted.

# Jordan reopens Syria crossing after 3 years

Cars bearing Jordanian license plates queued to enter Syria as travellers expressed their joy

● **Crossing a major link for direct trade, longer-distant transit**

● **The move is expected to revitalise Syrian economy**

● **Traffic will resume daily from 0500 GMT to 1300 GMT**

AFP | Jaber Border Crossing, Jordan

Jordan yesterday reopened its main border crossing with war-torn Syria, a key Middle East trade route, after a three year closure.

The black metal border gate was opened from the Jordanian side of the crossing at 8:00 am (0500 GMT) as more than a dozen police and customs officials stood nearby.

Cars bearing Jordanian license plates queued to enter



Jaber border crossing between Jordan and Syria (Nassib crossing on the Syrian side) on the day of its reopening

Syria as travellers expressed their joy at being able to cross the border.

Syrian businessman Hisham Falyoun, who lives in Jordan with his wife and children, was

the first person to cross the border in his black Mercedes jeep.

"I am extremely happy, I can't express my feelings. This crossing should have been reopened earlier as it is a very vital line

for all Arab countries not only Jordan and Syria," he said.

"I wanted to be the first person to cross to show everyone that Syria is safe, Syria is back," said Falyoun, who was hoping to

surprise his parents in Damascus. Other travellers were likewise elated to make the crossing.

"Today is a celebration for us and I wanted to be among the first to cross the border," said Syrian businessman Mohammed Hisham as he waited for his turn to enter Syria from Jordan where he now lives.

The border crossing, known as Jaber on the Jordanian side and Nassib on the Syrian side, was a key trade route before Amman closed it after the post was over-run by rebels in April 2015.

**Vital trade artery**

Nabil Romman, a Jordanian trade official, told AFP in 2015 that "70 percent of what we eat, of everything we import and export, passed through Syria".

Cross border trade between Jordan and Syria in 2010 -- a year before the war broke out -- stood at \$615 million. Syria also requested that Jordan send an expert to help with border checks at Nassib where there are no X-ray machines, according to the terms of the agreement.

## Trump 'did not directly accuse' Putin: Kremlin

Moscow, Russia

The Kremlin yesterday downplayed televised comments by US President Donald Trump that Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin was "probably" involved in assassinations and poisonings, saying they did not amount to a direct accusation. "The US president didn't

make any direct accusations," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists after a CBS News interviewer asked Trump: "Do you agree that Vladimir Putin is involved in assassinations? In poisonings?" and he answered: "Probably he is, yeah."

Peskov said that in any case there are no grounds for ac-

cusations against the Russian president.

Russia has insisted two suspects in the nerve agent poisoning of former Russian double-agent Sergei Skripal and his daughter are ordinary citizens.

The Kremlin denounced any attempt to link the events in Salisbury, England to Putin.

## Lewinsky affair not an abuse of power: Hillary

Washington, United States

Hillary Clinton has said her husband Bill's affair with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky was not an abuse of power and he was right to not resign from the US presidency in the wake of the scandal.

The two-decades old episode has come under renewed scrutiny in the #MeToo era. Some, like New York Sen-

ator Kirsten Gillibrand, have said that Clinton should have stepped down after he was impeached by a Republican-controlled House in late 1998 for lying about the affair.

But speaking on CBS News on Sunday, former presidential candidate and secretary of state Hillary Clinton said she disagreed.

"Absolutely not," she replied when asked whether her husband should have resigned.

## Shocking extent of W. Cup deaths in Qatar revealed

Mirror, Sportbible

A trade union leader has revealed the shocking extent of deaths of 2022 World Cup workers in Qatar.

Qatar has come in for strong criticism over human rights and the treatment of migrant workers.

There are set to be eight stadiums in use for the tournament with organisers desperately trying to get them ready for four year's time.

It is unclear quite how many workers have died in preparing for the World Cup but Hans-Christian Gabrielsen, Leader of Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions, has offered a frightening insight.

"If we were to hold a minute of silence for every estimated death of a migrant worker due to the constructions of the Qatar World Cup, the first 44 matches of the tournament would be played in silence," he said.

"The stories of the workers in Qatar are unfortunately not unique. It is the everyday life of hundreds of thousands of migrant workers around the world."



Khalifa International Stadium, the first completed 2022 FIFA World Cup venue

The total of 44 matches is almost the whole of the group stages at a World Cup, with only the final four matches not affected.

The Qatar World Cup will be the first not to be held in the summer with matches due to get underway on November 21.

Gabrielsen added, "Labour migration is one of the biggest challenges facing international trade unions today. An ever-increasing economic globalization means that we have more migrant workers today than ever before.

"The stories of the workers in Qatar are unfortunately not unique. It is the everyday life of hundreds of thousands of migrant workers around the world."

Embassies, according to a report, had counted more than 400 deaths a year between them - a total of 1,239 deaths in the three years to the end of 2013. But Nepal and India account for only about 60 per cent of the estimated 1.4m migrant workers in Qatar, so the total number of migrant worker deaths is certain to be higher.