

WORLD
world**Turkish woman, held by Israel, returns home**

Istanbul, Turkey

A Turkish woman, held for over a month by Israel on charges of passing hundreds of dollars to a "terrorist" organisation, returned home to Turkey on Monday after her release.

Ebru Ozkan, 27, arrived overnight on a scheduled flight from Tel Aviv, the state-run Anadolu news agency said.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has already called Ozkan to pass on his best wishes after her return, said his spokesman Ibrahim Kalin, describing her incarceration as "unfounded".

At least 16 killed in Pakistan traffic collision

Karachi, Pakistan

At least 16 people were killed when a truck crashed into a parked bus in southern Pakistan Monday, in the latest fatal collision on the country's notoriously dangerous roads. The long haul truck slammed into the back of the bus, which was on stopped on the side of the highway with a flat tyre near the southern city of Hyderabad. Several passengers were on the side of the road during the incident as the driver sought help to change the tyre, while others were waiting inside the vehicle.

UK's Johnson returns as Telegraph columnist

London, United Kingdom

After resigning as foreign minister last week over Prime Minister Theresa May's compromise plan for Brexit, Boris Johnson is back at his old job as a columnist at the eurosceptic Daily Telegraph newspaper.

"He's Back," the paper said on its front page on Monday.

Hero cave diver to sue Musk

● Musk said the Thai rescue chief was not really in charge of the operation

Bangkok, Thailand | AFP

A British caver who helped rescue 12 boys from a Thai cave said yesterday he may take legal action against Elon Musk after the entrepreneur called him a "pedo".

Tesla CEO Musk launched the extraordinary tirade against Vernon Unsworth without providing any justification or explanation, after the cave expert slammed his offer of a miniature submarine to extract the footballers from the Tham Luang cave as a "PR stunt".

The "Wild Boar" team were rescued last week by an international team of divers through a narrow network of twisting, flooded tunnels.

Unsworth, who provided mapping knowledge of the cave to rescuers, said Musk's prototype would have had "absolutely no chance of working".

Musk responded Sunday in a bizarre series of tweets referring to Unsworth, without using his name, as "pedo guy". "Pedo" is short for paedophile.

The entrepreneur doubled down on his claim, tweeting from his official account to more than 22 million followers: "Bet



British caver Vernon Unsworth gets out of a pickup truck near the Tham Luang cave complex (Courtesy of The National)



Musk has been accused of suppressing unions at his Tesla factories, something which he vehemently denies

ya a signed dollar it's true".

Musk later deleted the tweets and did not immediately respond to a request for comment through Tesla.

Unsworth said on Monday he had not reviewed the tweets in full and had only heard about them.

But asked if he would take legal action against Musk over the

allegation, Unsworth said: "If it's what I think it is yes."

The caver said he would make a decision when he flies back to the UK this week, but added that the episode with Musk "ain't finished".

'Life and death'

Unsworth, who lives part of the year in Thailand, took part in the gargantuan 18-day effort to retrieve the 12 boys and their coach, a mission that ended on July 10 when the last five members were extracted.

The boys are all in good health and expected to be released from the hospital Thursday.

The boys got stuck in the cave after wandering in on June 23 after football practice only to find themselves trapped by rising floodwaters.

Musk had proposed using "a tiny, kid-size submarine" featur-

Rescue divers given diplomatic immunity

AFP | Sydney, Australia

Two Australian divers who helped extract the young football team trapped in a Thai cave obtained diplomatic immunity before the rescue in case it failed, national broadcaster ABC reported Monday.

Anaesthetist Richard Harris and his diving partner Craig Challen, both cave diving specialists, played key roles in the rescue.

Their participation came after negotiations between Australian and Thai authorities accorded them diplomatic immunity to protect them from possible prosecution if anything went awry during the treacherous mission, ABC reported, citing an official source.

Australia's foreign affairs department declined to confirm or deny the report, referring questions about the planning and implementation



A member of the "Wild Boars" Thai youth football team being moved on a stretcher during a rescue operation inside the Tham Luang cave in Khun Nam Nang Non Forest Park in Mae Sai district.

of the rescue to Thai officials.

The mission was "absolutely life and death" and the cave diving specialists were uncertain if they would be able to successfully save all 12 boys and their coach, Challen told local media after returning home.

"It wasn't dangerous for us, but I can't emphasise enough how dangerous it was for the kids," he told Perth's Sunday Times.

ing technology from his space exploration firm to evacuate the boys, and travelled to Thailand with a prototype last Tuesday.

Musk's tweets attacking Unsworth prompted condemnation from those who took part in the mission to save the boys.

Claus Rasmussen, a Danish

national and instructor at Blue Label diving in Phuket, called the allegations "inappropriate" and praised Unsworth's role in the rescue.

"He was one of the driving forces in getting everything done and clarifying for us divers what was going on," he said.

Five European countries to take in migrants: Italy

AFP | Rome, Italy

Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte on Sunday said five European countries had agreed to take in 250 of the 450 migrants aboard two EU border agency vessels.

"Even Spain and Portugal will take 50 migrants each, as France, Germany and Malta have already done," Conte said in a tweet.

Despite the controversy over who would take the migrants, Conte authorised the disembarkation of all 43 women and 14 children on board.

The migrants were allowed to leave the two ships in the southern Sicilian port of Poz-

zallo, a report by the AGI agency said quoting sources close to the premier.

Earlier Sunday, Germany agreed with Italy to take in 50 migrants after Rome requested that its EU peers take some of the migrants stranded off the Italian coast. A German government spokeswoman said in a statement that "Germany and Italy have agreed that, in view of the ongoing talks on intensified bilateral cooperation on asylum policy, Germany is ready to take in 50 people".

Conte had contacted his 27 EU peers to remind them that they had agreed at their end-of-June summit on the need to share the migration burden.

Turkey acquits top journo

AFP | Istanbul, Turkey

An Istanbul court yesterday acquitted one of Turkey's most prominent political journalists in a long-running case on espionage charges dating back to an arms interception on the Syrian border in 2014.

Erdem Gul, the Ankara bureau chief of the opposition Cumhuriyet daily, was acquitted by the Istanbul criminal court, the state-run Anadolu news agency said.

Gul had in May 2016 been sentenced to five years in jail and his then editor-in-chief Can Dundar to five years and 10 months for revealing state secrets over their front page story which alleged Turkish



Erdem Gul (Courtesy of Arab News)

secret services sought to deliver arms to Syria rebels.

Despite spending time in pre-trial detention, neither was sent to jail immediately and both walked free pending appeal.

But in a hugely complex process, Turkey's top appeals court in March quashed both convictions, saying that Gul

Gul had in May 2016 been sentenced to five years in jail

should be acquitted but Dundar given a stiffer sentence of up to 20 years. A retrial then commenced.

The cases of Gul and Dundar have now been separated and Dundar remains on trial.

Gul is still working in his job for Cumhuriyet but Dundar left Turkey for Germany shortly after the initial verdict, saying he refused to put his head "under the guillotine".

Barack Obama visits Kenyan home to launch youth centre

AFP | Kogelo, Kenya

Former US president Barack Obama recounted fond memories of his family home in Kenya on a visit yesterday to launch a state-of-the-art youth centre run by his half-sister.

Obama is on his first trip to Kenya since he was president in 2015, when he was unable to visit his ancestral home as his jet was too big to land in the western city of Kisumu, he recalled.



Obama (C) with his step-grandmother Sarah (2R) and half-sister, Auma (L) during the opening of the Sauti Kuu Resource Centre

"It is a joy to be back with so many people who are family to me, and so many people who claim to be family. Everybody's a cousin!" he joked, to hoots of laughter from the audience.

After a visit to the home of his step-grandmother Sarah Obama in the village of Kogelo, where his father was born and is buried, Obama recalled his first trip to Kenya at the age of 27.

From Nairobi he took first a "very slow train" and then a bus

with "some chickens in my lap and some sweet potatoes digging into my side". Then he had to pile into a matatu -- a minibus taxi -- "even more crowded than the bus", before a long walk to "Mama" Sarah's house.

He remembered having to catch a chicken for dinner, which he was "a little squeamish" to kill himself, visiting his father's grave and bathing outdoors.

"And I looked up at the stars

and... it gave me a sense of satisfaction that no five-star hotel could ever provide," he said.

Obama was speaking at the launch of the Sauti Kuu (Swahili for "Strong Voices") centre set up by his half-sister Auma Obama. He said that looking back on those memories, he "couldn't be prouder of what my sister has built". Auma said the state-of-the-art centre would give local youth access to books, internet and sporting activities.