

Tributes pour in for Aretha Franklin

Tributes have poured in for the beloved and iconic singer Aretha Franklin from friends, musicians, politicians and fans after the legendary "Queen of Soul" died aged 76. **P16**

Elon Musk admits exhaustion as Tesla tweet storm deepens

THE DAILY tribune



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16 SHOW

Chinese bombers likely training for US strikes

Imran Khan to begin premier's innings on tough political pitch

Islamabad

Members of Pakistan's freshly elected national assembly voted in favor of Imran Khan to take the country's most powerful position as its new Prime Minister crushing his opponent Shahbaz Sharif yesterday.



Imran Khan was picked by Pakistan lawmakers in the National Assembly as the Prime Minister.

Khan, chief of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) received an impressive 176 seats in the 342 seat lower house of parliament. His rival Sharif, younger brother of imprisoned ex-Premier Nawaz Sharif and president of Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N) received 96 seats. The result announcement by the speaker of the house

rattled lawmakers of PML-N sparking a loud protest against Khan's victory as unacceptable repeatedly chanting "Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif" who was judicially ousted from the premiership last year and is serving time in prison on corruption charges.

In the eye of the storm



Bahraini yoga expert Fatima Al Mansoori with members of a family whose house got collapsed in a landslide as she visited the flood-hit areas in the Indian state of Kerala. The death toll in the flood-hit state has jumped to 385. The death toll from 10 days of floods in the state nearly trebled in the last 24 hours. Over three lakh people are living in relief camps across the state and a red alert was sounded in all 14 Kerala districts. All three wings of the armed forces have been pressed into action for a massive rescue operation.

Saudi pledges \$100m to stabilise north Syria

Riyadh

Saudi Arabia has contributed \$100 million to help reconstruct areas of north-eastern Syria formerly held by Daesh.

The Kingdom said the contribution would go toward a campaign by the Global Coalition to Defeat IS to "stabilise" the former Daesh bastion and help ensure the militants cannot re-emerge as a threat.

The United States, which leads the coalition, expressed its thanks and appreciation to Riyadh.

"This significant contribution is critical to stabilization and early recovery efforts," a State Department spokeswoman said.

Iran under more pressure

Washington strategy aims to change Tehran's behaviour through diplomatic and economic pressures

● The group will be headed by Brian Hook as the State Department's Special Representative for Iran.

● The US has laid out a long list of activities it demands Tehran changes, including halting support for the Syrian government and the Lebanese Hizbollah movement.



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POMPEO

decision in May to pull out of the Iran nuclear deal.

"For nearly 40 years the regime in Tehran has been responsible for a torrent of violence and destabilising behaviour against the United States, our allies, our partners and indeed the Iranian people themselves," said Pompeo.

"Our hope is that one day soon we can reach a new agreement with Iran. But we must see major changes in the regime's behaviour both inside and outside its borders."

The US has laid out a long list of activities it demands Tehran changes, including halting support for the Syrian government and the Lebanese Hizbollah movement, shutting down its nuclear development program, and freeing detained Americans.

"This team is committed to a strong global effort to change the Iranian regime's behaviour," Hook said.

Washington

A new high-level team to focus US and international efforts to increase diplomatic and economic pressure on Iran was announced by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

The Iran Action Group will drive Washington's "maximum pressure" strategy to change Tehran's behaviour, including potentially sanctioning other countries which trade with the country. The group will be headed by Brian

Hook as the State Department's Special Representative for Iran. Hook, currently director of policy planning at the State Department, was in charge of the failed effort to get support from US allies for Washington's

LIFE FROM LITTER

Fisherman battles poverty with plastic-bottle boat

Gaza

With hundreds of empty plastic bottles collected from the shores of Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip, fisherman Muath Abu Zeid has turned litter into a floating source of income.

The Palestinian father-of-four used glue and old nets to bind the bottles into a small fishing boat that he hopes will help him support his family.

Simple but effective, the 700-bottle craft is capable of carrying up to eight people out to sea, according to its 35-year-old skipper.



Palestinian fisherman Muath Abu Zeid, second from left, whose boat is made of 700 empty plastic bottles.

A broad slab of wood lashed to the top serves as a seat, allowing Abu Zeid to row a few hundred meters out from shore — far enough to go fishing. It takes him about eight hours

to pull in between five and seven kg of sardines, mullet and other small fish with his rod.

He sells his catch to passersby on the nearby corniche, making between 20 and 40 shekels (\$5-\$11) a day.

Muath's two younger brothers — Mohammed, 23, and Ashraf, 20 — accompany him on his daily excursions. Neither were able to find work elsewhere.

"I'm a house painter but because of the difficult situation I'm unemployed," said skipper Muath, a descendant of refugees from a village near Jaffa in present-day Israel.

"So this boat has been a life-

saver for me and my family." Under a crippling Israeli blockade for more than a decade, Gaza suffers 44 per cent unemployment, rising to a "staggering" 60pc amongst the young, according to 2017 World Bank figures.

60

pc is the youth unemployment in Gaza, according to World Bank.



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