

US ambassador visits Tibet

Beijing, China

The US ambassador to China is making the first trip to Tibet by an American envoy in four years after obtaining rare access to the restricted region, his embassy said yesterday.

The visit by Ambassador Terry Branstad comes two months after the US State Department said Beijing had "systematically" impeded access to Tibetan areas for US diplomats, journalists and tourists.

Branstad was scheduled to visit Qinghai province and the neighbouring Tibet Autonomous Region from Sunday until this Saturday, an embassy spokesperson said in an email.

Pakistan cricketer Asif Ali's daughter dies after cancer treatment

Leeds, United Kingdom

Pakistan batsman Asif Ali is expected to leave the tour of England following the death of his daughter, who had been having treatment for cancer in the United States.

Islamabad United, the team Asif plays for in the Pakistan Super League, confirmed the death of 18-month-old Noor Fatima in a statement issued late Sunday.

Islamabad United, the team Asif plays for in the Pakistan Super League, confirmed the child's death in a statement issued late Sunday.

Hundreds protest strict Alabama abortion law

● Alabama passed a law that prohibits all abortions -- even in cases of incest and rape

● Trump described himself as "strongly Pro-Life, with the three exceptions - Rape, Incest and protecting the Life of the mother."

Montgomery, United States

Around 400 people took to the streets in the capital city of the southern US state of Alabama on Sunday to rally against the nation's most restrictive bans on abortions in decades.

Women's reproductive rights defenders gathered in Montgomery, as well as in Birmingham, Anniston and Huntsville where hundreds more were estimated to have joined in denouncing the "Alabama Human Life Protection Act," or HB314, which virtually outlaws terminations of pregnancy.

Protesters in Montgomery held up signs reading "her body, her choice" and "we are not ovary-acting." There were no counter-demonstrators.

Several other women were dressed as characters forced to bear children in the dystopian novel and television series "The Handmaid's Tale."

One of them, who gave her name only as Amanda, accused



Pro-Choice protester holds a sign reading "We will not go back" before the March For Reproductive Freedom rally in Montgomery, Alabama.

Alabama's legislators of "trying to imprison women and doctors."

"Wearing the 'Handmaid's Tale' outfit is sending a message that you're trying to turn us into slaves, reproductive slaves," the 40-year-old-lawyer told AFP.

"They're trying to fill prisons, more private prisons so that women will do hard labor after they get convicted of these 'crimes' of abortion."

Last week, Alabama passed a law that prohibits all abortions -- even in cases of incest and rape -- unless there is a risk of death for the mother.

"Our call center's been getting hundreds and hundreds of phone calls from concerned citizens asking us what this means," said Barbara Ann Luttrell, director of communications and marketing for Planned Parenthood

Southeast.

Planned Parenthood is not currently providing abortion services in Alabama. "We'll be having abortion services up and running again as soon as possible," she said.

The Alabama law is likely to be blocked in state courts before its November launch date but Republican Governor Kay Ivey acknowledged when she signed it that it was part of a wider Republican offensive to get the issue relitigated on the national stage.

Republican offensive

Conservative activists hope to get a Supreme Court decision against the landmark 1973 ruling Roe v Wade that said unduly restrictive state regulation of abortion is unconstitutional. Conservatives are counting on



Kentucky and Mississippi have banned abortions as soon as a fetus's heartbeat is detectable, or around the sixth week of pregnancy. Similar measures are being adopted in Georgia, Ohio, Missouri and Tennessee.

support at the highest court in the land, where liberal justices are in a minority after the arrival of two conservative members appointed by President Donald Trump.

Trump appeared to suggest Alabama lawmakers had gone too far in a series of tweets late Saturday in which he described himself as "strongly Pro-Life, with the three exceptions - Rape, Incest and protecting the Life of the mother."

He urged the anti-abortion side to "stick together and Win for Life" when it comes to voting in 2020.

Indonesian court sentences French drug smuggler to death



Frenchman Felix Dorfin (L) arrives at a court in Mataram on the resort island of Lombok

Mataram, Indonesia

An Indonesian court yesterday sentenced Frenchman Felix Dorfin to death for drug smuggling, in a surprise verdict after prosecutors asked for a 20-year jail term.

Dorfin, 35, was arrested in September carrying the suitcase filled with about three kilograms (6.6 pounds) including ecstasy and amphetamines at the airport in Lombok, a holiday island next to Bali where foreigners are routinely arrested on drugs charges.

"After finding Felix Dorfin legally and convincingly guilty of importing narcotics... (he) is sentenced to the death penalty," presiding judge Isnurul Syamsul Arif told the court.

He cited Dorfin's involvement in an international drug syndicate and the amount of drugs in his possession as aggravating factors.

"The defendant's actions could potentially do damage to the younger generation," Arif added.

Prison riot in Tajikistan leaves 32 dead



Representative picture

Dushanbe, Tajikistan

A riot at a prison in Tajikistan has left 32 people dead, including 24 members of the Islamic State militant group and three guards, authorities said yesterday.

Five of the inmates and the three guards were killed by IS prisoners during the riot that erupted on Sunday evening, the justice ministry said in a statement. The prison in Vakhdat, 17 kilometres (11 miles) east of the capital Dushanbe, holds 1,500 inmates.

It said the prisoners first stabbed to death three guards,

and then five other inmates "in order to intimidate" the others.

They then took other prisoners hostage before opening fire on the jail's medical facilities. "Following a reprisal operation, 24 members of this group were killed and 25 others arrested. The hostages were freed" and calm restored to the prison, the statement said.

Among the leaders of the riot, the Tajik authorities identified the 20-year-old son of the former head of Tajik special forces who became a member of the IS leadership in Syria, where he was killed in September 2017.

Sudan talks to resume

Khartoum, Sudan

Sudan's army rulers and protesters resume talks Monday to finalise the makeup of a new ruling body after overnight negotiations remained deadlocked following a "dispute" over who should lead it.

The two sides launched a round of new talks Sunday evening over the form of the sovereign council to rule Sudan for a three-year transitional period following last month's ouster of longtime autocrat Omar al-Bashir.

The military council that replaced him has faced international pressure to install a civilian-led administration -- a key demand of thousands of demonstrators who have spent weeks camped outside Khartoum's army headquarters. Hours of overnight meetings into the early hours of Monday ended without agreement, but the ruling military council announced the talks would resume.



State Bank of India, Retail Branch, Kingdom of Bahrain

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Eligibility

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- Qualification:
 - (a) A bachelor level degree from a University or higher or a relevant professional qualification.
 - And,
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 - Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist Examination (ACAMS); and/ or
 - Diploma in Anti-Money Laundering offered by the International Compliance Association; and/ or
 - International Diploma in Financial Crime Prevention offered by International Compliance Association; and/ or
 - International Advanced Certificate in Compliance and Financial Crime offered by the International Compliance Association.
 - (c) Excellent communication skills (both spoken & written) in English.
 - (d) Knowledge of Arabic would be a plus.
 - (e) Proficiency & Skills in Computers is essential.

Experience : Candidate must have a minimum of 2 years experience in the banking industry of which at least 1 year experience in an anti-money laundering or anti-money laundering related role.

No. of vacancies : 1

Interested candidates may forward their application along with copies of the requisite qualifications & experience.

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with details of present employer, current salary drawn and expected salary etc. to

The Chief Executive Officer, State Bank of India, Retail Branch, PO Box No. 10763, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain

All applications have to be sent only in hard copy form. E-mails would not be accepted.

Last date of application : 30th May, 2019