

world

Prosecutor charges Netanyahu's wife with fraud

Jerusalem

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's wife Sara was charged on yesterday with fraud and breach of trust after a long police probe into allegations she falsified household expenses, the justice ministry said.

"The Jerusalem district prosecutor a short time ago filed charges against the prime minister's wife," the ministry said. The allegations announced last year are that she and an aide falsely declared there were no cooks available at the PM's official residence.

More than 20 nations seek to toughen climate goals by 2020

Reuters | Oslo

More than 20 nations ranging from Germany, France and Britain to Pacific island states said yesterday they would try to limit their greenhouse gas emissions more than already planned under the Paris climate agreement by 2020. They welcomed a decision by U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to host a summit in September 2019.

'Drum tower' collapses at Japan's quake-hit Kumamoto Castle

AFP | Tokyo

A tower at the historic, quake-damaged Kumamoto Castle in southern Japan - one of the country's three premier castles and once a major tourist attraction - has collapsed, an official said yesterday.

Heavy rain at the castle - originally built in 1607 during Japan's feudal era - caused a stone wall supporting the structure to crumble.

Moon arrives in Russia for talks with Putin

AFP | Moscow

South Korean President Moon Jae-in arrived in Russia yesterday ahead of talks with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin, which are expected to focus on economic cooperation and the situation in North Korea.

Moon will meet with Putin on Friday when a number of joint documents will be signed, the Kremlin said.

Top Iraq court orders manual election recount



Employees of the Iraqi Independent High Electoral Commission inspect ballot boxes at a warehouse in Najaf, Iraq

● The recount due to suspicions of electoral fraud

Baghdad

Iraq's supreme court yesterday ordered a manual recount of May 12 legislative elections, a process expected to take weeks although parliament's mandate runs out at the end of this month.

The recount due to suspicions of electoral fraud, however, would not significantly affect the overall outcome,

according to experts on Iraqi politics.

The court ruled that parliament's decision on June 6 to order a manual recount in response to allegations of irregularities did not violate the constitution, its president Medhat al-Mahmud told a news conference.

All of the roughly 11 million election ballots, including those of voters living abroad, displaced persons and security forces, must be recounted, he said, referring to the three categories whose results MPs had decided to annul because they were allegedly the most suspect.

Ferry disaster: Captain detained

Official estimates listed 193 others as missing in Sumatra

● Three passengers have been confirmed dead

● The trio were among just 18 people rescued

AFP | Simalungun

The captain and two crew of an overloaded Indonesian ferry that sank into the depths of a volcanic lake have been detained for questioning over the deadly disaster, police said yesterday.

The trio were among just 18 people rescued after the vessel capsized and sank Monday at Lake Toba, a picturesque tourist destination in Sumatra.

Three passengers have been confirmed dead, but official estimates listed 193 others -- including children -- as missing.

That has raised fears the sinking could be one of Indonesia's deadliest maritime disasters.

The traditional wooden boat could have been carrying five times the number of passengers



Jadianto Nainggolan (C), 40, holds a smartphone looking at social media images related to the tragedy as he waits for news on the sunken ferry, next to Lake Toba in North Sumatra yesterday

it was built to hold, along with dozens of motorcycles, officials have said.

Captain Tua Sagala and two of his crew would be questioned, said local police chief Marudut Liberty Pandjaitan.

Sagala is also the boat's owner, he said, adding that a fourth crew member who survived the accident had since fled the area.

"(He) is still at large," Pandjaitan told reporters.

Earlier yesterday, national police spokesman Yusri Yunus said the captain had not yet been questioned because he was "still traumatised".

Meanwhile, hundreds of grief-stricken people prayed and sang hymns at the shore, hoping for news about missing loved ones. Indonesia is a Muslim-majority country but the area has a large Christian population.

Amazing moment: Rare shark leaps from sea

Dailymail | Devon

Sightseers certainly got more than they bargained for when a huge shark was seen leaping out of the water off the south coast of England.

The predatory thresher shark was pictured jumping vertically out of the water before slamming its elongated tail on the surface of the sea.

The rare thresher shark is usually found in warmer climates in the mid-Atlantic but the 15 ft long predator appeared in Lyme Bay. The sighting was witnessed by a group of 10 nature lovers on a charter boat looking for dolphins. Tour guide Dr Tom Brereton grabbed his camera from the wheelhouse



The lethal thresher shark was pictured jumping vertically out of the air before slamming its elongated tail on the surface of the sea



Dr Brereton managed to take two brilliant frames of the predator leaping out of the sea with its nose pointing towards the sky

just in time to capture the moment. He managed to take two brilliant frames of the predator leaping out of the sea with its nose pointing towards the sky.

Erdogan doesn't rule out coalition if no majority



Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan

AFP | Ankara

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said he does not rule out forming a coalition in parliament if his ruling-party led alliance does not win an overall majority in tight polls this weekend.

Erdogan's Justice and Development Party (AKP) is expected to win the most seats in Sunday's dual parliamentary and presidential polls.

But some analysts believe the AKP-led alliance will fail to win a majority in the 600-seat parliament in the face of a strong challenge by the opposition, which has formed its own election pact.

"If the People's Alliance gets over 300 seats, the issue of (coalitions) is finished," Erdogan said in an interview with Kral FM and Kral Pop Radio late Wednesday.

Koko, gorilla who used sign language, dies

Reuters | California

Koko, a western lowland gorilla said to have mastered American Sign Language, has died aged 46, the California institute which studied her said yesterday.

"The Gorilla Foundation is sad to announce the passing of our beloved Koko," the research center said in a statement, adding she passed away in her sleep.

Koko was among a handful of primates who could communicate using sign language; others included Washoe, a female chimpanzee in Washing-

ton state, and Chantek, a male orangutan in Atlanta. Her keepers said she understood some spoken English, too. While some scientists questioned the sign language claim, the "talking" lowland gorilla nevertheless became an ambassador for her species, which is threatened by logging and poaching in their native habitats in central Africa.

The Gorilla Foundation said Koko touched the lives of millions as an icon for interspecies communication and empathy.

"She was beloved and will be deeply missed," it said.

Koko was born Hanabi-ko



Koko could communicate using sign language

(Japanese for "Fireworks Child") on July 4, 1971 at the San Francisco Zoo. Dr. Francine "Penny" Patterson began working with Koko the following year, the foundation said.