

Former guerilla sworn in as East Timor leader

AFP | Dili

East Timor swore in a new government led by former guerilla fighter Taur Matan Ruak yesterday.

Ruak heads the second government in less than a year in the half-island nation that won independence in 2002 after a brutal 24-year occupation by Indonesia. Born Jose Maria Vasconcelos but universally known by his nom de guerre Taur Matan Ruak -- which means "two sharp eyes" -- Ruak was a commander in the East Timorese resistance before becoming chief of the nation's army.

US confirms 25th diplomat hit by Cuba illness

AFP | Washington

The United States said that another diplomat has fallen sick in Cuba with the symptoms of a mystery illness that has hit two dozen of his or her colleagues.

"This is the first medically confirmed case in Havana since August 2017. The number of Americans now affected is now 25," State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said.

At least one US official has also been hit by the same symptoms in China, as the mystery deepens over the cause of what may have been some kind of attack.

French police bust major drug ring

AFP | Marseille

French police said yesterday that they had smashed a major drug trafficking ring in the southern city of Marseille, a key hub in the trans-Mediterranean cannabis and cocaine trade where several people are killed each year in turf wars.

Eight people were taken into custody following raid in the notorious Castellane housing estate, regional police chief Eric Arella said at a press conference.

Powerful 6.1-magnitude quake strikes Vanuatu

AFP | Sydney

A powerful 6.1-magnitude earthquake hit Vanuatu Friday, US seismologists said, but there were no immediate reports of damage and no tsunami warning issued. The quake struck at a depth of 21 kilometers (13 miles) some 30 kilometers west of the Pacific nation's capital Port Vila, the US Geological Survey said. USGS said there was low likelihood of casualties and damage although it added that recent earthquakes in the area had caused landslides.

'I really don't care'

Melania jacket with the words "I really don't care, do you?" stuns the internet on her migrant visit

AFP | Washington

Melania Trump surprised the world by visiting child migrants on the US-Mexico border Thursday -- but it was her choice of clothing for the trip that stunned the internet: a jacket emblazoned with the words "I really don't care, do you?"

A tone-deaf sartorial decision -- or a hidden message from the first lady? And if so, to whom?

The images of Melania Trump sporting the olive green khaki jacket as she boarded a flight to Texas -- which immediately went viral -- surfaced as the White House struggles to calm international anger over the practice of splitting migrant children from their parents.

Asked about the military-style jacket with large white brush-style lettering -- apparently sold for \$39 at Zara, according to the Daily Mail which first spotted the odd choice of outfit -- the first lady's spokeswoman Stephanie Grisham said "there was no hidden message."

"It's a jacket," Grisham said. "After today's important visit to Texas, I hope the media isn't going to choose to focus on her wardrobe."

"#SheCares #ItsJustAJacket" Grisham tweeted later on, as speculation swirled online.

But the president's take on the jacket told a decidedly different story: "I

Donald J. Trump

@realDonaldTrump

"I REALLY DON'T CARE, DO U?" written on the back of Melania's jacket, refers to the Fake News Media. Melania has learned how dishonest they are, and she truly no longer cares!

5:51 PM - 23 Jun 2018

The tweet

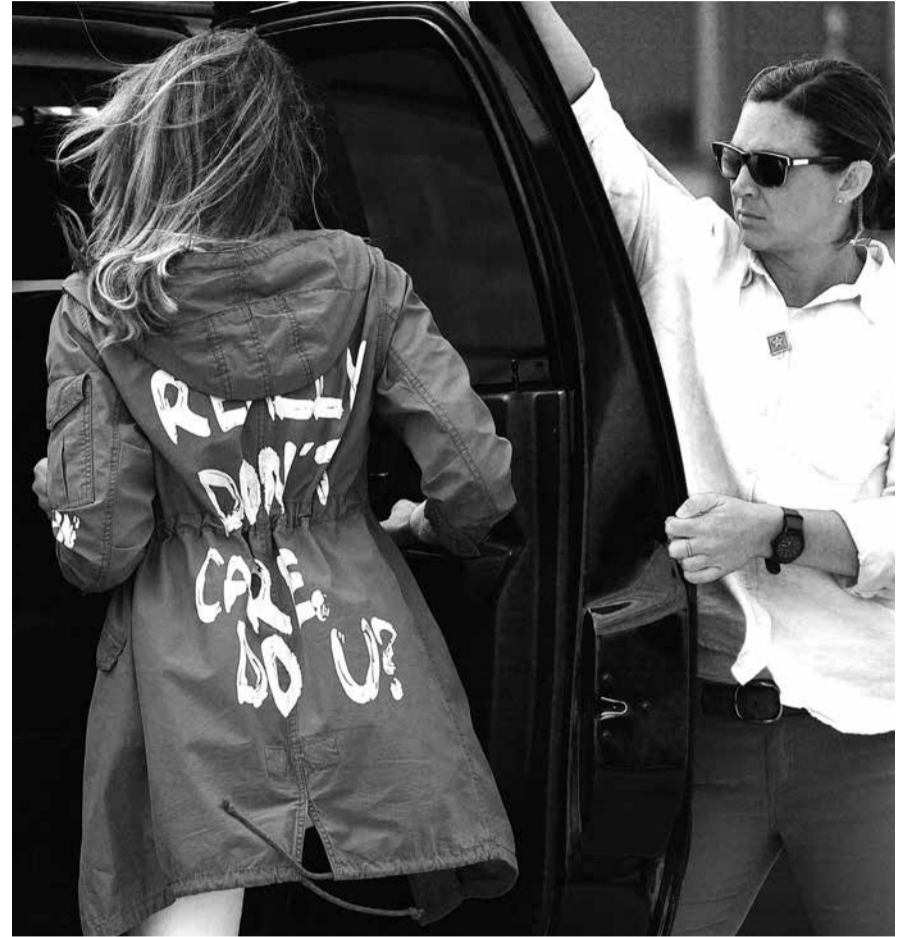
REALLY DON'T CARE, DO U?" written on the back of Melania's jacket, refers to the Fake News Media," Donald Trump tweeted shortly after his wife's return.

"Melania has learned how dishonest they are, and she truly no longer cares!" When she arrived in McAllen, Texas the first lady had changed out of the controversial garment into a cream button-up safari-style jacket.

But upon returning to the White House she sported the jacket once more, despite stifling heat and humidity in the Washington region.

Melania Trump's unannounced trip to a youth shelter for migrants and a Border Patrol processing center came one day after President Donald Trump made a sudden decision to end the practice of splitting immigrant families that has left more than 2,300 minors separated from their parents or guardians.

Images and recordings of distressed children held in enclosures akin to cages have sparked global fury.



US First Lady Melania Trump departs Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland

Heartbreaking plight of a Syrian girl using sardine tin can legs



Eight year-old Maya Mohammad Ali Merhi walks using prosthetic legs made by her father from tin cans

● Maya Ali Merhi and her father were both born with no lower limbs

Dailymail | Idlib

Heartbreaking footage shows a little girl using makeshift prosthetic legs made from tin cans at a displacement camp in Syria.

Eight-year-old Maya Ali Merhi and her father were both born without lower limbs, a condition called congenital amputation, the cause of which is unknown.

Unable to afford real prosthetics, Maya's father was able to make a pair out of tin cans filled with cotton and pieces of cloth for his daughter at the camp for displaced refugees in the Syrian province of Idlib.

In the footage, forelorn Maya can be seen by her father's side as he explains how he made the pair of tin legs for his daughter.

"I mounted some plastic on two tins of sardines with which she can go to school with."

"My heart suffers when I see her

crawling in front of friends, while they play and run."

Mohammed, who also needs prosthetics said: 'It's hard but those are better than nothing.'

The family fled Aleppo because of the fighting and to 'flee bombings' and were placed at the camp in Idlib, the last major territory in rebel hands.

Idlib is being held by Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham, a jihadi group that Russia and the Syrian government regard as a target in an area where civilians and fighters continue to pour in as part of evacuation deals in other parts of the country.

Mohammed says that he can at least find solace in the fact that his family can live a quiet life at the camp but has a dream that he and his daughter will be able to walk again.

According to Syria Appeal, 13.1 million people across Syria are in urgent need of humanitarian aid, including more than five million children.

Three million people are living in besieged areas and displacement camps without access to humanitarian aid and the total number of displaced Syrians has risen to 11.5 million.

16 EU leaders to attend migrant crisis talks

● Leaders of Italy and Greece will also be involved

AFP | Brussels

Some 16 EU leaders have now signalled their interest in joining a migrant crisis summit in Brussels Sunday aimed at finding a solution to who deals with asylum seekers.

European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker called the meeting amid fresh divisions in Europe over who should process the migrants first, with Italy and Greece who have taken in the bulk of the arrivals saying that their EU peers must to more to share the burden.

"We started initially with a group of eight," European Commission spokesman Alexander Winterstein said.

"We stand now at 16 countries having signalled their interest to



Jean Claude Juncker

join this informal meeting."

Winterstein said the additional eight are Belgium, the Netherlands, Croatia, Slovenia,

Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Luxembourg.

Officials said earlier this week that German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Emmanuel Macron, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, and Maltese Prime Minister Joseph Muscat have all confirmed their attendance.

European sources also said the leaders of frontline states Italy and Greece will also be involved, as well as Austria and Bulgaria, who are the incoming

and outgoing holders of the EU's rotating six-month presidency.

The leaders of Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia -- the four countries that refuse migrants -- said Thursday they would not attend the meeting.

Winterstein said the meeting was open to all but nobody was obliged to attend.

He added no decisions will be taken, nor a press conference held but leaders would be free to comment as they leave.