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CONTRIBUTORS:



AKSHATH K
Editor-In-Chief



NISHIT JOGI
Reporter



VAISHNAVI IYER
Reporter



**ASHWIN
IMMANUEL**
Reporter



JEEVITHA GL
Reporter



**MOHAMMED
YAQOOB**
Reporter



URMILA NARZARY
Reporter



TANISHKA KUMAR
Reporter



**DR. VINEETH
THOMAS**
Faculty In-Charge

COUNTRIES:



AFGHANISTAN- NISHIT JOGI



INDIA-JEEVITHA



**MARSHALL ISLANDS-
URMILA**



**LESOTHO-
ASHWIN**



**KIRIBATI-
URMILA**



**MADAGASCAR-
ASHWIN**



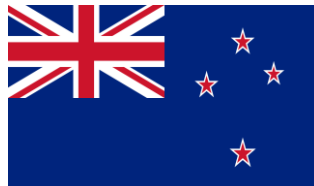
**MALAWI- NISHIT
JOGI**



**MALDIVES-
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**NEW ZEALAND-
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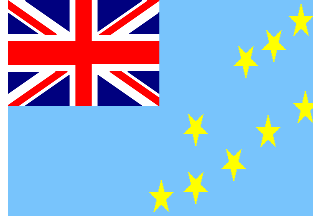


**AUSTRALIA-
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COUNTRIES



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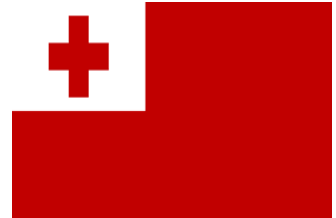
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YAQOOB**



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JOGI**



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**SOUTH AFRICA-
AKSHATH**



**BOTSWANA-
YAQOOB**

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MADAGASCAR WANTS TO BECOME AN ICT HUB

ASHWIN IMMANUEL
1957303



Madagascar, a country highly dependent on Tourism for its GDP and export of more raw resources. Has now new options, of being a Hub for information and communication technologies being a part of the Global Wave. Promoting this in a country that could benefit and also provide the production at reduced costs has led to an increase in the Direct Foreign Investment to the island nation. Madagascar according to a news report of Quartz Africa with the headline, “Madagascar has faster internet than UK, France and Canada” July 2018. Talks about Madagascar’s internet being faster than Canada, UK and France and the fastest internet connection on the continent

too with a speed of 24.9 megabit per second.

The broadband speed in Madagascar is due to the 10,000km-long East African Submarine Cable System (EASSY). An under-sea fiber optic cable that stretches from Sudan to South Africa. It already has 2 lines of fiber optics connecting it to mainland Africa as well as the neighboring islands. Madagascar has also exponentially grown in its mobile internet subscribers from 20,000. 7 years back to 1.5 Million at present. With dreams of being the next Silicon Valley there are still institutional changes that need to be undertaken to bridge the gap between urban and rural digital gap and increase digital access in schools.



MALAWI GOVERNMENT BANS PROTESTS

NISHIT JOGI
1957304



Government has banned post-election demonstrations and has warned Malawians that police will use force against any person who defies the order. In a statement last night, Minister of Information Mark Botomani said government will not grant any permission for demonstrations which the Human Rights Defenders Coalition (HRDC) plan to conduct from Wednesday to Friday this week. Botomani said the decision has been taken because all recent demonstrations by the HRDC

have turned out to be riotous despite assurances by the organizers that they would be peaceful.

“Government is convinced that conveners of these demonstrations deliberately abuse the right to demonstrate to achieve other ulterior agendas,” the minister said. He added that demonstrations will be banned until such a time when it is possible for the HRDC to organize peaceful demonstrations. Botomani advised Malawians to ignore any notice of demonstrations from the HRDC.



BOTSWANA DECRIMINALIZES HOMOSEXUALITY IN A VICTORY FOR LGBTQ RIGHTS IN AFRICA

MOHAMMED YAQOOB
1957305



Consensual same-sex relations were a crime in Botswana for decades. Botswana's penal code which dates back to the 1960s, when the southern African country was a British colony, contained laws that directly discriminated against same-sex couples. In June, its High Court determined that the law that criminalized "carnal knowledge of any person against the order of nature" was discriminatory, unconstitutional and against public interest therefore ruling in favor of the LGBTQ.

Botswana joined South Africa, Mozambique and Seychelles to legalize homosexuality. This ruling is a tremendous victory for all LGBTQ people in Botswana. The path is now open to liberate LGBTQ people from fear of arrest and harassment by the police, of shaming and outing by health-care professionals and of extortion by ex-lovers, among other presently common experiences. This is a landmark judgement which will set a precedence to other countries in Africa.



THE IDEA OF 'INDIA' IS FAILING

JEEVITHA G L
1957327



The “Idea of India” has always been grander in promise than in fulfilment. At Independence, the dream was that the people of a country of so much diversity in language, religion, and tradition would enjoy constitutionally guaranteed rights and through democratic means, build a society. A cornerstone of this dream was respect for diversity that was written into the Constitution. It has been a mixed record, with as many failures as achievements.

The events of the past few weeks, however, signal to us that the “Idea of India” is in danger of collapsing. We may soon have to accept the “New India” which places no value on pluralism, fraternity and autonomy. Everything about why and how the constitutional arrangements of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) have been so radically changed violates the “Idea of India”.



EU TO PUSH AUSTRALIA TO CLEAN UP PETROL STANDARDS AS PART OF FREE TRADE DEAL

URMILA NARZARY
1957352



The European Union will push Australia to clean up its petrol standards – which currently allow for dirtier fuel than India and China – as part of negotiations on a new free trade agreement.

The issue of Australia's poor fuel quality, prevents the sale of a range of European vehicles with higher standard engines, has already been raised at a bureaucratic level as a “technical barrier to trade”.



TENSIONS ESCALATED BETWEEN PACIFIC ISLANDS AND AUSTRALIA

TANISHKA KUMAR
1957350



Tuvalu's Prime Minister condemned the Australian prime minister's conduct at Pacific Islands Forum, called Scott Morrison's attitude "unfortunate" and "neo-colonial," and questioning

In an interview with RNZ, Enele Sopoaga threatened to pull Tuvaluan labour from Australia's seasonal worker programme in light of comments by deputy prime

minister Michael McCormack, who said people from Pacific countries threatened by climate change - like Tuvalu - would survive because "many of their workers come here and pick our fruit".

"I thought the Australian labour scheme was determined on mutual respect, that Australia was also benefiting," said Mr Sopoaga. "



GUN BUY BACK IN NEW ZEALAND

VAISHNAVI IYER

1957353



10,000 firearms were returned after the Christ church attack, this response by the citizens has been heavily appreciated by the police. Another development in the case of the Oslo firing has been, Phillip Manshaus has had an online history of praising White supremacists, this man has also praised the Church attacks and shooting in El

Paso has been taken under police custody.

The perpetrator is a 22-year-old from New Zealand. The attempt of his to attack in the al-Noor Islamic centre where resulted in only one elderly injured, who was an ex-army chief from Pakistan, who tackled the perpetrator. This has been seen as a “possible act of terrorism”.



MOZAMBIQUE LAUNCHES LEGAL ACTION OVER \$2BN DEBT SCANDAL

AKSHATH K
1957301



Mozambique has finalised charges against 20 people, including the son of former president Armando Guebuza, in connection with a \$2 billion debt scandal that crippled the economy. Of the 20 individuals under formal indictment, 10 have been arrested, one of whom was released on bail. Secret loans totalling around \$2 billion were contracted by the government between 2013 and 2015 to finance a tuna-fishing fleet and a maritime surveillance project.

When it emerged, that government had

borrowed the money secretly, Mozambique — which relies on foreign aid and is one of the world's poorest countries — was plunged into its worst financial crisis ever as donors suspended funds. Former finance minister Manuel Chang has been held in South Africa since December at the request of US authorities for allegedly receiving \$17 million in kickbacks related to the scandal. South African courts are expected to say next Tuesday whether Chang will be extradited to the US or Mozambique.



MP CASTS DOUBT ON INTRODUCING MINIMUM WAGE BEFORE 2020

ASHWIN IMMANUEL
1957303



The Government of Maldives has been working on the Minimum Wage for the country, to be implemented by the 2020 Budget. This move has been appreciated by all workers as there would be a uniformity and would lead to a higher income that could actually benefit the GDP of the country as the purchasing power of the people would increase.

The Tourism minister talks about a 6000MVR as a sufficient amount that would be INR 28,000.

Due to these recent developments there have been Lobby groups like Maldives Association of Construction Industries former president Mohamed Ali Jinnah quit the 5-member group appointed to oversee the implementation and effects of the first time introduction of minimum wage in Maldives. Insecurities have risen as this would be a burden on industries that have been underpaying or not being paying workers fully for their wages hence leading to an indirect pressure to delay the Bill to be passed.



CONGOLESE REFUGEES RETURN HOME FROM ANGOLA

NISHIT JOGI
1957304



Congolese refugees who fled to Angola to escape fighting between armed groups and military forces in 2017 are beginning to return home, according to Angolan officials and UNHCR, the United Nations refugee agency. Some 8,000 refugees have been on the move for the past week, with more than 1,400 already returned to the Kasai provinces. They are among thousands of registered

Congolese refugees who say they want to go home.

The UN agency has been working closely with both governments to ensure that international law preventing the forcible return of refugees is honored. UNHCR said it is monitoring the transit routes as well as working within DR Congo to support the returning refugees.



ZAMBIA'S LOOMING DEBT CRISIS

MOHAMMED YAQOOB
1957305



Zambia's lack of debt management and fiscal discipline have continued to undermine the Zambian economy. There is also lack of transparency. The foreign reserves are depleting and the government has raised taxes to improve its liquidity position because of excessive fiscal spending. Because of decreased Government spending, sectors like education, healthcare and transportation have been affected causing economic slowdown.

The Government must move towards cash budgeting and prioritize its resources in order to put the economy back on track. It must also enter into PPP in order to enhance investments. The Debt of Zambia has grown \$1billion in a year and the poor economic performance of Zambia can be credited to the inefficient economic policies of the govt.



UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION SLAMS NEPAL OVER CHILD LABOR AND TORTURE CASE

JEEVITA G L
1957327



The United Nations Human Rights Committee (UNHRC) has stepped in to bring justice to forced labor and torture victim Nepali Bholi Pharaka. Following Pharaka's complaint filed via TRIAL International- a human rights committee, the UNHRC has directed the Nepal government to ensure that the victims of forced labor and

torture is able to file complaints easily and receive justice following the same. Bholi Pharaka began work as a domestic help with a Nepal Army officer in 2010. The full-time job demanded Pharaka to work for 18 hours a day between 4 am to 10 pm per day.



6.0 MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE SHAKES THE FIJI ISLANDS

URMILA NARZARY
1957352



A magnitude 6.7 earthquake was reported Sunday morning at 8:54 a.m. Pacific time 25 miles from Ndoi Island, Fiji, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. According to the USGS, the epicenter was farther than

100 miles from a city. In the last 10 days, there have been four earthquakes of magnitude 3.0 or greater centered nearby.

The earthquake occurred at a depth of 375.4 miles.



COMMON WEALTH SECRETARY GENERAL URGES MULTILATERAL CLIMATE ACTION TO SAVE PACIFIC ISLANDS

VAISHNAVI IYER

1957353



On the eve of the 50th Pacific Islands Forum Meeting taking place in Tuvalu this week, the Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland recognises the existential threat which climate change poses to Pacific Islanders. She calls on governments across the globe to urgently meet the terms of the Paris climate change agreement, if we are to save our Pacific Islands, as the rising sea levels could literally engulf thousands of islands in the region by 2100.

The common wealth finance access hub, common wealth blue charter and the disaster risk finance portal are expected to provide financial and technological assistance for the same. Till date commonwealth finance access club has provided up to \$25.7 million, with a further \$367 million in the pipeline. It does so by embedding long-term specialists within ministries to provide expert advice and to build local capacity for the longer term.



NISSAN, BMW, VW IN TALKS TO HELP SOUTH AFRICA SWITCH TO ELECTRIC VEHICLES

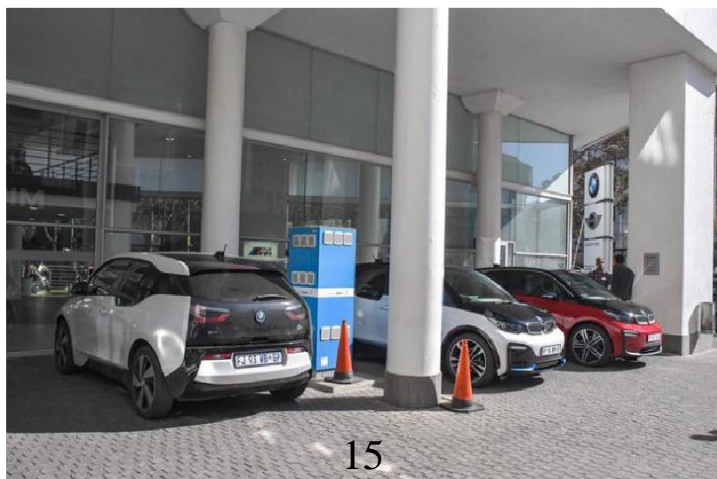
AKSHATH K
1957301



Nissan Motor Co., BMW AG and Volkswagen AG are among carmakers in talks to bring the electric-car revolution to South Africa, as the nation's auto-factory floors risk being left behind in the global switch to greener vehicles. The industry is preparing a unified stance on electrification to present to the government by the end of the year, Mike Mabasa, chief executive officer of the National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of South Africa, or Naamsa, said in an interview. Among the goals is persuading lawmakers to reduce or drop a 23 per cent import tariff on

electric vehicles to help ramp up nascent domestic sales, he said.

Another is to roll out a charging infrastructure in a country where the state-owned power monopoly is in deep financial crisis. Taking steps to boost the popularity of electric vehicles in South Africa is just one part of the equation. The auto-manufacturing industry makes up about 7 per cent of the country's economy, according to Naamsa. The sector is one of the more positive aspects of an economy expected to grow at less than 1 per cent for a second consecutive year.



GOVT. ENDS LWC'S WOOL AND MOHAIR MONOPOLY

ASHWIN IMMANUEL
1957303



The Chinese monopoly of the Lesotho Wool Centre had many Repercussions. Disgruntled brokers and traders who also wanted to actively participate as well as no market for rears to sell their commodity to as it was monopolized. We also need to understand this led to illegal smuggling of wool and mohair out of the country for better benefits.

Opening the market would lead to an increase in their income as well as provide an incentive that would lead to a higher production and competition due to market demands.

Mohair is also called the Diamond Fiber due to its prosperities of being long, lustrous, strong, resilient, and durable.



NO TIMELINE FOR TROOP WITHDRAWAL FROM AFGHANISTAN

NISHIT JOGI
1957304



The negotiations between the US and the Taliban negotiators are underway in Doha, Qatar, with the hope to reach an agreement which will enable the withdrawal of part of US forces, almost 5,000 troops, from Afghanistan.

Mr. Trump, however, said “whatever it is”, there is “no rush”.

“We’re there, we’re really a peacekeeping force more than anything else, frankly. We could win

that war in a very short period of time, but I’m not looking to kill 10 million people, Okay?” Mr. Trump said, repeating his recent controversial comments on winning the war in Afghanistan.

This comes as sources said on Monday that the US and the Taliban negotiators have made progress on establishing safe zones in parts of Afghanistan after the withdrawal of international forces from the country.



GOTABAYA RAJAPAKSA LAUNCHES SRI LANKA PRESIDENTIAL BID

MOHAMMED YAQOOB
1957305



Sri Lanka's main opposition party has named Gotabaya Rajapaksa, a former defence chief who spearheaded a military campaign to end the country's long-running civil war but faces accusations of human rights violations, as its presidential candidate. Gotabaya, 70, a brother of former President Mahinda Rajapaksa, was a powerful defence bureaucrat under his brother's government, which defeated the Tamil Tiger rebels' 26-year revolt in 2009.

"My top priority will be ensuring security in the country without allowing extremist terrorists to raise their heads," he said at the rally after he was declared as the candidate of SLPP. The Sri Lankan presidential elections which are scheduled to be held in November will see a tough contest between Gotabaya Rajapaksa and the incumbent Maithripala Sirisena of SLFP.



JAPANESE PLEDGE TO SUPPORT AGRICULTURE IN PALAU

VAISHNAVI IYER

1957353



Akira Karasawa, Japan's new ambassador to Palau has expressed Japanese support to agriculture and fisheries in Palau. Kawakawa has had 35 years of prior experience as the

agriculture minister in Japan and plans on working hard to revive agriculture and aquaculture, which will stimulate tourism in Palau.

