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Beijing 36 21 Colombo 29 26 Dhaka 33 27 Dubai 42 34 Houston 33 26 Il Istanbul 27 22 Uy London 28 15

36 21 HR Los Angeles 31 2 29 26 LC Melbourne 11 6 33 27 TDS Moscow 22 14 42 34 SNY New York 29 19 33 26 TDS Singapore 31 2 27 22 SNY Toronto 25 17 28 15 SNY Washington 29 19

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# 25 dead, 1 mn affected as rain pounds China

President Xi Jinping deploys army to rescue those trapped in inundated subways, hotels and public places

### **BEIJING**

AT LEAST 25 people, including 12 subway passengers, were killed when the heaviest rainfall in 1,000 years hit China's central Henan province, prompting President Xi Jinping on Wednesday to deploy the Army to rescue those trapped in inundated subways, hotels and public places.

A total of 12.4 lakh people were affected and 1.60.000 evac-

uated, state-run Global Times reported. The official media quoted local officials as saying that 25 people were killed and seven others listed missing in

the massive floods.

Twelve people were killed and five others injured when subway stations were hit by the floods, the report said.

They died when their subway train was hit with rapidly rising floodwaters on Tuesday night, the Hong Kong-based

MANAPPURAM FINANCE LTD.

South China Morning Post reported. Two people were also killed when a wall collapsed.

The massive floods, described by meteorologists as a once-ina-lifetime event, has resulted in apocalyptic scenes in the provincial capital Zhengzhou, a metropolis of 12.6 million, with its public avenues and subway tunnels getting submerged with surging waters.

Videos posted on the Chinese social media showed petrified

passengers trapped in subway trains clinging on to handlebars desperately waiting for help as floodwaters raised up to their necks. Official media released videos of rescue workers helping people stuck in sub-

way tunnels to safety.
Videos showed people trying to wade through floods in the downtown of the city while scores of cars and other vehicles washed away. Some videos also showed people falling into

the massive cave-ins of the roads. Rainwater poured into the subway tunnel of the city's Line Five, trapping an unknown number of passengers aboard a subway train.

Xi ordered the deployment of the People's Liberation Army and said that authorities at all levels must give top priority to ensuring people's safety and property as massive floods ravaged the province and Zhengzhou city.

PTI



People look out at cars floating in floodwaters after heavy rains hit the city of Zhengzhou in China's central Henan province on Wednesday | AFP

# Former Pak diplomat's daughter killed

### **ISLAMABAD**

A FORMER Pakistani diplomat's daughter has been murdered here, according to a media report on Wednesday, just days after a major diplomatic row broke out between Pakistan and Afghanistan over the alleged abduction of the daughter of Afghanistan's Ambassador in Islamabad.

Noor Mukadam, 27, daugher of Shau-

ter of Shaukat Mukadam, was found dead in the capital's upscale Sector F-7/4 area on Tuesday, Dawn newspaper reported.



"Noor was first shot at and then was slaughtered," Samaa TV quoted the investigating officer as saying. Another person was also injured in the attack, the channel reported.

A friend of Noor has been arrested in connection to the murder, police said. "A man named Zahir Jaffer, who was allegedly involved in the murder, was arrested on the spot and taken to the police station," Samaa TV quoted the Islamabad police as saying.

The killing comes as a storm brews over the safety of diplomatic missions in Pakistan.

On July 16, Silsila Alikhil, the 26-year-old daughter of Afghanistan's ambassador to Pakistan Najibullah Alikhil, was briefly abducted from Islamabad and tortured, the Afghanistan Foreign office said in a statement last week.

"There is no case of kidnapping," Pakistan's interior minister Sheikh Rashid said at a press conference. He said the incident was being used to "defame our country". *Agencies* 

# 100 kidnapped victims released in Nigeria

### LAGOS

GUNMEN in northwest Nigeria have released 100 kidnapped victims, many nursing mothers and children, who had been held captive for about six weeks.

Police spokesman in Zamfara State, Mohammed Shehu, said Wednesday that the victims had been abducted from Manawa village on June 8.

The government "successfully secured the unconditional release of the victims" without paying any ransom, he said.

Gangs in Zamfara and other states in Nigeria normally kidnap children for ransom and are blamed for the recent spate of mass abductions. About 800 children have been abducted from their schools since February.

AFP

## **EXPRESS READ**

# Chair of Trump's 2017 inaugural panel arrested

Los Angeles: Tom Barrack, 74, the chair of former President Donald Trump's 2017 inaugural committee was arrested on Tuesday on charges alleging he secretly conspired to influence US policy to benefit the United Arab Emirates, even while he was seeking a position as an American diplomat.

### GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

CIN-L65910KL1992PLC006623 (470A (old) W638A(New), Manappuram House,

The pledges, in specific and the public, in general, are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted at the following branches on 16/08/2021 from 10.00 am onwards. We are auctioning gold ornaments defaulted customers who have failed to make payment of his/her loan amount despite being notified by registered letters. Unauctioned items shall be auctioned on any other days without further notice. Changes in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at auction centre and on website without any further notice.

6051, 6110, 6120, 6121, 61318074, 8092, 8095, 8111, 8114, 8115, 8132, 8147, 8149, 8157, 8159, 8169, 8178, 8181, 8191, 8193, 8194, 8198, 8232, 8235, 8237, 8238, 8241, 8243, 8262, 8275, 8284, 8285, 8300, 8313, 8320, 8324, 8340, 8353, 8361, 8365, 8376, 8384, 8396, 8398, 8399, 8417, 8419, 8432, 8441, 8243, 8262, 8275, 8284, 8285, 8300, 8313, 8320, 8324, 8340, 8353, 8361, 8365, 8376, 8384, 8396, 8398, 8399, 8417, 8419, 8432, 8441, 8243, 8262, 8275, 8284, 8285, 8300, 8313, 8320, 8324, 8340, 8353, 8361, 8365, 8376, 8384, 8396, 8398, 8399, 8417, 8419, 8432, 8441, 8243, 8262, 8275, 8284, 8285, 8300, 8313, 8320, 8324, 8340, 8353, 8361, 8365, 8376, 8384, 8396, 8398, 8399, 8417, 8419, 8432, 8419, 8 5878, 5896, 5949, 6367, 6377, 6600, 6654, 6662, 6724, 6829, 6851, 6852, 6867, 6876, 6934, 6955, 6965, 6981, 7070, 7137, 7179, 7339, 7372, 7405, 7428, 7443, 7452, 7457, 7469, 8123, 8166, 8316, 8360, 8366, 8424, 8431, 8435, 8451, 8458, 8460, 8466, 8479, 8489, 8497, 8508, 8510, 8527, 8556, 8569, 8592, 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