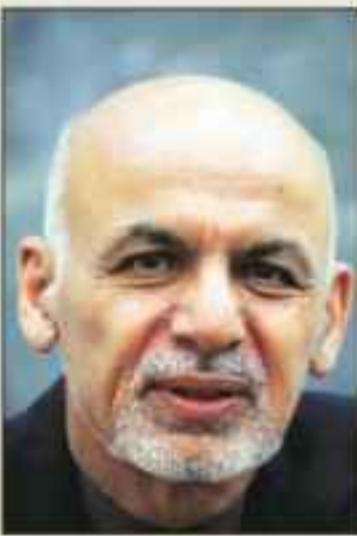




MEANWHILE PRAYER WITH POPE JUST A CLICK AWAY

Pope Francis swiped a tablet on Sunday to launch a new app allowing the faithful to pray with him. The new app, called Click to Pray, will inform the user what the leader of the world's 1.3 billion Roman Catholics is praying for, such as world peace or the population of a country hit by a natural disaster, so they can join him.

TOP OF THE WORLD



AFGHANISTAN Ghani launches bid for 2nd term

**Kabul:** Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani on Sunday entered the 2019 presidential race after forging an alliance with a staunch critic to challenge his former governing partners at a time when the Taliban has shut him out of talks to end more than 17 years of war. Ghani, 69, is seeking a second term amid the war with the hardline Islamic militants and ongoing peace talks between the United States and the Taliban, in which his government complains it has been sidelined. On Sunday, Ghani registered as a presidential candidate for the July election, facing competition from his one-time officials who have formed new alliances. Independent analysts said Afghanistan's political landscape has been thrown into turmoil by the nominations and shifting loyalties.

MALI Eight UN peacekeepers killed in attack

**Bamako:** Eight UN peacekeepers were killed and several were wounded while repelling an attack by armed assailants near a village in northern Mali on Sunday, the West African nation's UN mission said. The identity of the attackers was not immediately clear. UN peacekeeping and French forces are stationed in northern Mali to combat well-armed jihadist groups seen as the gravest threat to security across Africa's Sahel region.

BRITAIN Cops speak to Prince Philip after he's seen not wearing seatbelt

**London:** British police have spoken with Prince Philip after the husband of Queen Elizabeth II was photographed apparently driving without wearing a seatbelt — just two days after he was involved in a serious car crash. Norfolk Police said late Saturday "suitable words of advice have been given to the driver". Police spoke to Philip after British media on Saturday published a photograph showing Philip, 97, driving a new Land Rover near the royal residence at Sandringham.

PRESIDENT PROPOSES 'COMPROMISE' TO END GOVT SHUTDOWN

Trump offers deportation protections in exchange for border wall funding

Democrats reject deal, liken it to 'hostage taking'

ANNIE KARNI & SHERYL GAY STOLBERG WASHINGTON, JANUARY 20

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump, facing a growing public backlash over the government shutdown, shifted course Saturday and offered Democrats a deal: temporary protections for 700,000 young immigrants in the country without authorisation in exchange for \$5.7 billion in funding for a wall along the southern border.

But the proposal, which Trump unveiled in a 13-minute address from the White House, appeared dead on arrival in the Capitol. Speaker Nancy Pelosi rejected it even before Trump spoke, and Senator Chuck Schumer, the Democratic leader, denounced the offer as "not a compromise but more hostage taking".

With the shutdown entering its fifth week and polls showing a majority of the public blaming Trump, the President's advisers have been searching for an exit strategy. The proposal was Trump's first public offer to Democrats since the partial shutdown began nearly a month ago.

Over the course of his administration, Trump has repeatedly sought to curb both legal and illegal immigration. He has revoked Temporary Protected Status (TPS), which offers crucial protections for immigrants, for people from some

Trump seeks a deal

**HIS CONCESSIONS**  
■ Three years of legal protections for so-called "Dreamers", a group of about 700,000 immigrants who entered the country illegally as children. His administration had moved to rescind Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, an Obama-era programme that shielded the young immigrants known as Dreamers from deportation.



Trump at the White House on Saturday. Reuters

■ Three years of extended protections for Temporary Protected Status recipients, a group of about 300,000 nationals from designated countries affected by armed conflict, natural disaster, or other strife. Trump had moved to phase out the special status for immigrants from El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras and other nations.

**WHAT HE WANTS FROM CONGRESS**  
■ \$5.7 billion to add 370 kilometres of steel barrier along the border. A wall along the US-Mexico border was one of Trump's key campaign promises.

"I am here... to break the logjam and provide Congress with a path forward to end the government shutdown and solve the crisis on the southern border."

DONALD TRUMP US PRESIDENT



"(Trump's plan) is a compilation of several previously rejected initiatives... What is original in the President's proposal is not good. What is good in the proposal is not original."

NANCY PELOSI HOUSE SPEAKER

Teens in MAGA hats mock Native American, their school apologises

A CATHOLIC school in Kentucky condemned a group of its students, many of whom wore "Make America Great Again (MAGA)" hats, after they were recorded harassing a Native American man in a video that went viral. The Indigenous Peoples March in Washington on Friday coincided with the March

for Life, which drew anti-abortion protesters, including a group from Covington Catholic High School in Park Hills. The viral video shows a youth staring at and standing extremely close to Nathan Phillips, a Native American man singing and playing a drum. Other students were seen surrounded them, chanting, laughing and jeering. AP



GREEKS CLASH OVER MACEDONIA NAME

A demonstrator draped in the Greek flag attack police during a rally in Athens on Sunday. Tens of thousands of people attended the rally against the Greek-Macedonia name deal, under which the ex-Yugoslav state will be named North Macedonia. Many Greeks believe the name Macedonia implies a territorial claim over their country's own northern region of that name. AP

World's oldest man, 113, dies in Japan

ASSOCIATED PRESS TOKYO, JANUARY 20

THE WORLD'S oldest man has died at his home — a hot springs inn — in Japan at the age of 113.

Masazo Nonaka died in the early hours of Sunday while sleeping at home in Ashoro on the Japanese island of Hokkaido, his family said. He died peacefully from natural causes, said to his granddaughter Yuko Nonaka.



Masazo Nonaka

The supercentenarian, whose family has run a hot

springs inn for four generations, was certified by Guinness World Records in April 2018 as the world's oldest living man at 112 years and 259 days.

Born on July 25, 1905, Nonaka grew up in a large family and succeeded his parents running the inn. The 106-year-old inn is now run by his granddaughter Yuko.

She said her grandfather appeared to be as usual until her elder sister noticed he was not breathing.

After 'encounter' killing of teen, parents, Pak admits they were not 'IS terrorists'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA LAHORE, JANUARY 20

PAKISTANI AUTHORITIES on Sunday admitted that three of the four "Islamic State (IS) terrorists", who were killed in an encounter with police in Punjab province, were "innocent" even as 16 personnel involved in the shootout have been arrested.

"Police have arrested 16 personnel of counter terrorism department (CTD), and a premier intelligence agency allegedly involved in the encounter that took place in Sahiwal district, 200 km from Lahore on

Saturday. An FIR has also been instituted against them," Punjab Law Minister Basharat Raja said. Raja said the officer who was leading the operation has been suspended from service.

Khalil, a resident of Lahore, his wife, their 13-year-old daughter and their neighbour Zeeshan, were on their way to a wedding in Burewala when they were shot dead by police in Zeeshan's car in the Qadirabad area on Saturday.

The CTD in a statement however said that Zeeshan was an active member of the IS and a phone call was intercepted from Afghanistan in which an ISIS commander had directed other

members of the network to hide after the killing of Zeeshan.

The couple's three other minor children in the car survived. Their son sustained a bullet injury while two daughters were unhurt.

Following the killings, the CTD claimed to have shot dead four IS "terrorists", including two women in what it said was an "intelligence-based operation".

Eyewitnesses and the victims' family members, however, had strongly refuted the CTD's version, and told Pakistani daily Dawn that the four were shot dead in "cold blood by the police" in the "staged" encounter.

On Sunday, the CTD declared

Khalil and his family as "innocent", saying, "Neither Khalil nor his family members knew that Zeeshan was an IS terrorist who supplied ammunition to other members of his network."

The killing of the three innocents sent shockwaves across the country as PM Imran Khan expressed grief. "As soon as the joint investigation team's report comes, swift action will be taken. The government's priority is protection of all its citizens," Khan said.

The Punjab government has said it will look after the surviving children of Khalil. The Opposition has demanded the government bring the culprits to justice.

'WORST AIRSTRIKES IN A YEAR'

Saudi-led coalition planes pound Yemen capital

REUTERS ADEN, SANAA, JANUARY 20

SAUDI-LED FORCES launched overnight airstrikes on Yemen's capital, described by one resident on Sunday as the worst in a year, as the United Nations struggles to implement a peace deal.

A spokesman for the Saudi-led coalition said its warplanes attacked seven military facilities used for drone operations in Sanaa, which is held by rival Houthi forces.



Boys hold missile shrapnel in Sanaa, Yemen, on Sunday. Reuters

Yemen's nearly four-year-old civil war, which pits the Iran-

aligned Houthi movement against the Saudi-backed government of Abd-Rabu Mansour Hadi, has killed tens of thousands and left millions on the brink of starvation.

Saudi-owned Al Arabiya television said the overnight targets included al-Dulaimi Air Base, a drone storage site, and military training sites.

Medical workers and residents told Reuters at least two civilians were killed, and others injured, and that the raids also damaged homes.

Houthi-run al-Masirah TV

said on Sunday that the coalition had conducted 24 airstrikes on Sanaa since Saturday evening, including four on the air base. It said a plastics factory was also hit, causing a large fire.

Reuters footage showed a large crater next to the factory, and damaged homes nearby.

"The raids were very violent, the likes of which we have not seen for a year," Sanaa resident Arwa Abdul Karim told Reuters. "The house shook so much we thought it would fall on our heads."

WEBSITE HAD PUBLISHED STORY CLAIMING TRUMP DIRECTED HIS LAWYER COHEN TO LIE TO CONGRESS

After Mueller denies story, BuzzFeed at centre of a test of media credibility

MICHAEL MGRYNBAUM NEW YORK, JANUARY 20

IN AN age of unyielding appetite for all things Trump, big news travels fast.

So when BuzzFeed News reported Thursday that President Donald Trump had instructed his lawyer, Michael Cohen, to lie in his testimony to Congress — a felony — the assertion ricocheted around the cable TV ecosystem and into the halls of Congress, where Democratic lawmakers publicly mused on impeachment.

Unlike past articles on the possible ties between Trump's presidential campaign and Russia, however, this one was not

followed by similar stories from other news organisations, who proved unable to corroborate its findings with reporting of their own. And Friday, the office of the special counsel, Robert Mueller, broke precedent by issuing a denial, interrupting nearly 20 months of silence from Mueller on news reports swirling around his investigation.

Whether BuzzFeed's reporting can stand up to further scrutiny is now at the centre of a test of the news media's credibility. Trump seized on the special counsel's denial to continue making the case that the press is biased against him. Journalists expressed the worry that a retraction could undermine

Americans' trust in their work. BuzzFeed News said Saturday that it remained confident in the article and its two authors, one of whom won a Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting in 2016. "We wouldn't have published it if we hadn't felt comfortable with it," Ben Smith, the site's editor-in-chief, said in an interview.

Trump, speaking to reporters on Saturday, called the article "a disgrace to our country". He added, "It's going to take a long time for the mainstream media to recover its credibility."

The episode underscored the risks and temptations that go with reporting on the legal labyrinth of Mueller's investigation, the outcome of which may determine



Mueller's denial was seized upon by Trump to continue making the case that the press is biased against him. Reuters

the fate of Trump's presidency.

BuzzFeed's findings were attributed to two unnamed federal law enforcement officers with knowledge of the special coun-

sel's investigation. One of the reporters, Anthony Cormier, said on CNN that he had not reviewed the underlying documents, but that the two sources had, and they

were "fully, 100 per cent read-in to that aspect of the special counsel's investigation".

Cormier and his co-writer, Jason Leopold, have written well-received investigative articles on Trump and a Moscow tower project that involved President Vladimir Putin of Russia. The latest piece, though, was more dramatic in reporting that Trump had instructed Cohen to lie to Congress about the Moscow project and that Mueller's office was aware of this conduct.

The BuzzFeed article was the talk of TV pundits and news websites for 24 hours — until Peter Carr, Mueller's spokesman, weighed in. Carr, whose stoicism is so well-known in Washington

that he has the nickname "Mr No-Comment," wrote: "BuzzFeed's description of specific statements to the special counsel's office, and characterisation of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen's congressional testimony are not accurate."

The contentiousness over the recent BuzzFeed article is unlikely to abate soon.

Its central assertion pleased many liberals impatient for Mueller to release his findings. Democratic lawmakers were quick to write on Twitter that, "if true," the article's findings could lead to impeachment. In covering the reaction to its own scoop, BuzzFeed ran the headline,

"More And More Democrats Are Suggesting Trump Should Be Impeached After He Told His Lawyer Michael Cohen To Lie To Congress."

The cold water of Carr's denial led some journalists to cringe on-air in real time. "This is a bad day for us," CNN legal analyst Jeffrey Toobin said Friday, after his network had devoted many segments to dissecting the piece. "It reinforces every bad stereotype about the news media."

The President's son, Donald Trump Jr, a relentless media critic, responded in his own way, on Twitter: "Hahahahahahahahahahaha hahahahahahahahahahaha hahahahahahahahaha..." NYT