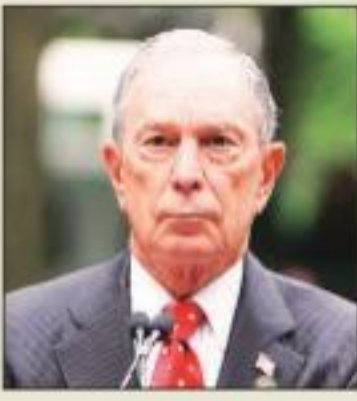


# 19 THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



The business tycoon is a former mayor of New York. Reuters

USA  
Bloomberg files papers paving way for US presidential bid

Washington: New York business tycoon Michael Bloomberg paved the way for a shot at the US presidency, registering as a candidate in the Alabama Democratic primary race before Friday's filing deadline. Although the billionaire has not publicly announced his run, his inclusion among a crowded field keeps his options open for mounting a concerted bid to topple fellow New Yorker Donald Trump. His name was posted among 17 candidates on the Alabama Democratic Party's website only hours before registration closed.

AUSTRALIA  
3 dead, several missing in fires

Camberra: Wildfires razing Australia's drought-stricken east coast have left three people dead and several missing, more than 30 injured and over 150 homes destroyed, officials said Saturday. Around 1,500 firefighters were battling more than 70 fires across Australia's most populous state, New South Wales, with the most intense in the northeast, where flames were fanned by strong winds. Rural Fire Service Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons said. A woman who was found unconscious and with serious burns Friday near Glen Innes died in a hospital, he said.

FRANCE  
Bishops approve payments for abuse victims

Paris: French bishops have approved a plan to financially compensate people abused sexually within the church. Meeting Saturday at their biannual assembly, 120 bishops approved the creation of a church fund for victims. The archbishop of Reims, Eric de Moulins-Beaufort, said the payments will recognise the "silence, negligence, indifference, lack of reaction or bad decisions" faced by priests' victims. He said the bishops didn't decide on the size of the fund or how payments will be made. They will consider a more detailed implementation plan at their next gathering in April.

MASS ANTI-GOVT AGITATIONS RAGE ON

## Pro-democracy lawmakers held in HK as tensions soar

Arrested over Parliament brawl as city mourns student who died during protests

EILEEN NG  
HONG KONG, NOVEMBER 9

SEVEN HONG Kong pro-democracy lawmakers were either detained or faced arrest Saturday, a move that could escalate public fury a day after the death of a university student linked to months of anti-government protests in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory. Protesters vented their anger over Chow Tsz-Lok's death and vowed not to give up their resistance at a police-approved prayer rally Saturday night, with frequent chants of "Hong Kong people, revenge" and "Free Hong Kong."

The 22-year-old died Friday, succumbing to injuries four days after falling from a parking garage when police fired tear gas during clashes with protesters. Although the circumstance of his death is unclear, many



(Left) Hong Kong lawmaker Gary Fan enters police headquarters after being notified of his arrest. (Right) At a vigil for student Chow Tsz-Lok in Hong Kong. Reuters, AP



blame police who have been accused of heavy-handed tactics including widespread use of tear gas and pepper spray since the unrest began in June.

Police said three lawmakers were detained Saturday and charged with obstructing the local assembly during a raucous

May 11 meeting over a now-shelved China extradition bill that sparked five months of protests calling for democratic reforms.

The others received summons to turn up at police stations Saturday to face arrest. All seven are to appear in court Monday.

Pro-democracy lawmakers slammed the government clampdown as a calculated move after Chow's death to provoke more violence as an excuse to postpone or cancel Nov. 24 district elections — polls viewed as a barometer of public sentiment amid the unrest. AP

## Bolivia govt slams 'coup' as some police join stir

DANIEL RAMOS  
LA PAZ, NOVEMBER 9

THE GOVERNMENT of Bolivian President Evo Morales denounced what it called a coup on Saturday,

as some police forces carried out acts of "mutiny" in support of opposition protests amid a standoff over a disputed election.

Morales, Latin America's longest-standing leader, won the election on Oct 20 but the vote

count had been inexplicably halted for nearly a day, sparking allegations of fraud and leading to protests, strikes and road blocks.

Bolivians marched in several cities on Friday night and there were cases of police joining the

protests, adding to the pressure on Morales. In Cochabamba city, the scene of recent violent clashes, police officers protested on the roof of their headquarters in an apparent act of disobedience against the government. REUTERS

USA  
VAPING ILLNESSES: 'STRONG CULPRIT' FOUND

US health officials announced a breakthrough into the cause of an outbreak of vaping illnesses, reporting they have a "very strong culprit". The same chemical compound was found in fluid taken from the lungs of 29 patients across the country; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said. The compound — vitamin E acetate — was also found in liquid from vaping devices used by many who got sick.

## Brazilian leftist icon Lula walks free from prison

AGENCIES  
CURITIBA, NOVEMBER 9

BRAZIL'S LEFTIST icon Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva walked free from jail Friday, after a year and a half behind bars for corruption, following a court ruling that paved the way for the release of another 5,000 prisoners.

The former president pumped his fist in the air as he exited the federal police headquarters in the southern city of Curitiba and was quickly mobbed by hundreds of supporters and journalists.

In an impassioned address, Lula vowed to "continue fighting" for ordinary Brazilians and expose the "lying side of the federal police". His croaky voice was at times drowned out by the cheers of the crowd and by fireworks.

Lula's highly anticipated exit from the facility where he had been held since April 2018 came hours after his lawyers requested the immediate release of the 74-year-old, who has been serving a nearly nine-year sentence for corruption and money laundering.

Late Thursday, the Supreme Court overturned a rule requiring convicted criminals to go to jail after losing their first appeal, and said a person would only be jailed after all appeal options were exhausted. Many of those affected by the ruling are political and business leaders caught up in a massive corruption probe dubbed Car Wash that began in 2014.

Lula has denied all charges against him, arguing they were



Brazil's former president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, with his girlfriend Rosangela da Silva, speaks to supporters in Curitiba, Brazil, on Friday. AP

EXPLAINED  
E. Firing up both the left and the right

LULA'S RELEASE from prison has already sent ripples through Brazilian politics. For the left, he is a charismatic icon, who as president from 2003 to 2010 presided over a period of economic growth and reduction of poverty. The Opposition is likely to be fired up by the release of a leader who once enjoyed 80% approval ratings and is seen by many to have been the victim of a politically-motivated investigation. His imprisonment last year, when he was leading in opinion polls ahead of the presidential election, helped propel far-right candidate Bolsonaro to the top job. His release is likely to galvanise Bolsonaro's core supporters against someone they see as corrupt and also the biggest political threat to their leader.

politically motivated to keep him out of the 2018 presidential election that was won by far-right President Jair Bolsonaro. Bolsonaro reacted to Lula's

release, saying the ex-president was "momentarily free, but guilty". He asked supporters on Twitter "not to give ammunition to the scoundrel".

## Bangladesh orders massive evacuation for Cyclone Bulbul

18 lakh people told to leave homes

ANISUR RAHMAN  
DHAKA, NOVEMBER 9

AUTHORITIES in Bangladesh on Friday ordered the evacuation of about 18 lakh people from low-lying coastal villages and islands as the country braced for a "very severe" cyclonic storm that is set to hit the country Saturday evening.

Officials from the disaster management ministry said thousands of people have already been moved to safe shelters as the evacuation process was underway particularly in 10 southwestern coastal districts, which are likely to face the maximum brunt of Cyclone Bulbul.

"By now, 3 lakh people have been evacuated and we plan to move 18 lakh people to cyclone shelters by the evening in the vulnerable regions," disaster ministry secretary Shah Kamal told reporters. He said Army troops were called in to supplement the cyclone preparedness. The latest met office bulletin said Bulbul was 280 kilometres southwest of Bangladesh's southwestern Mongla Port and 315 km southwest of Payra Port while it was moving in a north/northeastern direction.

It said the maximum sustained wind speed within 74 km of the cyclone centre was about 130 kmph, and was rising to 150 kmph in gusts/squalls.

"Maritime ports of Mongla and Payra have been advised to keep hoisted great danger signal No. 10 (the highest)," the bulletin read.

Coastal districts likely to be inundated by storm surge of 5-7 feet high above normal astronomical tide

Under the influence of the storm and the moon phase, the low-lying areas of the coastal districts of Chattogram, Noakiiali, Laxmipur, Feni, Chandpur, Barguna, Bhola, Patuakhali, Barishal, Pirojpur, Jhalakathi, Bagerhat, Khulna, Satkhira and their offshore islands and chars are likely to be inundated by storm surge of 5-7 feet high above normal astronomical tide.

The Met Office said light to moderate rain or thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at most places in Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, Barishal and Chattogram divisions and at many places over Rangpur, Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions with moderately heavy to very heavy falls at places over the country.

Bangladesh's authorities earlier ordered a ban on the movements of ferries and boats in internal river routes alongside all fishing boats and trawlers over northern part of the Bay of Bengal, where the storm originated initially in the form of low pressure.

State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief, Enamur Rahman, told a news briefing in Dhaka that "adequate measures" were taken to tackle the storm. PTI

## GERMANY MARKS 30 YRS SINCE FALL OF BERLIN WALL



Chancellor Angela Merkel and Parliament President Wolfgang Schaueble place roses at the Wall memorial in Berlin. Reuters

Germany on Saturday marked the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall that separated East and West Germany, with President Frank-Walter Steinmeier thanking Eastern European neighbours for enabling a peaceful revolution.

The toppling of the wall, which had divided the Communist-ruled East and the capitalist West in Berlin for nearly three decades and became a potent symbol of the Cold War, was followed a year later by the reunification of Germany in 1990.

At the event, Chancellor Angela Merkel spoke of the need to defend European values.

## 'US wants UN to take up Dalai Lama succession'

WASHINGTON: The United States wants the United Nations to take up the Dalai Lama's succession in an intensifying bid to stop China from trying to handpick his successor, an envoy said after meeting the Tibetan spiritual leader.

Sam Brownback, the US ambassador-at-large for religious freedom, said he spoke at length about the succession issue with the 84-year-old Dalai Lama last week in the monk's home-in-exile of Dharamsala. Brownback said he told the Dalai Lama that the US would seek to build global support for the principle that the choice of the next spiritual chief "belongs to the Tibetan Buddhists and not the Chinese government." PTI

## Facebook issues apology after black workers complain of bias

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
SAN FRANCISCO, NOVEMBER 9

FACEBOOK APOLOGISED on Friday after black employees anonymously shared feelings of workplace bias in an online post.

The post shared at Medium by a "FB Blind" profile laid out perceived slights by managers, white colleagues, and the human resources department.

"No one at Facebook, or anywhere, should have to put up with this behavior," corporate communications vice president Bertie Thomson said in response to a query.

"We are sorry. It goes against



FB's black employees had anonymously complained of bias in an online post

everything that we stand for as a company. We're listening and working hard to do better." Incidents described in the Medium post included being targeted for negative performance reviews or snide comments.

"On the inside, we are sad. Angry. Oppressed. Depressed," the post read. "And treated every day through the micro and macro aggressions as if we do not belong here." The anonymous post maintained that the atmosphere at Facebook has worsened in the past year when it came to non-white workers being recognised, empowered and treated equitably.

"The problem is not just with black employees of different genders," the post read.

"We are remaining anonymous because Facebook creates a hostile culture where anyone that is non-white is made to feel fear for their job and their safety to report any bad behaviours."

## US woman found alive in desert after weeklong kidnapping

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
LOS ANGELES, NOVEMBER 9

A SUBURBAN Las Vegas woman dragged to California by father-and-daughter kidnapers was found cold but alive after a harrowing, weeklong kidnapping where she was raped, robbed and left for dead in the desert, authorities said.

Stanley Alfred Lawton, 54, and Shaniya Nicole Poche-Lawton, 22, dumped the woman off a highway near Edwards Air Force Base north of Los Angeles, where she was found by military personnel early Wednesday, Los Angeles County sheriff's Capt. Eduardo Hernandez told reporters Friday. "It's a vicious case," Hernandez said.

While officials said Lawton and Poche-Lawton knew the victim, authorities didn't provide a motive for the attack. It couldn't immediately be determined if the pair had lawyers yet who could speak on their behalf.

The woman in her 40s was kidnapped in North Las Vegas on October 30, Hernandez said. "It's at gunpoint, it's by force, the victim is then transported across state lines, held in a house inside of a room for at least a week," he said. "At some point, she was sexually assaulted and then left for dead."

Authorities said the woman, who was dumped in the desert without food or water, was suffering from cold and exposure when military authorities found her near the sprawling military base. She was treated at a hospital and released, and she has since returned to Nevada.

"She's very lucky to be alive," Hernandez said.

JUDGES DISMISS ARGUMENT OF CONVICT SERVING LIFE TERM FOR MURDERING A MAN WITH THE HANDLE OF AN AX IN 1996

## US prisoner who briefly 'died' argues he has served his life sentence

NICHOLAS BOGEL-BURROUGHS  
NOVEMBER 9

WHAT DOES it mean to complete a sentence of life in prison? One prisoner claims he has done it by serving time until the moment of his death — plus another four years since — and said it is well past time to set him free.

The prisoner, Benjamin Schreiber, made that argument to an appeals court in Iowa, saying that when he briefly died in 2015, before being revived at a hospital,

he completed his obligation to the state. He asked the three-judge panel to let him get on with his life.

The judges rejected his argument this week, ruling that a lower court had been right to dismiss his petition. "Schreiber is either still alive, in which case he must remain in prison, or he is actually dead, in which case this appeal is moot," Judge Amanda Potterfield wrote for the court.

Schreiber, 66, was sentenced to life without parole after being convicted of murder for killing a man with the handle of an ax in 1996, according to *The Des Moines Register*.

He has filed several unsuccessful appeals, but in 2018 he argued in court in Wapello County that he had been resuscitated against his will, and that because he had, his "sentence has expired".

In March 2015, Schreiber, who is being held at the Iowa State Penitentiary, was taken to a hospital after having seizures and a high fever, according to his petition. The cause of his illness turned out to be large kidney stones, which led to septic poisoning.

When he lost consciousness at



66-year-old Benjamin Schreiber was sentenced to life without parole. NYT

the University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics, a staff member called his brother, who told the hospital that although it could give Schreiber medicine to ease his pain, "otherwise you are to let him pass," according to Schreiber's petition.

Schreiber said he was resuscitated despite his brother's directions and his own do-not-resuscitate order on file with the Iowa Department of Corrections. The courts have not addressed whether he was wrongfully resuscitated. Schreiber's lawyer did not respond to requests for comment Friday, and a hospital

spokesman said he did not immediately have a comment.

Potterfield wrote in the ruling this week that because "life" is not defined by the state's code, the judges had given the term "its plain meaning," which they took to prescribe that Schreiber must spend the rest of his natural life incarcerated, regardless of whether he had been revived.

"We do not find his argument persuasive," Potterfield wrote, adding that the judges found it unlikely the Legislature would have wanted "to set criminal defendants free whenever medical

procedures during their incarceration led to their resuscitation by medical professionals."

Schreiber's plea was not without precedent. Jerry Rosenberg, who was convicted of murdering two New York police detectives in 1962, petitioned a court in upstate New York to let him go in 1988, arguing that he had died when his heart stopped during surgery.

The judge ruled against Rosenberg, too, writing that he did not legally die, "as his presence in this courtroom indicates," the *Associated Press* reported at the time.

Eve Brensike Primus, a professor who teaches criminal law at the University of Michigan Law School, said it was unsurprising that the theory had only been tried a handful of times.

"The stars have to align — both the medical condition and the sentence the person is facing — for a person to even make this argument," she said.

Primus said that if people were considered legally dead before being resuscitated, it would create a web of problems, not just in criminal cases but also for insurance and inheritance claims. NYT