

The number of Syrians — over half the country's estimated population — in need of humanitarian aid, as per the UN humanitarian chief. He said the UN and other groups are reaching an average of 5.6 million people a month

TOP OF THE WORLD



Roger Stone

US
Poll interference probe: Stone found guilty

Washington: Roger J Stone Jr, a former aide and long-time friend of President Trump, was found guilty on Friday of obstructing a congressional probe into Russia's interference in the 2016 election. Stone, 67, was charged with lying to the House Intelligence Committee, trying to block the testimony of another potential witness and concealing reams of evidence. Prosecutors claimed he tried to thwart the committee's work because the truth would have "looked terrible" for both the president and his campaign.

BOLIVIA
Morales calls for United Nations' mediation

Mexico City: Bolivia's Evo Morales on Friday called for the United Nations, and possibly Pope Francis, to mediate in the nation's crisis following his ouster as president in what he called a coup d'etat that forced him into exile in Mexico. In an interview with *The Associated Press* in Mexico City, Morales claimed he is in fact still president of Bolivia since the country's Legislative Assembly has not yet accepted his resignation, which he presented Sunday. "If they haven't accepted or rejected (his resignation), I can say I am still president," he said.

TURKEY
Govt detains four mayors on terror charges

Ankara: Turkey's state-run news agency says police have detained four mayors over their suspected links to Kurdish rebels, as part of an ongoing crackdown on the country's pro-Kurdish party. Anadolu Agency said the mayors of the towns of Savur, Derik and Mazidagi in Mardin province and the town of Suruc in Sanliurfa province were detained along with some 20 municipality officials on Friday. The mayors were elected into office in March.

RUSSIA
Broadcaster accuses FB of censorship

Moscow: The chief of Russian state-funded broadcaster RT on Friday said Facebook was deliberately blocking posts from its documentary channel, accusing the social media giant of "censorship". "They have been limiting the audience for our documentaries for over a month on Facebook," Margarita Simonyan wrote on her Telegram social networking account. "Nobody can see the posts." "Our guys have asked the moderators what they did wrong, but Zuckerberg's moderators are silent," Simonyan wrote of Mark Zuckerberg.

INTIMIDATION, SAY IMPEACHMENT PANEL MEMBERS

Ex-envoy witness says feel threatened by Trump, he attacks her on Twitter

Shocked, appalled, devastated: Marie Yovanovitch on transcript of Ukraine call

MICHAEL D SHEAR, PETER BAKER & CHARLIE SAVAGE
WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 15

PRESIDENT TRUMP on Friday denigrated Marie L Yovanovitch, the former United States ambassador to Ukraine, even as she testified in the impeachment inquiry about how she felt threatened by Trump, leading Democrats to accuse him of trying to intimidate a witness in real time. "Everywhere Marie Yovanovitch went turned bad. She started off in Somalia, how did that go?" Trump wrote, assailing her on Twitter to his 66 million followers and adding that "It is a US President's absolute right to appoint ambassadors."

The president's insults came as Yovanovitch told the House Intelligence Committee in powerful and personal terms of the devastation and fear she felt earlier this year, as she was targeted first by Mr. Trump's allies and later by the president himself during a phone call with President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine. Democrats said Trump's onslaught amounted to an attempt to threaten Yovanovitch, who is still a State Department employee, and



Marie Yovanovitch arrives to testify before Congress, Friday. NYT

Yovanovitch said she was bereft when she came under fire in the spring from Rudolph W Giuliani, the president's personal lawyer, and his eldest son, but even more stunned in September when she learned that Trump himself had told another foreign leader that she was "bad news" in his now-famous July 25 phone call with Ukraine's president, and said she would "go through some things."

Representative Adam B Schiff, Democrat of California and the chairman of the Intelligence Committee, interrupted Yovanovitch to read the president's tweet and ask her what she thought. A tight smile on her face, she appeared momentarily uncertain how to respond. "It's very intimidating," she said. She then paused, searching for words. "I can't speak to what the president is trying to do, but the effect is to be intimidating."

Schiff responded in a stern tone that, "Some of us here take witness intimidation very, very seriously." Representative Jim Himes, Democrat of Connecticut and a member of the Intelligence Committee, said that Trump's attacks on Yovanovitch amounted to "clear witness tampering" that could be cited in an article of impeachment. NYT

EXPLAINED
Another potential charge for panel

THE VIEW that Trump's tweets denigrating Yovanovitch amount to witness intimidation could provide another charge for the House panel to pursue impeachment. Earlier, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi had also suggested that bribery could be another charge against Trump. However, a Republican lawmaker has dismissed the charge, saying that the envoy would not have known about Trump's tweets had they not been read out during the session, and thus, they cannot be seen as an intimidation attempt.

other potential witnesses against cooperating with the inquiry, a tactic that they said could itself be impeachable. Removed from her post as ambassador to Ukraine,

TRUMP ASKS SC TO BAR RELEASE OF HIS TAX RETURNS

President Trump has asked the Supreme Court to bar his accounting firm from turning over eight years of his tax returns to prosecutors, in what could yield a major ruling on the limits of presidential immunity

Jay Sekulow, a lawyer for Trump, said a federal appeals court had committed a grave legal error in allowing the accounting firm to provide the tax records

Trump's lawyers argued that he was immune from all criminal proceedings and investigations so long as he remained in office

Even if some federal probes may be proper, the petition said, the SC should rule that state and local prosecutors may not seek information about a sitting president

SRI LANKA VOTES TODAY

On eve of polls, the mood among key minority groups: 'Promises not kept'



ARUN JANARDHANAN
NOVEMBER 15

AS OVER 15 million Sri Lankans are set to vote for the new President on Saturday, by picking one of 35 candidates from the longest-ever ballot paper, the decision of the country's minority Tamils will be crucial. The Tamil communities and other minority groups had a significant role to play in the 2015 poll victory of Maithripala Sirisena against the incumbent Rajapaksa regime, leading to questions about where their votes will go this time.

According to about a dozen Tamil voters who spoke to *The Indian Express* on the eve of polling, the situation has changed in the last five years of the Sirisena regime. There is voter unhappiness against the Tamil National Alliance (TNA), a party that represents Tamils, and there have been calls to boycott elections.

While a majority of Sinhalese voters had favoured Rajapaksa in the 2015 elections, a major factor that contributed to his defeat was the massive support of minorities for Sirisena. While the Gotabaya Rajapaksa camp is confident of retaining 47.6 per cent of the Sinhala Buddhist votes that they received in 2015, many are unsure of the level of support that ruling United National Party (UNP) candidate Sajith Premadasa will receive. M A Sumanthiran, TNA



Gotabaya Rajapaksa (right) at a Tamil temple

spokesperson and parliamentarian, said the promises made by President Sirisena and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe had not been fulfilled.

When asked about the mood in northern Sri Lanka, a war-ravaged region, Sumanthiran said the TNA supported Sajith. "There is enthusiasm among voters. But I am not sure if the same mood of Tamils in 2015 exists still. One Tamil party has boycotted the election. I admit people are not satisfied with TNA, even though they are aware of certain things we have managed to do for them. And the wounds haven't started healing yet," he said.

Former parliamentarian M K Sivajilingam, one of the presidential candidates, claimed Tamil people will not prioritise Sajith or Gotabaya. "And definitely Sajith will get more votes in the north. If Eastern province will favour Gotabaya, northern province together will give no upper hand for Sajith unlike last time," he said. "Those who won that election are seen at the home of the same Rajapaksa now. Rajapaksa bagged maximum Sinhalese votes and still got defeated due to the wrath of minorities," he added.

FULL REPORT ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Iran not calling for elimination of Jews, says Khamenei

REUTERS
DUBAI, NOVEMBER 15

IRAN IS not calling for the elimination of the Jewish people, but believes people of all religions should decide Israel's future, Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Friday.

"Calling for the elimination of the state of Israel does not mean the elimination of the Jewish people," Khamenei told officials and participants at an Islamic conference in Tehran, according to his official website. "It means that the people of Palestine — be they Muslim, Christian or Jewish — should choose their own government."

Khamenei, the ultimate authority on Iranian domestic and foreign policy, criticised Western powers for pressuring Tehran over its nuclear programme.

PROTESTS RESURGE IN IRAQ

Iraqi demonstrators try to pull down a concrete wall during ongoing anti-government protests in Baghdad. Iraqi medical and security officials say one protester was killed and over 40 were wounded in overnight clashes. Reuters

CHINA SAYS BRITAIN FUELLING PROTESTS

Hong Kong foreign secretary 'attacked' in London

AGENCIES
HONG KONG, NOVEMBER 15

THE CHINESE and Hong Kong governments condemned on Friday an attack by a "violent mob" on the city's justice secretary in London, the first direct altercation between demonstrators and a government minister during months of often violent protests.

Secretary for Justice Teresa Cheng, who was in London to



Protesters with bows in Hong Kong on Friday. Reuters

promote Hong Kong as a dispute resolution and deal-making hub, was targeted by a group of protesters who shouted "murderer" and "shameful".

A statement by the Hong Kong government said Cheng suffered "serious bodily harm" but gave no details. The Chinese embassy in the UK said Cheng was pushed to the ground and sustained a hand injury.

"If the British side does not change its wrong practices, and continues to add fuel to the fire,

sow discord and instigate others, and make false countercharges, then it will bring calamity on itself," foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said at a regular press briefing.

In a separate statement, the Hong Kong government said, "The secretary denounces all forms of violence and radicalism depriving others' legitimate rights in the pretext of pursuing their political ideals, which would never be in the interest of Hong Kong and any civilised society."

Teen opens fire in California high school, killing two students

NEW YORK TIMES
SANTA CLARITA, NOVEMBER 15

FRANTIC PARENTS texted with teenagers barricaded in classrooms. Others offered shelter to students fleeing their high school in this sleepy suburb north of Los Angeles on Thursday. It was the latest example of a wrenching sequence that has become a recurring nightmare for families in America.

This time it was a little after 7.30 am when a young man opened fire at Saugus High School in Santa Clarita, killing two students and wounding three others before turning the gun on himself, authorities said.

The 16-year-old suspect was said to be in grave condition after shooting himself in the head. Law enforcement officials said that he was a student at Saugus High School, and that Thursday was his birthday. The students who died were a 16-year-old girl and a 14-year-old boy; the other victims were identified as a 14-year-old girl, a 15-year-old girl

MAJOR SHOOTINGS

APRIL 16, 2007
A gunman slaughters 32 people and kills himself at Virginia Tech, a university in Blacksburg

DECEMBER 14, 2012
A man shoots his mother, then kills 20 children and six adults before killing himself at Sandy Hook school in Connecticut

FEBRUARY 14, 2018
A former student at a school in Florida, opens fire with a rifle, killing 17 students and educators

and a 14-year-old boy. Little is known about a motive or the suspect, whom police declined to name because he is a minor. Medical staff had transferred him to a hospital before police determined he was the suspect and not a victim.

ONLY ONE CONDITION: THEY MUST NO LONGER LIVE WITH THEIR ATTACKER

In Brazil, dentists give victims of domestic abuse a new life

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
RIO DE JANEIRO, NOVEMBER 15

ANA CLAUDIA Rocha Ferreira suffered domestic abuse at the hands of multiple partners, dating back to when she was just 15 years old. The violence took a mental and physical toll.

"I only had four teeth left in the front. I was ashamed to go out," she explains.

Rocha is one of millions of women who are victimized by their partners in Brazil. In nearly all of the cases, men target the women's faces and teeth, in order to diminish their femininity and feelings of self-worth.



Women hold pictures of victims of domestic abuse. Reuters/FILE

Rocha was one of the lucky ones. She got new confidence — and a new smile — thanks to Rio de Janeiro dentist Armando Piva,

who is part of a non-governmental network of volunteers rebuilding the teeth, and the lives, of battered women.

Rocha says the dental work was like a "dream" and changed her life. But before her brilliant white grin — emphasized by bright red lipstick — was restored, Rocha went through some grim times.

"The assaults began when I was just 15 years old, and I was pregnant with my first daughter," explains the young black woman, who works at a graphic design firm — and already has four grandchildren at age 39. "He started punching me. I left him. But afterward, the fa-

ther of my second daughter also started hitting me. My teeth fell out one after another," she recalls.

Rocha, who lives in a slum in Rio's vast Sao Cristovao area, says that in the favelas, "men say they like to beat up their woman so no one else wants her. They leave their mark on her face." She didn't leave her second abusive partner because she didn't have the money to do so. She also couldn't go home to her mother, who kicked her out at a young age.

Her mom's history was similar — she was beaten all of her life and did not have one tooth left, Rocha recounts.

"Since I was 18 until now, I have not smiled," she laments. "I was constantly mortified." One day, she sent a message on Instagram to an actress who she admired — a bit of a shot in the dark. She didn't ask for any money but asked for help, saying she wanted beautiful teeth like the actress had.

The actress responded, putting Rocha in touch with the volunteer dentists. The treatment by Piva lasted nearly a year at his ultra-modern office in Rio's chic Barra da Tijuca neighborhood — a stark contrast to Rocha's bleak slum. He used dental implants to restore Rocha's confidence and smile.

With giant hoop earrings swinging from her ears, and drawing attention to her face, she says she is very happy: "Never again will I accept being hit."

Piva says that more than 1,000 women have received treatment so far. The attackers' wish is to destroy the woman's desire to smile. And we see that the majority of these women have lost more than half of their upper teeth.

Thais de Azevedo, a 70-year-old transgender woman who received implants two years ago, says, "You have no idea what it's like to live without teeth." When I got my new teeth, it was amazing just to eat an apple."