

14 THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



Pope Francis arrives at a stadium in Nagasaki on Sunday. Reuters

JAPAN
In Hiroshima, Pope urges world to shun nukes

Hiroshima: Pope Francis travelled to Hiroshima and Nagasaki on Sunday to demand that world powers renounce their nuclear arsenals, declaring the use and possession of atomic bombs an "immoral" crime and a dangerous waste. Standing before survivors of the 1945 US atomic bombings, Francis denounced the steady erosion of arms control agreements and rejected the Cold War-era doctrine of deterrence that had been sanctioned by the Catholic Church for nearly three decades. "The use of atomic energy for purposes of war is immoral," the pope said. He added off-the-cuff, "As is the possession of atomic weapons." "We will be judged for this," he warned.

PAKISTAN
Petition seeking disqualification of Imran filed

Lahore: A petition has been filed in a Pakistani court seeking disqualification of Prime Minister Imran Khan for his "anti-judiciary" remarks on the departure of his political rival and former premier Nawaz Sharif to London for treatment. Tahir Maqsood, a Pakistani citizen, filed the petition in the Lahore High Court on Saturday, seeking contempt of court proceedings against Khan for bringing the judiciary into disrepute. The petitioner said the prime minister criticised senior judges of the Supreme Court which amounts to contempt of court.

BRITAIN
Truck deaths: Man charged with human trafficking

London: British police have charged a 23-year-old man from Northern Ireland with human trafficking offences as part of their inquiry into the deaths of 39 Vietnamese people found in the back of a truck near London last month. The police said that Christopher Kennedy was arrested on Friday, Nov. 22, and that he is due to appear at Chelmsford Magistrates' Court on Monday. The prosecution has authorised charges of conspiracy to arrange or facilitate the travel of people with a view to exploitation and conspiracy to facilitate the commission of a breach of UK immigration law, it said.

Record turnout for Hong Kong local polls amid calls for full democracy

71% polling — 2.94 million votes cast, up from 1.47 million in previous election

JESSIE PANG & SHARON TAM
HONG KONG, NOVEMBER 24

POLLS CLOSED in Hong Kong with no major disruptions on Sunday after people turned out in huge numbers to vote in district council elections seen as a test of support for Chief Executive Carrie Lam following six months of pro-democracy protests. Government data released one hour before polling stations closed said nearly 2.94 million people had voted by 9.30 pm, a turnout rate of more than 71 per cent — a record showing that appeared to have been encouraged by the political turmoil. About 1.47 million voted in the last district elections four years ago. The voter numbers showed people's determination, said one voter named Tsz, 30, who works in the service industry. "The high turnout rate... definitely reflects Hong Kong people's hope for genuine universal suffrage," he said. Casting her ballot, the Beijing-backed Lam pledged that her government would listen "more intensively" to the views of district councils in the Chinese-ruled city. "I hope this kind of stability and calm is not only for today's election, but to show that everyone does not want Hong Kong to



People queue up to vote in district council elections in Hong Kong on Sunday. Reuters

fall into a chaotic situation again," Lam said. The protests started over a now-withdrawn extradition Bill that would have allowed people to be sent to mainland China for trial but rapidly evolved into calls for full democracy, posing the biggest popular challenge to Chinese President Xi Jinping since he came to power in 2012. They have at times forced the closure of government, businesses and schools as police used teargas, rubber bullets and water cannon in response to

petrol bombs and rocks. The run-up to the election was marked by attacks on candidates, with one stabbed and wounded and another having part of his ear bitten off. Ming Lee, 26, who works in event production, said she hoped the higher turnout would benefit the pro-democracy camp that is battling some seats that were once uncontested and dominated by pro-Beijing candidates. "I hope this vote can counter the voice of the pro-establishment, so as to bring in more

voices from the democrats," she said. The district councils control some spending and decide issues such as recycling and public health. A record 1,104 candidates were vying for 452 seats and a record 4.1 million people have enrolled to vote. If the pro-democracy campaigners gain control, they could secure six seats on Hong Kong's semi-representative Legislative Council and 117 seats on the 1,200-member panel that selects its chief executive. **REUTERS**

EXPLAINED
More than district councils at stake

SUNDAY'S ELECTIONS to Hong Kong's district council have seen record voter turnout. But the councils have no lawmaking power and control a small amount of public funds that they use to deal with issues such as traffic and sanitation. However, the pro-democracy movement has made these elections about more than specific local issues, highlighting the months of anti-government protests and trying to harness the anger against the establishment. The pro-Beijing establishment, however, has sought to restore order with these elections, denouncing violent protests and trying to prove that regular Hong Kongers are with them. Either way, these elections have turned into a referendum on the protests. Protesters are demanding



Protesters throw stones at riot police in Baghdad. AP

Security forces kill nine in Iraq protests

AREF MOHAMMED
BASRA, NOVEMBER 24

SECURITY FORCES opened fire on protesters in Baghdad and several cities in southern Iraq on Sunday, killing at least nine people and wounding dozens of others, police and medical sources said, the latest violence in weeks of unrest. Anti-government protests erupted in early October and have swollen into the largest demonstrations since the fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003. A Reuters tally of the dead as given by security and medical sources shows at least 339 people have been killed. Iraq's state news agency quoted the health minister on Sunday as saying 111 people had been killed, including protesters and members from security forces, without breaking down the tally or elaborating over what period. It was the first official figure issued by a government official since Oct 25. Protesters are demanding

the overthrow of a political class seen as corrupt and serving foreign powers while many Iraqis languish in poverty without jobs, healthcare or education. In Nassiriya, security forces used live ammunition and tear gas canisters to disperse protesters who had gathered overnight on three bridges. Police and health officials said three people were killed, and hospital sources said another person died later from bullet wounds to his head. More than 50 others were wounded, mainly by live bullets and tear gas canisters, in clashes in the city, they added. Three people were killed and around 90 wounded near the Gulf port of Umm Qasr near Basra when security forces used live fire to disperse protesters, police and medical sources said. The protesters had gathered to demand security forces open roads that authorities have blocked to try to prevent protesters from reaching the port's entrance. **REUTERS**

Billionaire Michael Bloomberg formally announces entry into White House race

NY ex-mayor to join Democratic field

ALEXANDER BURNS
NOVEMBER 24

MICHAEL BLOOMBERG announced Sunday that he would run for US president in 2020, bringing his enormous wealth and eclectic political biography into the tumultuous Democratic primary and seeking to win over skeptical liberal voters by presenting himself as a multibillion-dollar threat to President Donald Trump. Bloomberg, a former Republican who has expressed reservations about his adopted party's leftward drift, said in a statement that he would offer a pragmatic option to voters in a campaign to unseat a president who "represents an existential threat to our country and our values." "Defeating Donald Trump — and rebuilding America — is the most urgent and important fight of our lives. And I'm going all in," Bloomberg said. "I offer myself as a doer and a problem solver — not a talker. And someone who is ready to take on the tough fights — and win." Bloomberg's late entry into the race has already roiled an unsettled Democratic primary field. He has started rival campaigns in recent days by reserving almost \$35 million in airtime for television commercials outlining his biography and political agenda, a figure that dwarfs other campaigns' advertising budgets. On a website that went live Sunday, Bloomberg embraced his status as a surprise contender, branding himself as "a



Defeating Donald Trump — and rebuilding America — is the most urgent and important fight of our lives. And I'm going all in.
— MICHAEL BLOOMBERG
US PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFUL

new choice for Democrats." Bloomberg, 77, faces immense obstacles to winning the Democratic nomination, starting with his own political baggage that includes a complex array of business entanglements, a history of making demeaning comments about women and a record of championing law enforcement policies that disproportionately targeted black and Latino men with invasive searches. His long-delayed start in the race will leave him scrambling to catch up with some of the other candidates in building a national profile and constructing a large-scale campaign organisation. As a result, he plans to mount an unconventional primary campaign, bypassing the earliest primary and caucus states, and focusing instead on the delegate-rich March primaries in states such as California and Texas. **NYT**



27 KILLED IN DR CONGO PLANE CRASH

At the site of a plane crash in Goma, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, on Sunday.

- At least 27 people were killed, including some on the ground, when a small plane crashed into a densely populated neighbourhood in the city of Goma in the Democratic Republic of Congo on Sunday.
- The propeller plane crashed shortly after take-off en route to the city of Beni, about 250 km to the north, officials said. The 19-seater Dornier 228-200 had 16 passengers and two crew members on board.
- There was no word yet on what might have caused the accident. Police arrested one man for stealing cash from the rubble and fired warning shots to disperse people who had started looting.

K-Pop star Goo Hara found dead at Seoul home

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SEOUL, NOVEMBER 24



She was 28 years old

K-POP STAR and TV celebrity Goo Hara was found dead at her home in Seoul on Sunday, police said. Police said an acquaintance found the 28-year-old dead at her home in southern Seoul and reported it to authorities. The cause of death was not immediately known. Police re-

fused to provide further details. Goo made her debut in 2008 as a member of the girl group Kara, which had big followings in South Korea, Japan and other

Asian countries. She later worked as a solo artist and appeared on many TV shows. In May, Goo was reportedly found unconscious at her home and was hospitalised. She was embroiled last year in public disputes with an ex-boyfriend who claimed to be assaulted by her. Goo accused the man of having threatened to circulate a sex video of her. The case made her the subject of

tabloid fodder and malicious online messages. In October, another K-pop star and actress, Sulli, was found dead at her home near Seoul. The 25-year-old was known for her feminist voice and outspokenness that was rare among female entertainers in deeply conservative South Korea. Before her death, she appeared in a TV show and spoke out against online backlash she received over her lifestyle.



Edward Gallagher was accused of war crimes

US Navy to go on with bid to oust SEAL, defying Trump's wishes

Washington: The US Navy will proceed in its effort to oust a member of its elite SEAL commando unit, an official said Saturday, defying the wishes of President Donald Trump. Edward Gallagher had been accused of war crimes in a high-profile case but was found guilty only of a lesser offence. On Nov 15, Trump reversed the demotion handed down to the 40-year-old under his conviction. The Navy this week launched a procedure under which a peer review board could strip him and three other members of his unit of their Trident pins — effectively booting them from the SEALs. A ranked Trump declared on Twitter on Thursday that "The Navy will NOT be taking away Warfighter and Navy Seal Eddie Gallagher's Trident Pin." On Saturday, however, a senior Pentagon official said the "peer review board is proceeding". The move came as multiple US news outlets reported that Navy Secretary Richard Spencer had threatened to resign over the affair, a claim he sharply denied. "Contrary to popular belief, I am still here. I did not threaten to resign," Spencer said, speaking at a forum in Halifax, Canada. The US Navy chief said he did not consider Trump's tweet to be a formal order. "I need a formal order to act," Spencer said. **PTI**

WHILE THE STRONG CONDEMNATION HAS RECEIVED PLAUDITS, THE UNIVERSITY SAYS IT WILL RESPECT THE PROFESSOR'S FREEDOM OF SPEECH

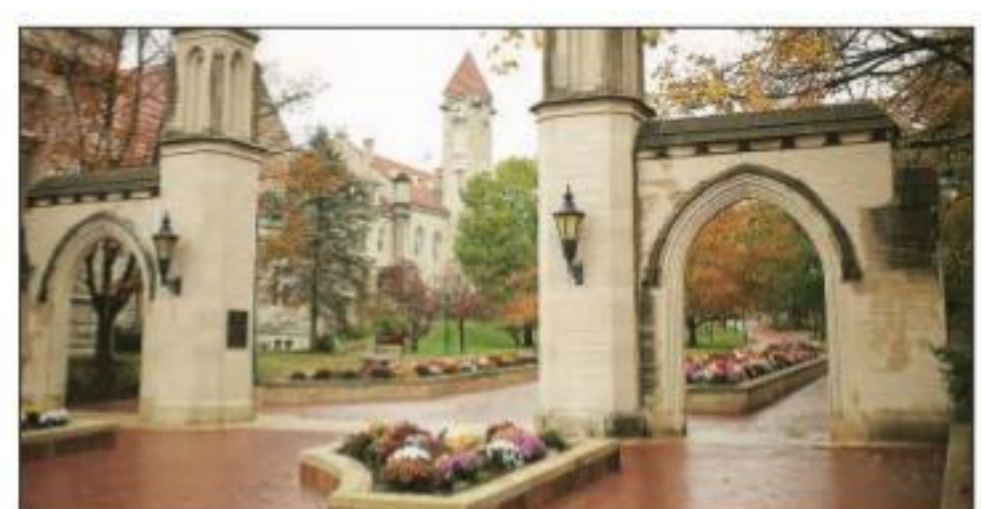
US university calls professor's 'racist' views vile, but will not fire him

NICHOLAS BOGEL-BURROUGHS
NOVEMBER 24

THE PROVOST did not mince her words about the opinions of a professor on her campus. His views were racist, sexist and homophobic, she wrote in a statement this week. They were "vile and stupid," she said, and "more consistent with someone who lived in the 18th century than the 21st". But the provost, Lauren Robel

of Indiana University Bloomington, was equally clear on another point: The First Amendment prohibited the university from firing the professor, Eric Rasmusen, for expressing those views. "That is not a close call," wrote Robel, who also teaches at the law school. The unusually candid statement quickly drew attention from students, academics and lawyers, many of whom praised the provost for publicly excoriating the professor's opinions

while respecting one of the nation's basic freedoms. Conflicts over academic freedom and private speech have long been mainstays of college campuses. There was the case of Steven Salaita, the professor whose job offer was revoked by the University of Illinois in 2014 over his criticism of Israel. And John McAdams, the professor who was reinstated by a Wisconsin court last year after Marquette University suspended him for criticising a graduate student on his personal blog.



Indiana University Bloomington. NYT

But this case did not follow the usual outrage playbook. Rasmusen, an economist who has argued that gay men should not be teachers, referred to women as "the weaker sex" and said colleges have lower standards for accepting black students than white students, had been posting his opinions online for years. They were only widely circulated this week when they were flagged by a popular Twitter account. With her statement, the provost managed to forcefully

support both the angry objections to Rasmusen's views and his right to express them. She said in an interview Friday that while she may not want Rasmusen on campus, it was important to be frank with students about what the school could do. "These are things he says on his own time, in his own space," Robel said, adding that the decision had nothing to do with his tenured status. "That, without more, is not enough." She added: "Somebody with

his views — should that person be teaching students? If that was the only question we had to answer, the answer in my mind would be pretty clear." Still, some students said Indiana University should take further action, and accused its leaders of hiding behind the First Amendment to protect the professor. Selena Drake, a senior, said Rasmusen's public posts alone were enough to make his classroom a hostile environment for female, gay and black students. **NYT**