

16 The World

TOP OF THE WORLD



Pete Frates was a former college baseball player. *AP*

USA

Pete Frates, who popularised Ice Bucket Challenge, dead at 34

PETE FRATES, a former college baseball player who popularised the social media phenomenon known as the Ice Bucket Challenge, and helped raise \$100 million toward fighting amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, commonly known as ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease, died at his home in Beverly, Massachusetts on Monday. He was 34. His death was announced by Boston College, his alma mater. Frates learned he had the disease in 2012. It attacks the body's nerve cells and leads to full paralysis. Patients are typically expected to live for two to five years from the time of diagnosis.

USA

Sikh taxi driver assaulted

Houston: An Indian-origin Sikh taxi driver has been assaulted and racially abused in the US state of Washington in a suspected hate crime here, according to media reports. Griffin Levi Sayers, 22, verbally and physically abused his Sikh Uber driver on December 5 in Bellingham city. The Bellingham Herald quoted the police as saying. While strangling the Sikh man, Sayers made "racially biased comments about the victim's dark skin, the fact he was from India and the turban he was wearing," a police officer said. After a struggle, the driver, who was not identified, managed to escape from his car, left the rider inside and called 911 for help. Komo News said.

MADAGASCAR

2 die, 3 missing in cyclone

Antananarivo: Cyclone Bena has hit northern Madagascar, with two people dead and three missing from the first tropical storm of the season, according to local officials. Bena blew into the western town of Soalala, where more than 1,400 residents were made homeless because their houses were destroyed, damaged or flooded, Col. Elack Olivier Andriakaja of the national catastrophe management office, said Tuesday. Those displaced have found temporary shelter in primary schools, mosques and district offices but they need food, said Andriakaja.

TWO ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT UNVEILED

Democrats officially charge Trump with abuse of power, obstruction

House to debate charges today, vote likely on Thursday

NICHOLAS FANDOS

WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 10

HOUSE DEMOCRATS announced Tuesday that they would move ahead this week with two articles of impeachment charging US President Donald Trump with abuse of power and obstruction of Congress, as they accused him of violating the Constitution by pressuring Ukraine for help in the 2020 election.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi and leaders of six key committees said that Trump's actions toward Ukraine, and his efforts to block Congress' attempt to investigate, had left them no choice but to pursue one of the Constitution's gravest remedies. The move will bring a sitting president to the brink of impeachment for only the fourth time in American history.

"Today, in service to our duty to the Constitution, and to our country, the House Committee on Judiciary is introducing two articles of impeachment charging the President of the United States, Donald J. Trump, with committing high crimes and misdemeanors," said Representative Jerrold Nadler, the panel's chairman.

"Our President holds the ultimate public trust," Nadler said. "When he betrays that trust and puts himself before country, he endangers the Constitution, he endangers our democracy, and he endangers our national security."

The announcement comes a day after Democrats summed up



House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler (centre) and other top House Democrats unveil the articles of impeachment against Trump on Capitol Hill Tuesday. *AP*



To impeach a President who has proven through results... to have one of the most successful presidencies ever, and most importantly, who has done NOTHING wrong, is sheer political madness!"

— DONALD TRUMP
US PRESIDENT

the central allegations in their impeachment case against Trump: that he pressured Ukraine to announce investigations into his political rivals while withholding as leverage a coveted White House meeting for its president and \$391 million in security assistance. His actions, they argued in a hearing at the Judiciary Committee, had placed the President's personal political interests above those of

the country.

The Judiciary Committee plans to promptly begin debating the articles as soon as Wednesday, and could vote by Thursday to recommend them to the full House of Representatives for final approval. If the House follows through as expected next week, Trump could stand trial in the Senate early in the new year. **NYT**

Chile military plane disappears with 38 on board: Air Force

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SANTIAGO, DECEMBER 10

A CHILEAN military plane with 38 people aboard has gone missing after it took off from the country's south for a base in Antarctica and is presumed to have crashed, authorities have said.

Seventeen of those on board the C-130 aircraft were crew and the others were passengers, Chile's air force said Monday.

The plane is believed to have crashed and "all national and international air and maritime means available in the area are continuing the search (for survivors) in the sector where communications were lost with the aircraft," it added in a statement.

The four-engine aircraft took off Monday at 4.55 pm (19.55 GMT) from an airbase in the southern city of Punta Arenas and contact was lost at 6.13 pm.

The Air Force said conditions for flying were good and that it was in contact with the families of those on board, many of whom were travelling to carry out logistical support tasks at the country's largest Antarctic base Eduardo Frei.

Personnel were also being transferred to inspect the base's floating fuel supply pipeline and undertake anticorrosive treatment of the facility.



The plane had an emergency positioning system, but it was not working, said Eduardo Mosqueira, Commander of the Fourth Air Brigade. *AP*

The air force also said that of the passengers on board, 15 were from its ranks, three were from the army, there were two people from a private construction company, and a Chile university official.

The plane did have an emergency positioning system, but it did not appear to be working during the early morning search, said Eduardo Mosqueira, Commander of the Fourth Air Brigade.

President Sebastian Pinera, whose country is witnessing its worst civil unrest in decades, tweeted he would fly to Punta Arenas with Interior Minister Gonzalo Blumel. Once there, they would meet up with Defence Minister Alberto Espina to monitor the search and rescue mission, which was underway using aircraft and navy vessels.

JAPAN

POLICE NAB 3 FOR TRADING URANIUM ONLINE

Japanese police have caught 3 people, including a teenager, trading uranium online in violation of laws on nuclear materials, Kyodo News said. A 17-year-old high school student and 61-year-old pharmacist are suspected of buying uranium in an online auction for sums between 5,000 yen (\$46) and 30,000 yen (\$276), the paper said, adding that the substances emitted minute amounts of radiation.



Police officers outside the University Hospital, which was the site of the shooting, in Ostrava, Czech Republic. *Reuters*

Gunman kills six in Czech hospital, then shoots himself

RADOVAN STOKLASA

OSTRAVA, DECEMBER 10

A 42-YEAR-OLD gunman killed six people on Tuesday at a hospital waiting room in the eastern Czech city of Ostrava before fleeing and fatally shooting himself in the head, police said.

It was the worst shooting in the Czech Republic, where gun crime is relatively rare, since a man shot eight people dead and then killed himself at a restaurant in Uhersky Brod in 2015.

It was unclear what motivated the shooting, which happened in the early morning at the outpatient clinic of the University Hospital in Ostrava, 350 km east of the capital Prague and near the border with Poland.

Prime Minister Andrej Babis told reporters it was an "individual act".

The shooter fled the hospital after the attack, prompting a manhunt involving hundreds of officers. He later shot himself in the head at his car with a police

helicopter flying overhead.

He died about a half an hour later after police failed to resuscitate him, Interior Minister Jan Hamacek said outside the hospital. "The perpetrator of this horrendous act is dead."

Czech Radio, citing the director of the firm where he worked, identified the suspect as a local construction technician and said he had been on medical leave.

Reuters could not immediately confirm that.

Police said they received calls at 7.19 am (0619 GMT) and officers were on the scene five minutes later. Hospital director Jiri Havranek told reporters five people died in the attack and one died in surgery. Another two were seriously injured but no medics were hurt, he said.

The victims were all adults: four men and two women.

The head of the regional police department, Tomas Kuzel, said the attacker was silent as he carried out the shooting and there was no indication of accomplices. **REUTERS**

Spitting volcano keeps search parties off NZ island, death toll rises to six

REUTERS

WHAKATANE, DECEMBER 10

FEARING A volcano could erupt again, search parties were unable to set foot on New Zealand's White Island for eight people still missing on Tuesday, as police raised the death toll to six from the eruption a day earlier.

Police doubted whether any more survivors would be found. They said the latest victim died in hospital, having been among more than 30 people injured in the eruption on the uninhabited island, a popular sightseeing excursion for tourists.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said reconnaissance flights showed no signs of life on the ash covered island, as eyewitnesses detailed the horrific burns suffered by those caught up in Monday's eruption.

"The scale of this tragedy is devastating," Ardern said in parliament. "To those who have lost or are missing family and friends, we share in your grief and sorrow and we are devastated." Police said 47 people were on White Island at the time of the eruption.

Twenty-four came from Australia, nine from the US, five from New Zealand, four from Germany, two each from China and the UK and one from Malaysia.



Myanmar's leader Aung San Suu Kyi attends a hearing at the International Court of Justice in The Hague on Tuesday. *Reuters*

As Suu Kyi looks on, Gambia asks ICJ to 'stop genocide' in Myanmar

SHOON NAING &

TOBY STERLING

THE HAGUE, DECEMBER 10

MYANMAR'S LEADER Aung San Suu Kyi arrived at the UN's International Court of Justice on Tuesday to defend her country over charges of genocide against its Rohingya Muslim minority, as back home thousands of people rallied in her support.

Gambia launched the proceedings against Buddhist-majority Myanmar in November, accusing it of violating its obligations under the 1948 Genocide Convention.

"All that The Gambia asks is

that you tell Myanmar to stop these senseless killings," Gambia's Justice Minister Abubaccr Tambadou told the court.

"To stop these acts of barbarity and brutality that have shocked and continue to shock our collective conscience. To stop this genocide of its own people."

During three days of court proceedings Suu Kyi, a Nobel Peace laureate, is expected to repeat denials of genocide and argue that military operations in question were a legitimate counterterrorism response to militant attacks.

Suu Kyi arrived in a motorcade at the ornate Peace Palace in The Hague and ignored questions shouted out to her by wait-

ing reporters. She sat expressionless in the courtroom as the Gambian team detailed alleged atrocities in Myanmar.

Outside the court, dozens of Rohingya demonstrated to demand justice for victims, while in Yangon, the commercial capital of Myanmar, thousands of people rallied in support of Suu Kyi, waving national flags as they chanted: "To protect the country's dignity, stand with Mother Suu."

This week's proceedings will not deal with the core allegation of genocide, but Gambia has requested a court order for Myanmar to halt any activity that may aggravate the dispute. **REUTERS**

HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF MADRID TALKS BEGINS

Climate negotiators fail to resolve carbon markets issue; onus on ministers



EXPRESS IN MADRID

AMITABH SINHA

DECEMBER 10

NEGOTIATORS AT the Madrid climate talks finally threw their hands up on the contentious issue of setting up a new carbon market under the Paris Agreement, and requested their political lead-

erships, the ministers, to take charge and try to resolve the differences at their level.

With practically no progress on any of the big disagreements on the subject, it is unlikely that even the ministers will be able to resolve the many complicated details over the next two days. That would most likely result in the issue being pushed yet again to the next conference. Carbon markets was supposed to be finalised, along with other sections of the Paris Agreement rule book, at the Katowice meeting last year. But while the rest of the rulebook was agreed upon, the carbon markets issue was left to be de-

cided at this year's conference.

Negotiators were huddled till late at night on Monday, and in to the early hours of Tuesday, in the discussions of one of the technical groups that was supposed to finalise an agreement on the carbon markets. But when it finally wound up its work, the technical group could only deliver a heavily bracketed text, each bracket representing the different options on the table, and reflecting the disagreements on each one of them.

The text has been handed over to the ministers of South Africa and Australia to try and narrow down the differences in informal consultations in the coming days.



Carolina Schmidt, Chile's environment minister and president of the 2019 UN Climate Change Conference, with other officials at a high-level segment of COP25 in Madrid. *Reuters*

Carbon markets allow the buying and selling of emission reductions in the form of carbon credits, and enable countries struggling to

meet their climate targets to buy these credits from countries that are in a position to reduce their emissions beyond their own tar-

gets. Such a carbon market existed under the 1997 Kyoto Protocol as well but that regime is coming to an end next year. The current negotiations are about creating a similar market under the successor Paris Agreement regime.

The big disagreement is over the transition of unsold carbon credits from the Kyoto regime to the new market. Countries like India, China and Brazil want their unsold carbon credits to be valid in the new market while developed countries are opposing it on the grounds that many of the credits were bogus and did not represent actual emission reductions.

Meanwhile, the high-level

segment of the Madrid talks began on Tuesday with ministers making their country statements. A number of countries, especially the most threatened ones like small island states, urged the big emitters to increase their climate actions in light of scientific assessments that show that the present level of climate actions was not enough to prevent the extreme impacts of climate change.

India's Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar once again argued that it was important to focus on the implementation and delivery of the current targets rather than just make promises about the future. "Let us concen-

trate on implementation of Paris Agreement and not digress," he said in his address.

He highlighted all that India was doing to fight climate change and urged the other countries to also fulfil their past and current targets.

"Only six countries are on track to meet their NDCs (nationally determined contributions) announced in Paris. We are leading the pack," he said, referring to the climate targets that countries had set for themselves during the run-up to the Paris climate change conference in 2015.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com