THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2019 16 THE WORLD



MEANWHILE

Relic 'From Jesus' Manger' In Bethlehem

A tiny wooden relic that some Christians believe to be part of Jesus' manger arrived at its permanent home in the city of Bethlehem, 1,400 years after it was sent to Rome as a gift to the pope. Crowds greeted the relic before it entered the Franciscan Church of St. Catherine next to the Church of the Nativity, the West Bank site where tradition says Jesus was born.

TOPOFTHE WORLD



ANTONIO GUTERRES UN Secretary-General

UNITED NATIONS Guterres warns of 'point of no return'on

climate change Madrid: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Sunday that the world's efforts to stop climate change have been "utterly inadequate" so far and there is a danger global

warming could pass the "point of no return". Speaking before the start Monday of a two-week international climate conference in Madrid, the UN chief said the impact of rising temperatures is already being felt around the world, with dramatic consequences for humans and other species. He noted that the world has the scientific knowledge and the technical means to limit

global warming, but "what

is lacking is political will".

RUSSIA

19 killed as bus plunges onto frozen river in Siberia

Moscow: A passenger bus plunged off a bridge onto a frozen river in Siberia on Sunday, killing 19 of the more than 40 people on board, authorities said. A tyre on the bus burst as it was crossing the bridge over the Kuenga river in eastern Siberia's Zabaikalsky region. The vehicle, which was travelling from Sretensk to Chita and carried 40 passengers, skidded off the road and onto the ice. "Nineteen people died and 21 received various injuries," the office of the governor of the

in a statement.

Chicago cop suspended for slamming man to ground

Zabaikalsky region said

A CHICAGO police officer was suspended this week after video recorded by a bystander showed him hurling a man forcefully onto the sidewalk during an arrest, in footage described by Mayor Lori Lightfoot as "highly disturbing." The incident took place on Thursday, the US Thanksgiving holiday, when police approached a 29-year-old man drinking alcohol in the afternoon at a bus stop on Chicago's South Side, CBS News reported.

Forensic personnel conduct a fingertip search at the cordoned off area on London Bridge on Sunday. AP

ISIS claims London attack

Stabbings carried out 'in response to calls to target citizens of coalition countries'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA LONDON, DECEMBER 1

THE ISLAMIC State terror group has claimed responsibility for the knife attack in central London where a convicted terrorist killed two people before being shot dead by police.

The group via its propaganda Amaq news agency said on Saturday that the attack was carried out by "a fighter from the Islamic State", according to the Site Intelligence Group, which monitors jihadist activities. "The person who carried out

the London attack... was a fighter from the Islamic State, and did so in response to calls to target citizens of coalition countries," the IS statement read. However, it did not provide any evidence to support its claim.

The suspected attacker, identified as Usman Khan, was a convicted terrorist who was jailed seven years ago over a plot to bomb the London Stock Exchange and build a terrorist training camp on land owned by his family in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

Khan had also discussed staging a Mumbai-style attack on the UK Parliament and de-

THE VICTIMS: CAMBRIDGE GRADUATES WHO SET OUT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The two who died in the attack were identified as Saskia Jones, 23, and Jack Merritt, 25. Both were involved in a programme to help prison inmates.



Saskia Jones, a graduate of Cambridge University, was described by her family as having "a great passion for providing invaluable support to victims of criminal injustice, which led her to the point of recently applying for the police graduate recruitment programme".

scribed by the judge who sentenced him for terrorism offences in 2012 as an ongoing risk to the public with a "serious, long term venture in terrorism".

He went on a rampage on Friday and killed one man and a



The family of Jack Merritt, also a Cambridge University graduate and coordinator of the Learning Together programme, said he "lived his principles" and

"believed in redemption and rehabilitation, not revenge, and he always took the side of the underdog".

woman and injured three others before being shot by police. "This individual was known to authorities, having been convicted in 2012 for terrorism offences. He was released from prison in December 2018 on licence and

clearly, a key line of enquiry now is to establish how he came to carry out this attack," Scotland Yard's Head of Counter Terrorism Policing Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu said Saturday.

The profile of Khan dating back to his conviction in 2012 reveals his links with terror groups. He had been secretly recorded talking about plans to recruit UK radicals to train at a camp in PoK, the region his family comes from.

He and two other co-conspirators had conducted a surveillance trip around central London as they talked about launching a Mumbai-style attack on UK Parliament. The then 20-year-old pleaded guilty to engaging in conduct for the preparation of terrorism, which included travelling to and attending operational meetings, fundraising for terrorist training, preparing to travel abroad and assisting others in travelling abroad. Khan had originally received an indeterminate sentence to be kept behind bars for public protection but this was quashed by the UK Court of Appeal in April 2013, after which he was given a determinate 16-year jail term and ordered to serve at least eight years in prison before being considered for parole.

After polls, new wave of protests in Hong Kong

Thousands take to streets after brief pause, police fire teargas

EILEEN NG HONG KONG, DECEMBER 1

THOUSANDS TOOK to Hong Kong's streets Sunday in a new wave of pro-democracy protests, but police fired teargas after some demonstrators hurled bricks and smokes bombs, breaking a rare pause in violence that has persisted during the sixmonth-long movement.

In the largest of three rallies, a key thoroughfare along the waterfront on the Kowloon side of Victoria Harbour was packed with demonstrators, from hardened masked protesters in all-black outfits to families and the elderly. They chanted "Five demands, not one less" and "Disband the police force" as they marched.

The rally followed two other marches earlier Sunday as protesters sought to keep the pressure on city leader Carrie Lam after the recent win by the pro-democracy camp in district council elections. The Kowloon rally was cut

short after riot police fired teargas and arrested a few people. A police statement said minimum force was deployed after "hundreds of rioters hurled smoke bombs" and bricks to cause chaos.

Marchers berated police as they scrambled to flee the tear gas, shouting "Dirty cops" and "Are you trying to kill us?" Hong Kong's protests have



Pro-democracy protesters flood a street during a rally in **Hong Kong on Sunday.** AP

A good week for the protesters, but not much has changed

THE PREVIOUS week began with a sweeping victory for prodemocracy candidates in district elections. Days later, US President Donald Trump signed into law a Bill aimed at putting pressure on China to maintain Hong Kong's autonomy. These have been celebrated by anti-government protesters as big wins. However, the demonstrators were out in full force again this Sunday, with placards reminding themselves to not forget what they were protesting for. Of their five major demands, only one has been fulfilled the scrapping of a Bill that would have allowed those facing trial to be deported to mainland China. Other demands, such as universal suffrage and an investigation into the conduct of police, seem as far away as ever from being realised. So, despite having had a good week, not much has changed for the protesters.

been relatively peaceful during the two weeks around the Nov 24 elections, but Sunday's disruption

indicated there may be more violence if Lam fails to yield to protesters' demands. AP

21 killed in Mexico shootout between cartel gunmen, police

ASSOCIATED PRESS MEXICO CITY, DECEMBER 1

MEXICAN SECURITY forces on Sunday killed seven more members of a presumed cartel assault force that rolled into a town near the Texas border and staged an hour-long attack, officials said, bringing the death toll to 21.

The Coahuila state government said lawmen were still chasing remnants of the force that arrived in a convoy of trucks and attacked the city hall of Villa Union on Saturday.

Riquelme said at least 14 people had died by that afternoon, four of them police officers. He also said then that several municipal workers were missing. It wasn't clear if they had since been located. The new statement did not

Governor Miguel Angel

give a new death total, but said seven more attackers were killed on Sunday in addition to 10 who reportedly died the day before.

The governor said the armed group stormed the town in a convoy of trucks, attacking government offices and prompting state and federal forces to intervene.

wounded in a shooting on Sunday in New Orleans' French Quarter, US police said. The shooting took place at about 3 am on a crowded com-

11 injured in New

Orleans shooting

Washington: Eleven people were

mercial street. No fatalities had been reported.

The New Orleans Police Department said via its Twitter

feed that no arrests had been made and investigations were ongoing. PTI

Starbucks worker

gets cup with 'pig'

AN OKLAHOMA police officer

working on Thanksgiving made

a Starbucks run for emergency

dispatchers to thank them for

working during the holiday.

written on label

MARIEL PADILLA

DECEMBER 1

fired after cops

Plane crash kills 9, injures 3 in S Dakota amid winter storm

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 1

A PLANE crash in the US state of South Dakota killed nine people, including two children, and injured three others while a winter storm warning was in place, officials said.

The Pilatus PC-12, a singleengine turboprop plane, crashed shortly after take-off approximately a mile from the Chamberlain airport on Saturday, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said.

Among the dead was the plane's pilot, Brule County state's attorney Theresa Maule Rossow said, adding that a total of 12 people had been on board.

The three survivors had been taken to the hospital in Sioux Falls, she told US media.

The flight left the airport just before noon local time, with a destination of Idaho Falls Regional Airport in the western state of Idaho.

The FAA said investigators were en route to the crash site and that the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) would be in charge of the investigation. The NTSB tweeted that it

was "investigating today's crash of Pilatus PC-12 near Chamberlain, SD."

South Dakota is located in the Northern Plains, a region facing blizzard conditions as a storm blows eastward across the US.

A winter storm warning remains in effect in Brule County until midday Sunday, the National Weather Service said, potentially including blowing snow that "could significantly reduce visibility."

Saudi Arabia takes over G20 presidency **PRESSTRUST OF INDIA** RIYADH, DECEMBER 1

SAUDI ARABIA became the first Arab nation Sunday to take over the G20 presidency as it seeks to bounce back onto the world stage following global uproar over its human rights record.

The oil-rich kingdom has promoted a liberalisation drive, including granting greater rights to women, but faced strong crit-



The Saudi Crown Prince

icism over a crackdown on dissent and the murder last year of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

top Shia cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali

al-Sistani for Parliament to con-

sider withdrawing its support for

Abdul Mahdi's government to

Lawmakers said Abdul

Mahdi's government, including

the PM himself, would stay on in

stem the violence.

The G20 presidency, which Saudi Arabia takes over from Japan, will see it host world leaders for a global summit in its capital next November 21-22.

"The kingdom of Saudi Arabia assumes the G20 presidency today, leading up to the summit in Riyadh" in 2020, the official Saudi Press Agency said.

"The Saudi G20 presidency is committed to continuing the work from Osaka and promoting multilateral consensus." Crown

Abdul Mahdi's decision to quit a caretaker capacity following population in poverty, without

Abdul Mahdi's resignation,

though welcomed by protesters,

is not expected to end the

demonstrations, which have

called for an overhaul of a polit-

ical system accused of being cor-

rupt and keeping most of the

ernment was chosen.

on Friday came after a call by Irag's Sunday's vote until a new gov-

the kingdom's de facto ruler, hailed it as a "unique opportunity" to shape international consensus, SPA added. Saudi Arabia will host more than 100 events and conferences in the run-up to the summit, including ministerial meetings, the agency said.

Prince Mohammed bin Salman,

Rights groups have urged G20 member states to exert pressure on the kingdom over its intensifying crackdown on dissent, which has seen several critics jailed.

Parliament approves Iraqi PM's resignation

Demonstrations are contin-

uing in Baghdad and other

southern regions and security

forces killed one protester and

wounded nine others near a

key bridge in the capital on

Sunday, police and a medical

source said.

When he got his order, he said he saw the word "PIG" printed on a cup's label. The officer, a member of the Kiefer, Oklahoma, police depart-Protests continue in Baghdad, other southern regions; another protester killed

ment, took the order to the dispatchers and contacted the police chief, Johnny O'Mara, who was on vacation at the time, according to Jory Mendes, a Starbucks spokesman.

The word "PIG" was printed on all five cups, KTUL-TV reported. When O'Mara called the Starbucks, in Glenpool Oklahoma, the manager offered to reprint the cups, which the chief said was an insufficient apology, the station reported.

The officer told the station that the barista contacted him, apologised and said it was meant as a joke.

O'Mara posted about the episode on Facebook, including an image of one of the cups, prompting Starbucks to investigate. He did not immediately respond to requests for comment Saturday.

"What irks me is the absolute and total disrespect for a police officer who, instead of being home with his family and enjoying a meal and a football game, is patrolling his little town," he said in the post, which was widely circulated and has since been deleted

media that the officer was responsible for the word on the label, a Starbucks statement expressly said that the barista "wrote this offensive word," used "poor judgement" and was ultimately fired for violating company policy. **NYT**

Despite speculation on social

TIMOTHY WEEKS AND KEVIN KING WERE RELEASED LAST MONTH IN A PRISONER SWAP

REUTERS

BAGHDAD, DECEMBER 1

IRAQ'S PARLIAMENT voted on

Sunday to accept the resignation

of Prime Minister Adel Abdul

Mahdi, following weeks of vio-

lent anti-government protests

that have rocked the country.

Freed hostage on Taliban: Some of them were compassionate, lovely

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SYDNEY, DECEMBER 1

AN AUSTRALIAN teacher held captive with an American colleague by the Taliban for more than three years believes US Navy SEALs tried and failed six times to free them.

Timothy Weeks was released last month in a prisoner swap along with Kevin King, ending an ordeal that began with their abduction in 2016 outside the American University in Kabul, where they worked. Weeks, 50, told a news con-

ference on Sunday he believed SEAL teams tried repeatedly to rescue them, sometimes missing them only by "hours" after the two hostages were moved to other locations by their captors.

"I believe, and I hope this is correct, that they came in six times to try to get us, and that a number of times they missed us only by hours," Weeks said.

One attempt came in April this year. Weeks said he was woken at 2 am by his guards, who told him they were under attack from Islamic State fighters, and moved him into a tunnel beneath where

they were being held.

"I believe now that it was the Navy SEALs coming in to get us." Weeks said.

"I believe they were right outside our door. The moment that we got into the tunnels, we were 1 or 2 metres underground and there was a huge bang at the front door. And our guards went up and there was a lot of machine-gun fire. They pushed me over the top into the tunnels and I fell backwards and rolled and knocked myself unconscious."

Weeks said he and King were their captivity, and were often shifted through various remote locations in Afghanistan and neighboring Pakistan throughout



Australian teacher

kept in tiny, windowless cells. While their lives were often at risk, he said he never gave up

"I never, ever gave up hope, and I think in that sort of situation, that if you give up hope, there is very little left for you," said Weeks, flanked by his sisters Alyssa and Jo Carter.

hope of being rescued.

"I knew that I would leave that place eventually. It just took a little longer than I expected." While expressing thanks to

President Donald Trump and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison for the work that led to their release, Weeks said some Taliban guards he had encountered were "lovely people". "I don't hate them at all," he

said. "And some of them, I have great respect for, and great love for, almost. Some of them were so compassionate and such lovely, lovely people. And it really led me to think about ... how did they end up like this?" He added: "I know a lot of people don't admit this, but for me, they were soldiers. And soldiers obey the commands of their commanders.

Weeks said he had hugged some of his Taliban guards when they parted company on the day of his and King's release.

(They) don't get a choice."

Still, the sight of the two US Black Hawk helicopters arriving

both Black Hawk helicopters and

to take them away had been an

enormous relief. was placed in the hands of special forces, I knew my long and tortuous ordeal had come to an end," he said. "Out of a big dust cloud came six special forces and they walked towards us and one of them stepped towards me and he just put his arm around me and he held me and he said, 'Are you OK?' And then he walked me back to the Black Hawk."

"From the moment I sighted

Weeks said his ordeal had had "a profound and unimaginable effect on me".

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