

TOP OF THE WORLD



Kim Jong Un has taken a tougher stance ever since talks with the US have stalled

KOREAN PENINSULA
N Korea carries out test at a site it once said would be shut down

Seoul: North Korea has carried out a “very important” test at its Sohae satellite launch site, state media KCNA reported on Sunday, a rocket testing ground that US officials once said Pyongyang had promised to close. The reported test comes as a year-end deadline North Korea has imposed nears, warning it could take a “new path” amid stalled denuclearisation talks with the United States. The KCNA report called it a “successful test of great significance” on Saturday but did not specify what was tested.

CHINA
Beijing releases Xinjiang documentary

Beijing: China has released a rare documentary showing for the first time some of the deadly attacks conducted by the separatist militant outfit East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM) in Xinjiang, justifying the massive crackdown and detention of thousands of Uyghur Muslims in the restive province, amid mounting international criticism. The resource-rich Xinjiang province is home to over 10 million Turkik-speaking Uighur Muslims. The documentary, titled *The Black Hand — ETIM and Terrorism in Xinjiang*, telecast by the state-run CGTN blamed the ETIM for the terrorist attacks in Xinjiang.

UAE
Indian girl dies after falling from Sharjah building

Dubai: A 15-year-old Indian girl in the UAE has died after falling from the 10th floor of a building in Sharjah, according to a media report. The girl, a student at an Indian school in Sharjah, was seriously injured after falling from the building on Friday and was shifted to a hospital where she was pronounced dead on arrival, police said on Saturday. The police are investigating if the incident was a case of suicide, an official was quoted as saying by the Gulf News.

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HONG KONG SEES BIGGEST MARCH SINCE POLLS

People attend a Human Rights Day march in Hong Kong on Sunday. *Reuters*

- Vast crowds of black-clad demonstrators thronged Hong Kong on Sunday in the largest anti-government protests since local elections last month that boosted the pro-democracy movement.
- It was the first time since August that the Civil Human Rights Front — organiser of million-strong marches earlier in the year — had received authorities’ permission for a rally. It estimated turnout of 800,000.
- Chants of “Fight for freedom! Stand with Hong Kong!” echoed as demonstrators, from students to professionals and the elderly, marched from Victoria Park in the bustling shopping district towards the financial area.

Gunman at US base showed mass shooting videos at party

BRENDAN FARRINGTON
PENSACOLA, DECEMBER 8

THE SAUDI student who fatally shot three sailors at a US naval base in Florida hosted a dinner party earlier in the week where he and three others watched videos of mass shootings, a US official told *The Associated Press* on Saturday. Officials investigating the deadly attack were working Saturday to determine whether it was motivated by terrorism, while US President Donald Trump indicated he would review policies governing foreign military training in the United States. Investigators believe the gunman visited New York City days before the shooting and are working to determine the purpose of the trip, a US official said Sunday. The Navy on Saturday identified the three victims and hailed them as heroes for trying to stop the shooter and flagging down first responders after being shot.



The FBI identified the shooter as Mohammed Alshamrani

“The Sailors that lost their lives in the line of duty and showed exceptional heroism and bravery in the face of evil,” Capt. Tim Kinsella, the commanding officer of Naval Air Station Pensacola, said. The shooter opened fire inside a classroom at the naval base on Friday, killing three people and wounding two sheriff’s deputies, one in the arm and one

in the knee, before one of the deputies killed him. Eight others were also hurt. Both deputies were expected to survive. An official said one of the three students who attended the dinner party hosted by the attacker recorded video outside the classroom building while the shooting was taking place. Two other Saudi students watched from a car, the official said. Ten Saudi students were being held on the base Saturday while several others were unaccounted for, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity after being briefed by federal authorities. The FBI identified the shooter in a statement Saturday night as Mohammed Alshamrani, 21. Investigators said he was a 2nd Lt. in the Royal Saudi Air Force and was a student naval flight officer of Naval Aviation Schools Command. A US official had said the FBI was examining social media posts and investigating whether he acted alone. **AP**

Saudi Arabia cancels gender-segregated entrances at restaurants in latest reform

STEPHEN KALIN
RIYADH, DECEMBER 8

RESTAURANTS IN Saudi Arabia will no longer need to maintain entrances segregated by sex, the authorities said on Sunday, further eroding some of the world’s strictest social rules as sweeping reforms take hold. Previously, Saudi Arabia required all restaurants to have one entrance for families and women, and another for men on their own. The ministry of municipalities and rural affairs announced on Twitter this would no longer be mandatory. Unrelated men and women have for decades been barred from



A woman leaves a ladies-only service area at a restaurant in Jiddah, Saudi Arabia, on Sunday. *AP*

mixing in public places under strict social rules once enforced by hard-line clerics and the religious police. But Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has brought the religious establish-



FRANCE
4TH DAY OF TRANSPORT CHAOS AMID STRIKE

Public transport in France was crippled for a fourth day Sunday as anger over pension reforms brought thousands onto the streets as workers embarked on open-ended protest. The President, Prime Minister and senior ministers are scheduled to meet late Sunday to discuss the reforms which labour unions claim will force many to work longer for a smaller pension.

DEMOCRATS HUDDLE TO DRAFT CHARGES

House impeachment report looks at abuse of power, corruption

LISA MASCARO & MARY CLARE JALONICK
WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 8

PREVIEWING POTENTIAL articles of impeachment, the House Democrats on Saturday issued a lengthy report drawing on history and the Founding Fathers to lay out the legal argument over the case against US President Donald Trump’s actions toward Ukraine.

The findings from the House Judiciary Committee do not spell out the formal charges against the President, which are being drafted ahead of votes. Instead, the report refutes Trump’s criticism of the impeachment proceedings, arguing that the Constitution created impeachment as a “safety valve” so Americans would not have to wait for the next election to remove a President. It refers to the writings of George Washington and others to link Trump’s actions in his July phone call with Ukraine’s President seeking political investigations of his rivals to the kind of behaviour that would “horribly” the framers.

Democrats are working through the weekend as articles are being drafted and committee members are preparing for a hearing Monday. The report examines treason, bribery, serious abuse of power,

EXPLAINED
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Bringing focus back on Russia

WITH SATURDAY’S report, Democrats are trying to lay down why the American public should care about the Trump-Ukraine affair. To that end, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has said: “All roads lead to Putin.” She’s making the argument that by withholding military aid to Ukraine, Trump was actually helping Russia. Democrats are also looking at bringing obstruction charges against Trump based on the Mueller report into Russian election meddling. Trump’s opponents hope that linking impeachment with Russia will help get the issue greater traction among the public.

betrayal of the national interest through foreign entanglements and corruption. Democrats have been focused on an overall abuse of power article, with the possibility of breaking out a separate, related article on bribery. **AP**



UK PM Boris Johnson and Chancellor of the Exchequer Sajid Javid at a Conservative campaign call centre in London. *AP*

UK PM visits temple, vows to work with Modi for ‘new India’

ADITI KHANNA
LONDON, DECEMBER 8

BRITISH PRIME Minister Boris Johnson said he would partner with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his mission to build a new India, as he and his girlfriend Carrie Symonds visited a famous Hindu temple here to woo Indian diaspora votes ahead of Thursday’s general election. Dressed in a bright pink silk sari, 31-year-old conservationist Symonds made her first official campaign tour on Saturday with 55-year-old Johnson at one of the UK’s most famous temples — Swaminarayan Mandir in Neasden, north-west London. Johnson vowed to partner with his Indian counterpart Modi on his mission to build a new India. “I know Prime Minister Modi

is building a new India. And, we in the UK government will support him fully in his endeavour,” said Johnson. In an indirect reference to opposition Labour Party’s perceived anti-India stance over the issue of Kashmir, he noted: “There can be no place for racism or anti-India sentiment of any kind in this country”. “British Indians have played a vital role in helping the Conservatives win elections in the past. When I told Narendra [Modi] this, he just laughed and said Indians are always on the winning side,” said a tilak and garland sporting Johnson. The event, also attended by UK home secretary Priti Patel, marked celebrations for what would have been the 98th birthday of guru Pramukh Swami Maharaj, the president of the Swaminarayan Sanstha. **PTI**

DoJ watchdog expected to find Russia probe valid

ERIC TUCKER
WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 8

THE INTERNAL watchdog of the US Department of Justice (DoJ) will release a highly anticipated report Monday that is expected to reject President Donald Trump’s claims that the Russia investigation was illegitimate and tainted by political bias from FBI leaders. But it is also expected to document errors during the investigation. The report, as described by people familiar with its findings, is expected to conclude there was an adequate basis for opening one of the most politically sensitive investigations in FBI history and one that Trump has denounced as a witch hunt. It began in secret during Trump’s 2016 presidential run and was ultimately taken over by special counsel Robert Mueller. A separate internal investigation continues, overseen by Trump’s attorney general, William Barr. That investigation is criminal in nature, and Republicans may look to it to uncover wrongdoing that the DoJ watchdog was not examining. **AP**

Man eats a \$120,000 piece of art — banana taped to a wall

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MIAMI, DECEMBER 8

A PERFORMANCE artist shook up the crowd at the Art Basel show in Miami Beach on Saturday when he grabbed a banana that had been duct-taped to a gallery wall and ate it. The banana was, in fact, a work of art by Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan titled “Comedian” and sold to a French collector for \$120,000. In a video posted on his Instagram account, David Datuna, who describes himself as an artist, walks up to the banana and pulls it off the wall with the duct tape attached. “Art performance ... hungry artist,” he said, as he peeled the fruit and took a bite. “Thank you, very good.” However, Lucien Teras, director of museum relations for Galerie Perrotin, said: “He did not destroy the art work. The banana is the idea.” The value of the work is in the certificate of authenticity, a newspaper reported. The banana is meant to be replaced.



The gallery owner with the piece of art titled “Comedian” at Art Basel in Miami. *AP*

HE SUSPECTED SHE WAS THE REASON HE MADE IT OUT OF THE CAMP ALIVE, 72 YEARS LATER SHE SAYS SHE SAVED HIM FIVE TIMES

When lovers in Auschwitz reunited 72 yrs later, he had to ask her a question

KEREN BLANKFELD
DECEMBER 8

THE FIRST time he spoke to her, in 1943, by the Auschwitz crematory, David Wisnia realised that Helen Spitzer was no regular inmate. Zippi, as she was known, was clean, always neat. She wore a jacket and smelled good. They were introduced by a fellow inmate, at her request. Her presence was unusual in itself: a woman outside the women’s quarters, speaking with a male prisoner. Before Wisnia knew it, they were alone, all the prisoners around them

gone. This wasn’t a coincidence, he later realised. They made a plan to meet again in a week. On their set date, Wisnia went as planned to meet at the barracks between crematories 4 and 5. He climbed on top of a makeshift ladder made up of packages of prisoners’ clothing. Spitzer had arranged it, a space amid hundreds of piles, just large enough to fit the two of them. Wisnia was 17 years old; she was 25. They were both Jewish inmates in Auschwitz. Wisnia was chosen to entertain his Nazi captors when they found out he was a talented singer. Spitzer was the camp’s graphic

designer. They became lovers, meeting in their nook at a prescribed time about once a month. After the initial fears of knowing they were putting their lives in danger, they began to look forward to their dates. Wisnia felt special. “She chose me,” he recalled. For a few months, they managed to be each other’s escape, but they knew these visits wouldn’t last. Around them, death was everywhere. Still, the lovers planned a life together, a future outside of Auschwitz. They knew they would be separated, but they had a plan, after the fighting was done, to reunite. It took them 72 years.



A photograph of David Wisnia’s reunion with Helen Spitzer, at his home in Levittown, Pennsylvania. *NYT*

Spitzer was among the first Jewish women to arrive in Auschwitz in March of 1942. Through her ability to speak German, graphic design skills and sheer luck, Spitzer secured an office job. As Spitzer’s responsi-

bilities grew, she was free to move around within parts of the camp and sometimes was allowed excursions. Yet Spitzer was never a Nazi collaborator or a kapo, a Jew assigned to oversee other prisoners. Instead, she used her position

to help inmates and allies. Wisnia was assigned to the “corpse unit” when he arrived. But within months word got around that Wisnia was a gifted singer. He started singing regularly to Nazi guards and was assigned a new job at a building the SS called the Sauna. He disinfected the clothing of new arrivals with the same Zyklon B pellets used to murder prisoners in the gas chamber. Spitzer, who had noticed Wisnia at the Sauna, began making special visits. Their relationship lasted several months. One afternoon in 1944 they realised it would probably be their final climb up to their nook. The Nazis

were transporting the last of the camp prisoners on death marches. It had been 72 years since he’d last seen his former girlfriend. He suspected she’d helped to keep him alive and wanted to know if this was true. When Wisnia and his grandchildren arrived at her apartment in Manhattan, they saw Helen Tichauer — she had married Erwin Tichauer after leaving Auschwitz — lying in a hospital bed. She had been alone since her husband died in 1996. At first, she didn’t recognise him. Then Wisnia leaned in close. “Her eyes went wide, almost like life came back to her,”

said Wisnia’s grandson Avi. The reunion lasted about two hours. He finally had to ask: Did she have something to do with the fact that he’d managed to survive in Auschwitz all that time? She held up her hand to display five fingers. Her voice was loud, her Slovakian accent deep. “I saved you five times from bad shipment,” she said. There was more. “I was waiting for you,” Tichauer said. Wisnia was taken aback. After she escaped the death march, she had waited for him in Warsaw. She’d followed the plan. But he never came. She had loved him, she told him quietly. He had loved her, too, he said. **NYT**