



**TWITTERATI**  
US DEMOCRAT ILHAN OMAR, ON CONFLICT WITH IRAN  
I am a child of war. I know what the toll of it looks like. The trauma of war will never leave me. If I don't speak up for the children who would be displaced from conflict with Iran, who will?

TEHRAN'S ADMISSION COMES AS ABRUPT REVERSAL, IT HAD CLAIMED AIRLINER CRASHED DUE TO MECHANICAL ISSUES

UKRAINE PLANE CARRYING 176 PEOPLE 'MISIDENTIFIED' AS CRUISER MISSILE, SAYS IRAN GUARDS OFFICIAL

HUMAN ERROR AT TIME OF CRISIS CAUSED BY US ADVENTURISM LED TO DISASTER, SAYS FOREIGN MINISTER

# 'An unforgivable mistake': Iran takes responsibility

## Canada, Ukraine call for accountability, punishment after Tehran's U-turn

**AGENCIES**  
JANUARY 11

**EXPLAINED**  
**E.**  
**Questions over protocol**

AS IRAN faces criticism and anger abroad and within, a key question has been about airport protocol — why did it not shut down its airport and airspace at such a crucial juncture? Tehran shed little light on this matter, though it said the plane flew too close to a sensitive site. However, the Ukraine airline and Iran's civil aviation department have said the plane did not veer from its normal flight corridor

PRESIDENT JUSTIN Trudeau of Canada, who has said his country expects to play a big role in Iran's investigation of the airliner crash that killed 63 Canadians even though the two nations do not have diplomatic ties, said on Saturday that "accountability" was needed after Iran's admission, according to a statement from his office.

"Our focus remains closure, accountability, transparency and justice for the families and loved ones of the victims," the statement said.

"This is a national tragedy, and all Canadians are mourning together. "We will continue working with our partners around the world to ensure a complete and thorough investigation, and the Canadian government expects full cooperation from Iranian authorities."

President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine, in his first reaction to Iran's announcement, said Kyiv would "insist on a full admission of guilt" by Tehran.

"We expect Iran to assure its readiness for a full and open investigation, to bring those responsible to justice, to return the bodies of the victims, to pay compensation, and to make official apologies through diplomatic channels," Zelensky said in a post on his Facebook page.

"We hope that the investigation will continue without artificial delays and obstacles."

Zelensky had come under domestic criticism this week for re-



At the site where the Ukrainian plane crashed in Shahedshahr, southwest of Tehran, Iran. AP

## Fury against govt as thousands gather on Tehran's streets: 'You have no shame'

**THE NEW YORK TIMES**  
JANUARY 11

Iranians vented fury toward their government after Tehran's admission, with thousands pouring into main squares around the city on Saturday afternoon. Gatherings organised on social media to mourn the victims of the crash swiftly turned into angry protests against the government's actions.

"Death to liars!" and "Death to the dictator!" people chanted, according to videos posted on social media. "You have no shame," shouted several young men, as the crowd joined in a



At a vigil for the crash victims in London. Reuters

chorus, another video showed. People carried candles and placed flowers at the gates of the universities and public squares.

The country's elite security force and its top leader were not

spared. At universities, crowds called the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps "incompetent" and "the people's shame."

And some even called on the country's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, to resign.

Even conservatives and supporters of the government accused the authorities on social media of initially misleading the public about what had brought down the plane, whose passengers included many young Iranians on their way to Canada for graduate study.

The semiofficial Fars News Agency posted a harsh commentary condemning Iran's leaders, saying "their shortcomings have made this tragedy twice as bitter."

Siamak Ghaesmi, a Tehran-based economist, addressed the country's leaders in an Instagram post: "I don't know what to do with my rage and grief. I'm thinking of all the 'human errors' in these years that were never revealed because there was no international pressure. I'm thinking of the little trust left that was shattered. I'm thinking of the innocent lives lost because of confronting and being stubborn with the world. What have you done with us?"



**THREE PAST INCIDENTS OF PLANE CRASHES**



**JULY 17, 2014:** MALAYSIA  
MH17 was flying from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur when it was blown out of the sky over eastern Ukraine, killing 298 people. In June, an international investigative team charged four people, including three with ties to Russian intelligence. Moscow has consistently denied any involvement



**JULY 3, 1988:** IRAN  
A US Navy warship in the Persian Gulf shot down an Iranian passenger plane that the Navy said it mistook for a jet fighter, killing all 290 people onboard. The Iran Air Airbus A300 was flying over the Strait of Hormuz while the warship was being engaged by Iranian gunboats. The Americans wrongly thought they saw a hostile F-14 jet fighter, and downed the plane with a surface-to-air missile



**OCT. 4, 2001:** SIBERIA  
Seventy-eight people, most of them Russian émigrés to Israel, died when the flight from Tel Aviv to Novosibirsk exploded and plunged into the Black Sea off the Russian coast. Four minutes earlier, two long-range anti-aircraft missiles were fired during a Ukrainian air defense exercise. Ukraine's president later said he accepted the finding that his country's military had accidentally hit the airliner.

## US unsuccessfully tried to kill another Iranian official in Yemen

**ERIC SCHMITT, EDWARD WONG & JULIAN E BARNES**  
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 11

THE AMERICAN military unsuccessfully tried to kill a senior Iranian military official in Yemen on the same day a drone strike killed Major General Qassim Suleimani, Iran's most powerful commander, according to American officials.

The disclosure of a second mission indicated that the Trump administration had plans for a broader campaign than was previously known, intended to cripple Iran's ability to carry out proxy wars in other countries.

**ABDUL REZA SHAHLAI** is an official with Iran's Quds Force, a force that General Suleimani had led. Shahlai was known as a main organiser of financing for Shiite militias in the region. The US had offered a \$15 million reward for information about Shahlai

President Donald Trump approved the strike against Abdul Reza Shahlai in the same period that he authorized the strike against General Suleimani on January 3, although it was unclear if the American attack in Yemen occurred at precisely the same time.

Shahlai and General Suleimani were two of several Iranian officials the administration targeted in an effort to halt Iran-backed attacks on sites with Americans, US officials said.

The United States had offered a \$15 million reward for information about Shahlai. It accused him of involvement in attacks including a failed 2011 plot to kill the Saudi ambassador to the US. **NYT**

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
KARACHI, JANUARY 11

PAKISTAN PRIME Minister Imran Khan on Saturday demanded an immediate report on the suicide bombing at a Quetta mosque during Friday prayers that killed at least 16 people and left 19 others injured in the restive Balochistan province, terming the incident as a condemnable "cowardly terrorist attack".

The Islamic State terror group has claimed responsibility for the deadly suicide bomb blast inside the mosque in Quetta's Satellite Town area.

The Islamic State has claimed responsibility for the deadly suicide bomb blast inside the mosque.



A police officer examines the site of the blast in Quetta. AP

side bomb blast inside the mosque. The terror group, in the claim posted on the IS Pakistan Telegram Channel and in messages to some foreign wire services, said it has carried out the attack targeting some Afghan Taliban member.

Taliban spokesman, Qari Muhammad Yousof, denied that any Afghan Taliban member was present inside the mosque.

Reacting to the incident, President Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Imran Khan condemned the blast and expressed grief over the loss of lives.

Prime Minister Khan demanded a report.

"I have demanded an immediate report on the condemnable cowardly terrorist attack in Quetta targeting a mosque & people at prayers. Have asked prov govt to ensure all medical facilities are provided to the injured. Martyred DSP Haji Amanullah was a brave & exemplary officer," Khan said on Twitter.

## Indian-origin man among NASA's new astronauts

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
HOUSTON, JANUARY 11

RAJA JON Vurputoor Chari, an Indian-American US Air Force colonel, is among 11 new NASA graduates who have successfully completed their over two years' of basic astronaut training and are set to be a part of the agency's future missions to the International Space Station, Moon and Mars.

Chari, 41, was selected by NASA to join the 2017 Astronaut Candidate Class. He reported for duty in August 2017 and having completed the initial astronaut candidate training is now eligible for a mission assignment.

"2020 will mark the return of launching American astronauts on American rockets from American soil, and will be an important year of progress for our Artemis program and missions to the Moon and beyond," said NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine.

The new graduates may be assigned to missions destined for the International Space Station, the Moon, and ultimately to Mars. Chari, a US Air Force colonel from Cedar Falls Iowa, graduated from the US Air Force Academy with bachelor's degrees in astronautical engineering and engineering science.

## In blow to Beijing, Tsai Ing-wen re-elected as Taiwan's president

**AGENCIES**  
TAIPEI, JANUARY 11

TAIWAN'S VOTERS delivered a stinging rebuke of China's rising authoritarianism on Saturday by re-electing President Tsai Ing-wen, who vowed to preserve the island's sovereignty in the face of Beijing's intensifying efforts to bring it under its control.

Tsai declared victory as voters delivered a stunning rebuke of Beijing's campaign to isolate the self-ruled island, handing its first female leader a second term.

"Taiwan is showing the world how much we cherish our free democratic way of life and how much we cherish our nation," Tsai told reporters as she announced her victory.

She also said Beijing should stop making threats towards the island. "Peace means that China must abandon threats of force against Taiwan," she said, adding, "I also hope the Beijing authorities understand that democratic Taiwan, and our democratically elected government, will not concede to threats and intimidation."

For China's ruling Communist Party, the outcome is a dramatic display of the power of Hong Kong's antigovernment protest movement to influence attitudes toward the mainland in other regions the party deems critical to its interests.

China's authoritarian leader, Xi Jinping, has warned Taiwan authorities understand that democratic Taiwan, and our democratically elected government, will not concede to threats and intimidation."

Tsai's main rival Han Kuo-yu, of the Kuomintang party (KMT), conceded defeat on Saturday evening, saying he had called Tsai to congratulate her on her re-election. "I can only say that I didn't work hard enough to live up to everyone's expectations," he told his supporters.

Han had pledged to restore closer relations with the mainland but then found himself on the defensive because of China's increasingly authoritarian actions.

The US congratulated Tsai, hailing the re-election as a demonstration of the self-ruled island's "robust democratic system."



Supporters of Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen at a rally outside her party headquarters in Taipei on Saturday. Reuters

## Royal split: Prince Harry delays Canada plan

**ADITI KHANNA**  
LONDON, JANUARY 11

PRINCE HARRY has reportedly delayed his plans to fly to Canada this weekend and join wife Meghan and baby Archie as the talks are going on over finalising the couple's future roles after they stepped back from Britain's royal frontline.

The UK and Canadian governments are among those being consulted by royal aides to work out a solution after Harry and Meghan, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, announced their decision to step



Prince Harry

back as senior royals and assume more financially independent roles while dividing time between Britain and North America.

Royal sources have been

quoted in the UK media as saying that the talks are "progressing well" and that Harry's grandmother Queen Elizabeth II, father Prince Charles and brother Prince William are all engaged in trying to find a way forward "sooner rather than later".

It is believed that Harry plans to stay on to try and smooth things over as transition plans are finalised.

"I don't want to get into the whole thing, I just have such respect for the Queen, it shouldn't be happening to her," said US President Donald Trump in reference to the royal split. **PTI**

**DISNEY DEAL**

■ Meghan Markle has signed a voiceover deal with Disney. The former actor, who quit the profession when she got engaged to Harry in 2017, inked a deal to work with the studio in return for a donation to an elephant charity, Elephants Without Borders, according to *The Times*.

## Sultan Qaboos bin Said, who modernised Oman, dies at 79

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
DUBAI, JANUARY 11

OMAN'S SULTAN Qaboos bin Said, the Mideast's longest-ruling monarch who seized power in a 1970 palace coup and pulled his Arabian sultanate into modernity while carefully balancing diplomatic ties between adversaries Iran and the U.S., has died. He was 79.

The British-educated, reclusive sultan reformed a nation that was



Qaboos bin Said

home to only three schools and harsh laws banning electricity, radios, eyeglasses and even umbrellas when he took the throne.

Under his reign, Oman became known as a welcoming tourist destination and a key Mideast interlocutor, helping the U.S. free captives in Iran and Yemen and even hosting visits by Israeli officials while pushing back on their occupation of land Palestinians want for a future state.

"We do not have any conflicts and we do not put fuel on the fire when our opinion does not agree with someone," Sultan Qaboos

told a Kuwaiti newspaper in a rare interview in 2008.

Oman's state-run news agency announced his death early Saturday, but offered no cause.

The sultan's death has raised the risk of unrest in this country on the eastern edge of the Arabian Peninsula. The unmarried Sultan Qaboos had no children and did not publicly name an heir, a tradition among the ruling Al Said dynasty whose history is replete with bloody

takeovers. But within hours, Oman state television announced Haitham bin Tariq Al Said, who had served as the sultanate's culture minister, as the new sultan.

The sultan had been believed to be ill for some time, though authorities never disclosed what malady he faced. A December 2019 report by the Washington Institute for Near-East Policy described the sultan as suffering from "diabetes and a history of colon cancer."