# 19 THE WORLD



France, Germany, UK

trigger Iran n-deal

**STEVEN ERLANGER** 

BRUSSELS, JANUARY 14

BRITAIN, FRANCE and Germany

triggered the dispute resolution

mechanism in the 2015 Iran nu-

clear deal on Tuesday, a tough

warning to Tehran and the first

step toward reimposing further

United Nations sanctions on Iran.

pected for more than a week, was

delayed when the US killed Iran's

tion mechanism will set the clock

running on what could be some

60 days of negotiations with Iran

about coming back into full com-

pliance with the deal, and could

end up with a "snapback" of

United Nations sanctions on Iran,

withdrew from the deal in 2018

and has imposed several rounds

of US sanctions on Iran. In re-

sponse, Tehran has repeatedly

moved beyond the limits that

the agreement had placed on its

nuclear program, raising fears

that it could be close to building

the deal and persuade both

The Europeans want to save

an atomic bomb.

**US President Donald Trump** 

including an arms embargo.

General Qassem Soleimani.

The move, which had been ex-

Triggering the dispute resolu-

dispute mechanism

Europe, Iran still

look to save deal

DESPITE THE European sig-

natories of the nuclear deal

triggering the dispute mech-

anism, they have made clear

that their attempt will be to

come to an agreement with

Iran to save the deal, rather

The dispute mechanism

gives all parties a flexible

than reimpose UN sanctions.

amount of time to negotiate

before sanctions on Iran kick

2015 deal. Iran claims that its

steps in violation of the deal

can easily be reversed and

Europe is eager to convince

Washington and Tehran to begin

a new set of negotiations about

missile development and Iran's

regional activities, a senior

European official said. **NYT** 

Tehran to do so.

in. Iran has also said it was

open to "constructive ef-

forts" towards saving the

#### WEINSTEIN TRIAL GIGI HADID SHOWS UP FOR JURY DUTY

More than 100 potential jurors showed up in a Manhattan court for the rape trial of former movie producer Harvey Weinstein, including model Gigi Hadid. Hadid told the judge she had met Weinstein before, as well as actress Salma Hayek who may be called as a witness or be mentioned during the trial. Despite this, Hadid said she could remain impartial.



**Anwar Ibrahim** 

**ASIA** 

### Malaysia drops sex assault probe of PM-in-waiting Anwar Ibrahim

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia's leader-in-waiting Anwar Ibrahim will not face charges over claims he sexually assaulted a male former aide, prosecutors said Tuesday, the latest such scandal to tarnish the veteran politician's career. Yusoff Muhammed Rawther last month accused Anwar of trying to force him to have sex and filed a police complaint, but officials said there was not enough evidence to make a criminal case. Anwar, seen as the likely successor to Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, spent almost a decade in jail after being convicted of sodomising a young male aide, allegations that supporters say were aimed at ruining his political career.

#### Boris rejects Scotland call for new referendum

London: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Tuesday rejected a request by Scotland's devolved government for powers to hold another referendum on independence. In a letter to First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, the leader of the Scottish National Party, Johnson noted that a previous referendum held in 2014 had been billed as a "once in a generation" vote. Scots voted then by 55% to 45% against breaking away from the rest of the United Kingdom.

### **VATICAN**

#### **Benedict wants** name removed from book

Vatican City: Former Pope Benedict wants his name removed as co-author of a controversial book on the issue of priestly celibacy, his personal secretary said on Tuesday. Archbishop Georg Ganswein told Reuters that, at the former pope's behest, he had asked the principal author of the book, Cardinal Robert Sarah, to ask the publishers to remove Benedict's name from the cover, the introduction and the conclusion. Some Roman Catholic scholars had rebuked the former pope for his comments in the book, saying his words risked destabilising the reigning Pope Francis.

#### **CHINA** Bus falls into sinkhole, 10 dead or missing

Beijing: A bus plunged into a sinkhole on a city street in northwestern China, killing at least six people and leaving four missing, authorities said. Some 1,000 emergency workers and 30 vehicles were sent to the site, the emergency management bureau in the city of Xining said. A crane was called in to lift the bus above the sinkhole so rescue workers could look for victims. Video apparently shot by security cameras just after the accident showed the bus gradually settling into the hole while people nearby scrambled for safety.

## Iran makes arrests over plane disaster as protests continue

30 protesters also held on 4th day of demonstrations

**PARISA HAFEZI& BABAK DEHGHANPISHEH** DUBAI, JANUARY 14

IRAN SAID on Tuesday it had arrested people accused of a role in shooting down a Ukrainian airliner and had also detained 30 people involved in protests that have swept the nation for four days since the military belatedly admitted its error.

Wednesday's shooting down of Ukraine International Airlines flight 752, killing all 176 people aboard, has led to one of the biggest public challenges to the Islamic Republic's clerical rulers since they took power four decades ago.

President Hassan Rouhani promised a thorough investigation into the "unforgivable error" of shooting down the plane, in an address on Tuesday. It was the latest in a series of apologies by the leadership that has done little to quell public anger.

Tehran has faced an escalating confrontation with the West and a wave of unrest since the United States killed Iran's most powerful military commander in a drone strike on January 3.

Iran shot down the plane on Wednesday when its military was on high alert, hours after firing missiles at US targets in Iraq. It admitted the mistake on Saturday after days of denials.

spokesman Judiciary Gholamhossein Esmaili said some

**NICOLE PERLROTH &** 

JANUARY 14

MATTHEW ROSENBERG

WITH US President Donald

Trump facing an impeachment

trial over his efforts to pressure

Ukraine to investigate former

Vice President Joe Biden and his

son Hunter Biden, Russian mili-

tary hackers have been boring

into the Ukrainian gas company

at the center of the affair, accord-

Burisma, the Ukrainian gas com-

pany on whose board Hunter

Biden served, began in early

November, as talk of the Bidens,

Ukraine and impeachment was

dominating the news in the US.

scale of the attacks suggest that the

Russians could be searching for po-

tentially embarrassing material on

the Bidens — the same kind of in-

formation that Trump wanted

from Ukraine when he pressed for

a probe of the Bidens, setting off

events that led to impeachment.

to what US intelligence agencies

say was Russia's hacking of emails

from the Democratic National

Committee during the 2016 pres-

idential campaign. In that case,

once they had the emails, the

Russians used trolls to spread and

spin the material, and built an echo

chamber to widen its effect. NYT

The Russian tactics are similar

The experts say the timing and

The hacking attempts against

ing to security experts.

Russians hacked

Ukrainian gas firm in

Trump impeachment

tussle, say experts



As anger rises against Iran's leaders, students walk around, instead of across, US and Israeli flags at the Shahid Beheshti **University in Tehran.** *Reuters* 

### **IMMINENT THREAT FROM SOLEIMANI?** DOESN'T REALLY MATTER, SAYS TRUMP

Washington: US President Donald Trump fuelled controversy on Monday over his decision to kill Iranian commander Qassem Soleimani by saying "it doesn't really matter" whether Soleimani posed an imminent threat to the United States.

"The Fake News Media and their Democrat Partners are working hard to determine

of those accused of having a role in the plane disaster had been arrested, although he did not say how many or identify them.

Since the official admission, protesters, many of them stu-

House to vote

today to send

impeachment

articles to senate

Washington: After weeks of de-

lay, the US House is planning to

vote Wednesday to send the ar-

ticles of impeachment against

President Donald Trump to the

Senate to start the trial on re-

vately Tuesday at the Capitol with

House Democrats about next

steps, ending her blockade a

month after they voted to impeach

Trump on charges of abuse of

power and obstruction of

Congress. Pelosi said the House

will vote to transmit the charges

and name the House managers for

the case. She warned the

Republican-led Senate off simply

dismissing the case against Trump.

'Won't dismiss charges

bers of the Senate voiced opposi-

tion on Monday to any attempt to

dismiss the charges against Trump

without a trial. "There is almost no

interest" among Republican sen-

House charges, Republican

Senator Roy Blunt told reporters

Meanwhile, Republican mem-

before trial'

on Monday. AP

Speaker Nancy Pelosi met pri-

moving him from office.

whether or not the future attack by terrorist Soleimani was 'imminent' or not. & was my team in agreement," Trump wrote on Twitter. "The answer to both is a strong YES, but it doesn't really matter because of his horrible past!"

Democrats are trying to pass a Bill to rein in Trump's ability to wage war on Iran. REUTERS

dents, have held daily demonstrations, chanting "Clerics get lost!" and calling for the removal of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in power for more than 30 years. **REUTERS** 

## Trump retweets image of Dems

**ANNIE KARNI** WASHINGTON, JANUARY 14

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump on Monday morning promoted a manipulated image Democratic Congressional leaders Senator Chuck Schumer and Nancy Pelosi wearing a turban and a headscarf in front of an Iranian flag, claiming it showed "the corrupted Dems trying their best to come to the Ayatollah's rescue #NancyPelosiFakeNews."

the Iranian government.

Dana Shell Smith, a former

## WHO says China coronavirus may spread, warns hospitals worldwide in 'Muslim garb'

GENEVA, JANUARY 14

Tuesday.

The retweeted image was the most extreme version of a sentiment that Trump spent the morning advancing by retweeting criticism of Pelosi, and suggesting she was a supporter of

US envoy to Qatar, said Trump was engaging in "hate speech against an entire religion". NYT

## **STEPHANIE NEBEHAY**

THERE MAY have been limited human-to-human transmission of a new coronavirus in China within families, and it is possible there could be a wider outbreak, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said on

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that can cause infections ranging from the common cold to SARS. A Chinese woman has been quarantined in Thailand with a mystery strain of coronavirus, Thai authorities said on Monday, the first time the virus has been detected outside China.

In all, 41 cases of pneumonia have been reported in the central Chinese city of Wuhan, which preliminary lab tests



treatment for the new virus, but anti-virals are being considered and could be "re-purposed", WHO said

cited by state media showed could be from a new type of coronavirus. One of the patients has died.

"From the information that we have it is possible that there is limited human-to-human among families, but it is very clear right now that we have no sustained human-to-human transmission," said Maria Van Kerkhove, acting head of WHO's emerging diseases unit. The WHO is however preparing for the possibility that there

transmission, potentially

could be a wider outbreak, she told a Geneva news briefing. "It is still early days, we don't have a clear clinical picture."

Some types of the virus cause less serious diseases, while others — like the one that causes MERS — are far more severe.

The UN agency has given guidance to hospitals worldwide about infection control in case the new virus spreads. There is no specific treatment for the new virus, but anti-virals are being considered and could be "re-purposed", Van Kerkhove said. **REUTERS** 

## Hafiz Saeed pleads not guilty in terror financing cases

**MZULQERNAIN** LAHORE, JANUARY 14

**MUMBAI ATTACK mastermind** Hafiz Saeed on Tuesday pleaded "not guilty" in two terror financing cases against him, as the Jamaat-ud-Dawah (JuD) chief recorded his statement in a Pakistani anti-terrorism court here, amidst mounting international pressure on Islamabad to rein in militant groups. The Counter Terrorism

Department had registered 23 FIRs against Saeed and his accomplices on charges of terror financing in different cities of Punjab province and arrested him on July 17. He is held at the Kot Lakhpat jail in Lahore. The Saeed-led JuD is believed

to be the front organisation for the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) which was responsible for carrying out the 2008 Mumbai attack that killed 166 people. "In response to a question-

naire handed over to him by the Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) Lahore regarding terror financ-



The JuD chief was arrested on July 17, last year

ing charges against him, Saeed on Tuesday submitted his reply in which he dismissed all charges against him. He pleaded not guilty," a court official told PTI after the in-camera hearing.

The official said the ATC adjourned the hearing till Wednesday for final arguments.

The cases of terror financing have been registered against Saeed in Lahore and Gujranwala cities in Punjab province on the application of the Counter Terrorism Department of Puniab Police, PTI

## Heavy snowfall, rain in Pak: Death toll rises to 84

*Islamabad:* Avalanches and landslides triggered by heavy snowfall and incessant rain across Pakistan have left over 80 people, including women and children, dead, and destroyed many houses, officials said on Tuesday.

Harsh weather conditions continue across Pakistan over

the last three days, bringing normal life to a halt as road transport and communication remain severely affected.

At least 84 people have died across the country after a severe cold wave brought life to a standstill in numerous areas, officials said on Tuesday. PTI

## Nawaz sharif, with brother Shahbaz and other family

members at a restaurant in **London.** Twitter (@fawadchaudhry)

## Sharif's London restaurant photo goes viral, draws criticism

**PRESSTRUST OF INDIA** ISLAMABAD. JANUARY 14

A PHOTOGRAPH of ailing former Pakistan prime minister Nawaz Sharif at a London restaurant along with some family members has gone viral on social media, leading to speculation over

Sharif, 69, left for London on November 19 in an air ambulance to seek medical treatment a month after he was released on bail from a seven-year prison

the "serious nature" of his health.

In the photo leaked Monday, Sharif appeared to be sitting in a restaurant with his son Hasan, PML-N president Shahbaz Sharif his son Salman and former finance minister Ishaq Dar.

Pakistani minister Fawad ing is underway and all patients

## Melbourne air 'worst in world', warnings issued

**NATASHA CHAKU** MELBOURNE, JANUARY 14

THE AIR quality in Melbourne deteriorated to the "worst in the world" on Tuesday as smoke from massive bushfires engulfed Australia's second biggest city with authorities issuing health warnings advising people to stay indoors and take preators for a motion to dismiss the cautionary measures. The raging Australian bush-

fires, one of the worst in its history,

has killed at least 26 people,



Melbourne covered in smoke haze from bushfires. Reuters

burned over 10 million hectares of land, destroyed over 2,000

homes and pushed many species towards extinction.

"Despite having worked on

the Murchison meteorite and

presolar grains for almost 20

years, I still am fascinated that

Meanwhile, the Bureau of Meteorology has forecast rain through the week, bringing some relief to the bushfire-affected communities and the firefighters.

According to a report in the Broadcasting Australian Corporation, widespread rainfall is expected for the east coast of the country, including the firegrounds, starting Tuesday.

Melbourne's air quality went down overnight to "hazardous" due to bushfire smoke as the smoke from Victoria state engulfed it. **PTI** 

sentence for corruption.

Chaudhry uploaded the photograph on his Twitter account "In London's intensive care unit the treatment against plunderpresent (there) are feeling better." he said.

### THE TINY DUST GRAINS ARE ABOUT 7 BILLION YEARS OLD — 2.5 BILLION YEARS OLDER THAN THE SUN

## Oldest material on Earth found inside meteorite that hit Australia

**WILL DUNHAM** 

WASHINGTON, JANUARY 14

A METEORITE that crashed into rural southeastern Australia in a fireball in 1969 contained the oldest material ever found on Earth, stardust that predated the formation of our solar system by billions of years, scientists said on Monday.

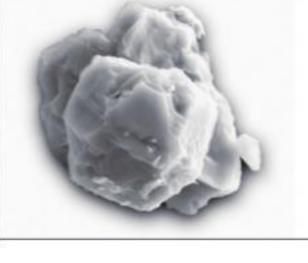
The oldest of 40 tiny dust grains trapped inside the meteorite fragments retrieved around the town of Murchison in Victoria state dated from about 7 billion years ago, about 2.5 bil-

lion years before the sun, Earth

and rest of our solar system formed, the researchers said.

In fact, all of the dust specks analyzed in the research came from before the solar system's formation — thus known as "presolar grains" – with 60% of them between 4.6 and 4.9 billion years old and the oldest 10% dating to more than 5.6 billion years ago.

The stardust represented time capsules dating to before the solar system. The age distribution of the dust - many of the grains were concentrated at particular time intervals - provided clues about the rate of star formation in the Milky Way galaxy,



the researchers said, hinting at

bursts of stellar births rather

ing," said Philipp Heck, an asso-

"I find this extremely excit-

than a constant rate.

electron micrograph of a silicon carbide grain, about 8 micrometres in its longest crashed into

ciate curator at the Field

Museum in Chicago who led the

research published in the scien-

tific journal Proceedings of the

National Academy of Sciences.

A scanning

dimension, from a meteorite that Australia in 1969

The grains are small, measuring from 2 to 30 micrometers

in size. A micrometer is a onethousandth of a millimeter or about 0.000039 of an inch. Stardust forms in the material ejected from stars and carried by stellar winds, getting blown into interstellar space.

During the solar system's birth,

this dust was incorporated into

everything that formed includ-

ing the planets and the sun but

we can study the history of our by crushing fragments of the galaxy with a rock," Heck added. rock and then segregating the

component parts in a paste they described as smelling like rotten peanut butter. Scientists have developed a method to determine stardust's age. Dust grains floating through

survived intact until now only in

tiny grains inside the meteorite

The researchers detected the

asteroids and comets.

space get bombarded by high-energy particles called cosmic rays. These rays break down atoms in the grain into fragments, such as carbon into helium. These fragments accumulate

over time and their production

counted these fragments in the laboratory, enabling them to calculate the stardust's age. Scientists previously had found a presolar grain in the Murchison meteorite that was

rate is rather constant. The

longer the exposure time to cos-

mic rays, the more fragments ac-

cumulate. The researchers

about 5.5 billion years old, until now the oldest-known solid material on Earth. The oldest known minerals that formed on Earth are found in rock from Australia's Jack Hills that formed 4.4 billion years ago, 100 million years after the planet formed. **REUTERS**