# 14 THE WORLD



### USA JET DUMPS FUEL ON SCHOOL, 26 INJURED

A Delta Airlines jet making an emergency landing at Los Angeles International Airport dumped fuel on the playground of an elementary school in the flight path on Tuesday, inflicting minor injuries on 17 children and nine adults, local and federal authorities said. The Federal Aviation Administration said it was investigating the incident.

## TOPOFTHE WORLD



**Chinese President** Xi Jinping

## **ASIA**

## China's Xi visits Myanmar to drive home Belt and Road plan

Myitsone: China's President Xi Jinping arrives in Myanmarthis week to nail down multi-billion-dollar infrastructure deals in a country abandoned by many in the West appalled at the "genocide" of Rohingya Muslims on leader Aung San Suu Kyi's watch. Xi's two-day visit, his first as President, will seek to cement Beijing's position as Myanmar's largest investor and strategic partner. The China-Myanmar Economic Corridor aims to connect the Middle Kingdom to the Indian Ocean, a key route in Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative that envisions Chinese infrastructure spanning the globe.

## Student shot dead at school,

### suspect arrested

Bellaire: A student was shot to death at a Texas high school, and a suspect was arrested hours later, officials said. Grenita Latham, interim superintendent of the Houston Independent School District, on Tuesday confirmed the shooting victim at Bellaire High School had died. She gave no other information and took no questions. A suspect was arrested Tuesday night, according to a school district statement. It provided no other details about the suspect.

## **CHINA**

## **Uproar after** destitute college student dies

Beijing: Angry Chinese social media users are demanding answers after news circulated that a university student who spent less than a dollar a day on food had died despite raising thousands of dollars in donations. Wu Huayan, who suffered from severe malnutrition and had lost both her parents, died on Monday, according to Chinese media reports. The 24-year-old reportedly spent just two yuan (\$0.29) per day on food in order to pay for her younger brother's medical treatment.

## Russian PM resigns as Putin eyes constitutional rejig to retain power

President Putin, whose fourth term ends in 2024, seeks to give greater power to Parliament, PM

ANDREW OSBORN & **VLADIMIR SOLDATKIN** MOSCOW, JANUARY 15

**RUSSIAN PRESIDENT Vladimir** Putin proposed constitutional changes on Wednesday that would give him leeway to extend his grip on power after leaving the presidency, and picked a new prime minister after Dmitry Medvedev and his Cabinet resigned.

The dramatic moves were widely seen as preparing the ground for 2024, when Putin, now 67, is constitutionally obliged to leave the presidency after occupying the Kremlin or the prime minister's job continuously since 1999. In a surprise development,

Putin said he wanted Mikhail Mishustin, head of the tax service, to be the next prime minister. Mishustin, whose candidacy will be examined by parliament on Thursday, has a relatively low profile and had not been spoken of as a possible candidate. Mishustin, 53, has played ice

hockey with Putin and will in-

**LALITKJHA** 

stone moment.

States," he said.

cennial US Census.

have come to fruition.

WASHINGTON, JANUARY 15

FOR THE first time, Sikhs in the

US will be counted as a separate

ethnic group in the 2020 cen-

sus, an organisation of the mi-

nority community said on

Tuesday, describing it as a mile-

of San Diego, Baljeet Singh, said

the Sikh community's efforts

ward nationally not only for the

Sikh community but also for

other ethnicities in the United

stone, the United Sikhs said

that this will be the first time

the minority group will be

counted and coded in the de-

Sikhs has held several meetings

A delegation of the United

Describing this as a mile-

President of the Sikh Society

"This has paved the way for-



Putin asked Medvedev's Cabinet to keep working until the new Cabinet is formed. But he said he wanted Mikhail Mishustin, head of the tax service, to be the next PM. Reuters

evitably be viewed as a possible presidential successor, as will members of the new government, many of whom are expected to be new.

Critics have long accused Putin of plotting to stay on in some capacity to wield power over the world's largest nation and one of its two biggest nuclear powers — after he steps down. Putin, a former KGB officer, has always kept mum on his plans.

But the constitutional

with the US Census in the recent

past with the last one being on

"It's clear that a separate code

January 6 in San Diego.

Director Ron Jarmin.

Management Budget.

According to the United Sikhs,

Sikhs meet the criteria for rep-

The United Sikhs has advo-

the current estimates of Sikhs liv-

resentation in the US Census as a

distinct ethnic group and have a

distinct unified appearance, cul-

cated for the separate coding for

more than two decades. PTI

ture, language, food and history.

ing in the US are at 10 lakhs.

changes he set out, which he suggested should be put to a referendum, would give him the option of taking an enhanced role as prime minister after 2024 or a new role as head of the State Council, an official body he said he was keen to build up.

He could even become speaker of a new, supercharged Parliament.

Under his proposed constitutional changes, the powers of the presidency would be diminished and those of the prime minister's office beefed up.

Opposition politician Leonid Volkov said it looked as though Putin was digging in.

"It's clear to everyone that everything is going exclusively towards setting Putin up to rule for life," Volkov wrote on social media. Dmitry Gudkov, another opposition politician, said Putin had decided to re-arrange everything around him now rather than wait until closer to 2024. **REUTERS** 

## Move leaves open host of possibilities

PUTIN'S MOVE to rejig the

constitution to give more power to the office of the PM and Parliament left analysts guessing what his next move is likely to be. He must leave the presidency after 2024, when his fourth term ends. It is speculated that he could make himself PM and continue his hold on power in Russia, or become leader of the Parliament whose powers are set to expand. However, some analysts say this could be a way for Putin to change the rules and stay

on as President while making the decision more palatable to the public with the seemingly democratic reforms.



Senator Elizabeth Warren with Senator Bernie Sanders after the seventh Democratic 2020 presidential debate at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, on Tuesday. Reuters

## Sanders, Warren spar in last Dems debate ahead of primaries

#### **SHANE GOLDMACHER & JONATHAN MARTIN** DES MOINES, JANUARY 15

THE DEMOCRATIC presidential candidates clashed in starkly personal terms Tuesday over who had the best chance to defeat US President Donald Trump, as Senator Elizabeth Warren sought to jump-start her campaign in the last debate before the Iowa caucuses by highlighting her electoral success and that of other female candidates in the Trump era.

Prompted by the moderators, Warren and Senator Bernie Sanders continued a back-andforth over the fraught subject of whether a woman could be elected president, an issue that in recent days had caused the first serious breach in their relationship. One day after she confirmed a report that Sanders had told her in a private meeting that he did not think a woman could defeat Trump, Warren trumpeted her Senate victory over an incumbent Republican and then gestured down the debate stage toward the four male candidates.

"Collectively they have lost 10 elections," she said, before acknowledging the only other female candidate present, Senator Amy Klobuchar. "The only people on this stage who have won every single election they have been in are the women: Amy and me. And the only person on this stage who has beaten an incumbent Republican in the past 30 years is me."

Sanders, Warren's top rival for progressive support, flatly de-

## **DISPUTED REMARK**

**■** Warren and Sanders have been longtime friends who have so far refrained from attacking each other in debates.

■ However, recently,

Warren said Sanders had told her during a private conversation that he believes a woman could not defeat Trump in the 2020 election.

Sanders denied having made the comment, and this led to the first backand-forth between the two in Tuesday's debate.

■ The strain on their relationship was evident after the debate when Warren refused to shake Sanders's hand.

nied that he had made the comment when the two lawmakers met in 2018. He said it was "incomprehensible that I would think that a woman couldn't be president of the United States, noting Hillary Clinton had won the popular vote in the 2016 general election.

Meeting less than three weeks before Iowans vote, the Democrats disagreed over international affairs and keeping troops in West Asia, whether to support Trump's trade deal for North America, how aggressively to tackle climate change and, yet again, health care. **NYT** 

## Iran warns Europe as diplomat Sikhs to be counted as separate ethnic group admits officials 'lied' about crash in US census for 1st time

NASSER KARMI, **JON GAMBRELL& EMILY SCHMALL** TEHRAN, JANUARY 15

is needed to ensure an accurate IRAN'S PRESIDENT warned count of Sikhs in the United Wednesday that European sol-States, recognising a unique diers in the Mideast "could be in identity," said US Census Deputy danger" after three nations challenged Tehran over breaking the "Working with United Sikhs, limits of its nuclear deal. Tehran's we understand how this change top diplomat meanwhile acaffects the national Sikh comknowledged that Iranians "were lied to" for days following the munity, leading us to add this code for the 2020 Census," said Islamic Republic's accidental Shagufta Ahmed with the shootdown of a Ukrainian jet-Census Bureau and Office of liner that killed 176 people.

President Hassan Rouhani's remarks in a televised Cabinet meeting represent the first direct threat he's made to Europe as tensions remain high between Tehran and Washington over President Donald Trump withdrawing the US from the deal in May 2018.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif's admission, which came at a summit in New Delhi on Wednesday, represents the first time an Iranian official referred to earlier claims from Tehran that a technical malfunction downed the Ukraine International Airlines flight as a lie. The shootdown — and subsequent days of denials that a missile had



Iran President Hassan Rouhani warned that **European soldiers in West** Asia could be in danger after the EU triggered the n-deal dispute mechanism

downed it — sparked days of angry protests in the country.

The current tensions between Iran and the US reached fever-pitch two weeks ago with the American drone strike in Baghdad that killed the powerful Revolutionary Guard Gen. Qassem Soleimani. The general had led Iranian proxy forces abroad, including those blame for deadly roadside bomb attacks on US

troops in Iraq. Amid all of this, Britain, France and Germany launched the socalled "dispute mechanism" pertaining to Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers. Speaking before his Cabinet, Rouhani showed a rarely seen level of anger in his remarks Wednesday. AP

Nepal's Prachanda says he can be blamed

## struck airliner, new video shows MALACHY BROWNE, EVAN

2 Iranian missiles

HILL, LOGAN MITCHELL & **BARBARA MARCOLINI** JANUARY 15

THE NEW York Times has verified security camera footage Tuesday that shows, for the first time, that two missiles hit Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 on Jan. 8. The missiles were launched from an Iranian military site around 8 miles from the plane.

The new video fills a gap about why the plane's transponder stopped working, seconds before it was hit by a second missile.

An earlier *Times* analysis confirmed what Iran later admitted: that an Iranian missile did strike the plane. The *Times* also established that the transponder stopped working before that missile hit the plane. The new video appears to confirm that an initial strike disabled the transponder, before the second strike, also seen in the video, around 23 seconds later. NYT

## TRUMP IMPEACHMENT

## Democrats unveil new evidence as House sets vote to send articles

**NICHOLAS FANDOS** WASHINGTON, JANUARY 15

NEW DETAILS emerged on Tuesday of US President Donald Trump's campaign to solicit political interference from Ukraine, intensifying pressure on Senate Republicans on the eve of a historic impeachment trial to include

witness testimony and additional

documents in their proceeding.

House Democrats released the tranche of previously unseen records even as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced a Wednesday vote to name House prosecutors and send the articles of impeachment against Trump to the Senate to begin the trial.

It included dozens of pages of notes, text messages and other records provided to the Intelligence Committee by Lev Parnas, an associate of Rudy Giuliani, Trump's personal lawyer, detailing work the men did in Ukraine on behalf of the president. Under federal indictment, Parnas had only recently been cleared to hand over the material to Congress, and an official involved in the inquiry indicated more was likely to be made public soon.

Among them were handwritten notes scrawled on a sheet of hotel paper at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Vienna that mention getting President Volodymyr Zelenskiy of Ukraine to announce an investigation of former Vice President Joe Biden and his son, and a May 2019 letter from Giuliani requesting a meeting with Zelenskiy in which he said Trump had "knowledge and consent" of his actions.

The records also included text messages suggesting that Giuliani's associates were tracking the former U.S. ambassador

## **DEMOCRATS NAME** 7-MEMBER TEAM TO PROSECUTE TRUMP IN SENATE TRIAL

Washington: Democrats in the US House Representatives Wednesday unveiled a seven-member team to prosecute President Donald Trump at his impeachment trial in the Senate, headed by a former prosecutor who has become a nemesis of the

Republican president.

Adam Schiff, the House Intelligence Committee chairman will lead the House "managers" who will put the case to senators that Trump should be ousted. Other managers include Jerrold Nadler, 72, who crafted the two articles of impeachment against Trump, as House **Judiciary Committee chair**man. **REUTERS** 

to Ukraine in Kyiv.

The material built upon details undergirding the charges against Trump and highlighted how much is still to be learned about the scope of a scheme that the impeachment charges call a blatant effort to solicit foreign help in the 2020 election. Senior Democrats who led the House impeachment inquiry said the new records underscored the need for senators to demand additional evidence at trial. The new documents, they said

in a statement, "demonstrate that there is more evidence relevant to the president's scheme, but they have been concealed by the President himself". **NYT** 

## Gurdwara in US defaced with swastika graffiti property. The graffiti was re-

**LALITKJHA** WASHINGTON, JANUARY 15

IN AN apparent hate crime, a new gurdwara in the US state of California has been defaced with a swastika graffiti. Police officials took state-

ments from the granthi of Guru Maneyo Granth Gurdwara Sahib in Orangevale, where the incident took place. On Monday morning, a day

after the Sikh temple was officially inaugurated, people saw the words "White Power" and a swastika sign graffitied on the moved later on the day.

racist graffiti spray painted at a Sikh house of worship in Orangevale," Indian-American Congressman Ami Bara said.

before this." PTI

"I strongly condemn the

Dimple Kaur Bhullar from the Guru Manevo Granth Gurdwara Sahib Sangat said, "We began services as of mid-December 2019, the weekend of January 10-12 we had our official Grand Opening with Bhai Sahib Harjinder Singh Ji Sri Nagarwale, without any problems. There was no negativity

## for 'only' 5,000 deaths during civil war not responsible for all 17,000 **YUBARAJ GHIMIRE**

KATHMANDU, JANUARY 15

FORMER PRIME minister and chairman of the ruling Nepal Communist Party, Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' Wednesday that he was ready to take responsibility for the death of 5,000 people, but that he was deaths that took place during the decade-long armed insurgency led by the Maoists beginning February 1996.

Prachanda's statement comes amid demands by rival politicians that he should be tried for killing 17,000 people during the insurgency, which was led by Prachanda.

Addressing a gathering in Kathmandu. Dahal said since he led a movement against the feudal system, he was ready to take responsibility for the killing of 5,000 people. The other 12,000, he said, were killed by the state.

The Maoists are now part of the ruling Nepal Communist Party and had joined the political mainstream in 2006.

## 2019 Was Second-Hottest Year On Record

## 2010s hottest decade ever, more extreme weather to come: UN

**AGENCIES** 

GENEVA, JANUARY 15

THE PAST decade has been the hottest on record, the UN said Wednesday, warning that the higher temperatures were expected to fuel numerous extreme weather events in 2020 and beyond.

The World Meteorological Organisation, which based its findings on analysis of leading international datasets, said it also confirmed data released by the European Union's climate monitor last week showing that last year was the second hottest on record, after 2016.

"The year 2020 has started out where 2019 left off — with high-



Activists protest Australia's bushfire crisis, outside the

**Australian embassy in Mexico City.** Reuters

"Unfortunately, we expect to see much extreme weather throughout 2020 and the coming decades, fuelled by record levels of heat-trapping greenhouse

The UN agency said that average global temperatures dur-

gases in the atmosphere," he said.

ing both the past five-year (2015-2019) and 10-year (2010-2019) periods were the highest ever recorded. "Since the 1980s each decade

has been warmer than the previous one," the UN agency said in a statement, warning that "this trend is expected to continue". The United Nations said last

year that man-made greenhouse gas emissions needed to tumble 7.6 per cent each year to 2030 in order to limit temperature rises to 1.5C — the more ambitious cap nations signed up to in the landmark Paris climate deal.

Current pledges to cut emissions put Earth on a path of sevof the century. Taalas on Wednesday said

that since modern records began in 1850, the average global temperature had risen by around 1.1 degrees Celsius, and warned of significant warming in the future. "On the current path of car-

eral degrees warming by the end

bon dioxide emissions, we are heading towards a temperature increase of three to five degrees Celsius by the end of the century," he warned. WMO also pointed to a new

study published this week in Advances in Atmospheric Sciences with data showing that ocean heat content was at a record high in 2019. The past five years, and past

decade were also the warmest

content, that study showed. Since more than 90 percent of excess heat is stored within

on record in terms of ocean heat

the world's oceans, their heat content is a good way to quantify the rate of global warming, WMO said. Scientists stressed the urgent need to do more to counter the warming trend.

"If we look at all the impacts around the world that are now occurring as a result of this warming, it is obvious that we are not succeeding in preventing dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system," said Bob Ward of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment at the London School of Economics and Political Science.