

TOPOF THE WORLD



Prince Harry, Reuters/File

CANADA

Prince Harry arrives to start new chapter

London: Prince Harry on Tuesday began a new chapter in his life as he landed in Canada to reunite with his wife Meghan Markle and their eight-month-old son after a formal split with the British Royal family. The 35-year-old Duke of Sussex was photographed stepping off a plane in Vancouver as he set off in a car to join his family already in the country for some time. Harry has made repeated references to the media as a “powerful force”, which was the primary reason behind his decision to remove his family from the spotlight as frontline royals.

SYRIA

Russian air strikes kill 12 people: monitor

Beirut: Russian air strikes killed 12 civilians on Tuesday in northwestern Syria, as renewed violence tightened the noose around the country's last major opposition bastion and deepened an already dire humanitarian crisis. Two of the victims were killed in a southern area of Idlib province while the other 10 died in a western region of neighbouring Aleppo province, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. The raids on Aleppo province killed eight members of the same family who were sheltering in a house, Observatory chief Rami Abdel Rahman said.

PAKISTAN

Three Taliban militants 'held, attack thwarted'

Lahore: Pakistan's counter-terrorism officials on Tuesday claimed to have thwarted a terror attack by arresting three Taliban militants following an intelligence-based operation in Punjab province. They were planning to conduct attacks on a sensitive installation in Bahawalnagar, some 400 kms from here, the counter-terrorism department of Punjab police said in a statement. "Terrorism plan is defeated in Bahawalnagar... and three terrorists have been arrested and explosives recovered from them," the officials said.

ASIAN COUNTRIES RAMP UP SCREENINGS

Virus outbreak: WHO to hold emergency meet, toll hits 6

As cases in China spike to 300, top leaders warn officials against cover-ups

AGENCIES

BEIJING/TAIPEI, JANUARY 21

AT LEAST six persons have died of the new SARS-like virus in China with top leaders warning officials against any cover up of the information on its outbreak even as the WHO is considering declaring an international public health emergency to combat the deadly illness.

The number of infected people has also increased sharply to about 300 as the government scamped to contain its spread by increasing monitoring on the movement of public from the 12 million people strong Wuhan city from where the SARS-like virus was first reported in December.

The World Health Organisation (WHO), which is holding an emergency meeting on Wednesday, will consider declaring an international public health emergency over the virus – as it did with swine flu and Ebola, BBC reported.

Meanwhile, as the fear grips Chinese cities, the country's top leaders have warned lower-level officials against any cover up in



The quarantine section at Kuala Lumpur airport. AP

the information relating to the spread of the new coronavirus.

China's National Health Commission on Monday confirmed for the first time that the infection could be transmitted from human-to-human. It said two people in Guangdong province had been infected this way.

Asia stepped up its defences Tuesday, introducing mandatory screenings at airports of arrivals

from high-risk areas of China as authorities move to head off a billowing regional health crisis.

From Bangkok to Hong Kong and Seoul to Sydney, authorities have gone onto high-alert over the new coronavirus.

Thai authorities have introduced mandatory thermal scans of passengers arriving from high-risk areas of China at its airports in Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Phuket

GLOBAL SPREAD

TAIWAN: The first case was reported Tuesday. The patient, a woman in her fifties, was taken to a hospital directly from the airport, said officials

AUSTRALIA: A man showing symptoms of the virus after visiting China is being held in isolation at his home

PHILIPPINES: A five-year-old child has been hospitalised on arrival from Wuhan. Lab results are awaited, said sources.

and Krabi. Those passengers will be screened "without exemption", health minister Anutin Charnvirakul said in a statement.

In Hong Kong, authorities said they were on "extreme high alert". "We are... preparing for the worst. We have not lowered our guard," Hong Kong's number two leader, Chief Secretary Matthew Cheung, told reporters.

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM: DAY 1

Climate dominates Davos dialogue

World on fire, can't be left to firemen alone: Swiss prez

BARUN JHA

DAVOS, JANUARY 21

SWISS PRESIDENT Simonetta Sommaruga on Tuesday said the world is on fire and everyone needs to work together to tackle the dangers before our environment as it cannot be seen as a job of the firemen alone.

"I look at the state of the world with a concern today. There is intolerance, hatred and revenge... We need to find the right balance for a common future," she said during a special address at the WEF annual meeting here.

The President of the Swiss Confederation said, "The world is on fire. We are seeing rainforests burning in Amazon and bushfires in Australia. "The ecological balance of this world is in danger and we need to understand what all would be the consequences for all of us."

When economic benefits are

A lot has happened, but nothing has been done as yet: Greta

Davos: Young climate campaigner Greta Thunberg on Tuesday said a lot has happened since her campaign caught eyes of the world but "nothing has been done" actually to save the planet. "People are more generally aware now. The climate and the environment is a hot topic. But – and it's a big but: From another perspective, pretty much nothing has been done," she said.



Swiss President Simonetta Sommaruga speaks next to WEF founder Klaus Schwab in Davos on Tuesday. Reuters

placed above nature, then the consequences for humans and the economy are immense, she said.

Drawing an analogy, she said biodiversity is like the Eiffel Tower of Paris and if you remove one screw from the tower each day, nothing will happen in the beginning, but if you keep removing the screws, the tower will fall apart.

"We need politicians to take

TRUMP IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS

Parties clash over trial rules, Democrats allege cover-up

McConnell pushes for separate vote to examine evidence; Schumer says a trial without evidence is no trial at all

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON, JANUARY 21

SENATOR MITCH McConnell, the majority leader, unveiled ground rules on Monday for President Trump's impeachment trial that would attempt to speed the proceeding along and refuse to admit the evidence against the president unearthed by the House without a separate vote.

McConnell's proposal includes the following provisions: (1) House prosecutors and Mr. Trump's defense team each get 24 hours over two days to argue their cases; (2) evidence collected by the House could be admitted into the record only by a majority vote; and (3) Republicans have the option to make a motion to dismiss the trial before arguments from either side are heard.

Senator Chuck Schumer on Tuesday said he would move to amend to mirror the resolution used for President Bill Clinton.

"...Senator McConnell is saying he doesn't want to hear any of the existing evidence, and he doesn't want to hear any new evidence," said Senator Chuck Schumer of New York, the Democratic leader.

"It's a cover-up, and the American people will see it for exactly what it is."



House impeachment manager Adam Schiff at the Capitol. AP

House managers morning issued a statement blasting McConnell's resolution, saying it "deviates sharply from the Clinton precedent — and common sense — in an effort to prevent the full truth of the president's misconduct from coming to light."

Schumer said he would demand that the Senate subpoena both witnesses and documents for the trial — including any records of President Trump's call with the leader of Ukraine, and any records relating to the White House decision to withhold military aid from Ukraine.

However, McConnell said he counted 53 votes in favor of his rules, suggesting that any Democratic plan to change them would probably fail. **NYT**

Legal validity

A MAJOR point of debate will be whether or not Trump's actions count as an indictable offence. His lawyers argue that even if he did abuse his power, the House never accused him of criminal conduct, which, they say, is needed to remove him from power. Scholars and legal experts have criticised this harshly, saying that a serious violation of public trust also falls under the ambit of impeachment.

Nobody likes Bernie Sanders, says Hillary

MATT STEVENS

JANUARY 21

HILLARY CLINTON, who battled with Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont for months in a 2016 Democratic primary that sometimes turned contentious, ripped into her former campaign rival in a new documentary series and declined to say if she would endorse and campaign for him if he were to win the presidential nomination this time around.

"He was in Congress for years. He had one senator support him," she said in a forthcoming four-part series, set to have its premiere at Sundance and air on Hulu beginning March 6. "Nobody likes him, nobody wants to work with him, he got nothing done. He was a career politician. It's all just baloney and I feel so bad that people got sucked into it."

Asked in an interview with The Hollywood Reporter, published on Tuesday, if that assessment still held, she said, "Yes, it does." And in response to a question about whether she would endorse and campaign for Mr. Sanders if he were to get the nomination, she said: "I'm not going to go there yet. We're still in a very vigorous primary season." **NYT**



HILLARY CLINTON, BERNIE SANDERS

Thousands who went missing during civil war are dead, says Gotabaya

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

COLOMBO, JANUARY 21

FOR THE first time, Sri Lanka's President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has admitted that some 20,000 people who disappeared during the country's brutal civil war with Tamil Tiger rebels over a decade ago are "dead".

Gotabaya Rajapaksa told UN Resident Coordinator Hanaa Singer last week that after probes are completed steps would be taken to issue death certificates to these missing persons, the Colombo Gazette reported.

According to the government figures, over 20,000 people are missing due to various conflicts including the three-decade separatist war with Lankan Tamils in the north and east which claimed at least 100,000 lives.

"He (Gotabaya) explained that these missing persons are actually dead. Most of them had been taken by the LTTE or forcefully conscripted. The families of the missing attest to it. However, they do not know what has become of them and so claim them to be missing," President Rajapaksa's office said.

A LEAK OF OVER 700,000 DOCUMENTS SHOWED HOW SHE 'EXPLOITED' ANGOLA'S WEALTH

Africa's richest woman barred from her bank, facing probe

MICHAEL FORSYTHE

JANUARY 21

ISABEL DOS Santos, Africa's richest woman and the daughter of Angola's former president, is under scrutiny by her bank and the Angolan government after a leak of more than 700,000 documents showed how she exploited the country's wealth to enrich herself.

EuroBic, a Lisbon-based arm of a bank where dos Santos is the biggest shareholder, said on Monday that it was ending its "commercial relationship" with her and investigating transfers



Isabel Dos Santos. Reuters

worth tens of millions of dollars, transactions that were revealed on Sunday by The New York Times and other news outlets working with the Washington-

based International Consortium of Investigative Journalists.

Angola's attorney general said on Monday the government would "use all possible means" to bring dos Santos back to the country, where she faces possible corruption charges and where her assets were frozen last month, along with her husband's and those of a Portuguese business associate, Agence France-Presse reported. The Angolan government, led until September 2017 by her father, José Eduardo dos Santos, said the three were responsible for more than \$1 billion in lost government money.

The leaked documents, which include emails, invoices, slide presentations and contracts, provided a paper trail showing how dos Santos and her husband, Sindika Dokolo, amassed a fortune of more than \$2 billion through their stakes in vital Angolan industries like telecommunications, diamonds and construction. Angola, rich in oil and diamonds, is nevertheless impoverished, with one of the world's highest infant mortality rates and endemic corruption.

The leaked materials also revealed that in November 2017, when dos Santos was chair-

woman of Angola's state oil company, Sonangol, more than \$57 million was transferred from that company to the bank account of a Dubai company owned by a friend of hers. Ms. dos Santos has said the money was for fees owed to consultants and accountants, including Boston Consulting Group, McKinsey & Company and PwC, formerly called PricewaterhouseCoopers. It is not clear whether that sum matched bills from the consultants; the companies declined to provide billing details, citing client confidentiality.

Those transfers drained

Sonangol's account at EuroBic, the European arm of an Angolan bank where dos Santos owns a 42.5 percent stake. EuroBic's headquarters, steps from dos Santos's sprawling Lisbon apartment, plays a central role in her business empire, which encompasses more than 400 companies and subsidiaries.

"The ICIJ report is based on many fake documents and false information, it is a coordinated political attack in coordinations with the 'Angolan Government,'" dos Santos wrote on Twitter: "715 thousand documents read? Who believes that?" **NYT**