

TOPOF THE WORLD



John Bolton served as National Security Adviser to Trump

IMPEACHMENT TRIAL Bolton says he's willing to testify if subpoenaed

**Washington:** Former Trump national security adviser John Bolton said Monday that he is “prepared to testify” if he is subpoenaed by the Senate in its impeachment trial of President Donald Trump. Bolton, who left the White House in September, said that he has weighed the issues of executive privilege and that after “careful consideration and study” decided that he would comply with a Senate subpoena. “I have concluded that, if the Senate issues a subpoena for my testimony, I am prepared to testify,” he said. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has expressed resistance to calling new witnesses in the trial.

BRITAIN Man who raped dozens of men gets life in prison

**London:** A man described as “the most prolific rapist in British legal history” has been sentenced to life in prison with a possible release after 36 years following his conviction for sexual offences against 48 men. Authorities said the evidence against 36-year-old Reynhard Sinaga indicates he had many more victims, with roughly 195 men apparently having been filmed while being abused when they were in his apartment. Many were unconscious at the time. Judge Suzanne Goddard QC said in Manchester Crown Court the true number of Sinaga’s victims may never be known.

GERMANY Police kill man who approached them with knife

**Berlin:** Police in western Germany shot and killed a 37-year-old man who allegedly tried to attack them with a knife. They are checking whether extremism was a possible motive for the attack, the German news agency dpa reported Monday. The man, whose name was not given, first used an unidentified object to attack a police car in front of a precinct in Gelsenkirchen Sunday night, and then approached officers with the item in his hand, police spokesman Christopher Grauwinkel said.

WEeping, KHAMENEI PRAYS OVER BODY OF IRANIAN GENERAL SLAIN BY U.S.

# Soleimani successor vows revenge as Trump repeats his threats on Iran

US President warns of ‘sanctions like they’ve never seen before’ against Iraq if it expels US troops

NASSER KARIMI & JON GAMBRELL TEHRAN, JANUARY 6

WEEPING AMID wails from a sea of mourners, Iran’s supreme leader on Monday prayed over the remains of a top Iranian general killed in a US airstrike in Baghdad, an attack that’s drastically raised tensions between Tehran and Washington.

The procession for Iranian Revolutionary Guard Gen. Qassem Soleimani drew a crowd of mourners and followers, said by police to be in the millions, on Monday in Tehran, where Soleimani’s replacement vowed to take revenge for his killing. Additionally, Tehran has abandoned the remaining limits of its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers in response to the slaying while in Iraq, the Parliament has called for the expulsion of all American troops from Iraqi soil.

Adding to the tensions, US President Donald Trump threatened to demand billions of dollars in compensation from Iraq or impose “sanctions like they’ve never seen before” if it goes through with expelling US troops.

Trump had earlier vowed on Twitter that the US will strike back at 52 targets “VERY FAST AND VERY HARD.”

He doubled down on that threat Sunday, dismissing warnings that targeting cultural sites could be a war crime under international law. “They’re allowed to kill our people. They’re allowed to torture and maim our people. They’re allowed to use roadside bombs and blow up our people. And we’re not allowed to touch their cultural sites? It doesn’t work that way,” Trump said.

Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei himself prayed over the caskets of Soleimani and others slain in the attack. Khamenei, who had a close relationship with Soleimani, wept at one point during the traditional Muslim prayers for the dead. The crowd wailed. Soleimani’s successor, Esmail Ghaani stood near Khamenei’s side, as did Iranian President Hassan Rouhani. “We promise to continue down martyr Soleimani’s path as firmly as before with help of God, and in return for his martyrdom we aim to get rid of America from the region,” Ghaani said. **AP**



People attend a funeral procession for Iranian Major-General Qassem Soleimani and Iraqi militia commander Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis in Tehran on Monday. Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei (bottom, left) openly wept as he led a prayer over the coffin of Soleimani. Soleimani’s successor, Brigadier General Esmail Ghaani (bottom, right), was also at the funeral. *Reuters, AP*



## US stops dozens of Iranian-Americans at border

ZOLAN KANNO-YOUNGS, MIKE BAKER & MARIEL PADILLA WASHINGTON, JANUARY 6

DOZENS OF Iranians and Iranian-Americans were held for hours at Washington state’s border with Canada over the weekend as the Department of Homeland Security ramped up security at border ports after Iran threatened to retaliate against the United States for the strike that killed its top military leader. More than 60 of the travellers, many returning from work trips

### More than 60 people returning to US from work trips or vacations were stopped and questioned about their political views and allegiances

or vacations, were trying to come home to the US Saturday when agents at the Peace Arch Border Crossing in Blaine, Washington, held them for additional questioning about their political views and allegiances, according to advocacy groups and accounts from travellers. Most of the travellers were released after the extra scrutiny, according to administration officials,



although advocates said some were denied entry to the US. Masih Fouladi, an executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, a Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, said some were held in a waiting room and questioned for up to 10 hours. Later on Saturday night, when others who had just attended a concert in Canada by an

Australian pop star were trying to cross back into the US, they were denied entry and told to come back later, Fouladi said.

When one family asked agents why they were being questioned, an officer told them, “This is a bad time to be an Iranian,” according to Fouladi.

Matt Leas, a spokesman for Customs and Border Protection, disputed the accounts and reports from advocacy groups that the Department of Homeland Security had issued a directive to detain those with Iranian heritage entering the country, despite their citizenship status. **NYT**

AUSTRALIA

## PM ANNOUNCES \$2 Bn To FIGHT FIRES

Australia’s government said Monday it was willing to pay “whatever it takes” to help communities recover from deadly wildfires that have ravaged the country. PM Scott Morrison said the government was committing an extra 2 billion Australian dollars toward the recovery effort in addition to the tens of millions of dollars that have already been promised.



## Nankana Sahib vandalism: Main accused held in Pak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA LAHORE, JANUARY 6

THE MAIN accused in the recent incident of vandalism at Gurdwara Nankana Sahib in Pakistan’s Punjab province has been arrested and charged with a non-bailable section of the stringent anti-terrorism act, a top official said on Monday.

Gurdwara Nankana Sahib, also known as Gurdwara Janam Asthan, is a site near Lahore where the first Guru of Sikhs, Guru Nanak, was born.

According to media reports, a violent mob had attacked the Gurdwara and pelted it with stones on Friday. A team of police had to intervene briskly to control the situation.

The accused, identified as Imran, was arrested on Sunday for his role in the incident, Geo News reported.

Azhar Mashwani, the Focal Person (Digital Media) to Punjab Chief Minister, took to Twitter to announce the arrest.

“The main culprit in #NankanaSahib incident Imran has been arrested. FIR # 6/2020 u/s 295A/290/291/341/506/148/149, 6 sound system /7ATA has been registered at Nanakan Police Station,” he said in the tweet which also carries the pic-



Imran was arrested Sunday

ture of the accused behind bars.

He further said that the “7 ATA” is a non-bailable section under the Anti Terrorism Act.

Breaking his silence on the incident, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday condemned the recent incident of vandalism at the Nankana Sahib, saying it goes against his “vision” and the government will show “zero tolerance” against those involved in it.

India has strongly condemned the incident of vandalism at the revered Gurdwara and called upon the Pakistan government to take immediate steps to ensure the safety and security of the Sikh community there.

On Saturday, Indian leaders cutting across party lines and various outfits condemned the mob attack on the historic Gurdwara, terming it as “cowardly” and “shameful”.

## China’s PLA begins major military exercises in Tibet

KJM VARMA BEIJING, JANUARY 6

THE CHINESE Army has begun major military exercises in the high-altitude Tibet bordering India, deploying latest weapons including the Type 15 light battle tank and the new 155-MM vehicle-mounted howitzer, a media report said on Sunday.

The People’s Liberation Army (PLA) Tibet Military Command started its New Year exercises in which it has deployed helicopters, armoured vehicles, heavy artillery and anti-aircraft missiles across the region from Lhasa, capital of Tibet, to the border defence front lines with elevations of more than 4,000 metres, state-run *Global Times* reported.

India-China Line of Actual Control (LAC) covers 3,488 kilometres, including the border along

Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim.

China claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of South Tibet.

Both the tank and howitzer, which were revealed to the public on the National Day military parade on October 1 last year, are specifically designed with advantages for plateau regions and can play important roles in safeguarding border areas, the report said.

Their deployment in the Tibet Military Command will enhance PLA combat capability in the plateau regions, it quoted a military expert as saying.

Both were equipped with powerful engines, enabling them to manoeuvre efficiently in Tibet’s terrains, a military expert was quoted as saying in the report.

Heavier hostile weapons cannot reach the oxygen-depleted border areas, and, if lighter, they do not have enough firepower, he said. **PTI**

## Venezuela’s ruling Socialists seize Congress

CORINA PONS & LUC COHEN CARACAS, JANUARY 6

VENEZUELA’S SOCIALIST government installed a new head of Congress after armed troops blocked opposition legislators from entering Parliament, in a move condemned by many nations as an assault on democracy.

Troops with riot shields blocked opposition leader Juan Guaido from entering parliament for what was expected to be his re-election as head of Congress, at one point pulling him off the compound’s iron rail-

EXPLAINED

### Maduro, Guaido continue quest for legitimacy

AMID GROWING unrest in Venezuela over a failing economy, Juan Guaido, who is an opposition leader and head of the legislative body, declared himself president last year. Though his claim was widely upheld in the West, President Nicolas Maduro maintained control of state machinery. But to continue to hold on to his claim of being the legitimate president, analysts say Guaido had to be re-elected as legislative assembly chief. Maduro’s forces tried to prevent this by blocking opposition lawmakers from voting. This has resulted in competing claims of leadership of the legislative body and a continuing quest for legitimacy by both Maduro and Guaido.

ings after he tried to push past security forces.

The blockade allowed the ruling Socialist Party to hand the post

to legislator Luis Parra, who was recently expelled by an opposition party over corruption allegations.

The gambit by the government of President Nicolas Maduro was slammed by the United States, the European Union and a dozen Latin American nations.

Opposition legislators quickly re-elected Guaido in a session at the headquarters of a pro-opposition newspaper. But the move may further weaken the opposition’s already flagging campaign to oust Maduro, and creates two competing leaders of parliament in a nation caught in a political standoff and suffering an economic collapse. **REUTERS**

JOAQUIN PHOENIX, RENÉE ZELLWEGER WIN TOP ACTING PRIZES

# Golden Globes 2020: ‘Once Upon a Time... in Hollywood’ & ‘1917’ win top awards

BROOKS BARNES & NICOLE SPERLING BEVERLY HILLS, JANUARY 6

ONCE UPON a Time... In Hollywood, Quentin Tarantino’s ode to 1970s-era Los Angeles, emerged as the big winner at the 77th Golden Globe Awards on Sunday, taking home three trophies, for best musical or comedy, screenplay and supporting actor.

Overall, it was a night when the Hollywood establishment pushed back against the streaming services that have arrived on the film scene. Sam Mendes’ *1917*, a World War I epic that does not

arrive in wide release in theaters until Friday, was named best drama, and Mendes received the trophy for best director.

“I hope this means that people will turn up and see this on the big screen, the way it was intended,” Mendes said from the stage in an unsbtle swipe at Netflix.

It was a humiliating evening for Netflix. The streaming giant went into the ceremony with a leading 34 nods, including six for Noah Baumbach’s *Marriage Story*, more than for any film, and five for Martin Scorsese’s *The Irishman*. But Netflix left with only two trophies: Laura Dern collected the Globe for her sup-



Sam Mendes accepts the award for best motion picture drama for 1917 at the 77th Annual Golden Globe Awards. *AP*

porting role in *Marriage Story* and Olivia Colman (*The Crown*) was named best actress in a tel-

evision drama. Amazon and Hulu each took home a pair of awards, with *Fleabag* (Amazon)

### AWKWAFINA FIRST ASIAN AMERICAN TO WIN BEST ACTRESS

AWKWAFINA BECAME the first Asian American woman to win a Golden Globe Award for best actress, winning in the musical or comedy category for her role in *The Farewell*.

voted best TV comedy. But Apple TV Plus was shut out completely. In contrast, HBO converted

four of its 15 nominations into wins, including Globes for best drama (the soapy media family series *Succession*) and best limited series (*Chernobyl*). Sony Pictures, the studio behind *Once Upon a Time... in Hollywood*, was the big winner among film companies.

The ceremony began on a frothy and obscene note, as the returning host, the British comedian Ricky Gervais, cracked numerous jokes that were bleeped by NBC censors. He mocked Joe Pesci by likening him to Baby Yoda, cracked an extremely vulgar joke that involved the *Cats* star Judi Dench licking herself, poked fun at Hollywood’s focus on diversity

and pronounced that “no one cares about movies anymore”.

Phoebe Waller-Bridge (*Fleabag*) collected the Globe for best actress in a television musical or comedy. “Thank you for picking up this little scrap of a show,” she said to Amazon, which runs the series on its streaming service. Jared Harris was expected to collect the Globe for best actor in a limited series for his *Chernobyl* scientist, but the award went to Russell Crowe (Showtime’s *The Loudest Voice*), who skipped the ceremony amid wildfires in his native Australia.

Nothing is certain when it comes to the Globes, but Renée

Zellweger was as close to a sure thing as it gets. She won best actress in a drama for her portrayal of Judy Garland in *Judy*. On the men’s side, Joaquin Phoenix won for his demented transformation in *Joker*.

Eddie Murphy was the favourite to win best comedic actor for playing a struggling comedian who comes up with a blaxploitation hit in Netflix’s *Dolemite Is My Name*. In a surprise, Taron Egerton (*Rocketman*, released by Paramount Pictures) was called to the stage. A flummoxed Egerton thanked his mother — “This one’s for you” — and Elton John, whom he played in the film. **NYT**