

14 THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



Roger Stone

USA
Trump ally Stone gets 3-yr jail term

Washington: A federal judge on Thursday sentenced President Donald Trump's long-time adviser Roger Stone to three years and four months in prison for charges that include lying to lawmakers investigating Russian interference in the 2016 US presidential election. US District Judge Amy Berman Jackson handed down the sentence after Stone's lawyer asked that the veteran Republican operative receive no prison time in a case that has drawn Trump's ire. "He was not prosecuted — as some have complained — for standing up for the president. He was prosecuted for covering up for the president," Jackson said.

YEMEN
19 children among dead in recent strikes

Sanaa: Nineteen children were among at least 31 civilians killed in air strikes on rebel-held northern Yemen last week, the United Nations said on Thursday. "UNICEF is sad to confirm that the recent attack in Al-Jawf, north of Yemen, on February 15, took the lives of 19 children and injured another 18," the UN children's agency said in a statement. "It was an attack on a civilian populated area where children were in the vicinity," UNICEF regional communications chief Juliette Touma said.

SOUTH SUDAN
Citizens being deliberately starved: UN

Nairobi: South Sudan's government forces and other armed groups have "deliberately starved" civilians by denying aid access and displacing communities, a report from a United Nations rights probe said Thursday. "Today in South Sudan, civilians are deliberately starved, systematically surveilled and silenced, arbitrarily arrested and detained and denied meaningful access to justice," it said. The commission looked into abuses during the signing of a peace deal in September 2018 and December 2019.

CEYLON YEGINSU
FEBRUARY 20

THE BRITISH government's plan for a post-Brexit immigration overhaul was designed to wean the economy off its reliance on cheap foreign labour. But in the process, women's groups warned on Thursday, women will suffer disproportionately. The new points-based system will give precedence to occupations in which women are underrepresented, favour male migrants over female and

SHOOTING IN HANAU CITY NEAR FRANKFURT

Gunman kills at least nine in far-right attacks in Germany

Assailant found dead at home after targeting 2 bars in immigrant neighbourhood

JACK EWING & MELISSA EDDY
HANAU, FEBRUARY 20

THE MAN who was believed to have killed nine people when he opened fire on two bars in heavily immigrant neighbourhoods in the central German city of Hanau was likely driven by a "xenophobic motive," security officials said Thursday. The suspect, a 43-year-old German who has not been publicly identified, and his mother were both found dead with gunshot wounds in his apartment early Thursday. Peter Beuth, the interior minister for the central state of Hesse, told regional lawmakers in the state capital, Wiesbaden. Federal prosecutors took over the investigation of the shooting in Hanau, a city of about 95,000 people that is 10 miles east of Frankfurt, on suspicion that the shooting was a terrorist attack amid indications of "a far-right motive," Beuth said. Kemal Kocak, a cashier at a convenience store next to the Arena Cafe & Bar, the second to be attacked, said that he had arrived at the scene soon after the shootings and found a "catastrophe." "Afghani, Bosnian, Pole, two Turks, a Roma," said Kocak, who said he had known virtually all of the victims. Beuth declined to confirm reports from German news organizations that the gunman had left a video and a letter about the at-



Forensic experts work around a damaged car after a shooting in Hanau, near Frankfurt, Germany, on Thursday. Reuters

BEFORE ATTACK, HE TARGETED INDIA, PAK

AMONG THE documents that the gunman posted on a website was a 24-page, rambling manifesto in German. "We now have ethnic groups, races or cultures in our midst that are destructive in every respect," he wrote. He said he envisioned first a "rough cleaning" and then a "fine cleaning" that could have the world's population. He wrote: "The following people must be completely exterminated: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Israel, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, the complete Arabian Peninsula, Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and the Philippines."

tack, but said that authorities were examining a website attributed to the suspect, who had not previously been on their radar, either as a far-right extremist or a criminal. "Initial results point to a xenophobic motive," Beuth said. The attacks were among the bloodiest in the country's recent memory and come at a time of growing concern about an increasingly emboldened and violent far right. NYT

Taliban No. 2 writes in NYT, says group committed to peace

AGENCIES
KABUL, FEBRUARY 20

THE DEPUTY leader of the Taliban, and one of the world's most wanted militants, has written an opinion piece for the *New York Times* in which he says the Afghan insurgents are "fully committed" to a deal with Washington. The article, headlined "What the Taliban Want", represents the highest-level statement from the group on months of negotia-

tions with the United States, and comes as they are believed to be days away from signing an agreement that would see America begin to withdraw troops from its longest war. It is also believed to be the first time that Sirajuddin Haqqani — who doubles as head of the Haqqani network, a US-designated terror group that is one of the most dangerous factions fighting Afghanistan and NATO forces in Afghanistan — has given such a lengthy statement in English. In the article, Haqqani repeats many Taliban talking points from the negotiations, including how women would have rights "granted by Islam" — the problem being, as many observers have pointed out, the group's repressive interpretation of the faith. The leader of a group known for masterminding some of the most deadly attacks during the war and the frequent use of suicide bombers also says he is "convinced the killing and the maiming must stop".

Lawrence Tesler, who invented 'cut, copy and paste', dies at 74

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SAN FRANCISCO, FEBRUARY 20

SILICON VALLEY on Wednesday was mourning a pioneering computer scientist whose accomplishments included inventing the widely relied on "cut, copy and paste" command. Bronx-born Lawrence "Larry" Tesler died this week at age 74, according to Xerox, where he spent part of his career. "The inventor of cut/copy & paste, find & replace, and more was former Xerox researcher Larry Tesler," the company tweeted. "Your workday is easier thanks to his revolutionary ideas. Larry passed away Monday, so please join us in celebrating



Tesler spent 17 years at Apple, rising to chief scientist

him." A graduate of Stanford University, Tesler specialised in human-computer interaction, employing his skills at Amazon, Apple, Yahoo, and the Xerox Palo Alto Research Center (PARC). The cut and paste command was reportedly inspired by old time editing that involved actually cutting portions of printed text and affixing them elsewhere. "Tesler created the idea of 'cut, copy, & paste' and combined computer science training with a counterintuitive vision that computers should be for everyone," the Computer History Museum in Silicon Valley tweeted Wednesday. The command was made popular by Apple after being incorporated in software on the Lisa computer in 1983 and the original Macintosh that came the next year. Tesler worked for Apple in 1980 after being recruited away from Xerox by late co-founder Steve Jobs. He spent 17 years at Apple, rising to chief scientist. He went on to establish an education startup and do stints in user-experience technology at Amazon and Yahoo.



BRITAIN
HARRY, MEGHAN FIX MARCH 31 FOR ROYAL EXIT

Prince Harry and Meghan Markle have announced they will formally exit as Britain's frontline royals on March 31 following discussions with Buckingham Palace on formalising their new financially independent roles. The Duke and Duchess of Sussex will no longer have an office at Buckingham Palace as they stop carrying out formal royal duties from April 1.

CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

S Korea reports 1st virus death as 2.5 mn urged to stay home

'Super-spreading event' reported from church in Daegu city

HYONHEESHIN & RYAN WOO
SEOUL, BEIJING, FEBRUARY 20

THE STREETS of South Korea's fourth-largest city were abandoned on Thursday, with residents holed up indoors after dozens of people caught the coronavirus in what the authorities described as a "super-spreading event" at a church. The deserted shopping malls and cinemas of Daegu, a city of 2.5 million people, became one of the most striking images outside China of an outbreak that international authorities are trying to prevent from spreading into a global pandemic.



Workers spray disinfectant in front of a church in Daegu, South Korea, on Wednesday. AP

New research suggesting the virus was more contagious than previously thought added to the alarm. And in China, where the virus has killed more than 2,100 people, officials changed their methodology for reporting infections, creating new doubt about data they have been citing as evidence of success in fighting its spread. Daegu Mayor Kwon Young-jin told residents to stay indoors after 90 people who worshipped at the Church of Jesus the Temple of the Tabernacle of the Testimony showed symptoms of infection and dozens of new cases were confirmed. The church had been attended by a 61-year-old woman who tested positive, known as "Patient 31". Korea's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention described the outbreak there as a "super-spreading event". "We are in an unprecedented crisis," Kwon told reporters, adding that all members of the

2 passengers from cruise ship die; 1 more Indian tests positive

Tokyo: Two elderly passengers became the first people from aboard a cruise ship moored near Tokyo to die of the coronavirus, the Japanese government said on Thursday, as hundreds more passengers disembarked after two weeks' quarantine. The 621 coronavirus cases aboard the *Diamond Princess* cruise liner are by far the largest cluster of infection outside China. The ship has been held since Feb 3 with initially 3,700 people on board. The two patients who died, an 87-year-old man and an 84-year-old woman, had both tested positive for the

virus although the woman's cause of death was listed as pneumonia, the health ministry said. Two government officials who had worked on the ship were infected, it added, bringing the number of infected officials to five. One more Indian aboard the ship tested positive for the coronavirus and was shifted to hospital, taking the number of Indian nationals infected with the virus on the vessel to eight, the Indian embassy said on Thursday. A total of 138 Indians, including 132 crew and 6 passengers, were on board the ship. REUTERS & PTI

church would be tested. "We've asked them to stay at home isolated from their families." Describing the abandoned streets, resident Kim Geun-woo, 28, told Reuters by telephone: "It's like someone dropped a bomb in the middle of the city. It looks like a zombie apocalypse." South Korea now has 104 confirmed cases of the virus, and reported its first death. REUTERS

DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

Gloves off as Warren, Biden go all out, Bloomberg is their target

ALEXANDER BURNS & JONATHAN MARTIN
LAS VEGAS, FEBRUARY 20

THE DEMOCRATIC presidential candidates turned on one another in scorching and personal terms in a debate Wednesday night, with two of the leading candidates, Sen. Bernie Sanders and Michael Bloomberg, forced onto the defensive repeatedly throughout the evening. In his first appearance in a presidential debate, Bloomberg, the former mayor of New York City, struggled from the start to address his past support for stop-and-frisk policing and the allegations he has faced over the years of crude and disrespectful behaviour toward women. Time and again, Bloomberg had obvious difficulty countering criticism that could threaten him in a Democratic Party that counts women and African Americans among its most important constituencies. Two candidates who have shied away from direct conflict in past debates, Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and former Vice President Joe Biden, mounted something of a tag-team onslaught against Bloomberg, several times leaving him visibly irked and straining to respond. From the first seconds, when Sanders used the initial question to attack what he called Bloomberg's "outrageous" policing record, it was clear that this

SPARKS FLY IN LAS VEGAS



ReUTERS

CORDIALITY ENDS

After eight debates that had sparks of conflict but were relatively cordial, Wednesday night brought two hours of nonstop political battle. Every candidate got attacked, portending a new, nastier phase of the campaign.

BLOOMBERG DEBUT

It was Bloomberg's debut on the debate stage. He did not make a good first impression, being forced on the defensive from the opening gun. He sounded uncomfortable both

defending his stop-and-frisk record and his very recent change from Republican to Democrat.

WARREN SHINES

In Las Vegas, Warren not only spoke more than any of her rivals, but she also often set the terms of the debate. It was the kind of aggressive performance that allies and even some of her campaign advisers had been hoping for, even if it marked a sharp shift from her recent strategy of appearing as an above-the-fray candidate who could unite Democrats.

debate would be far more heated than any of the previous forums. Warren landed the most stinging blows against Bloomberg throughout the debate, starting with an opening broadside that likened him to the figure most reviled among Democrats: President Donald Trump.

"I'd like to talk about who we're running against: a billionaire who calls women fat broads and horse-faced lesbians," Warren said. "And no, I'm not talking about Donald Trump. I'm talking about Mayor Bloomberg." NYT



Google has been updating its policies for the past couple of years as tech firms come increasingly under scrutiny

Google updates terms in plain language after EU scrutiny

RACHEL LERMAN
SAN FRANCISCO, FEBRUARY 20

GOOGLE IS attempting to make sure people know exactly what they're signing up for when they use its online services — though that will still mean reading a lengthy document. The company updated its terms of service on Thursday — its largest update to the general use contract since 2012 — in response to a pair of court orders in Europe. Google has been updating its policies and tweaking what is and isn't allowed on its sites for the past couple of years as scrutiny of the tech industry heats up across the US and Europe.

Google, Facebook, Twitter and other digital companies have been forced under a spotlight as regulators and customers examine just how much the companies know about their users and what they do with that information. Facebook last year updated its terms of service to clarify how it makes money from user data. Google says it hasn't changed anything significant in the document, but rather used plain language to describe who can use its products and what you can post online. "Broadly speaking, we give you permission to use our services if you agree to follow these terms, which reflect how Google's business works and how we earn money," the document reads. The document is now about 2,000 words longer than it was before, in part because Google included a list of definitions and expanded it to cover Google Drive and Chrome. The new terms take effect in March. Google's privacy policy is separate and was substantially updated in 2018 after Europe enacted broad-reaching privacy laws. AP

'NEW SYSTEM GIVES PRECEDENCE TO OCCUPATIONS IN WHICH WOMEN ARE UNDERREPRESENTED'

Women to be hard-hit by new UK immigration rules: experts

deepen gender inequality, according to the Women's Budget Group, an independent network that promotes gender equality. "The new immigration system roundly fails to understand the lived experience of women, many of whom are prevented from accessing paid work by the weight of unpaid work — caring for children, older people and those with disabilities — that successive governments rely upon them to do," said Sophie Walker, the chief executive of the Young Women's Trust, a British feminist organisation. Under the new rules, which



Under the new rules, which will be implemented next January, applicants will be required to receive a job offer with a salary of at least £25,600. Reuters

will be implemented next January, applicants will be required to receive a job offer with a salary of at least £25,600, about \$33,300. The salary threshold will be lower in special cases where there might be a shortage in skills, such as in nursing. By and large, however, that requirement will work against women, who are more likely to work in sectors like home and senior care that are relatively poorly compensated, even though the skill levels of such women are relatively high, activists say. "Care workers' average annual salaries stand at just £17,000, not because care work is 'low-skilled,' but because the work force is 80 per cent female and therefore undervalued and underpaid," says Mandu Reid, the leader of the Women's Equality Party. Imposing the salary requirement would mean "shutting out care workers, piling pressure on women to take on yet more unpaid care, and widening the existing social care gap between need and provision," she said.

Women are also four times more likely than men to leave paid work to shoulder unpaid caring responsibilities for children and older relatives. This is one cause of the gender pay gap and gender inequality, the Women's Budget Group found. In the points-based system, the government gives top priority to scientists, engineers, academics and graduates in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, once again to the detriment of women because of the gender disparities in those professions. NYT