

In show of might, Sanders wins Nevada

His triumph, after strong performances in Iowa & New Hampshire, makes him a front-runner in the race

JONATHAN MARTIN
ALEXANDER BURNS
LAS VEGAS

Senator Bernie Sanders claimed a major victory in the Nevada caucuses on Saturday that demonstrated his broad appeal in the first racially diverse State in the presidential primary race and established him as the clear front-runner for the Democratic nomination.

In a significant show of force, Mr. Sanders, a liberal from Vermont, had a large lead over his nearest rivals in early tallies, and The Associated Press named him the winner on Saturday evening.

His triumph in Nevada, after strong performances in Iowa and New Hampshire, will propel him into next Saturday's primary in South Carolina, and the Super Tuesday contests immediately thereafter, with a burst of momentum that may make it difficult for the still-fractured moderate wing of the party to slow his march.

Mr. Sanders, speaking to jubilant supporters in San Antonio, trumpeted what early results suggested would be a landslide victory.

"We have just put together a multigenerational, multira-



Consistent lead: Democratic presidential candidate Senator Bernie Sanders, right, with his wife Jane, during a campaign event in San Antonio on Saturday. •AP

cial coalition, which is not only going to win in Nevada it's going to sweep the country," he said, predicting another victory in Texas next month.

While Mr. Sanders boasted that "no campaign has a grassroots movement like we do," and was bathed in "Bernie, Bernie!" chants, he otherwise ignored his Democratic opponents.

Mr. Sanders' success, and the continued uncertainty over who is his strongest would-be rival, makes it less clear than ever how centrist forces in the party can or-

ganise themselves for a potentially monthlong nomination fight. The moderate wing is still grappling with an unusually crowded field for this late in the race, the lack of an obvious single alternative to Mr. Sanders and no sign that any of those vying for that role will soon drop out to hasten a coalescence.

As results were being counted on Saturday night, former Vice-President Joe Biden, former Mayor Pete Buttigieg of South Bend, Indiana, Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, billionaire investor Tom Steyer and Sen.

Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota were all competing for what would clearly be a distant second-place finish.

With the full order of finish still in doubt, Mr. Buttigieg used his caucus-night speech to deliver a stern warning about the implications of nominating Mr. Sanders, urging Democrats not to "rush" into anointing him as their candidate.

"Sen. Sanders believes in an inflexible, ideological revolution that leaves out most Democrats, not to mention most Americans," Buttigieg said, adding that Sanders

wanted to "reorder the economy in ways most Democrats, not to mention most Americans, don't support."

Mr. Biden appeared at a Las Vegas union hall while most votes were still uncounted to claim a comeback and vowed victory in South Carolina. "Y'all did it for me," he told supporters, trying out a new line aimed at his rivals. "I ain't a socialist, I ain't a plutocrat, I'm a Democrat."

Mr. Biden's campaign asserted that he would finish in second place here, a claim challenged by Mr. Buttigieg's aides.

Time is running out

The apparent scale of Mr. Sanders' victory margin presented an immediate challenge to the rest of the candidates, many of whom have been counting on a drawn-out nomination fight to give them time to catch up. But time is plainly running short, and few of Mr. Sanders' rivals have a clear path to closing his advantage. Among them, only Mr. Biden has a realistic chance of winning South Carolina next week, the sole remaining contest before Super Tuesday on March 3. NY TIMES

China faces its biggest health emergency since 1949: Xi

Authorities warn against gatherings, complacency

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SEOUL/SHANGHAI

The COVID-19 epidemic that has killed over 2,400 people is communist China's "largest public health emergency" since its founding in 1949, President Xi Jinping said on Sunday.

It is necessary to learn from "obvious shortcomings exposed" during China's response, Mr. Xi added at an official meeting to coordinate the virus fight – a rare acknowledgment by a Chinese leader.

In comments reported by state broadcaster CCTV on Sunday, Mr. Xi said the epidemic "has the fastest transmission, widest range of infection and has been the most difficult to prevent and control".

"This is a crisis for us and it is a big test," he said.

Mr. Xi's comments come as the number of virus infections hit almost 77,000 in mainland China.

Mr. Xi acknowledged that the epidemic will "inevitably have a large impact on the economy and society", but he stressed the effects will be "short-term" and controllable.



Workers spraying disinfectant as a precaution against the coronavirus in a market in Daegu, South Korea. •AP

COVID-19 may impact growth, IMF warns G20

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
RIYADH

The deadly COVID-19 outbreak could put the recovery of an already fragile global economy at risk, the IMF warned on Sunday, as G20 financial chiefs met here to discuss ways to contain its economic ripple effects.

"The COVID-19 – a global health emergency – has disrupted economic activity in China and could put the recovery at risk," IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva said.

4 more Indians on cruise ship test positive

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
TOKYO

Four more Indian crew members on board a cruise ship moored off the Japan coast have tested positive for the coronavirus, taking the total number of Indians infected with the virus on the vessel to 12, the Indian Embassy said on Sunday.

Passengers showing no signs of the deadly disease started disembarking the ship, Diamond Princess.

9 dead in Turkey after quake near Iran border



Tragic jolt: Houses reduced to rubble in Baskale, Turkey, after an earthquake hit northwestern Iran on Saturday. •AFP

More than 1,000 buildings collapse; 3 children among dead

REUTERS
ISTANBUL

Nine people died and hundreds of buildings collapsed in southeastern Turkey on Sunday after a magnitude-5.7 earthquake struck near the border with Iran, injuring dozens in villages and towns in both countries, government officials said.

Three of those killed were children and 37 Turks were

injured, including nine critically, Turkey's Health Ministry said.

The shallow tremor caused more than 1,000 buildings to collapse in Turkey, prompting a brief rescue effort to find those trapped under rubble.

The quake damaged buildings some 90 km to the west in the Turkish city of Van, and to the east in do-

zens of villages in Iran, where state TV said 75 people were injured.

Crisscrossed by major fault lines, Iran and Turkey are among the most earthquake-prone countries.

Turkish TV footage showed people digging with shovels and their hands in the rubble, as well as furniture and belongings strewn on cracked and snowy roads.

S. Korea on 'high alert'

South Korea has put the country on high alert after the number of infections surged over 600 with six deaths. A focal point was a church in the southeastern city of Daegu, where a 61-year-old member of the congregation with no recent record of overseas travel tested positive for the virus.

Catholic churches in Daegu and Gwangju have suspended services and other gatherings, while churches elsewhere saw declines in attendance on Sunday, especially among the elderly.

"If the situation gets

worse, I think we'll need to take more measures," said Song Gi-young, 53, wearing a face mask at church.

In Italy, the number of cases jumped to above 130 from just three before Friday. Authorities sealed off the worst affected towns and banned public gatherings in much of the north, including halting the carnival in Venice, where there were two cases, to try to contain the biggest outbreak in Europe.

Italian health authorities were struggling to find out how the virus started. "If we cannot find 'patient zero'

then it means the virus is even more ubiquitous than we thought," said Luca Zaia, the regional governor of the wealthy Veneto region.

Iran, which announced its first two cases on Wednesday, said it had confirmed 43 cases and eight deaths, with most of the infections in the Shi'ite Muslim holy city of Qom.

In Japan, where the government is facing questions about whether it is doing enough to counter the virus, authorities had confirmed 773 cases.

(With Reuters inputs)

A case of exploding mangoes and nerve gas that 'brought down' Zia's plane

Former President's son points to 'suspicious' role of ex-Pak. General and ex-NSA, while also blaming Indian and Israeli intelligence agencies

MEHMAL SARFRAZ
LAHORE

In an exclusive interview with a foreign publication, former President and Army chief General Zia-ul-Haq's son Muhammad Ijaz-ul-Haq pointed towards the "suspicious" role of former Army Chief General Mirza Aslam Beg and former National Security Adviser General Mahmood Ali Durrani in his father's plane crash in August 1988, while also claiming involvement of Indian and Israeli spy agencies "based on the evidence he has collected".

According to Mr. Haq's interview, "the plane came down due to spraying of nerve gas in the cockpit that

maimed pilots. He also confirmed the presence of explosives in mango crates, besides claiming that a projectile had also hit the plane."

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Haq said he believes that Generals Beg and Durrani were somehow involved because "some of the doctors who were working in CMH Multan informed us [Gen. Zia's family] probably a month or two after the incident that they received orders from higher-ups not to do the autopsy of the body parts retrieved after the crash. Later, some of them told us that they were transferred from Multan, which was obviously done to cov-

er it up. When the autopsies were done on U.S. military attaché Brigadier General Herbert M. Wassom, then why not the Pakistanis? I asked Gen. Beg directly and indirectly but he never responded. The orders to transfer the doctors to farflung places didn't come from their immediate bosses; only the GHQ could have done it."

Mr. Haq said that Air Commodore Zaheer Zaidi carried out an investigation. Mr. Haq also mentioned about an Air Force officer Akram Awan, "who was arrested by Pakistani intelligence agency for espionage and kept in safe custody."

"He revealed that he had brought the nerve gas. Ac-



General Zia-ul-Haq

cording to his confession, there were two other officers, one from Mossad who was using the U.S. passport and another one from the Indian intelligence agency."

A team of Brigadier, a Major and a Colonel were inves-

tigating him. The report was handed over to the GHQ, but it was never released at the orders of Gen. Beg, who said this could lead to uncertainty. Gen. Beg kept the original report with himself. These three officers were then transferred out of the agency."

'Criminal act of sabotage'

Mr. Haq said that he has gathered all this information through different sources – some directly and some indirectly. "These are the things that lead to suspicion. A joint U.S.-Pakistan investigation said that it was a criminal act of sabotage. The U.S. tried to cover it up, but had to give a conclusion as one of their

own was involved. Also, there was late Justice Shafiq-Rehman Commission report, which said that there was negligence on part of the government and the Army. The report recommended that there should be a criminal investigation into the incident. Unfortunately, the report was never released by the government."

Defence analyst General (ret) Amjad Shoaib says that Mr. Ijaz-ul-Haq has always blamed Gen. Beg and Gen. Durrani for his father's plane crash but he doesn't think they had any role in Gen. Zia's plane crash.

"I think it was their decisions around that time, which led to this suspicion.

Gen. Durrani, with permission from Gen. Zia, decided not to travel to the tank trial while Gen. Beg, instead of travelling with Gen. Zia, preferred to fly back in a separate plane after Gen. Zia's plane had taken off. It was also reported that Gen. Beg did see Gen. Zia's plane crashing but instead of supervising the evacuation, he decided to rush back to Rawalpindi. Even at that time Gen. Beg's action was criticised by many senior officers in the Army. In my opinion there is no reason to doubt Gen. Beg's action. It is said that Gen. Beg saw the plane and very rightly assumed that the chances of having any survivors were almost negligible..."

ELSEWHERE

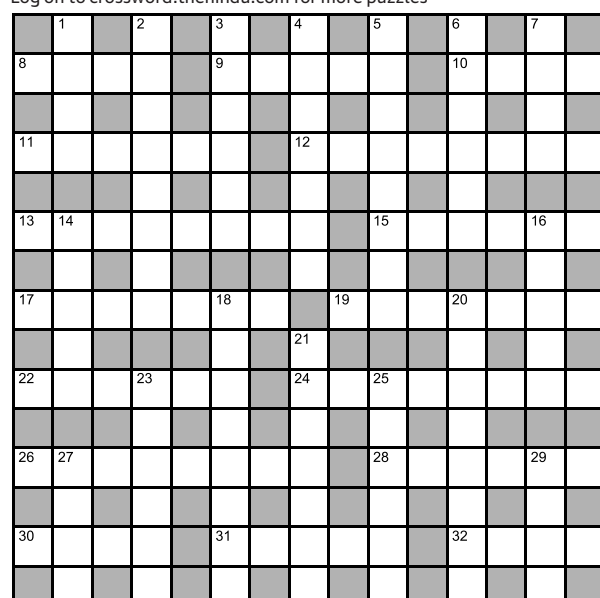


'Not sure if EU-U.K. deal possible by year-end'

PARIS
French President Emmanuel Macron on Saturday said he was "not sure" it would be possible for the EU and Britain to reach a trade deal by the end of the year. Britain and the EU are about to embark on negotiations aiming to hammer out a trade agreement by the time the post-Brexit transition period shuts at the end of December. But France has made clear it thinks the negotiations will be particularly difficult, especially in such a tight timeframe. AFP

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12866

Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles



(set by Incognito)

- 13 Bail arranged with directions for some Indonesians (8)
- 15 Artist in coffee shop gets flask (6)
- 17 Arrive around ten at first, wearing special uniform clothing (7)
- 19 Moulding irons having carbon with one cutting tooth (7)
- 22 Mummy, Cain returned for lunatic (6)
- 24 Arranging oil pacts for sources of fuel (8)
- 26 Distributor's pupils damaged in front of emergency room (8)
- 28 Soldier's German march (6)
- 30 Royal captivated by munchkin girl (4)
- 31 Amount returned by in-charge for some entertaining notes (5)
- 32 Gave money some time before Easter (4)
- 4 Passed groggy cat during destruction of Eden (7)
- 5 Tom's partner's tin fuel container (8)
- 6 Vehicle crossed road for expensive foodstuff (6)
- 7 City's fragrant part (4)
- 14 A Gypsy's smell (5)
- 16 Look in lard for buoy (5)
- 18 Scotsman and his mother, to some extent, show aggressive masculinity (8)
- 20 Scamp riles badly and endangers (8)
- 21 Auditor returns with hair for female performer (7)
- 23 Call into question one military policeman with damaged gun (6)
- 25 Camelid found in Tegucigalpa cathedral (6)
- 27 United Nations' information technology establishment (4)
- 29 Have food and pass away around mid-morning (4)

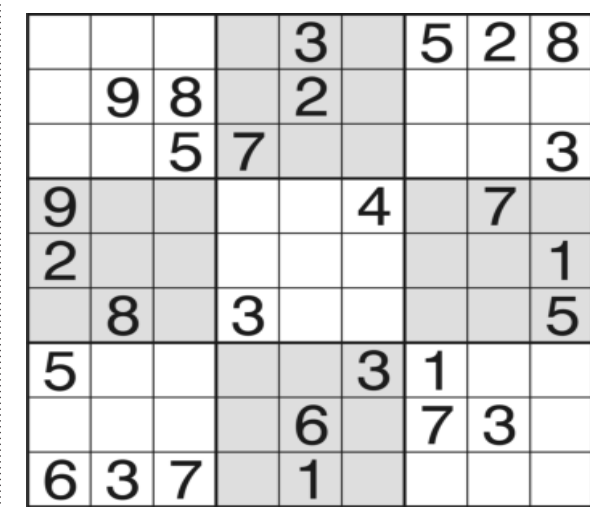
ACROSS

- 8 Rejects order after order for south Asian dumpling (4)
- 9 North European covers clubs' disco, for example (5)
- 10 Right in Goa, rocking ship (4)
- 11 Animal crawling with nest can be nauseating (6)
- 12 Ivan and Carl pirouette at celebratory event (8)

DOWN

- 1 Boy meets girl in air (4)
- 2 He may study bonsai mutation around end of August using tweezers at first (8)
- 3 Time Washington Engineers' promotional program (6)

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 12865

L	P	A	T	A	F	A	A	
N	E	R	O	D	R	A	W	B
G	R	A	P	O	A	O		
R	A	G	T	A	G	E	N	V
L	A	I	E	I	S	A	G	E
R	E	A	B	S	O	R	B	A
A	L	L	E	L	A	M	O	U
O	G	L	E	V	I	G	I	T
J	E	T	L	A	G	M	E	N
D	R	A	G	R	A	C	E	D
E	G	N	D	E	L	I	V	E
P	A	P	E	R	T	I	G	E
M	D	S	E	N	S	S		

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	4	3	7	9	6	1	8	2
6	2	7	8	1	3	4	5	9
9	1	8	4	5	2	3	7	6
1	9	2	3	7	5	6	4	8
7	5	4	6	8	1	9	2	3
3	8	6	2	4	9	5	1	7
2	3	5	1	6	7	8	9	4
8	7	9	5	3	4	2	6	1
4	6	1	9	2	8	7	3	5

