

# 19 THE WORLD



## MEANWHILE LESOTHO FIRST LADY TO BE CHARGED WITH MURDER

The first lady of Lesotho is set to be charged with murder in connection with the 2017 killing of the prime minister's former wife, police said Tuesday. Maesaiah Thabane, who had fled the country to escape arrest, returned on Tuesday. Prime Minister Thomas Thabane's former wife, Lipolelo, was killed two years after a court ruled that she was the lawful first lady and entitled to benefits.

### TOP OF THE WORLD



## AFRICA Kenya's former president Daniel Arap Moi dies

*Nairobi:* Former Kenyan president Daniel Arap Moi, who kept his country on a relatively stable footing during his tenure but was less successful at reigning in poverty and corruption, died on Tuesday, the office of the president and his family said. He was 95. There was no immediate information on the cause of Moi's death but he had been in and out of hospital with breathing problems in recent months. "Our nation and our continent were immensely blessed by the dedication and service of the late ... Moi; who spent almost his entire adult life serving Kenya and Africa," President Uhuru Kenyatta said in a statement.

# Caucus confusion in Iowa for Dems as results delayed

Party blames inconsistencies in data; just like they ran the country, says Trump

JOSEPH AX & GINGER GIBSON  
DES MOINES, FEBRUARY 4

THE DEMOCRATIC Party's bid to choose a candidate to take on Donald Trump at the Nov 3 US presidential election was in disarray on Tuesday, after technical problems delayed vote counting in Iowa to the dismay of the party faithful and the delight of the Republican President.

There was still no winner on Tuesday morning from Monday's Iowa caucuses voting, with officials blaming "inconsistencies" related to a new mobile app used for vote counting in the state that traditionally kicks off a US presidential election year.

It was a clumsy start to 2020 voting, after a bad-tempered presidential campaign four years ago that produced a surprise winner in Trump and led to a two-year federal investigation into election interference by Russia.

The head of Iowa's Democratic Party promised to release results "as soon as possible" on Tuesday but said the top priority was ensuring the integrity of the process and accuracy of the results.

"Every second that passes undermines the process a little bit," said Roger Lau, campaign manager for US Senator Elizabeth Warren.

Trump mocked the Democrats, calling the caucus confusion an "unmitigated disaster" in a Twitter post on Tuesday.

Democratic candidate Pete Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, expressed frustration with the delayed results on Tuesday, after having said at a late-night rally he was going to the next early voting state of New Hampshire victorious. "I don't think there's a person in the country more impatient than I am" to get official results, he said.

Buttigieg and front-runner

## What the debacle means for top candidates

**Bernie Sanders**  
Ahead of the caucuses, polls had shown Bernie Sanders leading in Iowa.

After the results were delayed, Sanders' campaign released their own data showing he had won. However, the delay in the official results comes as a setback for Sanders who had hoped to go into New Hampshire, where the next primary will be held, by giving a primetime victory speech from Iowa which could have given him momentum in the race to become the Democratic nominee.

**Pete Buttigieg**  
Buttigieg's campaign has also released their own numbers that show the former mayor as having won the caucuses. Even the Sanders campaign's numbers show Buttigieg doing better than more senior rivals Joe Biden and Elizabeth Warren. With the campaign in New Hampshire already underway, Buttigieg has aggressively pushed the narrative that he was victorious in Iowa which could give him unexpected early momentum in the primaries.

**Joe Biden**  
The delay in the announcement of the Iowa results could be a blessing for Joe Biden, who is seen as one of the strongest contenders to claim the Democratic nomination. Unofficial numbers and polls had shown, however, that Biden did poorly Iowa, likely coming in fourth place after Sanders, Buttigieg and Warren. But with no official results declared, Biden goes into the New Hampshire campaign relatively unscathed after what could have been a damaging night in Iowa.

## EXPLAINED Elizabeth Warren

Warren had surged in polls ahead of the Iowa caucuses, but unofficial numbers showed that she had not done as well as Sanders or Buttigieg. The delay in the results is likely to lead to an agonising wait for the senator as she seeks to figure out where she stands at the beginning of the race and what strategy she should adopt going forward.

## EXPLAINED Bernie Sanders

Bernie Sanders, a US senator, released their campaigns' own count of the Iowa vote which showed them having done well. Iowa Democratic Party Chairman Troy Price said the mobile app was recording data accurately but only partial data. The coding problem was fixed and state officials are verifying the data from the app with required paper documentation, he said.

Trump took a swipe at the Democrats, 11 of whom are contenders in the state-by-state battle to face him in Nov. "Nothing works, just like they ran the country." He also said the delay was not Iowa's fault and pledged that Republicans would continue to uphold the tradition of early Iowa caucuses. **REUTERS**

## USA

### Seattle City Council passes resolution against CAA and NRC

*Washington:* The Seattle City Council, one of the most powerful city councils in the US, on Monday unanimously passed a resolution condemning India's recently-enacted Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the proposed National Register of Citizens (NRC). Reaffirming Seattle as a welcoming city and expressing solidarity with the city's South Asian community regardless of religion and caste, the resolution "resolves that the Seattle City Council opposes the National Register of Citizens and the Citizenship Amendment Act in India, and finds these policies to be discriminatory to Muslims, oppressed castes, women, indigenous, and LGBT people".

## PAKISTAN

### Suspension of Musharraf death sentence: Pak lawyer moves SC

*Islamabad:* A Pakistani lawyer has appealed to the Supreme Court to set aside the verdict of a high court that annulled the death sentence of self-exiled former president Pervez Musharraf. On January 13, Musharraf's trial in the high treason case was declared as "unconstitutional" by the Lahore High Court (LHC), leading to the annulment of the death sentence against the former president. Advocate Taufiq Asif requested the apex court to set aside the LHC verdict.

# EU rejects Trump's Middle East peace plan, annexation

REUTERS  
BRUSSELS, FEBRUARY 4

THE EUROPEAN Union rejected parts of the new US peace plan for the Middle East on Tuesday, saying the plan broke with "internationally agreed parameters", and any Israeli annexation of Palestinian land would be subject to challenge.

President Donald Trump's plan, announced last week, was warmly welcomed by Israel and rejected outright by the Palestinians. It would give Israel most of what it has sought during decades of conflict, including nearly all Palestinian land on which it has built settlements.

The EU, which often takes time to respond to international developments because of a need for unanimity among its 27 members, had said last week that it needed to study the Trump plan before it would give its verdict.

It made its conclusions public on Tuesday in a statement



EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell. *Reuters*

from EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell.

"To build a just and lasting peace, the unresolved final status issues must be decided through direct negotiations between both parties," Borrell said, noting the issues of the borders of a Palestinian state and the final status of Jerusalem were among those still in dispute.

"The US initiative, as presented on 28 January, departs from these internationally agreed parameters," Borrell said.

# Pak to buy more Malaysian palm oil to 'compensate' after row with India, says Imran

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KUALA LUMPUR, FEBRUARY 4

PAKISTAN PRIME Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday thanked Mahathir Mohamad for "speaking up" on the Kashmir issue and promised to do his best to buy more Malaysian palm oil to "compensate" it after India restricted the import of the commodity from the country amid a diplomatic row.

"You have spoken for the justice for Kashmiris, for which we are thankful," Khan said during a joint press conference with his Malaysian counterpart Mahathir.

"We noticed that India threatened Malaysia for supporting the Kashmir cause to cut their palm oil import, Pakistan will do its best to compensate for that," he was quoted as saying by the state-run Associated Press of Pakistan.

Indonesia and Malaysia are the two countries which supply palm oil. Malaysia produces 19 million tonnes of palm oil in a year, while



Imran Khan with his Malaysian counterpart Mahathir Mohamad in Putrajaya, Malaysia, Tuesday. *AP*

Indonesia produces 43 million tonnes, according to trade data.

India, the world's largest importer of vegetable oils, buys nearly 15 million tonnes annually. Pakistan bought 1.08 million tonnes of palm oil from Malaysia in 2019, while India bought 4.4 million tonnes, according to the Malaysian Palm Oil Council.

The Indian government has

imposed restrictions on imports of refined palm oil, a move which could discourage the inbound shipment of the commodity from Malaysia. The move came after the Malaysian PM repeatedly criticised India's policy on Kashmir and the new citizenship law. Mahathir had also raised the Kashmir issue in the UN General Assembly session in September.

## CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK HITS SUPPLY CHAINS

# Hong Kong records first virus death, 2nd fatality outside mainland China

Death toll 427; in China, toll increases by record 64 in a day

FARAH MASTER & RYAN WOO  
HONG KONG, BEIJING, FEB 4

HONG KONG reported its first coronavirus death on Tuesday, the second outside mainland China from a fast-spreading outbreak that has killed 427 people and threatened economic supply chains around the world.

But after Shanghai's main market lost nearly \$400 billion the previous day, global and Chinese markets bounced, with both Europe and metals enjoying their best sessions of the year.

On the ground, bad news was relentless.

Chinese-ruled Macau, the world's biggest gambling hub, asked casino operators to close for two weeks to help curb the virus.

And in the latest major corporate hit, Hyundai Motor said it would gradually suspend production at South Korean factories because of supply chain disruptions.

Hong Kong's first fatality was a 39-year-old man with an underlying illness who had visited China's Wuhan city, the quarantined epicentre of the outbreak.

China, meanwhile, reported a record daily jump in deaths of 64 to 425. The only other death outside mainland China was a man who died in the Philippines last week after visiting Wuhan.

Total infections in mainland China rose to 20,438, and there have been nearly 200 cases elsewhere across 24 countries and China's special administrative regions of Hong Kong and Macau.

Thailand's tally of infections jumped to 25, the highest outside China, while Singapore's rose to 24. The World Health Organization has declared the flu-like virus a global emergency and experts say much is still unknown. **REUTERS**



Medical workers strike in Hong Kong, calling for its borders with China to be closed. *Reuters*

# Chinese lockdowns approach Shanghai

AGENCIES  
BEIJING, FEBRUARY 4

MORE CHINESE cities, including one just 175 kilometres from Shanghai, were put under lockdown on Tuesday, as the impact of a deadly new virus spread further from its epicentre.

Around 12 million people are affected by the new restrictions, adding to the tens of millions of people already quarantined in and around Wuhan, ground zero for 2019-nCoV.

The city of Taizhou, parts of Hangzhou — including the district that is home to the headquarters of Chinese tech giant Alibaba — and some of Ningbo will only allow one person per household to go outside every two days to buy necessities, city officials said.

Taizhou — 850 km from the epicentre in Hubei province — will also suspend 95 train services

from the city from Tuesday.

In addition, residential communities will only be allowed to use one entrance and residents must present ID each time they come or go, Taizhou's government said on its official WeChat account.

Landlords were also forbidden from renting property to people from "severely affected areas such as Hubei" if they have travelled to their hometowns recently, it added.

In the Hangzhou districts, additional measures included mandatory mask-wearing and compulsory ID and temperature checks. On Monday, Hangzhou's Yuhang district also said it would suspend buses, taxis, shuttle buses, and airport lines until further notice.

In Taizhou, public bus services were suspended at the end of January, while Ningbo closed the entrances of nine highways last Wednesday.

reading an email passage about being abused earlier in her life. It was part of a lengthy confessional email she sent to her then-boyfriend in May 2014 about her relationship with Weinstein.

She was weeping as she left the courtroom, and her cries could be heard from a nearby witness room. She returned after about a 10-minute break, but continued to weep loudly, resting her head on the witness stand and blotting tears with a tissue.

# Cross-examination drives key Weinstein accuser to tears

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 4

A KEY accuser in the New York City rape trial of Harvey Weinstein broke down in tears on the witness stand during an exhaustive cross-examination over the nature of her relationship with the once-powerful movie mogul.

The incident, which prompted the judge to send the jury home about an hour earlier than usual, came as the defence on Monday sought to paint the 34-year-old woman as an opportunistic manipulator who took advantage of Weinstein while pursuing an acting career, even after he allegedly raped her.

The woman said she tried to make Weinstein "my pseudo father" after a rough upbringing. She said she sent him flattering emails and kept seeing him because "I wanted him to believe I wasn't a threat". "I was afraid of his unpredictable anger," she testified.

She became emotional while



Harvey Weinstein at court in New York. *Reuters*

## TINY BRITISH TERRITORY IN THE CARIBBEAN CASHES IN ON ITS '.AI' DOMAIN NAME, WHICH IS A FAVOURITE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FIRMS

# Anguilla has tropical breezes, pristine beaches and a domain name to die for

STEVE LOHR  
FEBRUARY 4

THE LUXURY resorts along serene white-sand beaches have long propped up the economy of Anguilla, a tiny British territory in the Caribbean.

But the island is also the lucky financial beneficiary of two hot trends in technology: artificial intelligence and vanity internet addresses.

Anguilla is the landlord for internet addresses that end in ".ai" — a suddenly valuable slice of online real estate. Every time

a .ai name is registered or renewed — by AI startups, or by speculators hoping to resell the names to those startups, big companies or investors — the island collects a \$50-a-year fee, which goes mostly to the government treasury.

Those fees added up to \$2.9 million in 2018, the most recent official government tally, or nearly as much as the combined salaries of the 127 primary-school teachers, assistants and administrators in the territory. The revenue rose sharply again last year.

"It's really snowballed," said Vincent Cate, who manages the

.ai registry in an office not far from the ocean.

Anguilla owes its good fortune to the large, yet obscure and often quirky market for internet addresses. Startups are increasingly willing to take on unusual internet addresses, or domain names like .ai, to stand out.

There's WT.social, a social network started last year by Jimmy Wales, a founder of Wikipedia. BenevolentAI, a drug development startup that has raised \$290 million, is at benevolent.ai. Compound, a cryptocurrency lending marketplace with prominent investors, can be



Road Bay in Anguilla. The yearly fees for Anguilla's domain name, which go mostly to the government's treasury, added up to \$2.9 million in 2018. *NYT*

found at compound.finance.

The marketplace for internet addresses has become attractive even to big investors. A private equity firm in 2018 bought Donuts Inc., a company with the rights to more than 240 newer domain names, like ".technology" and ".engineering." Another private equity firm has bid for the rights to ".org" — used by most nonprofits — offering more than \$1 billion and setting off a controversy over whether the domain should be controlled by a profit-driven company. And Berkshire Hathaway, led by Warren E. Buffett, is the largest

shareholder in Verisign, the registry that manages ".com."

"The Domain Name System is an important part of the plumbing of the internet, and it's become a big business," said Matthew Zook, a professor at the University of Kentucky who has studied the industry for years. Annual registration and renewal fees alone, he estimates, total almost \$4 billion.

To some degree, search engines like Google, social networks like Facebook and mobile apps like Uber have diminished the role of domain names as the way people navigate online.

Gone, for the most part, are the days when getting online meant painstakingly typing a web address into a browser.

Still, the names remain important as digital identifiers and brands. They are mentioned all the time in ads and mouthed by politicians. Among internet addresses, .com remains the giant, accounting for 40% of all registered domain names. But last year, 33% of startups had domain names other than .com, more than double the percentage five years earlier, according to an analysis by Brex, which provides credit cards for startups. **NYT**