

Shaky start for Democrats as Iowa results are delayed

Bernie Sanders, Pete Buttigieg use internal results to claim victory in caucuses

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN WASHINGTON

Democrats were off to a shaky start of their internal process to pick a challenger to U.S. President Donald Trump, as the results of the Iowa Caucuses were delayed due to technical difficulties around a phone app used to tally the data.



Caucus chaos: Bernie Sanders speaking to supporters as they wait for results in Iowa on Tuesday. ■ AFP

"We found inconsistencies in the reporting of three sets of results," spokesperson for the Iowa Democratic Party, Mandy McClure, said via a statement.

Although the State provides just 41 of the 1,991 delegates required to win the party's nomination, every candidate who has won the Iowa Caucuses since Al Gore in 2000 has eventually won the Democratic nomination.

large amounts of time and money campaigning to win in the Midwestern State but were left on Tuesday morning without concrete results, leaving some frustrated, and several others indicating they had won, as they moved on to New Hampshire, where the next contest will be held.

'Nation shocked' Thirty-eight-year-old Mayor from Southbend, Indiana, Pete Buttigieg, claimed victory after the night based on his campaign's internal data. "So we don't know all the results, but we know by the time it's all said and done, Iowa, you have shocked the nation. Because by all indications, we are going on to New Hampshire victorious,"

Mr. Buttigieg told supporters in Des Moines.

Bernie Sanders, independent Senator from Vermont and progressive candidate, said he expected to do "very, very, well" when the results are announced.

Mr. Sanders' team put out internal results that it claimed covered nearly 40% of the precincts showing him in first place, followed by Mr. Buttigieg, Vox reported.

General Counsel for former Vice-President Joe Biden, who was second in the polls going into the Caucuses but appears to have slipped in the ranking as per his opponents' data, filed a complaint with the Iowa Democratic Party, citing the "acute fail-

ures" of the reporting system. Nevertheless, he told supporters he would be walking away with his share of delegates. Progressive candidate and Senator from Massachusetts, Elizabeth Warren appeared optimistic. "When I left Iowa, I said it is too close to call and it still is - but I feel good," Ms. Warren said after landing in Manchester, New Hampshire, as per the New York Times.

Trump wins Meanwhile, Mr. Trump won all 38 delegates in the Republican Caucuses in Iowa, as expected. He won over 97% of the vote, defeating former Massachusetts Governor Bill Weld and former Illinois Congressman Joe Walsh, who was a member of the conservative and populist Tea Party movement and hosted a right-wing radio show.

Mr. Trump, who is scheduled to deliver the State of the Union address to Congress on Tuesday night and is all but certain to be acquitted at his impeachment trial in the Senate on Wednesday, took to Twitter on Tuesday morning calling the Democrat Caucus an "unmitigated disaster"

Hong Kong records first virus death

Toll in mainland China rises to 425 with 64 more dead in 24 hours, a new high

REUTERS HONG KONG/BEIJING

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 the global economy.

The victim in Hong Kong was a 39-year-old man with an underlying illness who had visited China's Wuhan city, the epicentre of the outbreak and now under virtual quarantine.

It was the second death outside mainland China and brought the toll from the fast-spreading outbreak to 427.

Thousands of medical workers in Hong Kong, a semi-autonomous region of China, held a second day of strikes to press for complete closure of borders with the mainland after three checkpoints were left open.

"We're not threatening the government, we just want to prevent the outbreak," said Cheng, 26, a nurse on strike.

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

Chinese authorities, 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, the virtually quarantined city at the epicentre of the outbreak.

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 Hong Kong and Macau. Thailand's tally of infec-



Rapid response: Workers arranging beds at a convention centre that has been converted into a hospital in Wuhan. ■ AP

World is not facing a pandemic yet, says WHO

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE GENEVA

The World Health Organization said on Tuesday that the outbreak of the deadly novel coronavirus does not yet constitute a "pandemic".

"Currently we are not in a pandemic," Sylvie Briand, head of WHO's Global Infectious Hazard Preparedness division, said.

Instead, she said, "we are at the phase where it is an epidemic with multiple foci."

Ms. Briand said that while there is rapid spread of transmission in Hubei, outside the province there are mainly "spillover cases" with sporadic clusters of transmission.

"In these other places in China, the strategy currently is to stop transmission," she said, adding that the same was true for affected countries outside of China. "We would like to make sure that we don't have a second Hubei type of scenario".

tions jumped to 25, the highest outside China, while Singapore's rose to 24, four of those from local contagion as opposed to visitors from China.

New cases were reported in the U.S., including a patient in California infected via someone in the same household who had been infected in China.

Battling misinformation

The deluge of misinformation on social media - from a recommendation to eat more onions to a warning of spread via a video game - has led various Asian govern-

More hospital beds readied

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE BEIJING

Hundreds of empty beds lined an exhibition centre converted into a makeshift hospital at the epicentre of China's virus epidemic on Tuesday, awaiting coronavirus patients.

State media said the converted exhibition centre in Wuhan will house an extra 3,400 beds and provide "emergency treatment".

U.K. nationals told to return

ASSOCIATED PRESS LONDON

Britain on Tuesday urged all of its citizens in China to leave because of the virus outbreak, while Belgium became the latest nation to announce a confirmed case.

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab asked U.K. citizens in China to "leave the country if they can, to minimise their risk of exposure to the virus."

3,700 on ship quarantined

REUTERS TOKYO

Health screening began on Tuesday for some 3,700 passengers and crew aboard a cruise liner held in quarantine at the Japanese port of Yokohama, after a Hong Kong passenger, 88, who sailed on the vessel last month tested positive for the virus. Japan has 20 confirmed cases.

Iran to execute man who 'spied' for CIA

ASSOCIATED PRESS TEHRAN

Iran said on Tuesday that its top court confirmed a death sentence for an Iranian man convicted of spying for the CIA, with State media alleging that he had shared details of the Islamic Republic's nuclear program with the

American spy agency. Judiciary spokesman Gholamhossein Esmaili identified the purported spy as Amir Rahimpour and said he would be executed soon. Mr. Esmaili did not elaborate on what Rahimpour was accused of doing, nor on his age or background.

A report by the state-run IRNA news agency alleged that Rahimpour received money from the CIA to share details of Iran's nuclear program.

"While being in touch with the spy agency, he earned a lot of money as wages as he tried to deliver

some information from Iran's nuclear program to the American agency," the IRNA report said.

Two other alleged spies for CIA each received 15-year prison sentences - 10 years for spying and five years for acting against national security.

ELSEWHERE



Arrest warrant issued for S. Africa's Jacob Zuma

Johannesburg A judge in South Africa issued an arrest warrant on Tuesday against former President Jacob Zuma for failing to appear in court in a corruption case that he has been avoiding for months - now by asserting that he is ill. ■ AP

Ireland probing Google's use of location data

DUBLIN Ireland is investigating Google over its processing of users' location data. Ireland's Data Protection Commission said there were complaints of lack of transparency in data processing by the firm. ■ AFP

I wish to serve all Sri Lankans: Gotabaya

As President, I represent the entire nation irrespective of ethnicity, religion or party, says President

MEERA SRINIVASAN COLOMBO

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Tuesday said he would look after all citizens and not just "a particular community", in his first Independence Day address to the nation, even as his government dropped the Tamil national anthem from the ceremony.

Weeks ahead of the celebration, the government announced that it would not play the Tamil version of the national anthem - Tamil is an official language in Sri Lanka - departing from a practice reintroduced in 2016 by former President Maithripala Sirisena, who Mr. Rajapaksa succeeded in November 2019. The move drew criticism from citizens



New message: Gotabaya Rajapaksa during his Independence address to the nation in Colombo. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

who said the omission of the Tamil anthem would impair post-war reconciliation in the country.

Despite last minute calls from some Tamil politicians and local newspaper editorials, urging the government

to reconsider its decision, authorities stuck to their position. By rejecting the Tamil national anthem at the Independence Day celebration, in front of local and international community, the government has justified dis-

crimination, and has disappointed patriots, said Mano Ganesan, a former Minister of National Integration, Official Languages, Social Progress and Hindu Religious Affairs. "As a Sri Lankan, I am ashamed and worried," he tweeted.

Addressing a big gathering at Colombo's Independent Square that included senior politicians, military men and diplomats, President Rajapaksa said: "I have the vision that I must serve as the leader of the country looking after all citizens rather than serve as a political leader concerned only about a particular community. As the President today, I represent the entire Sri Lankan nation irrespective of ethnicity, reli-

gion, party affiliation or other differences."

President Rajapaksa said a democracy is for all the people of the country. "During his term of office, he must serve the entire Sri Lankan people. He is not bound to serve only the interests of the people who voted for him."

Further, Mr. Rajapaksa said maintaining the balance of power between the executive, the legislature and the judiciary was very important to "balance equilibrium in democracy". However, he added: "I do not envisage public officials, lawmakers or the judiciary to impede" his "commitment" to fulfilling the needs of the people.

Pak. Parliament passes resolution on Kashmir

It asks India to undo move on Article 370

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Parliament on Tuesday unanimously passed a resolution expressing "unflinching and unwavering support" to the Kashmiri people and demanding India to reverse its decision to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

The National Assembly or lower house passed the resolution on the eve of what Pakistan observes as the Kashmir Solidarity Day on February 5 annually.

The resolution demanded India to immediately reverse its actions of August 5 and October 31, repeal the "draconian laws", withdraw its forces and immediately

lift lockdown in the valley, state-run Radio Pakistan reported.

Tensions between India and Pakistan have spiked since India abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir in August last year.

India's decision evoked strong reactions from Pakistan, which downgraded diplomatic ties and expelled the Indian envoy. India has categorically told the international community that its move to scrap Article 370 of the Constitution revoking the special status of J&K was an internal matter and has also advised Pakistan to accept the reality.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12850

Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles

Crossword grid with numbers 1-24 indicating starting points for clues.

(set by Bruno)

- 10 Upset that incense's tip reduced in size? (6)
11 It can't pass on heat... a large number do not concur, surprisingly (12)
13 Sinatra's not popular with Poland's first governor (6)
15 Roughly cleanse laundry... starting to pull out cover (6)
18 First note replacing fourth in master's music (12)
21 Architecture firms located to the east of Reno's borders (6)
22 Shepherd girl's daughter's husband... (8)
23 ... is quiet having skill to cover one's burnt heart (8)
24 American Catholic Union had people with nationality (6)
4 Web architect goes periods without love sadly (6)
6 Caught between party and test of Ph.D. work (8)
7 Right now America has respect (6)
8 Hidden pass at the bottom of river (4)
12 Adventure hidden in Holmes' cap - a deerstalker (8)
14 Urge poor assembly to defer (8)
16 Constructs building after removing new joint to intersect (8)
17 Spooner asks man coop for bird (6)
18 Computer professor starting to make money (6)
19 Mist shrouding red tide (6)
20 River flows up to the star... (4)

SUDOKU

9x9 Sudoku grid with some numbers filled in.

Solution to puzzle 12849 and solution to yesterday's Sudoku.

FAITH

Inseparable in separation

While describing the scene where Hanuman sees Sita as the very embodiment of virtue in Asoka Vana, Valmiki says his heart immediately leaps back across the ocean to seek Rama's feet in adoration.

Being a brahmachari himself, Hanuman would wonder when seeing Rama give in to excessive outbursts of sorrow on account of being separated from His wife. But seeing the impeccable Sita observing the vow of chastity in the harsh atmosphere of captivity, Hanuman bows down in reverence to Rama, accepting that Rama's grief is justified and His fortitude exceptional.

Valmiki also shows that Hanuman's veneration for Sita grows to such an extent to surpass his devotion to Rama. He is keen to dispel any doubts in Rama's heart about Sita's life of austere penance in Lanka. So, on his return, even before he alights in the presence of Rama, Lakshmana and Sugriva, he first pays obeisance to Sita in Lanka and then conveys the happy tidings of his successful mission.

QR code and text: To play an interactive version of this crossword online, scan the QR code