

14 THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



Former British PM David Cameron

BRITAIN
Bodyguard of ex-PM leaves gun in flight toilet, causes a scare

London: An investigation has been launched after former British PM David Cameron's bodyguard left his gun in a toilet on a commercial flight, police said. The pistol was found by a passenger before take-off on the British Airways flight from New York to London, causing a delay and scaring passengers. The officer had also left Cameron's passport in the loo. "We were waiting to take off when a guy started to show pictures on his phone of a gun and two passports — one was David Cameron's — he said he'd found in the toilet," *The Sun* quoted a passenger as saying.

SYRIA
Regime presses offensive despite Turkey warning

Beirut: Syrian regime forces pressed on with their offensive in the northwest that has displaced half a million people, despite heightened tensions with Turkey. Intensive aerial bombardment and ground fighting in the jihadist-dominated Idlib region since December have killed almost 300 civilians and triggered one of the largest waves of displacement in the nine-year war. Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday warned that his country would not allow Syrian forces to gain more ground and accused them of driving "innocent and grieving people" towards the Turkish border.

MALAYSIA
Former first lady goes on trial for corruption

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia's former first lady, who allegedly bankrolled a luxurious lifestyle with kickbacks and stolen public money, went on trial Wednesday for corruption for the first time since her husband lost power. Rosmah Mansor, notorious for making overseas shopping trips and owning vast collections of handbags and jewellery, became a lightning rod for public anger as the government of PM Najib Razak was engulfed by corruption allegations. Her husband's coalition suffered a shock election defeat in 2018 in large part due to claims he plundered billions of dollars from sovereign wealth fund 1MDB.

NEPAL
Oli planning 2nd kidney transplant

Kathmandu: Nepal's Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli on Wednesday said he was planning to undergo a second kidney transplant as it was a better option than undergoing regular dialysis. Oli, 67, underwent kidney transplant in India in 2007 after both his kidneys failed to function. He has been visiting hospitals abroad for health check-up ever since. Oli confirmed that he was planning to have another kidney transplant while interacting with editors of major dailies of Nepal.



Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi rips up the speech of US President Donald Trump after his State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress in Washington on Tuesday. Reuters

Emboldened Trump makes case for his re-election in State of the Union speech

MICHAEL D SHEAR
WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 5

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump claimed credit for a "great American comeback" in a speech to Congress on Tuesday night, boasting of a robust economy, contrasting his successes with the records of his predecessors and projecting optimism in the face of a months-long Democratic effort to force him from office.

Trump, who lamented what he called "American carnage" when he was inaugurated in January 2017, described a different country today, declaring in his third State of the Union address that the nation's future was once again "blazing bright." "In just three short years, we have shattered the mentality of American Decline and we have rejected the downsizing of America's destiny," Trump said in a speech that lasted 78 minutes. "We have totally rejected the downsizing. We are moving forward at a pace that was unimaginable just a short time ago, and we are never, ever going back!"

"The state of our union," Trump declared, "is stronger than ever before." Welcomed by applause from Republican lawmakers, the President marched confidently into the same chamber where he was impeached 49 days earlier. Trump described the nation as enjoying what he called a "blue-



TRUMP HONOURS LIMBAUGH: First lady Melania Trump drapes the Presidential Medal of Freedom on Rush Limbaugh. President Trump awarded the honour to the conservative radio host, who recently learned he has advanced lung cancer, during the State of the Union address. Reuters

TRUMP IMPEACHMENT SAGA NEARS ITS END

Washington: The impeachment drama that has consumed Washington since September will come to an end on Wednesday with Donald Trump's expected acquittal in the US Senate. The Republican-controlled Senate was scheduled to vote at 4 pm EST on Wednesday (Thursday, 2.30 am IST) on whether to convict him on charges including abuse of power.

collar boom," fuelled by trade agreements and his success in "restoring our nation's manufacturing might."

On the eve of a Senate vote expected to acquit him, Trump never mentioned the impeachment inquiry that has threatened his presidency and consumed Washington. But his interactions Tuesday night with Speaker Nancy

Pelosi, who started the investigation by Democrats that has forever stained his legacy, underscored the deep bitterness between them.

As he arrived at the rostrum, Trump turned to hand copies of his speech to Pelosi and Vice President Mike Pence. But when Pelosi offered her hand to shake, the president pointedly turned away without taking it.

Three years ago, we launched the Great American Comeback. Tonight, I stand before you to share the incredible results."

"To those watching at home tonight, I want you to know: We will never let socialism destroy American health care."

"From the instant I took office, I moved rapidly to revive the US economy — slashing a record number of job-killing regulations, enacting record-setting tax cuts, and fighting for fair and reciprocal trade agreements."

EXPLAINED
Bid to consolidate his support base

DELIVERING THE State of the Union address in the same chamber in which he was impeached not so long ago, Trump made it clear at the outset that he was not looking to win over his critics. He refused to shake Nancy Pelosi's hand and took digs at Democratic lawmakers during the speech. Drawing applause from Republicans and other supporters, he doubled down on his views regarding the dangers posed by "criminal aliens" and socialism as he sought to consolidate his base ahead of November's election.

Seated just behind the president, Pelosi grimaced and shook her head several times during his address. Moments after Trump finished and was basking in applause from Republicans, the speaker ripped up the pages of his speech, holding them high for the cameras to catch her unmistakable statement of scorn. NYT

Buttigieg in the lead as Iowa Dems release partial caucus results, but no winner yet

ALEXANDER BURNS & SHANE GOLDMACHER
DES MOINES, FEBRUARY 5

DEMOCRATIC OFFICIALS in Iowa on Tuesday provided a measure of clarity to the muddled outcome of its statewide caucuses, releasing a delayed first wave of partial results that showed Pete Buttigieg and Senator Bernie Sanders with a preliminary lead and former Vice President Joe Biden falling well behind the other top-tier candidates.

The release of the partial data, which accounted for 71% of caucus precincts, came after a night and day of suspense, confusion and silence from the Iowa Democratic Party after major problems with its new results reporting system. Even as the party began preparing to release the

IOWA RESULTS: 71% PRECINCTS COUNTED				
Candidate	Buttigieg	Sanders	Warren	Biden
Total S.D.E.s*	419	394	287	241
Pct.	26.8%	25.2%	18.4%	15.4%
Pledged delegates	10	10	4	0

*The vote totals for the Iowa Democratic Party are state delegate equivalents, which are the estimated number of state convention delegates that the candidates would have based on caucus results. Pledged delegates are awarded based on the state delegate count. Source: NYT

partial results on Tuesday afternoon, it drew sharp criticism from several campaigns that wanted a complete result, either

to have a definitive outcome or frame their Iowa performance in the best possible light.

While the results of Monday

night's caucuses could change with more data, the highly competitive race between Buttigieg, a moderate, and Sanders, a liberal, reflected the divisions among Democrats about the ideological direction of the party, and sets up a crucial test for both wings of the party in the New Hampshire primary, on Feb. 11, where Sanders leads in the polls.

The partial Iowa results also showed Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts in third place, with Biden trailing her by several points and Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota behind him.

Yet there was little evidence in the data released Tuesday that any candidate was on the way to the kind of dominant victory that would have a good chance of transforming the Democratic race. NYT

TURKEY PLANE CRASHES AFTER LANDING, 21 INJURED

A plane flying into Istanbul's Sabiha Gokcen airport from Izmir skidded off the runway after landing and crashed on Wednesday, injuring 21 people, Turkish officials said. The plane split into three pieces after what Transport Minister Cahit Turhan called a rough landing, adding that there were no fatalities.

CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

Thousands put under quarantine in cruise ships; toll rises to 490

65 more die in one day; US airlines suspend flights to HK

SE YOUNG LEE & WINNI ZHOU
BEIJING, SHANGHAI, FEBRUARY 5

THOUSANDS OF passengers and crew on two cruise ships in Asian waters were placed in quarantine for China's coronavirus on Wednesday as airlines, car manufacturers and other global companies counted the cost of the fast-spreading outbreak.

China said another 65 people had died as of Tuesday, the highest daily total yet, taking the overall toll on the mainland to 490, most in and around the locked-down central city of Wuhan, where the virus emerged late last year.

The virus has disrupted air travel. American Airlines Group and United Airlines said they would suspend flights to and from Hong Kong after this week, a step that would leave no US carriers flying passengers to the Asian financial hub.

The disruption spread to cruise ships this week, with about 3,700 people facing at least two weeks locked away on a liner anchored off Japan after health officials confirmed that 10 people aboard had tested positive for the virus. Passengers on the *Diamond Princess* posted pictures online of officials in masks and gowns conducting health checks and an empty deck.

In Hong Kong, 3,600 passengers and crew were confined to their ship docked in the city for tests after three people on board tested positive. REUTERS



Officers escort a person (under the blue sheet) who was on board cruise ship *Diamond Princess* and was tested positive for coronavirus, after the person is transferred to a maritime police base in Yokohama, south of Tokyo. Reuters

UK SCIENTIST MAKES BREAKTHROUGH IN RACE FOR CORONAVIRUS VACCINE: REPORT

London: A leading British scientist has made a significant breakthrough in the race for a coronavirus vaccine by reducing a part of the normal development time from "two to three years to just 14 days", Sky news reported. Robin Shattock,

head of mucosal infection and immunity at Imperial College London, said he is now at the stage to start testing the vaccine on animals as early as next week with human studies in the summer if enough funding is secured. Sky said. REUTERS

IN EPICENTRE WUHAN, BABY TESTS POSITIVE FOR VIRUS JUST 30 HOURS AFTER BIRTH

Beijing: A baby in China's epidemic-hit Wuhan city has been diagnosed with the novel coronavirus just 30 hours after being born, Chinese state media reported Wednesday. The infant is the youngest person recorded as being infected by the virus,

which has killed nearly 500 people since emerging late last year. CCTV quoted experts as saying it may be a case of "vertical transmission", referring to infections passed from mother to child during pregnancy, childbirth or immediately after. PTI

He lost his son, then drove his pickup onto a crowded sidewalk

Two teens killed in Oklahoma incident

BEN FENWICK & MANNY FERNANDEZ
MOORE, FEBRUARY 5

A DAY after losing his son in a car wreck, a grieving father drove his pickup truck onto a crowded sidewalk near a suburban high school outside of Oklahoma City, killing two teenagers and plunging the community into a wider circle of grief.

Four other students were injured in Monday's after-school tragedy, and police officers arrested the man, Max Leroy Townsend, a few blocks away.

"The big question a lot of people have is why — what happened, why did this happen," Sgt. Jeremy Lewis of the Police Department in Moore, Oklahoma, said Tuesday. "We've had investigators working on this since 3.30 yesterday, all night, and will continue to work on this, and I assure you we will find out why."

Townsend's son, Cody, 29, was killed Sunday near a city park in Moore, the authorities said, when his car struck another vehicle and then flipped over into a telephone pole.

On Monday afternoon, the



At the site of the incident in Moore, Oklahoma. AP

Avalanche in Turkey wipes out rescue team; 38 dead overall

SUZAN FRASER
ANKARA, FEBRUARY 5

AN AVALANCHE slammed into a mountain road in eastern Turkey on Wednesday, wiping out a huge team of rescue workers sent to find people missing in an earlier avalanche. Officials said 33 emergency workers were killed, 53 were injured and others are still buried under the snow.

Wednesday's avalanche increased the overall death toll from the disaster to 38.

Some 300 emergency service workers were called to a highway near the mountain-surrounded town of Bahcesaray in Van province, which borders Iran, after an avalanche struck late Tuesday. That snow slide killed five people and left two missing. Around noon Wednesday, the team was struck by the second avalanche.

Turkey's emergency and disaster management agency, AFAD, said 33 bodies were recovered from the mass of snow on the steep slope.

Earlier, Governor Mehmet Emin Bilmez said the dead included eight military police officers, three government-paid village guards, three firefighters and nine volunteers. AP

HE ALSO HAS ACCLAIMED 1970s TV SHOW LOU GRANT TO HIS CREDIT

Gene Reynolds, Emmy-winning architect of M*A*S*H, dies at 96

NEIL GENZLINGER
FEBRUARY 5

GENE REYNOLDS, an Emmy-winning producer and director who was a force behind two of the most acclaimed television series of the 1970s and early '80s, *M*A*S*H* and *Lou Grant*, died Monday in Burbank, California. He was 96.

His wife, Ann Sweeney Reynolds, said the cause was heart failure. Gene Reynolds started his prolific career on the performing side of the camera, appearing in some

80 films and television shows, beginning when he was a child. He developed an unusual sort of specialty: playing the younger versions of characters played by top film stars of the 1930s.

He was the adolescent version of Don Ameche's character in *Sins of Man* (1936), and of Ricardo Cortez's character in *The Californian* (1937), and of Tyrone Powers' character in *In Old Chicago* (1938), among others. A breakthrough was when he played the young version of James Stewart's character in *Of Human Hearts* (1938), an MGM

movie that earned him a contract with that studio.

Reynolds racked up dozens more TV and film acting credits, including more than 40 in the 1950s, but by the end of that decade he had shifted his focus to directing and, soon after that, to producing.

In the 1960s, he directed numerous episodes of television comedies, including *Hogan's Heroes* and *F Troop*, both of which found humor and absurdity in military settings. That experience served him well in 1972, when, at the instigation of the producer



He began his show business career in the 1930s

William Self, he helped Larry Gelbart develop *M*A*S*H*, the sitcom about an Army hospital dur-

ing the Korean War.

The series, addressing serious themes with a mix of slapstick and dark humor, is still considered one of the finest in television history. Its final episode, in 1983, set a ratings record. By then, though, Reynolds had moved on and already had another acclaimed series to his credit: *Lou Grant*, which he helped create in 1977, the year he left *M*A*S*H*. The show, about a fictional newspaper, with Ed Asner as the title character, twice won the Emmy Award for outstanding drama series.

Reynolds directed episodes of

each of those series (including the first episodes of both), winning two Emmys himself for outstanding direction of a comedy for *M*A*S*H*. He won six Emmys in all, including one for *M*A*S*H* for best comedy series and one for an earlier show he developed, *Room 222*, which was named outstanding new series of 1969-70.

One of the most memorable moments of *M*A*S*H* that he directed was not a specific episode, but the opening sequence, which shows two helicopters landing at the medical unit, presumably with casualties aboard. Reynolds

had wanted a shot of nurses running to help. Several assistant directors tried but failed to get the effect he was after.

He took over and gave the women a simple direction. "I said, 'They need you,'" he recalled, referring to whoever was aboard the helicopters. "They came flying out of that goddamn tent. They came flying out."

The resulting shot, which shows five determined women racing straight at the camera, is among the show's signature images. NYT