

14 THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



BRITAIN
Philip Barton to take charge as UK envoy to India

London: The UK government on Thursday announced career diplomat Sir Philip Barton as the new British High Commissioner to India, to succeed outgoing envoy Sir Dominic Asquith. The UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) said Barton will take charge at the British High Commission in New Delhi in the coming weeks of spring. "Sir Philip Barton KCMG OBE has been appointed British High Commissioner to the Republic of India in succession to Sir Dominic Asquith KCMG. Sir Philip will take up his appointment during Spring 2020," the FCO said.

AUSTRALIA
Amid bushfire reprieve, Australia braces for cyclone

Sydney: Many Australians were experiencing a bitter-sweet break from the threat of bushfires on Thursday, with flooding rains deluging some parts of the eastern states and miners preparing for a tropical cyclone to hit the country's iron ore heartland over the weekend. The Bureau of Meteorology issued severe thunderstorm warnings for the southeast of Queensland state and a flood alert for more than 20 areas in New South Wales after the start of heavy rainfall that is expected to continue for several days. Warm, moist air feeding in from the east was bringing the rain, BOM forecaster Mike Funnell.

WEST ASIA
Palestinian killed in West Bank as tensions simmer

Jerusalem: A car ran down a group of Israeli soldiers in Jerusalem early Thursday in a suspected Palestinian attack and, in a separate incident, Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian during clashes in the occupied West Bank, authorities said. Unrest in Palestine has been stoked anew by anger at US President Donald Trump's Middle East peace plan, which was embraced by Israel and rejected by the Palestinians when it was announced last week. The Jerusalem car-ramming took place on David Remez Street, which is close to the Arab neighbourhoods of eastern parts of the city that Palestinians want for a state.

IMPEACHMENT SAGA COMES TO AN END

SENATE VOTES NEARLY ALONG PARTY LINES

DEMOCRATS BADLY HURT NATION: TRUMP

Trump acquitted of all charges

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 6

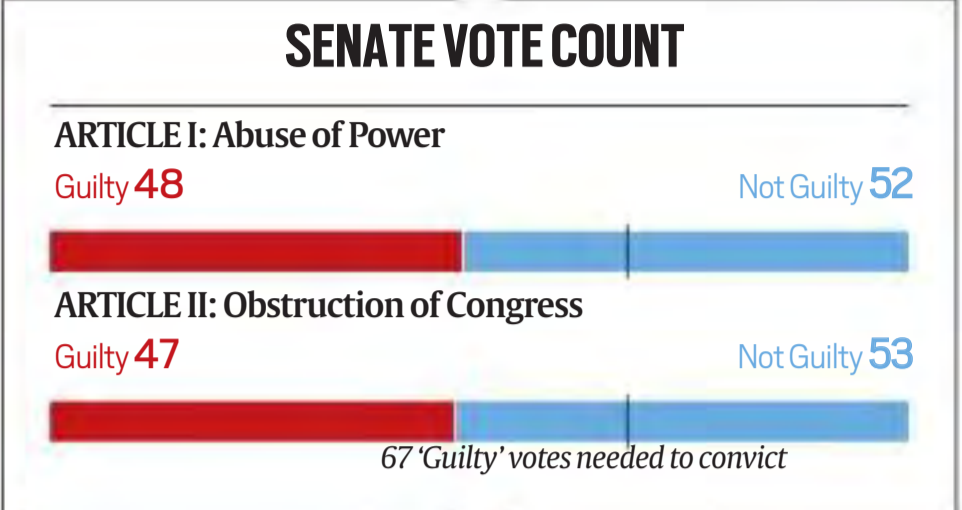
AFTER FIVE months of hearings, investigations and cascading revelations about President Donald Trump's dealings with Ukraine, a divided US Senate acquitted him on Wednesday of charges that he abused his power and obstructed Congress to aid his own reelection, bringing an acrimonious impeachment trial to its expected end.



“As everybody knows, my family, our great country and your president have been put through a terrible ordeal by some very dishonest and corrupt people.” — DONALD TRUMP, U.S. PRESIDENT

In a pair of nearly party-line votes whose outcome was never in doubt, the Senate fell well short of the two-thirds margin that would have been needed to remove Trump, formally concluding the three-week-long trial of the 45th president. But in a stinging symbolic rebuke of the country's leader aimed at history, Senator Mitt Romney of Utah broke with the party and voted to convict Trump of abuse of power, saying that the president's pressure

campaign on Ukraine was "the most abusive and destructive violation of one's oath of office that I can imagine." Trump on Thursday called the Democrats who pursued his impeachment "dishonest and corrupt" and accused some of his political foes of invoking religious faith to justify wrongful acts.



EXPLAINED
E
As impeachment ends, fight moves to campaign trail

Speaking at the annual National Prayer Breakfast event in Washington, he said, "As everybody knows, my family, our great country and your president have been put through a terrible ordeal by some very dishonest and corrupt people," Trump said after receiving a long ovation. "They have done everything possible to destroy us — and by so doing very badly hurt our nation. They know what they are doing is wrong but they put themselves far ahead of our great country," Trump said.

Romney only Republican to vote 'guilty'

MARK LEIBOVICH
WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 6

SENATOR MITT Romney of Utah never became president, but he earned a new distinction Wednesday: He will be remembered as the first senator in US history to vote to remove a president of his own party from office. Romney, the 2012 Republican nominee for president, said he expected swift and extreme recrimination from his party for his solitary act of defiance. He was not incorrect. Donald Trump Jr, the



President's oldest son, tweeted that Romney "is forever bitter" about losing the presidency and called for him to be "expelled" from the Republican Party. Ronna McDaniel, Romney's niece and

chairwoman of the Republican National Committee, said that the President had done nothing wrong, the party was "more united than ever behind him" — and this was not the first time she

had disagreed with "Mitt". And President Donald Trump tweeted a video attacking Romney as a "Democrat secret asset."

Shortly after 4pm Wednesday, Romney voted to convict Trump of abuse of power for his pressure campaign on Ukraine to investigate his political rivals. "Attempting to corrupt an election to maintain power is about as egregious an assault on the Constitution as can be made," Romney said in an interview in his Senate office Wednesday, ahead of the vote and an afternoon floor speech in which he choked up as he explained his decision. **NYT**

UK court clears extradition of Dawood aide Jabir Moti

ADITI KHANNA
LONDON, FEBRUARY 6

PAKISTANI-NATIONAL JABIR Moti, described as a "top lieutenant" of underworld don Dawood Ibrahim's D-Company, on Thursday lost his fight against being sent to the US to face drug trafficking and money laundering charges, as a UK court ruled there are no bars to his extradition. Judge John Zani handed down

his judgment at Westminster Magistrates' Court in London in two parts — one open to the public and partly closed and classified, due to "sensitive" evidence presented in-camera to the court during the course of the extradition trial last year.

"I have rejected all your challenges. I have thought them through carefully, but I have decided to send the matter to the Secretary of State to decide on extradition," the judge said. **PTI**

Sanjeev Chawla's plea to stop extradition to India blocked by European court

ADITI KHANNA
LONDON, FEBRUARY 6

THE EUROPEAN Court of Human Rights (ECHR) rejected on Thursday an application by alleged bookie Sanjeev Chawla for an interim measure on human rights grounds to block his extradition from the UK to face match-fixing charges in India.

The legal paperwork process for his extradition will now go ahead through the UK Central Authority, for Scotland Yard officers to hand Chawla over to the Delhi Police to be flown back to

Indian within days. Chawla had lost a last-ditch High Court appeal on human rights grounds against former UK Home Secretary Sajid Javid's extradition order at a hearing in the Royal Courts of Justice in London last month, with a court order dated January 23 setting a 28-day deadline for him to be extradited to India.

The 50-year-old British national, a key accused in the match-fixing scandal involving former South African cricket captain Hansie Cronje in 2000, must therefore be extradited from the UK by February 19. **PTI**

Taliban man behind Malala shooting claims to have escaped Pak prison

SAJJAD HUSSAIN
ISLAMABAD, FEBRUARY 6

EHSANULLAH EHSAN, the former Pakistan Taliban spokesman who was responsible for the shooting of Malala Yousafzai in 2012 and carrying out the deadly Peshawar Army School terror attack in 2014, has claimed in an audio clip that he has escaped from prison.

In the audio clip, which surfaced on social media on Thursday, Ehsan claimed that he escaped on January 11, saying that Pakistani forces failed to keep their promises made to him during his surrender in 2017. "With the help of God, I succeeded in escaping on January 11, 2020 from the confinement of the security forces," he is



heard saying in the clip. It would be a big blow to Pakistan and its campaign to eradicate the remnants of the Taliban if the clip is proved to be authentic.

Without revealing his current location, Ehsan said that he would make a detailed statement in the coming days about his time in confinement as well as about his future plans. Malala, 22, the youngest Nobel Peace prize winner, was shot at in Pakistan's Swat Valley in 2012, where she was campaigning for girls to get education.

Nepal to count LGBT population in census

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KATHMANDU, FEBRUARY 6

NEPAL'S UPCOMING national census will for the first time count the LGBT population in the Himalayan nation in order to better allocate government jobs and education set aside for minority groups, an official said Thursday. The LGBT community in Nepal

would help determine how much of the quota in these jobs and education will go to them. Dhundi Raj Lamichane, an official at Nepal's Central Bureau of Statistics, said the national census is planned for summer of 2021 but a trial will be done next month in a few select districts.

Citizens will be able to identify themselves as male, female or other gender. The exact population of LGBT

he surrendered to the Pakistani security agencies on February 5, 2017, under an agreement, but that the forces failed to keep their promise. **PTI**



At the Wuhan International Conference and Exhibition Center, which has been converted into a makeshift hospital, on Thursday. **Reuters**

Virus death toll soars as Wuhan plans roundup of infected

THE NEW YORK TIMES
FEBRUARY 6

THE NUMBER of coronavirus infections and death toll continued to soar in China, officials said Thursday.

It has been two weeks since the authorities in Wuhan, the epicentre of the coronavirus outbreak, declared that the city would be locked down as they tried to contain the virus's spread. The cordon that was first imposed around the city of 11 million quickly expanded to encircle roughly 50 million people in the province of Hubei.

The lockdown is unprecedented in scale and experts have questioned its effectiveness. Wuhan and the province of Hubei have borne the brunt of the epidemic as the sudden shutdown of transportation links into and around it slowed down the transportation of vital medical supplies. The fatality rate is 4.1% in Wuhan and 2.8% in Hubei, compared to just 0.17% elsewhere in mainland China. A senior Chinese official has ordered authorities in Wuhan to immediately round up all residents who have been infected with the virus and place them in isolation or designated hospitals.

Sun Chunlan, a vice premier tasked with leading the central government's response to the outbreak, said city investigators should go to each home to check the temperatures of every resident and interview infected patients' close contacts. "Set up a 24-hour duty system. During these wartime conditions, there must be no deserters, or they will be nailed to the pillar of historical shame forever," Sun said. **NYT**

■ The death toll in mainland China jumped by 73 on Thursday, a new record for the highest number of deaths in a day due to the coronavirus.

■ More than 28,000 infections have been confirmed, but doctors believe the number could be bigger.

Chinese doctor who first warned of coronavirus outbreak dies in Wuhan

KJM VARMA
BEIJING, FEBRUARY 6

CHINESE DOCTOR Li Wenliang, one of the eight whistle-blowers who warned other medics of the coronavirus outbreak but were reprimanded by police, died of the epidemic on Thursday, official media reported.

Li, 34, was the first to report about the virus way back in December last year when it first emerged in Wuhan, the provincial capital of China's central Hubei province.

He dropped a bombshell in his medical school alumni group on the popular Chinese messaging app WeChat that seven patients from a local seafood market had been diagnosed with a SARS-like illness and quarantined in his hospital.

Li explained that, according to a test he had seen, the illness was a coronavirus — a large family of



Doctor Li Wenliang

viruses that includes the SARS virus which led to 800 death in China and the world in 2003.

Li told his friends to warn their loved ones privately. But within hours screenshots of his messages had gone viral — without his name being blurred.

Soon after he posted the message, Li was accused of rumour-mongering by police in Wuhan. **PTI**

HIS COMMANDING PRESENCE MADE HIM A STAR IN FILMS LIKE 'LUST FOR LIFE', 'SPARTACUS' AND 'PATHS OF GLORY'

Kirk Douglas, legendary star of Hollywood's golden age, dies at 103

ROBERT BERKVIST
FEBRUARY 6

KIRK DOUGLAS, one of the last surviving movie stars from Hollywood's golden age, whose rugged good looks and muscular intensity made him a commanding presence in celebrated films like *Lust for Life*, *Spartacus* and *Paths of Glory*, died on Wednesday at his home in Beverly Hills, California. He was 103.

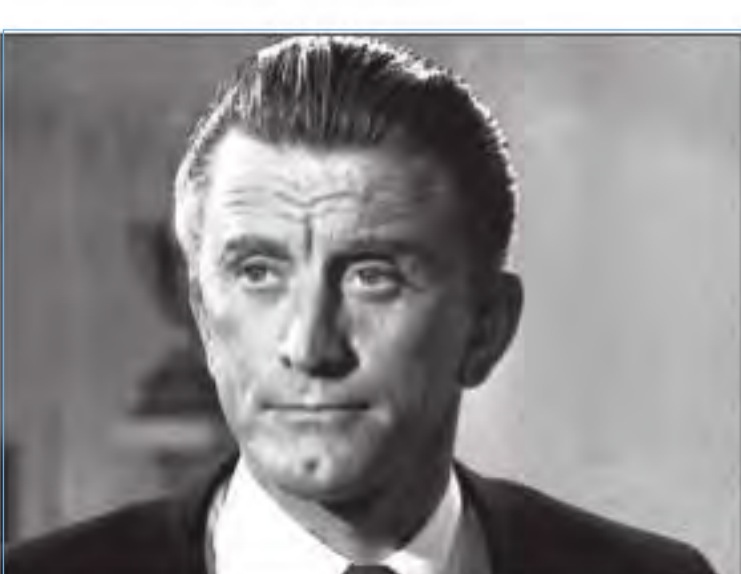
His son actor Michael Douglas announced the death in a statement on his Facebook page. Douglas had made a long and

difficult recovery from the effects of a severe stroke he suffered in 1996. In 2011, came in hand, he came onstage at the Academy Awards ceremony, good-naturedly flirted with co-host Anne Hathaway and jokingly stretched out his presentation of the Oscar for best supporting actress.

By then, and even more so as he approached 100 and largely dropped out of sight, he was one of the last flickering stars in a Hollywood firmament that few in Hollywood's Kodak Theater on that Oscars evening could have known except through viewings of old movies now called classics.

"To me, acting is creating an illusion, showing tremendous discipline, not losing yourself in the character that you're portraying," he wrote in his best-selling autobiography, *The Ragman's Son* (1988). "The actor never gets lost in the character he's playing; the audience does."

He was born Issur Danielovitch on Dec. 9, 1916, in Amsterdam, New York, northwest of Albany. The town's mills did not hire Jews, so his father, Herschel, became a ragman, a collector and seller of discarded goods. He was a powerful man who drank heavily and got into fights, and was of-



ten an absentee father, letting his family fend for itself. After attending St. Lawrence

University, Douglas studied acting for two years, played in summer stock and made his Broadway debut in 1941. The next year he enlisted in the Navy and was trained in anti-submarine warfare. He and Diana Dill married in 1943, just before he shipped out during World War II. They had two sons, Michael and Joel, before divorcing in 1951. She died in 2015.

In 1954 Douglas married Anne Buysdens, and they too had two sons, Peter and Eric. Eric Douglas died of an accidental overdose of alcohol and prescription pills in 2004 at the age of 46.

In addition to his son Michael, Kirk Douglas is survived by his wife and his two other sons, as well as five grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

He made his screen debut in 1946 in *The Strange Love of Martha Ivers*, but it was the 1949 film *Champion*, produced by the young Stanley Kramer, that made him a star. *Spartacus*, released in 1960, was Douglas' third blood-and-thunder spectacle set in the ancient past. One of the last cast-of-thousands spectacles to come out of Hollywood, the movie's popularity has been long lasting. It was restored and rereleased in 1991.

There were setbacks in his personal life. In 1986 Douglas was fitted with a pacemaker to correct an irregular heartbeat. In 1991 he survived a helicopter crash that left two other people dead. In January 1996 he suffered a debilitating stroke that left him with seriously impaired speech and depression so deep, he later said, that he considered suicide.

The last films in which he starred shared something of a theme: the reconciliation between fathers and sons. One was a comedy, *It Runs in the Family* (2003), in which his son was played by his actual son Michael. The other was the drama *Illusion* (2004), in which he played an ailing father in search of his estranged son. **NYT**