

15 THE WORLD



USA
ANCHOR QUILTS AFTER FANNING CONTROVERSY
 MSNBC news anchor Chris Matthews, who has hosted the show 'Hardball' for over 20 years, abruptly announced his retirement on Monday following a number of controversies. The decision follows comments in which he compared the success of Bernie Sanders in the primaries to the Nazi invasion of Europe during WWII. Separately, a female journalist alleged that Matthews made inappropriate remarks to her in 2016.

TOP OF THE WORLD



The AAP was Australia's only national newswire

AUSTRALIA
Australian Associated Press to shut after 85 years

Sydney: Australia's only national newswire will be shuttered after 85 years of operation, with around 180 staff told Tuesday their jobs will end in June. Staff gathered on the newsroom floor at Australian Associated Press' headquarters in Sydney were told a drop-off in subscribers in the face of free online content meant the company was "no longer viable". "This decision's been made with very heavy hearts. It's been made on an economic and financial basis," chief executive Bruce Davidson said. The newswire will close at the end of June while its subediting business Pagemasters is set to close at the end of August.

BRAZIL
15 dead in torrential rain

Sao Paulo: At least 15 people have been killed in torrential rain that hit the Brazilian states of Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, triggering flash floods and destroying houses, authorities said on Tuesday. Violent storms in recent days have dumped a month's worth of rain on some areas in a matter of hours, devastating poor neighbourhoods on the southern coast of Sao Paulo state and on the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro, the country's second-biggest city. At least 10 people were killed early Tuesday and one is missing in Sao Paulo after floods and landslides hit the coastal cities of Santos, Sao Vicente and Guarujá, state authorities said.

FRANCE
Paris makes Brazil's Lula an honorary citizen

Paris: Paris city hall made Brazil's former leader Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva an honorary citizen on Monday, in a likely blow to his political enemy President Jair Bolsonaro whose relationship with France has deteriorated. The motion to honour Lula was backed by the city's Socialist mayor Anne Hidalgo. "Immense joy to give the Honorary Citizen title to Lula. Paris will always stand beside those whose rights are not respected," Hidalgo said on Twitter.

CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

Govts focus on containment as virus alarms sound worldwide; US toll at 6

Over 90,000 cases across globe; China reports 125 new cases, its lowest daily number since January

THE NEW YORK TIMES
 MARCH 3

WITH THE threat of a full-scale pandemic growing by the day, governments around the world shifted their focus Tuesday to devising plans to contain the spread of the new coronavirus rather than to stamp it out, and to do so without causing widespread social disruption and economic upheaval. In the United States, where there are now more than 100 confirmed cases in 15 states and six deaths linked to the virus, the Trump administration sought to project an image of control even as concerns emerged about early missteps, including defective diagnostic kits and highly restrictive rules for administering the tests, both of which may have contributed to the early spread of the virus.

As the number of global infections surged past 90,000, financial policymakers from the world's seven largest economies, known as the Group of 7, discussed Tuesday ways to limit the economic fallout. US President Donald Trump, in an early morning post on Twitter, called for a "big" interest rate cut "to make up for China's coronavirus situation and slowdown."

China, where the virus first emerged, reported 125 con-



South Korean President Moon Jae-in (second from right) during a Cabinet meeting in Seoul on Tuesday. South Korea has the world's second-highest cases of the coronavirus. AP

firmed new infections Tuesday, the lowest such toll since January, as the infections there continued to dwindle. But the epidemic showed little signs of waning elsewhere. Iran remained a source of concern in the Middle East, with nearby Bahrain and Kuwait reporting dozens of new cases tied to the Iranian outbreak. Tehran has confirmed more than 2,300 cases, but public health experts have expressed concern that authorities are understating the true breadth of

the epidemic there. Just three weeks ago, South Korea had only a handful of cases. Now there are nearly 5,000, demonstrating how quickly the virus can spread. And officials in Italy saw the number of new cases push past 2,000 on Tuesday, even as the government sought to restore some sense of normality in Milan, the city closest to the hardest-hit areas in the country's north. Museums in Milan were permitted to reopen, but visitors were asked to stand about 3 feet apart.

Major cities across China have announced new travel restrictions on people who have recently visited countries where coronavirus infections are on the rise. On Tuesday, authorities in Shanghai said that all travelers entering the city who had visited countries with significant outbreaks within the past two weeks must undergo a 14-day quarantine at home or at an approved isolation center. Officials in Guangdong province announced similar measures, state news outlets reported Tuesday. NYT

MANY LAWMAKERS TAKE ILL IN IRAN

THE NUMBER of people in Iran infected by the coronavirus surged past 2,300, the death toll rose to 77, and the country's head of Parliament said nearly two dozen lawmakers had tested positive and should avoid meeting with members of the public, authorities announced. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the Supreme Leader, told the Iranian people anything that facilitates the virus's spread is a sin.

N KOREA: 8,000 IN QUARANTINE

NORTH KOREA has quarantined around 8,000 people as part of its efforts to contain the spread of the coronavirus, South Korea's National Intelligence Service said. The country has not reported any cases of the virus, but there has been concern that it may be hiding an outbreak. North Korea shares a 930-mile border with China.

ISRAEL ELECTION



Benjamin Netanyahu at the headquarters of his Likud party in Tel Aviv on Tuesday. Reuters

Netanyahu leads, but lacks majority

JEFFREY HELLER
 JERUSALEM, MARCH 3

PRIME MINISTER Benjamin Netanyahu led on Tuesday in Israel's third national election in less than a year but was short of a governing majority, nearly complete results showed. Netanyahu claimed victory in Monday's vote over his main challenger, former armed forces chief Benny Gantz of the centrist Blue and White party, after exit polls projected the right-wing leader's Likud party had come out on top. "We turned lemons into lemonade," he said at Likud's election headquarters as exit polls were released. But Gantz stopped short of conceding defeat, saying the election could result in another deadlock. With some 90 per cent of the votes counted, Netanyahu, who has the pledged support of right-wing and religious parties for a coalition government, appeared to control 59 seats in

EXPLAINED
Paving way for more annexations

ALTHOUGH NETANYAHU may fall short of a majority, his Likud party has a healthy lead over rival Gantz's Blue and White party. If he can finally form a government on the third attempt in less than a year, Netanyahu is likely to annex settlements in the occupied West Bank and the Jordan Valley under Trump 'peace plan'. This could further raise tensions in the region as Palestinians see such a move as antithetical to a two-state solution.

parliament, two short of a ruling majority. REUTERS

Taliban attack Afghan Army bases, throwing peace talks into doubt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
 KABUL, MARCH 3

THE TALIBAN carried out more than a dozen attacks on Afghan army bases, officials said Tuesday, hours after ending a partial truce and throwing into doubt peace talks between Kabul and the insurgents. The intra-Afghan negotiations are due to begin March 10 according to a US-Taliban deal signed in Doha on Saturday, but a dispute over a prisoner swap has raised questions about whether they will go ahead. The agreement includes a commitment for the Taliban to release up to 1,000 prisoners

and for the Afghan government to free around 5,000 insurgent captives — something the militants have cited as a prerequisite for talks but which President Ashraf Ghani has refused to do before negotiations start. The row has highlighted the tough road ahead, with the Taliban's decision to end a partial truce Monday complicating matters further. A defence ministry official said of overnight attacks on government forces in 13 of the country's 34 provinces. Two soldiers were killed in one of the attacks that happened in southern Kandahar province, a government statement said.

Iran triples stockpile of enriched uranium: IAEA

ASSOCIATED PRESS
 VIENNA, MARCH 3

IRAN HAS nearly tripled its stockpile of enriched uranium since November in violation of its deal with world powers and is refusing to answer questions about three possible undeclared nuclear sites, the UN atomic watchdog agency said Tuesday. The International Atomic Energy Agency made the statement in a confidential report distributed to member countries that was seen by The Associated Press. The agency said as of Feb. 19, Iran's total stockpile of low-enriched

uranium amounted to 1,020.9 kg, compared to 372.3 kg noted in its last report on Nov 3, 2019. The current stockpile puts Iran within reach of the amount needed to produce a nuclear weapon. The nuclear deal that Iran signed in 2015 with the US, Germany, France, Britain, China and Russia, allows Iran only to keep a stockpile of 202.8 kg. The deal promised Iran economic incentives in return for the curbs on its nuclear programme, but since President Donald Trump pulled the US out of the deal in 2018, Iran has been slowly violating the deal's restrictions.

Super Tuesday: Biden looks to blunt Bernie rise

STEVE PEOPLES & BILL BARROW
 LOS ANGELES, MARCH 3

THE DIZZYING fight for the Democratic presidential nomination reaches a critical juncture on Tuesday as millions of voters from Maine to California head to the polls. Sen. Bernie Sanders, who has energized liberals and young voters, is seeking to pull away from the rest of the field, while Joe Biden hopes to ride a wave of momentum and establish himself as the standard-bearer for the party's moderate wing. The Super Tuesday contests in 14 states are also the first test of billionaire Mike Bloomberg's massive spending in the Democratic race. He skipped the first four states, banking on more than half a billion dollars in advertising and ground operations. The Democratic race has shifted dramatically over the past three days as Biden capitalized on his commanding South Carolina victory to persuade anxious estab-



(Left) Former Democratic presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg endorses Joe Biden in Dallas, Texas. (Right) Bernie Sanders leaves a campaign rally in St. Paul, Minnesota. Reuters, AP



lishment allies to rally behind his campaign. Amy Klobuchar and Pete Buttigieg abruptly ended their campaigns and endorsed Biden. Another former competitor, former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke, publicly backed Biden while a new wave of mayors, lawmakers and donors said they would support the former vice president. Sanders and his closest advisers pushed back against the shift

of party establishment and donor class toward Biden. Campaigning in Minnesota, Sanders sought to beat back Biden's momentum with a welcoming message to Klobuchar and Buttigieg supporters. "To all of Amy and Pete's millions of supporters, the door is open. Come on in," Sanders said. "We all share the understanding that together we are going to

beat Donald Trump." The dramatic developments came at a key crossroads in Democrats' turbulent primary season as the party struggles to unify behind a clear message or messenger in its urgent quest to defeat the president. Yet as a field that once featured more than two dozen candidates shrinks to just five, the choice for primary voters is becoming clearer. AP

Child dies at sea as migrants flock to Greek shores

LEFTERIS PAPANIMAS & ALKIS KONSTANTINIDIS
 KASTANIES, LESBOS, MARCH 3

A YOUNG Syrian boy died on Monday after being pulled from the sea when a boat capsized off the Greek island of Lesbos, Greek officials said, the first reported fatality since Turkey opened its border last week to let migrants reach Europe. Separately, two Turkish security sources said a Syrian migrant died from injuries Monday after Greek security forces inter-



Migrants at Edirne, on the Turkish-Greek border. AP

vened to prevent migrants crossing from Turkey into Greece, but Athens branded the

claim "fake news." More than 10,000 migrants, mostly from Syria, other Middle

Eastern states and Afghanistan, have reached Turkey's land borders with EU states Greece and Bulgaria since Ankara said last Thursday it would stop keeping them on its territory. Farther south, at least 1,000 migrants have reached Greece's eastern Aegean Islands since Sunday. "This is an invasion," Development Minister Adonis Georgiadis told Skai TV. The surge has revived memories of the 2015-16 refugee crisis, when over a million people arrived in Europe from Turkey. REUTERS

Tornadoes hit Tennessee, killing at least 19 people

TRAVIS LOLLER & KIMBERLEE KRUESI
 NASHVILLE, MARCH 3

TORNADOES RIPPED across Tennessee early Tuesday, shredding at least 40 buildings and killing at least 19 people. One of the twisters caused severe damage across downtown Nashville, destroying the stained glass in a historic church and leaving hundreds of people homeless. Daybreak revealed a landscape littered with blown-down walls and roofs, snapped power lines and huge broken trees, leaving city streets in gridlock. Schools, courts, transit lines, an airport and the state Capitol were closed, and some damaged polling stations had to be moved only hours before Super Tuesday voting began. The death toll jumped to 19 on Tuesday, Tennessee Emergency Management Spokeswoman Maggie Hannan said, after police and fire crews spent hours pulling survivors and bodies from wrecked buildings. "Last night was a reminder about how fragile life is," Nashville Mayor John Cooper said at a Tuesday morning news conference. Nashville residents walked around in dismay as emergency crews closed off roads. Roofs had been torn off apartment buildings, large trees uprooted and debris littered many sidewalks. Walls were peeled away, exposing living rooms and kitchens in damaged homes. Mangled power lines and broken trees came to rest on cars, streets and piles of rubble. AP

'YOU ARE ANALYSING YOUR OWN MORALITY AS VIEWED BY THE LAW IN A ROOM OF 11 STRANGERS,' A JUROR SAID

Inside the Weinstein jury: How 26 'stressful' hours led to his conviction

JAN RANSOM, SHARON OTTMAN & LAURA DIMON
 NEW YORK, MARCH 3

THE 12 jurors took their seats around a long wooden table in a small room with two sets of windows and an array of carefully tended plants. One panelist, using a black marker, wrote the five charges against Harvey Weinstein on a whiteboard. "Everybody got a couple minutes to unpack the last five weeks for everyone else," one juror re-

called. "There were different opinions. We were not unanimous anywhere on the first day." What happened over the next five days in the cramped room at the Manhattan Criminal Courts Building would mark the final downfall for a Hollywood mogul who had faced years of whispered accusations that turned into a worldwide scandal when several women went public in 2017 and said he had sexually harassed and assaulted them. The accusations, revealed in *The New York Times* and *The New Yorker*, set in motion the

#MeToo movement and made the once influential producer, known for Oscar winners like *Shakespeare in Love*, the embodiment of the casting couch culture in Hollywood and the abuse women have long suffered in the workplace. In a series of interviews, three jurors provided an inside look into how the panel found Weinstein, 67, guilty of rape and criminal sexual assault while acquitting him of the two most serious charges: two counts of predatory sexual assault. Though the debate was



mostly civil, the stress got to many of them, and several got sick. "You are analysing your own morality as viewed by the law in a room of 11 strangers. It is a very stressful dynamic," one juror said.

The jurors spoke anonymously to protect their privacy. They declined to discuss the positions jurors took or to give a blow-by-blow account of disagreements, but they did describe how the panel made its decision. In the end, the jurors said the panel gave little weight to the fact that Weinstein's two main accusers — Miriam Haley, 42, and Jessica Mann, 34 — had maintained relationships with Weinstein after the attacks and later had sex with him. The jury of seven men and five women decided instead to focus narrowly on whether

Weinstein had broken the law at the time of the incidents. They spent little time discussing three other accusers called to establish Weinstein's pattern of behaviour. Still, a second juror said the similarities between the attacks lent credibility to the women's accounts. "Each act happened the same way," the juror said. "Each person said the same thing." The three jurors thought Weinstein's decision not to testify or to have his brother or close associates vouch for him probably hurt his case. The one friend who did testify, Paul Feldsher, did not

help the defense, two jurors said. Feldsher, a writer and former talent agent, said Weinstein was a "sex addict" whose appetite for women was "to put it mildly voracious." "He threw him under the bus," the second juror said. "That didn't help his case at all." Though the jurors said they were aware of the trial's importance to the #MeToo movement, they said they concentrated on the evidence. The deliberations went on for 26 hours, exhausting them physically and emotionally, they said. NYT