

# 14 THE WORLD



**MEANWHILE**  
**'TIME' HONOURS AMRIT KAUR, INDIRA GANDHI**  
 Former PM Indira Gandhi and freedom fighter Amrit Kaur have been named by *Time* magazine among the world's 100 powerful women who defined the last century in a project that "spotlights influential women who were often overshadowed". It named Kaur 'Woman of the Year' for 1947 and Gandhi for 1976 in special covers created by the publication.

**TOP OF THE WORLD**



The President faulted his ministers for poor performance

**UKRAINE**  
**Zelensky fires his cabinet**

Moscow: Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelensky, fired his Cabinet of ministers on Wednesday after suggesting in a speech that they had become overly solicitous of Western nations that financially support Ukraine by appointing foreigners to the boards of state companies. "With all respect to our international partners and with all appreciation for their help, the citizens of our country on governing boards of our companies are feeling like an ethnic minority," Zelensky said in the speech in Parliament, where a vote was needed to dismiss the Cabinet. He also faulted the ministers for poor performance but offered thanks that none had become entangled in a corruption scandal.

**PAKISTAN**  
**11 die in Karachi building collapse**

Karachi: Eleven people were killed and 36 others injured when three multi-storey residential buildings collapsed in Pakistan's southern port city of Karachi on Thursday, according to media reports. The building collapsed in the city's Gulbahar area and rescue operations were underway, led by the police and the Pakistan Rangers, the Dawn News reported. Of the 11 deceased, one was suspected to be a woman, a Geo News report said. Karachi Mayor Wasim Akhtar has ordered the 36 injured be provided with the best possible medical care.

**VENEZUELA**  
**Maduro urges women to have six children**

Caracas: President Nicolás Maduro wants Venezuelan women to have many children as a way to boost the country, which has seen millions of people flee in recent years to escape its economic crisis. Maduro made the exhortation during a televised event Tuesday evening for a government programme promoting various birth methods. "God bless you for giving the country six little boys and girls," the socialist president told a woman at the event. "To give birth, then, to give birth, all women to have six children, all. Let the homeland grow!"

**CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK: GOVTS TAKE DRASTIC MEASURES**

## When can we go to school? 300 mn children missing class across globe

**VIVIAN WANG & MAKIKO INOUE**  
 HONG KONG, MARCH 5

THE CORONAVIRUS epidemic reached deeper into daily life across the world Wednesday, with a sweeping shutdown of all schools in Italy and warnings of school closings in the US, intensifying the educational upheaval of 300 million students globally. Only a few weeks ago, China, where the outbreak began, was the only country to suspend classes. But the virus has spread so quickly that by Wednesday, 22 countries on three continents had announced school closings of varying degrees, leading the UN to warn that "the global scale and speed of the current educational disruption is unparalleled."

Students are now out of school in South Korea, Iran, Japan, France, Pakistan and elsewhere — some for only a few days, others for weeks on end. In Italy, suffering one of the deadliest outbreaks outside China, officials said they would extend school closings beyond the north, where the government has imposed a lockdown on several towns, to the entire nation. All schools and universities will remain closed until March 15, officials said.

On the West Coast of the US, the region with the most American infections so far, Los Angeles declared a state of emergency Wednesday, advising parents to steel themselves for school closings. Washington state, which has reported at least 10 deaths from the virus, has closed some schools, while on the other side of the country in New York, newly diagnosed cases have led to the closing of several schools as well.

The speed and scale of the educational tumult — which now affects 290.5 million students worldwide, the UN says — has little parallel in modern history, educators and economists contend. Schools provide structure and support for families, communities and entire economies. The effect of closing them for days, weeks and even months could have untold repercussions. **NYT**



Chloe Lau, a high school student, does her schoolwork at home in Hong Kong Wednesday. Schools have been shut in South Korea, Iran, Japan, France, Pakistan and elsewhere. **NYT**

## California declares emergency, Britain reports first virus death

**AGENCIES**  
 LOS ANGELES, DUBAI, MARCH 5

THE US death toll from coronavirus infections rose to 11 on Wednesday as new cases emerged around New York City and Los Angeles, while Seattle-area health officials discouraged social gatherings amid the nation's largest outbreak.

The first California death from the virus was an elderly person in Placer County, near Sacramento, health officials said. The person had underlying health problems and likely had been exposed on a cruise ship voyage between San Francisco and Mexico last month. It was the first coronavirus fatality in the US outside of Washington state. Hours after the person's death was announced, California Governor Gavin Newsom declared a statewide emergency in response to the coronavirus.

Britain has recorded its first death in the new coronavirus out-



People line up to buy face masks in Seoul Thursday. **AP**

break, England's chief medical officer Chris Whitty said Thursday.

**China allocates \$16bn**

In China, various government entities have allocated 110.48 billion yuan (\$16 billion) in coronavirus-related funding as of March 4, Vice Finance Minister Xu Hongcai said. Of that amount, about \$10.3 billion has been used, leaving \$5.63 billion to spend, Xu said.

**Iran toll rises to 107**

Iran will keep schools and universities closed for another two weeks and check up on people in the worst affected areas by telephone, the health minister said on Thursday. In the past 24 hours, 15 more people had died, bringing the total deaths to 107, ministry spokesman Kianush Jahanpur said. There were 3,513 confirmed cases in all, up by 591 from the day before.

**Japan says state visit by Xi postponed**

Tokyo: A state visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping this spring has been postponed as preventing the outbreak of the new coronavirus is "the biggest challenge" for the two countries, a Japan government spokesman said Thursday. "A state visit by President Xi to Japan will be held at a convenient time for both of us," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters in Tokyo. The last state visit by a Chinese president to Japan was in 2008, and Xi's trip was cast as a sign of warming bilateral ties.

**Bethlehem's Church of Nativity to close**

Bethlehem: The church built on the Bethlehem site revered as the birthplace of Jesus is to temporarily close after a suspected outbreak of the coronavirus, a church official said on Thursday. The Palestinian health ministry called for local churches, mosques and other institutions to close after a number of suspected cases at a hotel in the city of Bethlehem, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. The Church of the Nativity remained open Thursday morning.

**Australian tasered in toilet paper scrap**

Sydney: A fight over toilet roll ended with a man being tasered, Australian police said Thursday, as coronavirus concerns drive panic buying. Police were called to a store in the New South Wales town of Tamworth, about four hours drive north of Sydney, after the man allegedly lashed out and attacked another customer and a worker. Over 50 people have been confirmed to have the virus in Australia so far, with the latest cases including an eight-month-old baby in Adelaide.

## Warren drops out of US presidential race

**ASTEAD W HERNDON & SHANE GOLDMACHER**  
 BOSTON, MARCH 5

SENATOR ELIZABETH Warren plans to drop out of the US presidential race on Thursday, according to a person close to her, ending a run defined by an avalanche of policy plans that aimed to pull the Democratic Party to the left and appealed to enough voters to make her briefly a front-runner last fall, but that proved unable to translate excitement from elite progressives into backing from the party's more working-class and diverse base.

Though her support had eroded by Super Tuesday, in her final weeks as a candidate she effectively drove the centrist billionaire, former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, out of the race with debate performances that flashed her evident skills and political potential.

She entered the race railing against the corrosive power of big money, and one long-term consequence of her campaign is that Warren demonstrated that someone other than Senator Bernie Sanders, and his intensely loyal small-dollar donors, could fund a credible presidential campaign without holding fundraisers.

Warren's political demise was a death by a thousand cuts, not a dramatic implosion but a steady decline. Last October, according to most national polls, Warren was the national pacesetter in the Democratic field. By December, she had fallen to the edge of the top tier, wounded by a presidential debate in November where her opponents relentlessly attacked her. In the first four early voting states, Warren slid from



**EXPLAINED**  
**All eyes on who she will endorse**

FOR BOTH Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders, an endorsement from Warren would be a big boost in their quest to be the Democratic nominee. Despite disappointing results in the primaries, she still has a considerable support base who could help swing the nomination in favour of either Biden or Sanders. In terms of policy positions, she is closer to Sanders, a democratic socialist. However, she has in recent weeks emphasised on the need for unity in the Democratic party, and could endorse Biden, the party-backed moderate.

third place in Iowa to fourth in New Hampshire and Nevada to fifth in South Carolina. By Super Tuesday, her campaign was effectively over — with the final blow of a third-place finish in the primary of her home state, Massachusetts.

The news clarifies that the Democratic field has now become a contest between Biden, 77, and Sanders, 78. **NYT**

## UN ex-chief Javier Perez de Cuellar dead at 100

Lima: Former UN chief Javier Perez de Cuellar, who was known for his peace-making efforts including brokering a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war, died Wednesday in his native Peru, aged 100, his son said.

Perez de Cuellar served as UN secretary general from 1981 to 1991, when he was often described as a "pacifist by vocation and nature". Lauded by his countrymen as one of the most illustrious Peruvians of his era, Perez de



He served as UN chief from 1981 to 1991

Cuellar led the United Nations through a period marked by the fight against world hunger, the eight-year war between Iran and Iraq, as well as the civil war in US-supported El Salvador which led to UN-mediated peace talks. **PTI**

## Presidents of Russia, Turkey announce ceasefire in Syria

**VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV**  
 MOSCOW, MARCH 5

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin and his Turkish counterpart, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, said they reached agreements that could end fighting in northwestern Syria.

They said a ceasefire would come into force in Idlib from Friday. Putin also voiced hope that the deal would end civilian suffering and help contain a humanitarian crisis.

The two countries' foreign ministers said that the agreement involved a ceasefire that must be enforced starting Friday along the existing battle lines.

The deal also envisages setting up a 12-km-wide security corridor along the M4 highway. The corridor will be jointly patrolled by Russian and Turkish troops, starting March 15.

Putin said he and Erdogan



Russian President Vladimir Putin and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Moscow. **Reuters**

reached agreement on a joint document during the talks in Moscow that lasted for more than six hours.

A Russia-backed Syrian offensive to regain control over Idlib — the last opposition-controlled region in the country — has resulted in Turkey sending thousands of troops into Idlib to

repel the Syrian Army. Clashes on the ground and in the air have left dozens dead on both sides. Russia, which has helped Assad reclaim most of the country's territory, has signalled it wouldn't sit by while Turkey routed his troops. The fighting has also pushed nearly a million Syrian civilians toward Turkey. **AP**

## International court nod for war crimes probe against Taliban, US forces in Afghanistan

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
 THE HAGUE, MARCH 5

APPEALS JUDGES at the International Criminal Court gave the green light Thursday for prosecutors to open an investigation targeting the Taliban, Afghan forces and US military and intelligence personnel for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The global court upheld an

**Both Afghanistan and the United States have strongly opposed the investigation**

appeal by prosecutors against a pretrial chamber's rejection in April last year of Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's request to open a probe in Afghanistan.

Pretrial judges last year acknowledged widespread crimes were committed in Afghanistan, but rejected the investigation saying it wouldn't be in the interests of justice because the likely lack of cooperation meant convictions would be unlikely.

Even though an investigation has now been authorised, it remains to be seen if any suspects eventually indicted by prosecutors will appear in

court in The Hague — both Afghanistan and the United States have strongly opposed the investigation and the US government refuses to cooperate with the global court.

At a hearing in December, prosecutors argued that pretrial judges at the global court overstepped their powers in April last year when they refused to authorise an investigation. The appeals judges agreed.

## Dubai ruler had his daughters abducted: UK court

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
 LONDON, MARCH 5

A BRITISH court found that the ruler of Dubai conducted a campaign of fear and intimidation against his estranged wife and ordered the abduction of two of his daughters, documents un-



Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

sealed Thursday show.

The High Court in London ruled that Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, 70, "acted in a manner from the end of 2018 which has been aimed at intimidating and frightening" his ex-wife, Princess Haya, 45.

Judge Andrew McFarlane said the sheikh "ordered and or-

chestrated" the abductions and forced return to Dubai of two of his adult daughters from another marriage: Sheikha Shamsa, then 19, in August 2000, and Sheikha Latifa in 2002 and again in 2018.

The Dubai ruler and his ex-wife have been battling in a British court over the welfare of the two children they have together.

**INVESTORS, CLIENTS OF FACIAL RECOGNITION START-UP FREELY USED THE APP ON DATES AND PARTIES — AND TO SPY ON THE PUBLIC**

## Before Clearview became a police tool, it was a secret plaything of the rich

**KASHMIR HILL**  
 MARCH 5

ONE TUESDAY night in Oct 2018, John Catsimatidis, the billionaire owner of the Gristedes grocery store chain, was having dinner at Cipriani, an upscale Italian restaurant in Manhattan's SoHo neighbourhood, when his daughter, Andrea, walked in. She was on a date with a man Catsimatidis didn't recognise. After the couple sat down at another table, Catsimatidis asked a waiter to go over and take a photo. Catsimatidis then uploaded

the picture to a facial recognition app, Clearview AI, on his phone. The start-up behind the app has a database of billions of photos, scraped from sites such as Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. Within seconds, Catsimatidis was viewing a collection of photos of the man, along with the web addresses where they appeared: His daughter's date was a venture capitalist from San Francisco. "I wanted to make sure he wasn't a charlatan," said Catsimatidis, who then texted the bio to his daughter. Andrea Catsimatidis said she and her date had no idea how her father had identified him so

quickly. "I expect my dad to be able to do crazy things. He's very technologically savvy," she said. "My date was very surprised."

Clearview was unknown to the general public until this January, when *The New York Times* reported that the secretive start-up had developed a breakthrough facial recognition system that was in use by hundreds of law enforcement agencies. The company quickly faced a backlash on multiple fronts. Facebook, Google and other tech giants sent cease-and-desist letters. Lawsuits were filed in Illinois and Virginia, and the at-



Clearview developed a breakthrough facial recognition system that was in use by hundreds of law enforcement agencies

torney general of New Jersey issued a moratorium against the app in that state.

In response to the criticism, Clearview published a "code of conduct," emphasising in a blog post that its technology was "available only for law enforcement agencies and select security professionals to use as an investigative tool."

The *Times*, however, has identified multiple individuals with active access to Clearview's technology who are not law enforcement officials. And for more than a year before the company became the subject of public

scrutiny, the app had been freely used in the wild by the company's investors, clients and friends.

Those with Clearview logins used facial recognition at parties, on dates and at business gatherings, giving demonstrations of its power for fun or using it to identify people whose names they didn't know or couldn't recall.

"As part of the ordinary course of due diligence, we provided trial accounts to potential and current investors, and other strategic partners, so they could test the technology," said Hoan Ton-That, the company's co-founder. BuzzFeed News has reported

that a labour union and a real estate firm also ran trials with a surveillance system developed by Clearview to flag individuals they deemed risky. The publication also reported that Clearview's software has been used by Best Buy, Macy's, Kohl's, the National Basketball Association and numerous other organisations.

The company's backers included venture capitalist David Scalzo and Hal Lambert, an investor in Texas who runs an exchange-traded fund with the ticker symbol "MAGA", which tracks companies that align with Republican politics. **NYT**