

Bernie Sanders Wins In New Hampshire As Joe Biden Crashes And Burns

Agencies

Bernie Sanders won New Hampshire's high-stakes Democratic primary on Tuesday, according to US network projections, leaving rivals including party stalwart Joe Biden in his wake as he staked his claim to challenge US President Donald Trump in November.

Sanders, the flag-bearer for the party's progressive wing, had 26 percent of votes with most of the count complete in the northeastern state, where he routed Hillary Clinton in 2016.

"Let me take this opportunity



to thank the people of New Hampshire for a great victory tonight," Sanders told cheering supporters after NBC and ABC called the result in his favor.

"This victory here is the beginning of the end for Donald Trump," the senator from neighboring Vermont added as raised the roof with his rallying cry for fairer taxes and health care reform.

Indiana ex-mayor Pete Buttigieg finished in second place at 24 percent as he readied for the more

difficult battlegrounds ahead.

"Now our campaign moves on to Nevada, to South Carolina, to communities across our country. And we will welcome new allies to our movement at every step," he said.

Midwestern moderate Amy Klobuchar maintained a late surge to place third on about 20 percent, while liberal Elizabeth Warren finished in fourth at about nine percent.

Trump weighed in, tweeting: "Bootedgedge (Buttigieg) is doing pretty well tonight. Giving Crazy Bernie a run for his money. Very interesting!" Trump tweeted.

After months atop the pack, Biden had already conceded he expected to do badly in New Hampshire, as he did a week earlier in Iowa — and the former vice president's worst fears were beginning to materialise as he languished in fifth with just over eight percent.

The performance will be a body blow to the 77-year-old Biden, who has failed to generate the fundraising numbers or the enthusiasm levels of his rivals for the top spot on the Democratic ticket.

White House hopefuls had been seeking clarity in the Granite State after the first-in-the-nation Iowa count devolved into chaos, with Sanders and Buttigieg eventually emerging neck-and-neck.

For tech entrepreneur Andrew Yang and Colorado Senator Michael Bennet, that meant facing reality and bowing out after they failed to make an impact on Tuesday.

"You know I am the math guy,



'Looking Forward': Trump Says 'Friend' Modi Told Him Millions Would Welcome Him In India

Press Trust of India

Washington: US President Donald Trump has said that he is looking forward to his visit to India later this month where millions of people would welcome him.

"I look forward to going to India," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office, a day after the White House announced that he will be travelling to Ahmedabad in Gujarat and New Delhi on February 24 and 25.

"He (Prime Minister Naren-

dra Modi) is a friend of mine. He's a great gentleman," Trump said in response to a question.

Trump said that he spoke to Modi over the weekend and during the conversation, the prime minister told him that millions and millions of people would welcome him from the airport to the cricket stadium.

Referring to his New Hampshire rally held a day earlier, which was attended by an estimated 40,000 to 50,000 people, the president said in a lighter vein

that he might not feel so good with that number.

"When we have 50,000 people, I'm not going to feel so good... we'll have five to seven million people just from the airport to the new stadium. And you know it is the largest stadium in the world. (They are) building it now. It's almost complete and it's the largest in the world," Trump said.

Responding to a question on a potential trade deal with India, Trump said that he will do it, if "we can make the right deal".

Protests Against Gas Pipeline Project Spread Across Canada

Agencies

Ottawa: Canadians have staged large-scale protests against a new natural gas pipeline across the country, leading to major transportation disruptions, building occupations, and dozens of arrests by police.

The 670-kilometer Coastal Gas Link pipeline project, opposed by indigenous Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs, would make it easier to export natural gas in British Columbia but its route goes through indigenous Canadian land.

Several indigenous camps have been set up to block access to pipeline construction sites in protest.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police have over the past few days intervened to enforce a court order and clear the original protest

The Canadian National Railway said it would also close "significant" parts of its network unless rail lines were cleared.

Canadian Transport Minister Marc Garneau expressed concern about the "illegal" and "significant disruption" to rail services.

"We hope this will get resolved as quickly as possible because it's having an important impact on the economy of the country," he said, adding that protesting on railway tracks could also be dangerous.

Meanwhile in Toronto, a few dozen protesters took over Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Carolyn Bennett's constituency office, demanding that the multi-billion dollar project be scrapped.

In Ottawa, a group of protesters occupied the lobby of the Justice Department, while in Victoria,



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blocking work on a construction site. That intervention has prompted more protests in solidarity with the indigenous people.

On Monday, dozens of protesters were arrested for trying to block access to the Pacific port of Vancouver.

A major rail line connecting Toronto, Ottawa, and Montreal was also shut down by protesters on Tuesday, forcing more than 20,000 passengers to cancel trips.

a number of protesters surrounded the British Columbia legislature, preventing lawmakers' access.

This is not the first time people march in Canada to protest pipeline expansion projects. In March 2018, Canadians staged a protest rally against the Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline expansion project, expressing alarm at the risk of oil spills and detrimental impacts on the local environment and wildlife.

Biryani Sales Surge As BJP Faces Defeat In Delhi polls



Agencies

New Delhi: Biryani sales in India's capital New Delhi soared after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) suffered a devastating loss in a key state election to the Aam Admi Party (AAP), reported The Economic Times on Tuesday.

The report credited the surge in sales to previous comments made by senior BJP leaders, including Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, about the AAP serving the dish to anti-citizenship law protesters gathered at Shaheen Bagh.

"The Kejriwal government provides biryani to the people sitting at protests at Shaheen Bagh and other places," Adityanath had said at some election rallies he had addressed

in Delhi, it added.

Earlier in the week, Amit Malviya, head of the BJP's IT cell had tweeted, "Proof of biryani being distributed at Shaheen Bagh!"

Hundreds of women have been blocking Shaheen Bagh for weeks in protest of the Indian government's Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC). The women have inspired thousands across India to replicate their challenge to the Hindu nationalist government.

Social media platforms were flooded with posts about citizens announcing celebrations featuring the delicacy after the AAP's win. Meanwhile, restaurants scrambled to offer discounts to cash in on the moment, the publication added.

Coronavirus now has a new name — COVID-19

Agencies

New York Times: The World Health Organization has proposed an official name for the illness caused by the new coronavirus: COVID-19. The acronym stands for coronavirus disease 2019, as the illness was first detected toward the end of last year.

The director-general of the WHO, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, noted that the new name makes no reference to any of the people, places or animals associated with the coronavirus. The goal was to avoid stigma.

Under international guidelines, the WHO "had to find a name that did not refer to a geographical location, an animal, an individual or group of people, and which is also pronounceable and related to the disease," he said on Twitter.

The death toll from the coronavirus epidemic is continuing to climb, Chinese officials said Tuesday. Tedros said that 1,017 people had died from the coronavirus. Most of the deaths occurred in Hubei province.

The number of confirmed infections in China also grew, to at least 42,700 from about 40,000 a day earlier. Most of the infections are in Hubei, though the daily tally



of new cases there fell compared with previous days.

Hubei recorded 2,097 new infections Monday, compared with 2,618 a day earlier.

There are 393 COVID-19 cases abroad, in a total of 24 countries. "With 99% of cases in China, this remains very much an emergency for that country, but one that holds a very grave threat for the rest of the world," Tedros said.

Thousands were ordered into quarantine after cluster of cases linked to department store. Nearly a third of the confirmed coronavirus cases in Tianjin, a city of more than 15 million about 70 miles southeast of Beijing, have been linked to one department store,

adding to fears about rapid transmission in tightly clustered communities.

Of 102 confirmed cases in the city, at least 33 patients worked or shopped at a department store in the Baodi district, or had close contact with employees or customers, according to Tianjin health authorities. Many of them had no history of travel to Wuhan, the city where the outbreak emerged. Officials estimated that 11,700 customers had visited the shopping complex during a period in late January. Authorities said that those customers would be quarantined and that the store itself, which they did not identify, had been sealed and disinfected.

Number of Bangladeshis killed by Indian border forces on rise



Agencies

Dhaka: At least 15 Bangladeshis were shot dead by the Indian border forces in January - one of the worst months in decades.

That is despite India's promise to stop using live ammunition.

As Al Jazeera's Bernard Smith reports, the border between the two nations is often unmarked, making it dangerously easy to cross by mistake.

NEWSMAKERS

Four survive 32 days adrift in Pacific by eating coconuts, drinking rainwater

Four people survived a month adrift in the Pacific by eating coconuts and drinking rainwater in an ordeal that claimed the lives of eight of their companions, including a baby, reports said Wednesday.

The group, from Papua New Guinea's Bougainville province, are believed to have spent 32 days at sea.

The Solomon Star News reported the group set off from Bougainville on December 22, intending to celebrate Christmas in the Carteret Islands, about 100 kilometres (62 miles) away.

But survivor Dominic Stally said their small boat capsized and a number of the group drowned.

The rest managed to right the vessel but there were further fatalities as they floated in the remote waters at the mercy of powerful ocean currents.



"We could do nothing with their dead bodies, we just have to let go of them at sea," he told the newspaper.

"A couple have died and left behind their baby and I am the one who held onto the baby and later the baby died as well."

Stally said a number of fishing vessels passed nearby without noticing them until they were finally picked up on Janu-

ary 23 off New Caledonia after drifting some 2,000 kilometres.

The Star News said the survivors comprised two men, a woman and a girl aged about 12.

They were dropped off in Honiara, the capital of the Solomon Islands, last Saturday and were discharged into the care of Papua New Guinea's High Commissioner John Balavu after receiving treatment for dehydration.

Oscars viewership plunges to all-time low

The Nielsen company said Sunday night's audience was down 20 percent from a year ago. The previous low-water mark for the Oscars was the 26.5 million people who watched in 2018.

The Academy Awards honored Parasite as best picture. While that made history as the first-ever foreign language film to win the top award, it was clearly not an audience-grabber. The Oscars were held sooner in the year than usual, and that may have prevented the show from building buzz.

"It was too predictable, too white and too boring," said Tom O'Neil, founder of Goldderby.com, a website devoted to awards show news.

The actors who took the four biggest prizes — Joaquin Phoenix, Renée Zellweger, Brad Pitt and Laura Dern — had also swept previous awards, so there were few surprises and few indelible moments, he said on Monday.



"The only suspense of the evening was for best picture, and the average viewer hadn't seen Parasite or 1917, so they weren't emotionally invested," O'Neil said.

For the second straight year, the Oscars went hostless, opening with a rousing production number from Janelle Monae and a crisp comic monologue with Steve Martin and Chris Rock. But a handful of critics felt the lack of host was a handicap this year.

Man ends up falling into frozen river following Google Maps!

Surely, at some point, we all have blamed Google Maps for leading us to dead-ends or to narrow lanes through which one cannot drive. This mishap, however, takes the cake! A man has blamed Google Maps for causing him to fall into a frozen river in Mississippi.

It can be a very useful app once installed into your iPhone or Android phone and allows you to choose routes depending on whether you are walking, driving or taking public transport to the destination. But, the application that celebrated its 15th anniversary, does tend to mislead by often choosing routes that don't exist.

The incident that took place at around 3.00 am caused the man mild hypothermia. The incident took place near the Stone Arch Bridge and according to fire department said that the app most likely told him to use the nearby bridge that's pictured in the Street View image.

The man who claims that the app asked him to cross the river on foot, was half-submerged in water before authorities could rescue him. Apps that show routes, including Google, these days do have warnings for things like natural disasters, roadblocks and tries to notify the user if a bridge collapses.