

What's News

Business & Finance

- The FTC opened a new front in the probe of big tech companies... Airbnb swung to a loss for the first nine months of last year... A federal judge's approval of T-Mobile's takeover of Sprint will usher in a new balance of power in the U.S. wireless market... Powell told a House panel that the Fed is closely monitoring the extent of global economic disruptions from the coronavirus outbreak... Vice Media is on the hook for hefty payouts to private-equity firm TPG as a result of a 2017 funding deal... Credit-card debt in the U.S. rose to a record \$930 billion in the fourth quarter... The S&P 500 and Nasdaq hit records, rising 0.2% and 0.1%, respectively... U.S. companies are paying more for insurance... Wells Fargo is overhauling its reporting lines... Daimler is cutting its dividend... Sanders won the New Hampshire Democratic presidential primary... Four federal prosecutors withdrew from the Roger Stone case... U.S. officials say Huawei can covertly access mobile-phone networks... Doubts are proliferating among Wuhan residents... Beijing fired the highest-ranking officials yet over the handling of the outbreak... National security adviser O'Brien said it was his decision to remove Vindman... The Philippines told the U.S. it would scrap an accord... Sudan's transitional government agreed in principle to extradite Bashir...



Sen. Bernie Sanders is hoping his win in New Hampshire will propel him to victories in Nevada and South Carolina.

Sanders Edges Out Buttigieg In New Hampshire Primary

CONCORD, N.H.—Sen. Bernie Sanders won the New Hampshire Democratic presidential primary Tuesday night in a narrow victory that ensures the race to challenge President Trump this November will remain heated.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and former Vice President Joe Biden, who each have previously led the Democratic field in national polling, lagged well behind with less than 10% of the vote.

dangerous president in the modern history of this country," Mr. Sanders said. The 78-year-old self-described democratic socialist, who represents neighboring Vermont, had expected that a strong showing here would propel him into contests in Nevada and South Carolina...

candidate who only months ago suffered a heart attack while campaigning in Nevada. The Associated Press called the New Hampshire primary for Mr. Sanders shortly after 11:40 p.m. EST. The victory came as candidates seeking to challenge Mr. Trump began shifting focus to two more diverse states...

By Chad Day, Eliza Collins and Joshua Jamerson

U.S. Says Huawei Is Able to Tap Networks

U.S. officials say Huawei Technologies Co. can covertly access mobile-phone networks around the world through "back doors" designed for use by law enforcement...

American Virus Evacuees Freed



CHEERS: Nearly 200 U.S. evacuees from China celebrated the end of their quarantine at March Air Reserve Base in Riverside, Calif. In China, concerns grew over the accuracy of tests.

Stone Prosecutors Quit After Retreat On Sentencing

WASHINGTON—Four federal prosecutors withdrew from the case against Roger Stone on Tuesday, with one resigning as an assistant U.S. attorney, as the Justice Department reversed itself and recommended less prison time for President Trump's longtime confidant.

drew from the case and resigned from his post, according to a court filing. Three other prosecutors, Special Assistant U.S. Attorneys Aaron Zelinsky and Adam Jed and Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Marando, also said in court filings that they were withdrawing from the case.

Barcelona Splits Over Whether Gaudí Is Too Gaudy

Grand vision for his church, including staircase, riles neighbors

BARCELONA—Nearly a century after the architect Antoni Gaudí was hit by a tram and killed while crossing a road in Barcelona, his successors are still decoding what he had in mind for his unfinished masterpiece, the city's surrealist Sagrada Família.

berance. Others thought it hideous. George Orwell wrote that "the Anarchists showed bad taste in not blowing it up when they had the chance" in his civil war memoir "Homage to Catalonia."

path," said head architect Jordi Fauli, who aims to complete a 566-foot-high spire by the time a new building permit expires in 2026, making the temple the tallest religious structure in Europe.



Under construction

INSIDE



U.S. NEWS Actor Smollett is indicted again on charges of faking hate crime. A3

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WORLD NEWS

Philippines to End Pact With U.S.

Duterte ramps up feud with Washington with pullout from Visiting Forces Agreement

By Jon Emont

The Philippines told the U.S. it would scrap an agreement considered a cornerstone of the two countries' military alliance, a move the U.S. State Department said would have serious implications for the relationship.

The Visiting Forces Agreement, signed in 1998, facilitates the visits of U.S. troops, ships and aircraft to the Philippines. It has provided the foundation for American soldiers to train Filipino troops, conduct joint exercises and assist in counterterrorism.

President Rodrigo Duterte, who took office in 2016, has moved his country away from the U.S. and favored close ties with China, playing down territorial and maritime disputes with Beijing in the South China Sea. His office said Tuesday that Mr. Duterte wants to chart an independent foreign policy and "believes that our country cannot forever rely on other countries



Manila said it would pull out of an agreement that allows the U.S. military to assist local forces. Above, a U.S. soldier joined Philippine forces during an exercise at Fort Magsaysay in 2015.

for the defense of the state."

The agreement remains in force until 180 days after a party announces its intent to withdraw. Mr. Duterte's office appeared to close the door on a potential renegotiation, saying "it will not entertain any initiative coming from the U.S. government to salvage" the accord and that the president wouldn't accept an invitation to visit the U.S.

Among the moves that led

Mr. Duterte to terminate the military agreement on Tuesday was "a series of legislative and executive actions by the U.S. government that bordered on assaulting our sovereignty and disrespecting our judicial system," said presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo.

In early January, the U.S. Senate passed a resolution condemning the Philippines government for supporting alleged extrajudicial killings as

part of its antidrug campaign.

The Senate resolution called on the U.S. president to impose sanctions against Philippine government officials responsible for the killings and called for the release of a government critic, Leila de Lima, from prison.

Later in January, Philippine Sen. Ronald dela Rosa, a former chief of the country's national police force, said he was denied a visa to visit the U.S.

The U.S. Embassy in Manila doesn't comment on individual visa cases. "We will carefully consider how best to move forward to advance our shared interests," the embassy said.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper said Tuesday that he was dismayed by the Philippine decision to end the military pact, calling it "unfortunate" and a "move in the wrong direction."

The U.S. and the Philippines are still bound by a 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty. But scrapping the Visiting Forces Agreement would cause headaches for military planners and could affect the scope of the countries' activities together, experts said.

The agreement established granular details, exempting U.S. military equipment brought into the Philippines from import duties and ships and aircraft from port or landing fees—which could now be subject to renegotiation.

Mr. Duterte's decision would affect the speed and scale of everything from intelligence briefings to humanitarian assistance during typhoons, said Jay Batongbacal, a dean at the University of the Philippines College of Law.

—Nancy A. Youssef contributed to this article.

Sudan's Bashir to Face Court In Hague

By Nicholas Bariyo

The transitional government agreed in principle to extradite former Sudanese leader Omar al-Bashir to the International Criminal Court, a surprise move that could see him face trial over genocide and war-crime charges.

The 76-year-old former military strongman was the first sitting president to be indicted at The Hague-based court, which has sought his arrest for more than a decade. During his 30 years in power, Mr. Bashir used his military and government-funded militias to suppress insurgencies in southern and western Sudan.

In the Darfur region, Mr. Bashir stands accused of ordering executions, rapes and other atrocities mainly against non-Arab tribes who opposed his rule in a conflict that left 300,000 people dead, rights groups say.

Mr. Bashir didn't comment on Tuesday but has denied the charges and said he won't cooperate with the ICC, which he calls a "political court."

An ICC spokesman said Sudan hasn't officially confirmed the news.

The seemingly unchoreographed nature of the announcement surprised analysts, who were skeptical that Mr. Bashir would be on a plane to The Hague anytime soon. The process to extradite Mr. Bashir, who was first charged by the ICC in 2008, is likely to be long and complex.

Mohamed al-Hassan al-Tai-shi, a member of Sudan's sovereign council, said the deal to extradite the ex-dictator was made with rebel groups from Darfur in the South Sudanese capital of Juba, where the two sides agreed to "hand over all those facing arrest warrants before the International Criminal Court."

If Mr. Bashir is sent to The Hague, he will join a small club of former leaders to face trial there that includes Serbia's Slobodan Milosevic and Ivory Coast's Laurent Gbagbo.

His transfer would be another test for the global war-crimes court amid accusations that it has focused disproportionately on alleged war crimes in Africa and is acting as an instrument of foreign powers, particularly the continent's former colonial rulers.

Since his ouster in April following months of street protests, Mr. Bashir has been under house arrest and has faced criminal charges at home.

He was sentenced in December to two years detention by a Khartoum court after being convicted of money laundering and corruption. Prosecutors have also charged him with the killing of protesters during the demonstrations that led to his removal.

Observers hailed Tuesday's development, saying Mr. Bashir needs to be brought to justice for his crimes.

"Finally seeing a small measure of justice done for the mass atrocity crimes in Darfur will hopefully breathe new life into global efforts in support of human rights and genocide prevention," said John Prendergast, co-founder of Washington-based investigative and policy group The Sentry.

WORLD WATCH



ON THE MOVE: A convoy of displaced people passes through the town of Dana in the northwestern Syrian province of Idlib. Syrian troops have been on the offensive for weeks in Idlib, unleashing a humanitarian crisis with 700,000 people fleeing their homes and surging north toward the Turkish border.

UNITED NATIONS

Palestinian Leader Condemns U.S. Plan

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas condemned the Trump administration's peace plan at the United Nations, but failed to garner enough support for a vote on a Security Council resolution that Palestinian officials had hoped would broadcast strong opposition to the U.S. effort.

The Trump administration's long-delayed blueprint, unveiled last month, would give Israel control over a united Jerusalem as its capital and allow it to keep all Jewish settlements in the West Bank. It provides the Palestinians a path to their own country with restricted sovereignty under conditions they instantly rejected as heavily tilted toward the Israelis.

"This is an Israeli-American pre-emptive plan in order to put an end to the question of Palestine," Mr. Abbas told a Security Council meeting on the Middle

East. Instead it creates "Swiss cheese," Mr. Abbas said while brandishing the map the Trump administration released. It shows parts of the West Bank and Gaza that would be part of a future Palestinian state encircled by Israel and connected by proposed tunnels and railways.

The U.N. has often been a venue of clashes between the Israelis and Palestinians over the path to peace. Palestinians had hoped to gain support for a draft resolution circulated by Tunisia and Indonesia that condemned the Trump effort, but pulled plans for a vote on Tuesday after U.S. lobbying.

—Felicia Schwartz

IRAN

Nation Recalls 1979 Islamic Revolution

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani sought to rally support for the country's leadership on the anniversary of the 1979 revolution, urging Iranians to turn out in large numbers to vote in par-

liamentary elections next week and bolster the government as it confronts the U.S.

"Elections are one of the great achievements of the Islamic Revolution," Mr. Rouhani said in a speech in Tehran's Azadi Square on Tuesday, calling the revolution a "choice" of the Iranian people. "Let's not turn our back on the ballot box."

Iranians are going to the polls on Feb. 21 to elect a new legislature. A high turnout would be taken as a sign of confidence in the establishment, which is facing one of the biggest surges of popular discontent since the revolution, over economic hardship and the mistaken downing of an Ukrainian airliner that killed all 176 people on board.

Domestic broadcast media showed thousands of people rallying in towns and cities across the country, carrying banners of the Islamic Republic's founder, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, and Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani, who was killed in a U.S. drone strike in January.

—Sune Engel Rasmussen

NIGERIA

Boko Haram Kills 30; Military Urged to Act

The governor of Nigeria's Borno state urged the military to better defend a town where suspected Islamic extremists killed more than 30 people who had been left to sleep in their cars over the weekend after being locked outside the city gate.

Gov. Babagana Zulum visited the scene Monday where some of the cars were still smoking with corpses inside them. The violence Sunday marked the sixth time since June that the town of Auno had come under attack by suspected Boko Haram militants.

"The fact is that we have made several attempts for the Nigeria military to establish their unit in Auno but nothing was done," he said.

Witnesses said the locked-out travelers came under attack around 10 p.m. and the assault lasted 45 minutes.

—Associated Press

EGYPT

Population Officially Hits 100 Million

Egypt's fast-growing population hit 100 million people, the official statistics agency announced, presenting a problem for an already overburdened country with limited resources.

The figure is an increase of 7 million since the publication of 2017 census results. The population has tripled since 1960, with the annual growth rate peaking in 1987 at nearly 2.8%.

The milestone quickly set off alarm over further economic strain.

Egypt, the most populous Arab nation, has been scrambling to stem its birth rate—about 2 million a year—as economic discontent mounts, with a third of the country living in poverty. The government recently rolled out a family planning campaign called "Two is Enough," to challenge cultural traditions in rural areas, where children are viewed as a vital labor source.

—Associated Press

Barcelona Splits Over Staircase

Continued from Page One

"The foundation likes to present themselves as the heirs of Gaudí, but they interpret his work as suits them best," said Joan Itxaso, a spokesman for a neighborhood group lobbying against the latest expansion of the project.

In a city where a surge in tourism is pricing many people out of the place where they grew up, the question of what form the Sagrada Familia will finally take is throwing gasoline on the fire.

The church generates a lot of money. It is the most-visited site in Barcelona, attracting 4.5 million visitors a year. (By com-

parison, France's Notre Dame had around 12 million visitors in 2018.) In Barcelona, visitors to Sagrada Familia pay between \$22 and \$36 each to take the tour, generating 95% of the foundation's revenue. The foundation had revenue of \$113 million last year, up from about \$87 million in 2018. The main facade and its crypts, where Gaudí himself is buried, are listed as a Unesco World Heritage site. Municipal authorities expect to collect €36 million, about \$39 million, from the foundation over the next decade.

"The Sagrada Familia wants to build a theme park for tourists, a Disneyland," said Salvador Barroso, president of an association representing roughly 400 of the 3,000 people the group says would be affected by the staircase. "And to do it they want to kick us out of our homes and raze the buildings."

Residents estimate about 1,000 homes would be demol-

ished to make way for the expansion.

The city says no final plans have been made and all options are on the table. The city's master plan currently allows for demolition of buildings in the two blocks south of the main entrance.

Mr. Barroso and other residents in the areas around the busy Calle Mallorca, the street that runs between the church and the buildings that might be razed, have filed legal complaints and held protests against plans to bulldoze their apartments. They have sold T-shirts to raise funds and designed banners showing a Sagrada Familia-shaped boot trampling their homes.

For some, like Francesc Pla, who runs a pharmacy in one of buildings earmarked for demolition, it is a source of family disputes. "My parents love it, while for me it's a disaster," he said. "There are only two places I would never set foot in: the

Sagrada Familia and IKEA."

Other residents rattle off a litany of problems caused by tourists besieging the area. "Sometimes I fantasize about gathering a few friends and, armed with carts, forming a compact group to take the sidewalks and face the throngs head

'The Sagrada Familia wants to build a theme park for tourists.'

on," Fernando Diaz, 68, said.

The crux of the problem is whether it is possible to decipher how Gaudí envisioned the church, whose first cornerstone was laid almost 138 years ago. Gaudí took over the project roughly one year after construction started. He spent much of his career on the proj-

ect, writing extensive notes and building intricate models before his death in 1926 at the age of 73, but many of his outlines were destroyed in a fire in the 1930s. Just one facade was near completion when he died.

Mr. Fauli, the lead architect, is adamant that it is possible to determine what Gaudí wanted. "Interpreting Gaudí's work is like discovering the grammar he left us. We have to identify, learn and develop his language, which continues to evolve," he said. He says a plan dating from 1916 and signed by Gaudí shows a depiction of the staircase causing the debate.

Residents say they have documents demonstrating the staircase wasn't part of Gaudí's grand design, and was added to the plans by his assistants.

The city government, which is responsible for deciding whether construction should go ahead, hasn't decided how to resolve the issue.

What matters isn't whether

Gaudí designed the staircase, but what is in the city's best interests when feelings are running high over the amount of tourists coming to Barcelona, said Janet Sanz, the city's deputy mayor for urban planning.

"The decision is not only about realizing Gaudí's work or kicking out residents," she said. "It's about the kind of city we want."

Negotiations will begin in the coming weeks. The foundation overseeing the Sagrada Familia says it wants the best solution for everybody, but so far is standing firm. "We'll defend Gaudí's project in its entirety, including the staircase, to the bitter end," says its general director, Xavier Martínez.

So, too, are local residents. "It's like in the Wild West, when some rich and powerful people wanted to build a railway through the lands of small farmers," said Mr. Pla, the pharmacist. "We are the farmers, and we'll do what we can to defend our rights."