



**TOKYO (AP)** — The world's oldest man has died at his home — a hot springs inn — in northern Japan at the age of 113. Masazo Nonaka died in the early hours of Sunday while sleeping at home in Ashoro on Japan's northern main island of Hokkaido, his family said. He died peacefully from natural causes, according to his granddaughter Yuko Nonaka. The supercentenarian, whose family has run a hot springs inn for four generations, was certified by Guinness World Records in April 2018 as the world's oldest living man at 112 years and 259 days. Born on July 25, 1905, Nonaka grew up in a large family and succeeded his parents running the inn. The 106-year-old inn is now run by his granddaughter Yuko. She said her grandfather appeared to be as usual until her elder sister noticed he was not breathing. He was pronounced dead by his family doctor. "He didn't have any health problem. ... He went peacefully and that's at least our consolation," she said. Nonaka, who enjoyed eating sweets, used to regularly soak in the springs, and would move about in the inn in a wheelchair, wearing his trademark knit cap. He outlived all seven of his siblings, as well as his wife and three of their five children. The fastest-aging country in the world, Japan as of September 2018 had a centenarian population of 69,785, nearly 90 percent of them women, according to the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare. The world's oldest living person is also Japanese — Kane Tanaka, a 116-year-old woman from Fukuoka on the southern main island of Kyushu.

**VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AP)** — A powerful Delta 4 Heavy rocket carrying a U.S. spy satellite lifted off Saturday from California. The rocket propelled the National Reconnaissance Office satellite from Vandenberg Air Force Base at 11:10 a.m. Pacific time, arcing over the Pacific Ocean west of Los Angeles as it headed toward space. The outer boosters of the rocket separated about four minutes into flight, followed shortly by separation of the central first-stage booster and successful ignition of the upper stage. As is customary with classified payloads, United Launch Alliance weabcast the liftoff only until the aerodynamic fairing covering the payload was discarded. Details of the mission, dubbed NROL-71, were not released. The launch had been repeatedly delayed since late last year for various reasons including a hydrogen leak, high winds and a problem with ground communication equipment. The National Reconnaissance Office is responsible for U.S. intelligence satellites. United Launch Alliance is a joint venture of Lockheed Martin and Boeing. The Delta 4 Heavy stands 233 feet (71 meters) tall.

**ORAN, Argentina (AP)** — The Vatican received information in 2015 and 2017 that an Argentine bishop close to Pope Francis had taken naked selfies, exhibited "obscene" behavior and had been accused of misconduct with seminarians, his former vicar general told The Associated Press, undermining Vatican claims that allegations of sexual abuse were only made a few months ago. Francis accepted Bishop Gustavo Zanchetta's resignation in August 2017, after priests in the remote northern Argentine diocese of Oran complained about his authoritarian rule and a former vicar, seminarian rector and another prelate provided reports to the Vatican alleging abuses of power, inappropriate behavior and sexual harassment of adult seminarians, said the former vicar, the Rev. Juan Jose Manzano.

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Donald Trump said that "things are going very well with North Korea" and he plans a second summit with leader Kim Jong Un to try to broker a deal that would entice the North to give up its nuclear weapons. "We've agreed to meet sometime probably the end of February. We've picked a country, but we'll be announcing it in the future. Kim Jong Un is looking very forward to it and so am I," the president told reporters Saturday at the White House. The initial news of a second meeting with the reclusive North Korean leader came after Trump's 90-minute session Friday in the Oval Office with a North Korean envoy, Kim Yong Chol, who traveled to Washington to discuss denuclearization talks. "We have made a lot of progress as far as denuclearization is concerned and we're talking about a lot of different things," Trump said, adding it's "not been reported, unfortunately, but it will be. Things are going very well with North Korea."

**KHARTOUM (Reuters)** — Sudanese security forces fired tear gas on Sunday at several hundred protesters and chased them down side streets, a Reuters witness said, as anti-government protests entered their second month. The protesters had blocked Al Arbaeen street, one of the main arteries in Omdurman, across the Nile from the center of the capital, Khartoum. Some raised two fingers in victory signs as tear gas was fired at them. About 30 trucks carrying security personnel, some in uniform and some in plain clothes, were deployed to the area. Near daily demonstrations triggered by a worsening economic crisis have shaken Sudan since Dec. 19. Protesters have called for an end to President Omar al-Bashir's three-decade rule, blaming him for the country's problems.

## Merkel Wants EU Weapons System Independent of U.S.



German Chancellor Angela Merkel gives a speech at the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture in Berlin on January 18, 2019.

**BERLIN (Dispatches)** — German Chancellor Angela Merkel has called on EU countries to share their capabilities in order to build weapons systems independent of the United States.

Speaking to her Christian Democrats party in the northern city of Rostock, Merkel said Europe had many more systems than the US which has threatened to "go its own way" under President Donald Trump.

Merkel called on EU members to ease up their strict controls on exports and technologies and refrain from competing among themselves for new projects and fighter planes.

Her remarks were apparently aimed at France which did not go Germany's way last year to halt arms sales to Saudi Arabia after the murder of prominent Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

With Britain's pending departure from the EU, there is more momentum for remaining member states to find common ground on defense, although there remain divisions.

"It is good that after several decades we want to develop a common defense policy ... We must develop weapons systems together," Merkel said on Saturday.

Supporters of a European military union

say the EU has struggled in military and humanitarian missions, and that it was caught off guard by Crimea's decision to rejoin Russia.

Most importantly, however, the EU is searching for answers to a US president who views the EU with contempt.

In November, Merkel echoed a call by French President Emmanuel Macron for an integrated European Union military that infuriated President Trump.

"The times when we could rely on others are over. This means we Europeans have to take our fate fully into our own hands," Merkel said. "We should work on a vision of one day establishing a real European army."

Trump then accused Macron of seeking to develop the EU's own military to defend itself from the United States as he blasted France over its near defeat to Germany in two world wars.

"Emmanuel Macron suggests building its own army to protect Europe against the U.S., China and Russia. But it was Germany in World Wars One & Two — How did that work out for France? They were starting to learn German in Paris before the U.S. came along. Pay for NATO or not!" Trump tweeted.

## Students in Trump Hats Harass Native American



A student from Covington Catholic High School in Kentucky stands in front of Native American Vietnam veteran Nathan Phillips in Washington in this still image taken on January 18, 2019.

**FRANKFORT (Reuters)** — A Catholic school in Kentucky condemned a group of its students, many of whom wore "Make America Great Again" hats, after they were recorded harassing a Native American Vietnam veteran in a video that went viral on Saturday.

The students from private, all-male Covington Catholic High School in northern Kentucky were in Washington for an anti-abortion rally on Friday when they were filmed surrounding Nathan Phillips and mocking the Native American's singing and drumming.

One teen in particular is seen standing in front of Phillips, staring into his face with a smile. Fellow students, many

in clothing bearing President Donald Trump's "MAGA" slogan, cheered him on and chanted, "build that wall, build that wall," Phillips said.

The footage was shared online by organizers of an indigenous peoples' march that also took place on Friday.

In a joint statement, the high school and Diocese of Covington condemned the actions of the students "towards Nathan Phillips specifically, and Native Americans in general."

"The matter is being investigated and we will take appropriate action, up to and including expulsion," the statement said.

In a separate video uploaded to social media, the 64-year-old Phillips,

an elder of Nebraska's Omaha tribe, wiped away tears as he described the incident.

"I heard them saying 'build that wall, build that wall'. These are indigenous lands, we're not supposed to have walls," he said.

Phillips is a well-known Native American activist who was among those leading the Standing Rock protests in 2016-2017 against the construction of an oil pipeline in North Dakota.

He holds an annual ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery to honor Native American veterans, according to media reports.

Democratic U.S. Congresswoman Deb Haaland, a member of New Mexico's Laguna Pueblo tribe, said on Twitter that Phillips had risked his life for his country, and that the students showed "blatant hate, disrespect, and intolerance".

Covington Mayor Joe Meyer, a Democrat, said the "appalling" footage had rightly inspired "a tidal wave of condemnation" and that his town was now being linked with "intolerance and ethnic intimidation" because of the boys' actions.

Alison Lundergan Grimes, the Democratic secretary of state for Kentucky, said the children were not solely to blame.

"I turn to the adults and administration that are charged with teaching them, and to others who are silently letting others promote this behavior," she said on Facebook.

## Australians Rally to Demand Safe Streets for Women



Aiia Maasarwe's father Saeed Maasarwe is seen at the vigil for his daughter on the steps of Parliament House in Melbourne, Australia, January 18, 2019.

**MELBOURNE (Reuters)** — Several thousand people marched through major Australia cities on Sunday calling for safety for women after a Jewish exchange student was murdered in Melbourne.

The marches, part of the Women's March rallies held around the world in support of women's rights, gathered some 3,000 people in Sydney, who in their chants demanded safe streets for

women in Australian cities.

Aiia Maasarwe, 21, was killed when walking home after a night out with friends in Melbourne, Australia's second-largest city, earlier this week. A 20-year-old man was charged with her murder.

Maasarwe's death recharged outrage over violence against women after 22-year-old Eurydice Dixon was killed in Melbourne while

walking home after performing at a comedy show in June.

Thousands of people gathered at vigils for Maasarwe on Friday and continued to lay flowers at the site of her death. A special tram carrying only flowers late on Friday followed the route of Maasarwe's final journey.

In Sydney on Sunday marchers held signs paying tribute to Maasarwe and other victims of violence. Television news showed women carrying signs: "For Aiia and for those who suffer silently" and "I wanna walk through the park in the dark".

"I don't want my daughter to grow up in a world where she's unsafe or she can't pursue the opportunities she wants and I march for my son because I don't want him to grow up in a world where toxic masculinity is acceptable," said Samantha Nolan-Smith, one of several hundred protesters in the Australian capital Canberra, reported Australian Broadcasting Corp.

In reaction to Maasarwe's death, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said his government would announce another "action plan" to stem violence against women ahead of an election expected by May, on top of A\$350 million (\$252 million) that has already been committed.

## Government Minister: UK to Face 'Political Tsunami' If Brexit Halted

**LONDON (AP)** — A senior British opposition politician said Sunday that it's unlikely the UK will leave the European Union as scheduled on March 29, while a government minister warned that failure to deliver on Brexit would betray voters and unleash a "political tsunami."

The Brexit process has been deadlocked since Prime Minister Theresa May's divorce deal with the EU was rejected by Parliament last week. Some lawmakers are pushing for the UK to delay its departure until politicians can agree on a way forward.

Labor Party Brexit spokesman Keir Starmer said "it's inevitable" Britain will have to ask the EU to extend the two-year Brexit countdown that ends on March 29.

"The 29th of March is 68 days away," Starmer told the BBC. "We are absolutely not prepared for it. It would be catastrophic."

Brexit is fueling concerns that the country may crash out of the EU on March 29 with no agreement in place to cushion the shock. That could see tariffs imposed on goods moving between Britain and the EU, sparking gridlock at ports and shortages of essential supplies. Many economists expect Britain to plunge into recession if there is a "no-deal" Brexit.

May's government is split between ministers who think a "no-deal" Brexit must be avoided at all costs, and Brexit-backers who believe it would be preferable to delaying or reversing Brexit.

Former Brexit secretary Dominic Raab, who quit the government in opposition to May's agreement with the EU, said a no-deal Brexit would have "short-term risks," but they would be "manageable."

International Trade Secretary Liam Fox wrote in the Sunday Telegraph that "failure to deliver Brexit would produce a yawning gap between

Parliament and the people, a schism in our political system with unknowable consequences."

He said public anger could trigger "a political tsunami."

May has spent the last few days meeting government and opposition lawmakers, and is due to report to Parliament Monday on how she plans to alter the rejected deal. The talks have produced few signs that May plans to make radical changes.

Lawmakers who want a softer Brexit are preparing to try to amend May's plans in a Jan. 29 debate, and to use parliamentary rules to try to prevent a "no-deal" Brexit and take control of the exit process.

Speaking on the BBC, Fox said that "Parliament has not got the right to hijack the Brexit process."

But Starmer said there was a roadblock in the way of a solution to the Brexit crisis, "and that roadblock is the prime minister."

"Her mind is closed," he said.

## Congo Faces Violence as Tshisekedi Confirmed President



Felix Tshisekedi, leader of the Congolese main opposition party, gestures to supporters at party headquarters in Kinshasa, January 10, 2019.

**KINSHASA (Reuters)** — Congo's top court confirmed Felix Tshisekedi's contested presidential election win on Sunday, drawing a rebuke from the second-placed candidate who declared himself leader and called for demonstrations.

As Tshisekedi's supporters celebrated in the streets of Democratic Republic of Congo's capital, runner-up Martin Fayulu said the ruling had opened the way to a "constitutional coup d'etat," raising fears of more violence.

Last month's delayed vote was meant to mark the first democratic transfer of power in the vast central African country.

But monitors have pointed to major flaws. Unrest over the vote has already killed 34 people, wounded 59 and led to 241 "arbitrary arrests" in the past week, according to the UN human rights office.

In the early hours of Sunday, the Constitutional Court ruled that a legal challenge to the result filed by Fayulu was inadmissible. "Felix Tshisekedi will become the fifth president of the republic," government spokesman Lambert Mende said as he welcomed the judgment.

Fayulu issued statements dismissing the ruling. "The constitutional court has just confirmed that it serves a dictatorial regime ... by validating false results, (and enabling) a constitutional coup d'etat," he said in one.

"I am now considering myself as the sole legitimate President of the Democratic Republic of Congo," he added in another statement. He called for people to mount peaceful demonstrations across the country.

Fayulu says Tshisekedi and outgoing President Joseph Kabila made a deal to cheat him out of a more than 60-percent win - an accusation they both dismiss.

The provisional results, announced on Jan. 10, showed Tshisekedi winning with a slim margin over Fayulu. Kabila's officially favored candidate Emmanuel Ramazani Shadary came in a distant third.

Independent monitors flagged major problems, including faulty voting machines and polling stations where many were unable to vote. The Catholic Church, which had a 40,000-strong team of observers, denounced the provisional result.

A tally from the church reviewed by Reuters from about 70 percent of polling stations suggested a victory of 62 percent for Fayulu, a former Exxon Mobil country manager. Tshisekedi and Ramazani were virtually neck-and-neck second place with 16.93 percent and 16.88 percent, respectively.

In a rare intervention, The African Union (AU) called for final results to be postponed, citing "serious doubts" about the election's credibility. Congo rejected that request on Friday.