



**BERLIN (Reuters)** -- Several people were injured and some presumed dead in a shooting in southwestern Germany on Friday, police said, adding that a suspect was detained. The incident occurred at 12:45 pm local time (11:45 GMT) close to a building in the town of Rot am See in the federal state of Baden-Wuerttemberg. Police in the nearby town of Aalen said the incident appeared to be linked to a "personal relationship", adding there was no indication that there were additional perpetrators. Rot am See is located some 135 km (84 miles) southeast of Frankfurt, close to the medieval town of Rothenburg ob der Tauber.

**WASHINGTON (AFP)** -- A psychologist who helped design the CIA's "war on terror" torture program after the September 11, 2001 attacks defended the program this week before its victims at the U.S. military prison in Guantanamo, Cuba. James Mitchell was unapologetic when he appeared at a hearing to answer questions about the waterboarding, stress position and sleep deprivation techniques applied to 9/11 plot suspects detained in secret prisons following the attacks. "I'd get up today and do it again," he said before five of those men, whose slow-moving cases at the Guantanamo military tribunals have them facing possible death sentences. Mitchell was one of the architects of the so-called "enhanced interrogation" operations deployed against suspected Al-Qaeda extremists after the 2001 attacks, which left 2,976 dead.

**LONDON (Reuters)** -- British police are to start operational use of live facial recognition (LFR) cameras in London, despite warnings over privacy from rights groups and concerns expressed by the government's own surveillance watchdog. First used in the capital at the Notting Hill Carnival in 2016, the cameras will alert police when they spot anyone on "wanted" lists. The cameras will be clearly signposted and officers will hand out leaflets about what is happening. Facial recognition cameras have been deployed in other British cities and shopping centers but their use has prompted privacy concerns and opponents have questioned the accuracy of the technology. Last year, a Cardiff man took South Wales Police to the High Court, arguing that his human rights had been breached by officers using automated facial recognition without his knowledge when he was shopping. The EU is considering banning the technology in public places for up to five years to give it time to work out how to prevent abuses.

**DAVOS, Switzerland (AP)** -- Teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg has brushed off criticism and mockery from the U.S. Treasury chief, saying Friday his comments have "of course no effect" on her and fellow campaigners. The 17-year-old Swedish star's comments marked a final coda to the four-day World Economic Forum summit in Davos, where a major theme was tension between environmental activists who want to protect the Earth and Trump administration officials and business titans who want to exploit its resources for jobs, profits and economic growth. Many of the 3,000-odd business leaders, government officials, UN representatives, civil society advocates and other elites on hand have found themselves somewhere along the spectrum between the positions staked out by Trump and Thunberg. She sat in on Trump's speech Tuesday to the forum, but that did little to bridge their ideological differences.

**BRUSSELS (Reuters)** -- The European Union on Friday named a Portuguese diplomat as its first ambassador to Britain after it leaves the EU next week. Britain's tortured EU divorce will be final on Jan. 31, more than three years since Britons 52-48% in a referendum in favor of departing the bloc. "As of that date, the United Kingdom will be a third country," the EU's joint foreign policy service said in a statement that named João Vale de Almeida "the first head of the future EU delegation to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland." It said Almeida, who previously serves as the EU's ambassador to the United Nations and the United States, would take up his new role on Feb. 1.

**MELBOURNE (AFP)** -- A large water-bombing plane crashed while fighting fires southwest of Sydney on Thursday, killing all three U.S. crew on board, Australian officials said. New South Wales Rural Fire Service commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons said authorities lost contact with the Canada-owned C-130 Hercules aircraft, which was operating in the Snowy Monaro region, shortly before 1:30 pm (0230 GMT) Thursday. Fitzsimmons said all three people killed in the crash were residents of the United States, one of several countries that have sent crews of specialist firefighters to help battle Australia's devastating bushfires. "Our hearts are with all those that are suffering what is the loss of three remarkable, well-respected crew that have invested so many decades of their life into firefighting and fire management," he said. The incident brought the death toll in Australia's bushfires to at least 32 since the crisis began in September.

## UN Court Urges Action to Prevent Rohingya Genocide



Rohingya refugees are crossing into Bangladesh from Myanmar in 2017.

**THE HAGUE (AFP)** -- The UN's highest court ordered Myanmar on Thursday to do everything in its power to prevent the genocide of Rohingya Muslims as international justice stepped into the crisis for the first time. In a unanimous ruling, the International Court of Justice rejected arguments made by Myanmar's civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi in The Hague in December and set out urgent steps for the predominantly Buddhist nation to end the violence. The mainly Muslim African state of The Gambia had asked the court to impose the emergency measures -- pending a full case that could take years -- following a bloody military crackdown by Myanmar in 2017 that sent around 740,000 Rohingya fleeing into neighboring Bangladesh. The ICJ's presiding judge, Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf, said that "the court was of the opinion that the Rohingya in Myanmar remain extremely vulnerable".

Thousands are suspected to have been killed in the crackdown and refugees brought widespread reports of rape and arson in Rakhine state by Myanmar's military and local Buddhist militias. The court ordered Myanmar to "take all measures within its power to prevent the commission of all acts" described by the 1948 UN Genocide Convention, under which Gambia brought the case. These acts included "killing members of the group" and "deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part."

The court ordered Myanmar to report back within four months, and then every six months after that. It also told Myanmar to prevent the destruction of any evidence of crimes against the Rohingya. Gambia hailed the decision as a major step forward by the court, which was set up after World War II to rule in disputes between UN member states. "This is a historic day today, not just for international law, for the international community, but especially for the Rohingya," Gambian justice minister Abubacar Tambadou told reporters outside the court.

The African state's case was supported by the 57-nation Organization for Islamic Cooperation, Canada and the Netherlands. The result was also hailed in the Bangladeshi camps where some 600,000 people still remain. "I'm having the first taste of justice. I feel positive though I doubt whether Myanmar would comply," Sayed Ullah, a Rohingya leader, told AFP. The EU and rights groups meanwhile called for the international community to put pressure on Myanmar. "Today's decision sends a message to Myanmar's senior officials: the world will not tolerate their atrocities," Amnesty International's Regional Director Nicholas Bequelin said.

## Doomsday Clock Ticks Closer to Midnight



Bulletin of Atomic Scientists Executive Chair Jerry Brown announces Thursday the "Doomsday Clock" was moved forward 20 seconds to its latest time in history.

**WASHINGTON (AFP)** -- The Doomsday Clock on Thursday ticked down to 100 seconds to midnight, symbolizing the greatest level of peril to humanity since its creation in 1947 as the threat posed by climate change and a growing nuclear race loomed large. The danger level was compounded by information warfare and disruptive technologies ranging from deepfake video and audio to the militarization of space and the development of hypersonic weapons. "We are now expressing how close the world is to catastrophe in seconds -- not hours, or even minutes," said Rachel Bronson, president of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, in announcing the change. The decision on the clock is taken by panels of experts, including 13 Nobel laureates. It was originally set at seven minutes to midnight, and the previous worst -- two minutes to midnight -- held from 2018 to 2019 as well as 1953. The furthest it has ever been is 17 minutes, following the end of the Cold War in 1991. On the nuclear front, the arms control boundaries that helped prevent catastrophe over the last half century are being dismantled and may be gone by next year, said subject expert Sharon Squassoni.

This includes the demise in 2019 of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, with the U.S. and Russia entering a new competition to deploy once banned weapons. The U.S. has suggested it won't extend New START, an arms reduction treaty signed in 2010. "This year could see not just the complete collapse of the Iran nuclear deal," added Squassoni, with Tehran boosting its enrichment efforts. And despite initial hopes U.S. President Donald Trump's unorthodox approach to North Korea may produce results, no real progress ensued, said Squassoni, with Pyongyang instead vowing to press ahead with a new strategic weapon. On climate, two major UN summits fell dimly short of the action required to limit long-term warming to the goals laid out by the Paris Agreement that scientists say is necessary to prevent catastrophe. The effects were already apparent in the record-breaking heat waves and floods India faced in 2019, and the wildfires that raged from the Arctic to Australia. "If humankind pushes the climate into the opposite of an ice age," said Sivan Kartha, a scientist at the Stockholm Environmental Institute, "we have no reason to be confident that such a world will remain hospitable to human civilization."

# Impeachment Manager: Trump Should Be Removed



In this image from video, House impeachment manager Rep. Adam Schiff speaks during the impeachment trial against President Donald Trump in the Senate at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, Jan. 23, 2020.

**WASHINGTON (AFP)** -- Lead House impeachment manager Adam Schiff called dramatically for the Senate to remove President Donald Trump from office Thursday, saying the U.S. leader cannot be trusted to put the country's interests ahead of his own. "The American people deserve a president they can count on, to put their interest first," said Schiff. His impassioned words capped a long day in which Democrats detailed Trump's illicit scheme to pressure Ukraine to help his 2020 reelection campaign. "You know, you can't trust this president to do what is right for this country. You can trust he will do what's right for Donald Trump," Schiff added. "He'll do it now. He's done it before.

He'll do it for the next several months. He'll do it in the election if he's allowed to. This is why, if you find him guilty, you must find that he should be removed." "Because right matters. And truth matters. Otherwise we are lost." As the 100 senators sat as jurors and millions of Americans watched on television, House impeachment managers mustered scores of videos, internal documents and extensive witness testimony to lay out a strong case that the US leader abused his powers. Schiff's prosecution team detailed how Trump flagrantly undertook last year to force Kiev to help him tarnish his possible 2020 reelection rival, former vice president Joe Biden. "President Trump used the powers of

his office to solicit a foreign nation to interfere in our elections for his own personal benefit," House Judiciary Committee Chair Jerry Nadler told the chamber. "Since President George Washington took office in 1789, no president has abused his power in this way," Nadler said. "The president has repeatedly, flagrantly, violated his oath... The president's conduct is wrong. It is illegal. And it is dangerous." Over nine hours the Democrats methodically dismantled Republican claims that Trump did nothing wrong. They left few doubts that Trump's sole motivation in secretly freezing aid to Ukraine last July was to force Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky to announce one investigation into Biden and a second into an unsupported story that Kiev helped Democrats in the 2016 election. To puncture a key White House argument that the U.S. constitution requires a specific crime to remove a president, they played old videos in which two of Trump's closest defenders, Republican Senator Lindsey Graham and storied criminal defense attorney Alan Dershowitz, said that abuse of power itself is a clear impeachable offense. And they detailed the extensive role of Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani in the scheme to pressure Zelensky, even while U.S. intelligence and diplomatic chiefs disagreed with it.

## North Korea Replaces FM Amid 'New Path' With U.S.



New North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Son Gwon talks during a meeting in the demilitarized zone separating the two Koreas, January 9, 2018.

**SEOUL (Dispatches)** -- North Korea's state media on Friday confirmed that Ri Son Gwon, a former defense commander, has been appointed the country's new foreign affairs minister. The official KCNA news agency reported Ri, the latest military official to be promoted under North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, gave a speech as minister at a New Year dinner reception hosted by the ministry on Thursday for embassies and international organizations. A diplomatic source in Seoul told Reuters North Korea informed countries with embassies in Pyongyang last week that Ri, a former mili-

tary officer and now a senior official of the ruling Workers' Party, had replaced Ri Yong Ho as Pyongyang's top diplomat. The appointment came as a surprise to North Korea watchers amid stalled denuclearization talks with Washington. The new foreign minister led high-level inter-Korean talks in 2018 as chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Country, which handles South Korea affairs. An analyst at South Korea's private Sejong Institute, Cheong Seong-Chang, said Ri's appointment signaled Pyongyang would further

harden its stance toward Washington. "From now on, it's difficult to expect meaningful progress in North Korea-U.S. diplomacy," Cheong said. Negotiations between the U.S. and North Korea have ground to a halt since the collapse of the second summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and the North's leader last February in Vietnam -- where Trump refused to accept a proposal for bilateral action and left the talks. The North's recent appointment of the diplomat came as it has already warned that it will take a "new path" and accelerate its nuclear and missile program. Pyongyang's representative, Ju Yong Chol, told this year's Conference on Disarmament in Geneva that his country's efforts to improve relations with Washington had been met with hostility. He said the North "will steadily develop strategic weapons, essential and prerequisite for national security, until the US abandons its hostile policy and lasting and durable peace... is in place on the Korean peninsula." In his New Year speech, Kim called off a two-year ban on nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) tests -- agreed in talks with the U.S. -- which he said would no longer be in place.

## Indian Women Occupy Streets to Protest Citizenship Law

**NEW DELHI (AP)** -- In the Indian capital's Shaheen Bagh neighborhood, beside open sewers and dangerously dangling electricity wires, a group of Muslim women in colorful headscarves sit in resistance to a new citizenship law that has unleashed protests across the country. For more than a month the women have taken turns maintaining an around the clock sit-in on a highway that passes through their neighborhood. They sing songs of protest and chant anti-government slogans, some cradling babies, others laying down rugs to make space for more people to sit. The movement has slowly spread nationwide, with many women across the country staging their own sit-ins. Through numerous police barricades, women trickle in from the winding arterial alleys of Shaheen Bagh with children in hand, as poets and singers take the makeshift stage, drawing rapturous applause. The neighbors "long live with chants of 'Inquilab Zindabad,' which means 'hood rings the revolution!'" As night draws closer, women as old as 90 huddle together under warm blankets, falling asleep on cheap mattresses. The women, like demonstrators elsewhere in the country, have been demanding the revocation of the citizenship law approved last month. The law provides a fast-track to naturalization for persecuted religious minorities from some neighboring Islamic countries, but

excludes Muslims. Nationwide protests have brought tens of thousands of people from different faiths and backgrounds together, in part because the law is seen by critics as part of a larger threat to the secular fabric of Indian society. "Someone had to tell the government that their black laws won't be accepted. So, as mothers, we decided to protest," said Najma Khatun, 62. Khatun and other protesters in Shaheen Bagh view the citizenship law as part of a bigger plan by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu-nationalist government to implement a nationwide register of citizens, which they fear could lead to the deportation and detention of Muslims. Modi and other leaders of his Bharatiya Janata Party have repeatedly said Indian citizens won't be affected by the new law, and that if a nationwide register is ever conducted, there will be no religion column. The gathering at Shaheen Bagh started with a handful of women appalled by the violence at a nearby Muslim university during protests against the law on Dec. 15. A common refrain among the women at Shaheen Bagh is that they are there to ensure that the secular India plotted out by independence-era leaders remains for younger generations.