

Claudius succeeds his nephew Caligula as Roman Emperor after the later's assassination by officers of the Praetorian Guard



James Marshall finds gold in Sutter's Mill in Coloma, California

University of Calcutta founded as the first full-fledged university in South Asia

Apple Computer Inc unveils its revolutionary Macintosh personal computer



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TWEETS

01



Federal employees have dedicated their careers to serving the American people – and they are worthy of the utmost dignity and respect. Today, I took action to improve the wages, benefits, and bargaining rights of federal workers and contractors.

@POTUS

02



Today I met with an inspiring group of small business owners. We know that they have been hit hard in this pandemic. That's why @POTUS and I are taking immediate action to help small businesses – because they power our economy, and they need relief.

@VP

03



Governments must protect their people, but "vaccinationalism" is self-defeating and will delay a global recovery. #COVID19 cannot be beaten one country at a time. Our world can only beat this virus one way – together.

@antonio gutierrez

04



We have vaccinated over 5.8 million people in the UK, with a record 478,000 first doses given in a single day yesterday. Every jab brings us closer to defeating the virus. If you're called for the vaccine, please do come forward.

@BorisJohnson

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)

Trump impeachment trial put off until early February

Democratic leader says the trial is set to begin during the week of Monday Feb. 8

● Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer urges 'truth and accountability' in the trial of the former president on 'incitement of insurrection' charge

Reuters | Washington

The leaders of the U.S. Senate agreed to push back former President Donald Trump's impeachment trial by two weeks, giving the chamber more time to focus on President Joe Biden's legislative agenda and Cabinet nominees before turning to the contentious showdown over Trump.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, a Democrat, said the trial is set to begin during the week of Monday Feb. 8, an arrangement praised by the chamber's top Republican, Mitch McConnell.

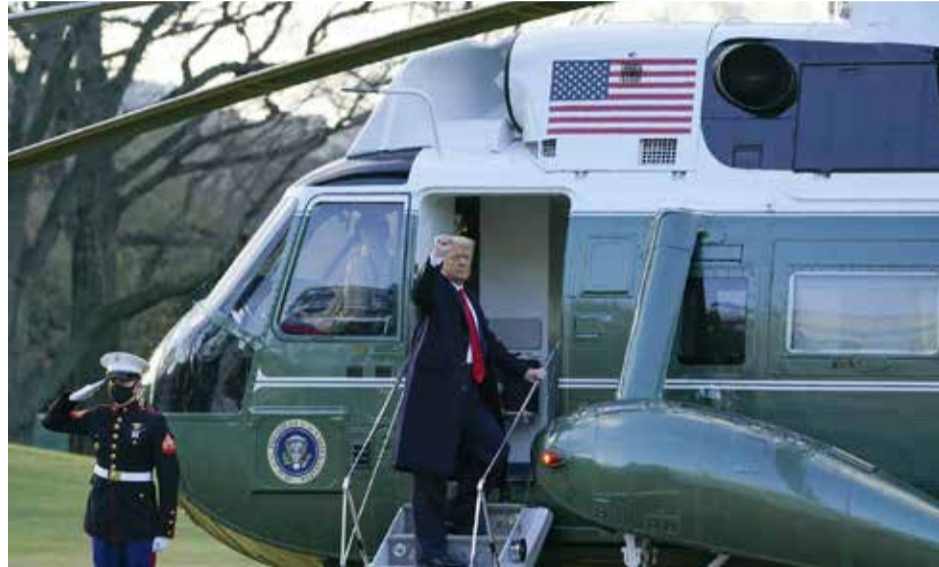
The House of Representatives is due to formally deliver to the Senate on Monday the impeachment charge accusing Trump of inciting an insurrection, a move that ordinarily would have triggered the beginning of the trial within a day. The charge stems from Trump's incendiary speech to supporters before they stormed the Capitol on Jan. 6 in a rampage that delayed the formal congressional certification of Biden's election victory and left five people dead, including a police officer.

Schumer said the new timeline will allow the Senate to move quickly on key Biden appointees and other tasks while giving House lawmakers who will prosecute the case and Trump's team more time to prepare for the trial.

"During that period, the Senate will continue to do other business for the American people, such as Cabinet nominations and the COVID relief bill which would provide relief for millions of Americans who are suffering during this pandemic," Schumer said on the Senate floor.

The timeline was a compromise after McConnell had asked the Democratic-led House to delay sending the charge until next Thursday, and called on Schumer to postpone the trial until mid-February to give Trump more time to prepare a defense.

Doug Andres, a spokesman for McConnell, said the senator was pleased Democrats had given Trump's defense more time,



US President Donald Trump boards Marine One as he departs the White House (file photo)



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CHUCK SCHUMER

and laid out a timeline that could have the trial begin as soon as Feb. 9.

"This is a win for due process and fairness," Andres said.

Under the timeline, House impeachment managers will file their pre-trial brief and Trump's defense team will file an answer to the impeachment charge on Feb. 2, and each side will respond to those filings on Feb. 8.

Trump on Jan. 13 became the first US president to have been impeached twice. The Senate acquitted him last year in the previous trial focused on Trump's request that Ukraine investigate Biden and his son. Trump's presidential term ended on Wednesday.

Conviction in the Senate would require a two-thirds vote - meaning 17 of Trump's fellow Republicans would have to vote against him. A conviction would clear the way for a

second vote, requiring a simply majority, to bar Trump from holding office again.

A Reuters/Ipsos poll released on Friday found a slim majority of Americans believe Trump should be convicted and barred from holding public office. The responses were almost entirely along party lines, with nine out of 10 Democrats wanting Trump convicted and less than two in 10 Republicans agreeing.

Trump has said he may seek the presidency again in 2024. His fate could depend on McConnell, whose position is likely to influence other Republicans. McConnell said this week that the mob that attacked the Capitol was "fed lies" and "provoked by the president and other powerful people."

Biden's Agenda

White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki told reporters earlier in the day that the Senate should be able to move forward with both the trial and Biden's agenda, beginning with his call for \$1.9 trillion of fresh COVID-19 assistance for Americans and the US economy.

"What cannot be delayed through this process is his proposal to get relief to the American people at this time of crisis," Psaki said.

Republican Senator Lindsey Graham, a close ally of Trump, said the agreement between Schumer and McConnell was "fair to all concerned."

"It allows the president's defense team adequate time to prepare and for the sake

Tropical cyclone Eloise makes landfall in Mozambique, loses strength



Fallen tree branches on a muddy street after cyclone Eloise

Reuters | Johannesburg

Tropical cyclone Eloise made landfall in Mozambique early yesterday, hitting the coastal city of Beira with huge gusts of wind and heavy rains, but was losing strength as it progressed, a South African weather official said.

"Eloise made landfall around 2:30 a.m. in the morning with wind speeds of 160 kilometres per hour (kph)(99 miles per hour)," said Mbazhi Maliage, a forecaster at South African Weather Service.

Cars were submerged in water, walls of some low lying buildings collapsed and swathes of land were flooded in the city of Beira, posts on Twitter showed. Reuters could not independently verify the authenticity of the posts.

Sri Lanka Minister who promoted 'Covid syrup' tests positive



Pavithra Wanniarachchi

BBC | Colombo

Sri Lanka's health minister, who endorsed herbal syrup to prevent Covid, has tested positive for the virus.

Pavithra Wanniarachchi tested positive on Friday, a media secretary at the Ministry of Health told the BBC.

She had promoted the syrup, manufactured by a shaman who claimed it worked as a life-long inoculation against the virus.

Sri Lanka recorded 56,076 cases and 276 deaths since the pandemic began, with cases surging in recent months.

Wanniarachchi is the fourth minister to test positive. A junior minister, who also took the potion, tested positive earlier this week.

And now, a reading from an email according to St. Paul

Reuters | London

If he were alive today, even St. Paul would be texting, Tweeting and firing off emails to get the news out, Pope Francis said yesterday in his message for the Roman Catholic Church's World Day of Social Communication.

St. Paul, who lived in the first century of the Christian era, spread the new faith into Europe and Asia Minor and is believed to have written a great part of the New Testament.

"Every tool has its value, and that great communicator who was Paul of Tarsus would certainly have made use of email and social messaging," the pope said in the message, titled "Come and See".

Still, Francis said Paul was at his best while preaching in per-



Pope Francis leads Angelus prayer on Epiphany at the Vatican

son, saying journalists and other communicators today should do more "hitting the streets ... meeting people face to face to research stories or to verify certain situations first-hand".

He said too often investigative reporting was being replaced by a "standard, often tendentious

narrative" not capable of grasping problems and aspirations at the grassroots level.

"In communications, nothing can ever completely replace seeing things in person," he said.

The world owes a debt of gratitude to journalists, camera operators, photographers and

others who often risk their lives to seek the truth, he added.

"Thanks to their efforts, we now know, for example, about the hardships endured by persecuted minorities in various parts of the world, numerous cases of oppression and injustice inflicted on the poor and on the environment, and many wars that otherwise would be overlooked," he said.



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POPE FRANCIS