

Can Sanders beat Trump?

A growing number of Democratic voters say yes

● **Sanders’ electability was a prime topic at Tuesday’s Democratic presidential debate**

Reuters | New York

Bernie Sanders’ Democratic presidential rivals warn that nominating the self-described democratic socialist will ensure President Donald Trump’s re-election, but a growing number of the party’s voters see the senator as their best chance of winning in November.

Sanders’ dominating performance in last week’s Nevada caucuses, powered by growing support across age, race and ideology, has set off alarm bells among Democratic Party officials who believe putting the progressive stalwart at the top of the ticket will harm the party’s chances up and down the ballot.

Sanders’ electability was a prime topic at Tuesday’s Democratic presidential debate in South Carolina. Rivals contended his ambitious liberal policy ideas, such as Medicare for All, which would replace private health insurance, would be an electoral “catastrophe,” costing the party the White House and control of Congress.

But the latest Reuters/Ipsos polling shows Sanders’ rising momentum in the race - a near win in Iowa, a narrow victory in New Hampshire and a decisive



Democratic US presidential candidate Senator Bernie Sanders speaks with voters at the First in the South Dinner in Charleston, South Carolina, US

win in Nevada - has given him more credibility with Democratic voters.

Some 26 per cent of Democrats and independents polled Feb. 17-25 said they believed Sanders was the strongest Democrat in a head-to-head matchup with Trump, compared with 20pc who picked billionaire businessman Michael Bloomberg and 17pc who named former Vice President Joe Biden.

That was a big change from a month earlier, when 27pc of respondents gave Biden the edge, and just 17pc thought Sanders could beat Trump.

In the Nevada caucuses,

Sanders won the support of a majority of Latino voters and led among most demographic groups broken out by gender, income and political leanings in Nevada. Notable exceptions were those aged 65 years and older, as well as black voters, more of whom supported Biden.

That too could be changing. The same Reuters/Ipsos polling showed that Sanders had overtaken Biden in support among black voters nationally for the first time.

Saturday’s South Carolina primary will be the first major test of Sanders’ appeal among African-American voters, who represent about 60pc of that

state’s Democratic electorate.

Three days later, 14 states will cast ballots on Super Tuesday, when Sanders could build an overwhelming advantage if he captures the lion’s share of the available delegates.

His path has been smoothed by the fragmentation among the moderate candidates. Biden, former South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg and Senator Amy Klobuchar – all of whom say Sanders’ policies are too radical to win in November, have each recorded at least one top-three finish thus far, while Bloomberg’s name will appear on ballots for the first time on Super Tuesday.

Body cam captures 6-year-old’s tearful pleas during arrest



Turner was fired shortly after the arrest. Orlando Police Chief Orlando Rolon said at the time that Turner, a reserve officer, didn't follow department policy of getting the approval of a watch commander to arrest someone younger than 12.

AP | Orlando, Fla.

“What are those for?” Kaia asks about the zip ties in the video. “They’re for you,” Officer Dennis Turner says before another officer tightens them around her wrists and Kaia begins weeping.

retired officers who pick up extra-duty jobs for pay. Because he was a reserve officer, he was not a mem-

ber of the collective bargaining unit, and the police union didn’t represent him, Shawn Dunlap of the Fraternal Order of Police Orlando Lodge 25, said in an email Tuesday.

School resource officers came under close scrutiny in Florida after former Broward Deputy Scot Peterson failed to engage a shooter at a Parkland high school in 2018. He was charged last year with child neglect, culpable negligence and perjury. That case is ongoing.

The Orlando case drew yet more attention to the role of police in schools.

Jeff Kaye, president of California-based School Safety Operations Inc., said in an email that the officer would not only have been fired in some other states but possibly charged with a crime, such as oppression under color of authority.

School administrators might have been better served by contacting the child’s parents and working with a counselor, rather than calling police, Kaye said.

“As long as everyone is safe, take a deep breath, slow things down, and make good commonsense decisions,” Kaye said. “I can’t think of any reason to ever arrest a 6-year-old child, but I say that based on my training and experience and not that of others.”

Kaye said he’s had several several school districts contact him since the video’s release saying they want to re-examine their school resource officer programs, because they don’t want something similar to happen in their schools.

Officials have said that Turner also arrested a 6-year-old boy at another school on the same day as Kaia’s arrest for misdemeanor battery in an unrelated incident. However, the boy’s arrest was halted by superiors before the child made it through the full arrest process.

State Attorney Aramis Ayala said last September that she was dismissing misdemeanor battery charges against both children.

Turner had worked in the police agency’s reserve unit, which is mostly made up of

Remains of teenager found in lion enclosure at Pak safari park



Representative picture

● **The skull and bones of 18-year-old Muhammad Bilal were discovered when staff went to feed the animals on Wednesday, Chaudhry Shafqat, deputy director general of Lahore Safari Park, said**

Reuters | Lahore, Pakistan

The remains of a teenager who had been missing for two days have found in the lions’ enclosure at a safari park in Pakistan, officials said.

The skull and bones of 18-year-old Muhammad Bilal

were discovered when staff went to feed the animals on Wednesday, Chaudhry Shafqat, deputy director general of Lahore Safari Park, said.

His family later ransacked parts of the attraction to protest at what they said was incompetence by park authorities, police said.

Members of Bilal’s family declined to comment to Reuters at the park, too upset to speak to reporters.

Shafqat said the park had “more than enough safety measures in place”, and questioned whether Bilal had been killed before his body ended up in the enclosure.

“We are still wondering how he crossed the protective fence which is quite high and entered the lions’ field,” he said, adding

the young man had been missing for the past two days.

“I think the police will also investigate whether the man himself climbed the fence and went inside or someone threw his dead body inside for the lions to eat.”

He said Bilal’s family told him and the police he had gone to the park to see one of his uncles who worked there.

Police official Najeeb Awan said they were investigating the incident. Awan said Bilal’s family and neighbours attacked offices at the attraction, smashed windows and damaged vehicles.

They also blocked a main highway and demanded the government initiate criminal proceedings against the park’s management, Awan said.

Five dead, three missing after Jakarta floods

Jakarta

Five people were killed, three more are missing and thousands are unable to return to their waterlogged homes after floods submerged parts of Indonesia’s capital, officials said yesterday.

The muddy deluge inundated the presidential palace, a major hospital and entire neighbourhoods across Jakarta on Tuesday, only weeks after 70 residents of the low-lying megacity died in some of the deadliest flooding in memory.

Two teenagers were among the five people drowned or electrocuted in hard-hit parts of the city, Indonesia’s national disaster agency said.

“The joint rescue team is still searching” for three other possible victims, agency spokesman Agus Wibowo told AFP, adding that nearly 20,000 people were staying in emergency shelters.

Floodwaters reached more than a metre (three feet) in some parts of the capital but were receding by Wednesday, a day after rescuers combed drowned districts in pontoon boats to locate vulnerable residents.