

Summary of Today's News

Joe Biden announces bid to become US president in 2020

Former US vice president Joe Biden has announced his candidacy for the 2020 presidential election.

I cannot stand by and watch that happen." At least 20 Democrats are jockeying for the chance to take on President Donald Trump next year. Mr Biden, a former Delaware senator for 36 years, recently faced claims he touched women in an overly familiar manner without their consent.

Fresh details emerge on Sri Lanka bomber who studied in UK

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The leader of the Sri Lankan parliament, Lakshman Kiriella, added that "some top intelligence officials hid the intelligence information purposefully." He said: "Information was there, but the top brass security officials did not take appropriate actions.

Sir Mo Farah 'kicked and hit' female athlete in hotel gym, claims Haile Gebrselassie

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Distance running legend Haile Gebrselassie has told Sky News that Sir Mo Farah "kicked and hit" a female athlete during a dispute at a hotel gym in Ethiopia. "I managed to mediate between them and the police didn't end up speaking to Mo himself." The new detail adds to what is already an astonishing row between Sir Mo and Gebrselassie.

This incident highlights again the failure by hotel management to take safety seriously." Sir Mo's team also previously refuted the suggestion he attacked a "married athlete". In a statement, he added: "There were multiple reports of disgraceful conduct, which was not expected from a person of his calibre, and his entourage during his stay, by the hotel staff." Gebrselassie went on to claim: "He was reported to the police for attacking (a) married athlete in the gym." He added: "But due to my mediation role, the criminal charge was able to be dropped." "Mo disputes all of these claims which are an effort to distract from the situation, where members of his hotel staff used a room key and stole money and items from Mo Farah's room." Sir Mo, who said he was feeling confident ahead of Sunday's marathon, claimed Gebrselassie had ignored his texts in the weeks following his departure from Ethiopia.

Vladimir Putin says 'smart' Kim Jong Un wants security before dropping nuclear powers

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He is a smart and interesting person to talk to." Mr Putin has emerged from the summit appearing to have positioned himself as a gate-keeper of sorts to the North Korean leader. "I propose a toast to the further strengthening of friendship and cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, to the well-being of the peoples of our countries, and to the health of comrade Chairman Kim Jong Un and all those present here today," Mr

Putin said, raising a glass of white wine with Mr Kim. The North Korean leader, who gave thanks for the warm welcome he and his party received, followed and said: "Today, I have had a frank and substantive exchange of opinions with Mr Putin pertaining to the development of the Russian-Korean relations of friendship, the provision of peace and security on the Korean peninsula and in the region, and global affairs of interest." He added: "I am happy to say that today's remarkable meeting is a logical result of the relations of friendship between the two countries, which have existed for a long period of time." Discussion over trade and movement of workers was also discussed, with Mr Putin saying he was hopeful that Russia would be able to complete some infrastructure projects with North Korea.

Sainsbury's lashes out at regulator as Asda mega merger is blocked by CMA

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Sainsbury's and Asda have called off their planned £13bn merger after it was formally blocked by the competition regulator on the grounds it would lead to higher prices. "We have concluded that there is no effective way of addressing our concerns, other than to block the merger." The ruling prompted a bitter response from the chains, with Sainsbury's share price falling more than 6% in early deals to leave it almost 20% down in the year to date. Asda said it was "disappointed" by the decision, while Judith McKenna, chief executive of its US parent firm Walmart, added: "Our focus now is continuing to position Asda as a strong UK retailer delivering for customers."

Extinction Rebellion activists disrupt City in fresh protests

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Extinction Rebellion activists glued themselves to the London Stock Exchange and climbed onto the roof of a train in Canary Wharf as part of the latest wave of climate change protests. The group threatened more small "actions" across the financial district on Thursday, with further planned protests outside banks including Goldman Sachs, the Bank of England, Rothschild and Nomura. "People are talking about the climate and ecological emergency in ways that we never imagined." The group added: "It is now time to go back into our communities, whether in London, around the UK or internationally." Extinction Rebellion says it expects to carry out further action "very soon", and announced an end to blockades at Parliament Square and Marble Arch.

Crime figures: Homicides hit highest level in a decade as knife offences increase

Police recorded 732 homicides in England and Wales last year, the highest total in a decade, according to official new figures.

Commenting on the crime figures, Alexa Bradley from the ONS said: "When we look at the overall level of crime, there has been no significant change over the last year. "Lower-volume high-harm violence involving knives has risen, whereas offences involving firearms have decreased." The ONS figures showed an increase in knife offences in 31 of the 43 police forces in England and Wales, in the year leading up to December.

Downing St leaves door open to leak inquiry over security talks

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Downing Street has left the door to a leak inquiry after secret talks between security chiefs and ministers were made public. The US, Australia and New Zealand have barred Huawei from supplying key elements of their infrastructure and Canada is still considering the matter. Huawei denies having ties to the Chinese government.

Joe Biden: The Democrat Donald Trump probably fears most

If you put all the Democrats who've announced they're running for president into a boxing ring, it would be so crowded there would barely be enough room for any of them to swing a punch.

Joe Biden brings the status of having been vice president for eight years, but his Washington political career spans five decades.

While both Mr Biden and Mr Sanders have the advantage of name-recognition, their age will be a factor; many Democrats feel it's time for the party to skip a generation. "This was no way for a presidential candidate to act in public," he wrote.

Don't threaten people Joe!" If the two were to go head-to-head in the race for the White House, expect even more forthright comments from both men.

Mr Biden knows how unpredictable elections can be. There are many pundits who believe Mr Biden has a better chance of beating President Trump than any of his rivals.

So while Joe Biden isn't guaranteed to deliver a knockout blow to all of those who've thrown their hat in the ring, his experience means he's probably the Democrat that President Trump most fears.

Autogenerated by Harris Vince on 2019-04-25 in 6.64s. Reading this saved you 24:13min (or 01:27 if you are Erin).