

WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

Harris opens presidential bid on Martin Luther King Day

WASHINGTON — Kamala Harris, a first-term senator and former California attorney general known for her rigorous questioning of President Donald Trump's nominees, entered the Democratic presidential race today. Vowing to "bring our voices together," she would be the first woman to hold the presidency and the second African-American if she succeeds.

Harris, who grew up in Oakland, California, and is a daughter of parents from Jamaica and India, is one of the earliest high-profile Democrats to join what is expected to be a crowded field. She made her long anticipated announcement on ABC's "Good Morning America."

The 54-year old portrayed herself as a fighter for justice, decency and equality in a video distributed by her campaign as she announced her bid. "They're the values we as Americans cherish, and they're all on the line now," Harris says in the video. "The future of our country depends on you and millions of others lifting our voices to fight for our American values."

Harris launched her presidential bid as the nation observes what would have been the 90th birthday of the slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. The timing was a clear signal that the California senator—who has joked that she had a "stroller's-eye view" of the civil rights movement because her parents wheeled her and her sister Maya to protests—sees herself as another leader in that fight.

MLK holiday offers stage for Democratic hopefuls

COLUMBIA, S.C. — In addition to Sen. Kamala Harris launching her presidential campaign, other Democratic presidential hopefuls are fanning out across the country to honor the civil rights leader and make themselves heard on the national stage.

An annual rally to observe King's birthday, held in the capital of South Carolina, a critical early-voting state in the Democratic primary, brought out two senators expected to seek the White House in 2020, Cory Booker of New Jersey and Bernie Sanders of Vermont.

In the nation's capital, former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who is weighing a presidential bid, spoke at a King event alongside former Vice President Joe Biden, who's considering his own 2020 run.

Two candidates who have already opened exploratory committees — Sens. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Kirsten Gillibrand of New York — will also appear at King-centered events.

President Donald Trump, meanwhile, paid a visit to the Martin Luther King Jr. memorial in Washington to pay his respects on a frigid and windy day. He was joined by Vice President Mike Pence, who accompanied Trump in laying a wreath at the foot of the memorial statue.

Islamic State group targets US convoy in northeast Syria

BEIRUT — An Islamic State suicide bomber targeted a joint convoy of U.S. and allied Kurdish forces in northern Syria today, marking the second attack against U.S. troops in less than a week and further highlighting the dangers surrounding U.S. plans to withdraw forces after a declaration that the extremist group had been defeated.

Col. Sean Ryan said there were no casualties among the U.S.-led coalition mem-

Frigid air, high winds blast eastern US



Dennis Nett/The Post-Standard

A snow storm blasts Syracuse, New York on Sunday. The National Weather Service forecast temperatures more than 20 degrees below normal across the Northeast, with wind gusts up to 30 mph and wind chills approaching minus 40 degrees. The weather contributed to multiple deaths over the holiday weekend.

bers. He added: "We can confirm a combined U.S. and Syrian partner force convoy was involved" in the suicide bomb attack.

Today's bombing came days after a suicide attack killed 19 people, including two U.S. service members and two American civilians, in the northern Syrian town of Manbij. That bombing was the deadliest assault on U.S. troops in Syria since American forces moved into the country in 2015.

The extremist group claimed both attacks in statements carried by its Amaq news agency. IS has been driven from virtually all the territory it once held in Syria and Iraq but continues to carry out attacks in both countries.

Israel jets strike Iranian military sites in Syria

JERUSALEM — The Israeli military said its jets struck Iranian military targets in Syria early today, an announcement that marked a rare departure from Israel's yearslong policy of ambiguity regarding activities in neighboring Syria.

The military said the targets included munition storage facilities, an intelligence site and a military training camp.

The strikes were in response to a surface-to-surface rocket that Iranian forces fired toward Israel on

Sunday that was intercepted by Israel's Iron Dome missile defense system over a ski resort in the Golan Heights. That launch followed a rare Israeli daylight air raid near the Damascus International Airport.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Monday's pre-dawn strikes lasted for nearly an hour and were the most intense Israeli attacks since May. It said 11 were killed in the strikes. The Russian military said four Syrian troops were among those killed in airstrikes that targeted three different locations and damaged unspecified infrastructure at Damascus airport.

Venezuela quells soldiers' revolt, top court blasts congress

CARACAS, Venezuela — Venezuela plunged deeper into turmoil today as security forces put down a pre-dawn uprising by national guardsmen that triggered violent street protests and the Supreme Court outlawed the opposition-controlled congress' defiant new leadership.

The mutiny triggered protests in a poor neighborhood just a few miles from Venezuela's presidential palace. It was dispersed with tear gas as residents set fire to a barricade of trash.

Juan Guaido, president of

congress, shrugged off the court's warning and reiterated his call for people to take to the streets Wednesday — a historic date commemorating the end of Venezuela's military dictatorship in 1958 — to demand Maduro abandon power.

Dozens of foreign governments have refused to recognize Maduro's second term, some saying they are ready to recognize Guaido as interim president until fair elections can be held.

Shutdown goes on as Trump offer doesn't budge Democrats

WASHINGTON — Thirty-one days into the partial government shutdown, Democrats and Republicans appeared no closer to ending the impasse than when it began, with President Donald Trump lashing out at his opponents after they dismissed a plan he'd billed as a compromise.

Trump on Sunday branded House Speaker Nancy Pelosi a "radical" and said she was acting "irrationally." The president also tried to fend off criticism from the right, as conservatives accused him of embracing "amnesty" for immigrants in the country illegally.

Trump offered on Saturday to temporarily extend protections for young immigrants brought to the country illegally as children and those fleeing disaster zones in exchange for \$5.7 billion for his border wall. But Democrats said the three-year proposal didn't go nearly far enough.

With hundreds of thousands of federal workers set to face another federal pay period without paychecks, the issue passed to the Senate, where Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has agreed to bring Trump's proposal to the floor this week.

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Grateful to be here,
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