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## Week of uncertainty begins in Toronto following mayor's surprise resignation

TORONTO - Uncertainty hung over Toronto on Monday as the city looked to recover from Mayor John Tory's announcement that he planned to resign following an affair with a former staffer - a revelation that came days before major deliberations over the municipal budget.

Tory, 68, stunned observers on Friday when he admitted to an "inappropriate relationship" with someone who used to work on his team but has since left.

As of Monday morning, however, Tory had still not submitted a letter of resignation, a city spokesperson confirmed.

One political observer said Tory's revelation, combined with the fact that the budget is set to be presented Wednesday under new "strong mayor" powers, means the path forward for the city isn't immediately clear.

"I think we're in totally uncharted territory," said Myer Siemiatycki, professor emeritus of politics at Toronto Metropolitan University.

A pressing question looming over city council is whether or not Tory stays on to push through his budget, which he was responsible for preparing under the newly-granted strong mayor powers, Siemiatycki said.

If he stays, Tory could wield the powers, including a veto, to help push through the budget with only



one-third of support from council.

If he goes before the budget is presented, councillors could jump on the opportunity to overturn some of his controversial proposals, including hikes to the police budget and cuts to transit service, Siemiatycki said.

"Flatten your sails. It will be an unpredictable ride coming up for Toronto, especially this week because of the budget debate," he said.

When Tory formalizes his resignation as mayor, it's likely Deputy Mayor Jennifer McKelvie will take on the interim role until the city holds a by-election.

The Ontario government has indicated strong mayor powers do not transfer over to the interim or acting mayor. Those powers include the mayor's ability to veto changes council makes to the budget, which can only be reversed by a two-thirds council majority.

"In the absence of a strong mayor, we need a strong and decisive council

United States fighter jets have shot down a total of five aerial objects over American and Canadian airspace since initial reports of a suspected Chinese spy balloon emerged nearly two weeks ago.

That balloon, which China has claimed was a weather aircraft, was shot down on Feb. 4 off the U.S. east coast - two days after American officials first acknowledged it and a week after it first entered U.S. and Canadian airspace. In the eight days since that takedown, American jets have shot down three "unidentified objects" over Alaska, Yukon and Lake Huron near Ontario and Michigan.

The additional objects - the origins of which are not yet clear - have put continental security forces on "heightened alert," Gen. Glen VanHerck, head of NORAD and U.S. Northern Command, told reporters on Sunday.

While the Chinese balloon has been recovered and is being examined by American personnel, officials are still searching for the other three objects to determine what they were and where they're from.

Here is what we know, and don't know, so far.

**What we know**

After news of the suspected spy balloon emerged earlier this month, the U.S. military has been adjusting its radar to find flying objects - including balloons - that are smaller, slower and differently shaped than enemy aircraft and missiles that have long preoccupied the Pentagon.

"We have been more closely scrutinizing our airspace at these altitudes, including enhancing our radar, which may at least partly explain the increase," Melissa Dalton, assistant defence secretary for U.S. homeland defence, said in an Associated Press story on Monday.

The recent takedowns of the three still-identified objects began on

Friday when the United States shot down a "high-altitude" object as it flew over Alaska near the northern Canadian border.

National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby would not say at the time if the object was a balloon or what entity owned it. He said the object, about the size of a "small car," was flying at 40,000 feet and posed a "reasonable threat" to civilian aircraft.

On Saturday, Global News published an exclusive report at 3:36 p.m. Eastern that NORAD officials were monitoring additional objects that could be more spy balloons. Within minutes of publication, NORAD confirmed in a statement that it had "positively identified a high-altitude airborne object over Northern Canada."

Canadian CF-18s and American F-22s were scrambled from nearby airbases, and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said in a tweet he had ordered the "unidentified object that violated Canadian airspace" over Yukon to be shot down. An American F-22 jet downed the object.

National Defence Minister Anita Anand said on Saturday the object is "potentially similar to the one that was shot down to the one shot down off the coast of North Carolina, though smaller in size and cylindrical in nature."

"To our knowledge, this is the first instance of NORAD downing an object in Canadian airspace, and the importance of this moment should not be underestimated. We detected

this object together and we defeated it together," she said.

The object was flying at approximately 40,000 feet and "posed a reasonable threat to the safety of civilian flight," Anand added.

Finally, on Sunday, a U.S. fighter jet shot down an "unidentified object" over Lake Huron on orders from U.S. President Joe Biden.

The object was flying at approximately 20,000 feet in U.S. airspace over Lake Huron in the state of Michigan, the Pentagon said. It likely fell into Canadian waters, U.S. Air Force Gen. Glen VanHerck said on Sunday.

"Its path and altitude raised concerns, including that it could be a hazard to civil aviation. The location chosen for this shoot down afforded us the opportunity to avoid impact to people on the ground while improving chances for debris recovery. There are no indications of any civilians hurt or otherwise affected," the Pentagon said in a readout.

The object appeared to be octagonal in structure, with strings hanging off but no discernible payload, a U.S. official speaking on condition of anonymity told Reuters.

Recovery efforts are ongoing.

What we don't know

There are still a lot of unanswered questions regarding the recent objects, and officials aren't making anything out - including whether they belong to aliens.

"At this point, we continue to assess every threat or potential threat, unknown, that approaches North

## The search is on for objects shot down over Canada, U.S. Here's what we know

America with an attempt to identify it," VanHerck said Sunday.

"We're calling them objects, not balloons, for a reason."

Anand similarly did not give a clear answer when asked by a Canadian reporter on Sunday about the origins of the object shot down over Yukon.

"Is there any indication that this object is not terrestrial, is not from this world?" a reporter from The Canadian Press asked.

"From all indications, this object is potentially similar to the one that was shot down off the coast of North Carolina, though smaller in size and cylindrical in nature," Anand responded. "That is the information that we are working with right now. But with further analysis, we will know more and be able to provide you with more details."

"Just to confirm, so it sounds like it potentially was another balloon?" the reporter asked again.

"I will refer to that item as an object at this time," Anand said. "I am a person that depends on facts and will not provide opinions until I can ground them in some sort of facts. So I'm going to wait for the reports that I will be getting relating to the analysis of the debris."

The downing of the original suspected spy balloon on Feb. 4 has worsened Chinese relations with the United States and Canada. Its discovery prompted U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken to cancel a trip to China many had hoped would put the brakes on the sharp decline in relations over Taiwan, trade, human

rights and frustrating Chinese actions in the disputed South China Sea.

China has said that balloon shot down by the United States was an unmanned aircraft made for meteorological research that had been blown to sea.

It has accused the U.S. of overreacting by shooting it down and threatened to take unspecified action in response. It's unclear where the three objects recently downed originated from.

China's foreign ministry has said it had no information on the latest three flying objects shot down by the U.S.

An American official told a U.S. Senate committee last week that the balloon was part of a "broader suite of operations" that are underway by Beijing.

Jedidiah Royal, the U.S. assistant defence secretary for the Indo-Pacific, told a U.S. Senate Appropriations subcommittee Thursday that the military has "some very good guesses" about what intelligence China was seeking.

When pressed on what information the balloon was specifically trying to gather, Royal said U.S. officials "are learning more as we exploit the contents of the balloon and the payload itself."

"We understand that this is part of a broader suite of operations that China is undertaking to try to get a better understanding of the U.S.," Royal said.

This public comments came just hours after AP reported on Wednesday that China's balloon was equipped to collect intelligence signals and was part of a huge, military-linked aerial spy program that targeted more than 40 countries.

Similar balloons have floated over five continents, according to the Biden administration. China admitted last Monday that a balloon travelling over Latin America was also theirs.

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### MC Stan wins Bigg Boss Season 16

After 19 long weeks, Bigg Boss 16 has found its winner in rapper MC Stan, while Shiv Thakare was announced as the runner-up. The other finalists of the Salman Khan-hosted show were Priyanka Chahar Choudhary, Shaheen Ishaan and Archana Gautam. The winner took home the glamorous trophy, cash prize of Rs 31,00,000 and Hyundai Grand i10 Nios.

The finale was also attended by former contestants, who put up grand shows showcasing their journey. From Ankit Gupta and Priyanka Chahar Choudhary reliving their friendship to the 'Mandali', which includes Abha Rozik, MC Stan, Shiv Thakare, Sajid Khan, Nimit Kaur Akhouri and Sumbal Yousef Khan, coming together to celebrate their friendship, the finale was full. Ishaan Singh also granted the finale to leave the audience in splits, while Sunny Dool and Anshika Patel joined Salman on stage to talk about Gadar 2.

Coming back to the winner, given the rapper's distinctness in the game, many thought he would lift the trophy. However, once he got a hang of the game, MC Stan confessed that he started enjoying it. Also, with



such a massive fandom, the task became easier as his followers voted for him in abundance. His journey in the show has been speckled with fights, friendship and also his raw talent. For the first time in the history of Bigg Boss, a live concert was organised during New Year, and fans went crazy when Stan took the stage. Every celebrity who has been on the show has also spoken about being a fan and also mentioned his diamonds and expensive shoes.

MC Stan, through the course of the show, proved that one need not have

### Kangana Ranaut Hits Back At Aamir Khan

Kangana Ranaut has yet again taken a dig at a Bollywood star and this time it is Aamir Khan despite him being praised for her as a recent event. Amir Khan, during his recent appearance at the launch of writer Shobhaa De, was asked who would play her well if a biopic was ever made on her.

He named three Bollywood celebrities as his choice, but none of them were Kangana Ranaut. Khan opined that Deepika Padukone, Priyanka Chopra and Alia Bhatt were some of the best choices. However, Shobhaa De reminded Aamir of Kangana.

"Yes, she would do it well. She is a strong actor, she's very versatile," he said as Shobhaa praised her ever in Thelava. Kangana Ranaut revealed that Aamir Khan tried his best not to name her. Earlier today, she took to her Twitter handle and reacted to the video and wrote: "Behara Aamir Khan... ha ha he tried his best to pretend like he doesn't know that I am the only three times national award-winning actress none of those he mentioned has even one... Thank you @DeShobhaa ji. I would love to play with you."

Kangana added, "Shobhaa ji and I have opposing political views but that doesn't stop her from admiring my art, hard work and dedication to my craft that is the reflection of one's integrity and value system... Wish you the best for your new book man! Sorry I have four national awards already and a Padma Shri my fans remind me I don't even remember how many I have."

Sorry I have four national awards already and a Padma Shri my fans remind me I don't even remember how many I have.

She also corrected herself that she was not three but four National Awards. "Sorry I have four national awards already and a Padma Shri. My fans remind me that I don't even remember how many I have."

Previously, Kangana Ranaut has criticized Aamir Khan on multiple occasions. She once stated that sponsors like Aamir Khan don't give a show or cast well even when she attends their films' special screenings and had called him 'petty', reported Iqbal.com.

### Women's T20 World Cup: India achieve 7-wicket victory over Pakistan

Jenisha Rodrigues and teenager Richa Ghosh took India to a seven-wicket win over Pakistan in their Women's T20 World Cup match at Newlands in Cape Town, South Africa on Sunday.

What had been a tense run chase turned into a comfortable win with an over to spare as Rodrigues and Ghosh put on an unbeaten 58 off 33 balls.

Rodrigues battled with calm skill to make 53 not out of 38 balls while Ghosh, 19, hit powerfully to score 31 not out of 20 balls.

Pakistan posted 149 for four after deciding to bat on a dry pitch.

It was a total which looked unlikely when they were labouring at 68 for four in the 13th over.

But captain Hammad Masood (58 not out) and Ayesha Nazam (43 not out) transformed the innings in an unbeaten partnership of 81 off 47 balls.

The left-handed Masood faced 45 balls and hit seven fours while the 18-year-old Nazam hammered her runs of 23 balls, hitting two fours and two sixes.

Sadha dismissed Shefali Verma, who was superbly caught on the



Naseem almost immediately went on the attack with Pakistan left-arm spinner Nisha Sadha bowling superbly to take two for 15 in her four overs.

The Indian innings followed a similar pattern with Pakistan left-arm spinner Nisha Sadha bowling superbly to take two for 15 in her four overs.

Sadha dismissed Shefali Verma, who was superbly caught on the

boundary by Sidra Ameen, and Indian captain Harmanpreet Kaur, leaving India needing to score about 10 runs over the last six overs.

But Pakistan paid the price for only picking five bowlers and the remaining bowlers were expensive, while their fielders were guilty of seven mistakes.

Three boundaries by Ghosh off successive balls from Aiman Anwar in the 19th over effectively sealed the match.

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### Real Madrid beats Al-Hilal 5-3 to win 8th Club World Cup

Vincius Junior scored twice and assisted Kevin Reus to lead Real Madrid to its record-extending eighth Club World Cup title by beating Saudi Arabia's Al-Hilal 5-3.

Real Madrid's victory was a rare goal for the European champions in a final that turned into a shootout on Saturday. Al-Hilal never led but showed it was no fluke that it upset Brazil's Flamengo to reach the decider in Morocco's capital.

Vincius has been the target of racist abuse in the Spanish league and even had his effigy hung from a bridge, but has not let that negatively impact his performance.

The Brazil forward, who scored the only goal when Madrid beat Liverpool in last season's Champions League final, leads Madrid with 16 goals across all competitions.

Vincius opened the scoring in the 13th minute and curled home Madrid's fifth and final goal in the 69th. "Vincius has been improving since last season, just as the team has also grown. We won the Champions League and now the world title, and Vincius has grown along the way," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said.

"We are thrilled with what he is doing, above all because he keeps getting better. He is much more decisive now and is making the difference in every match." Luciano Vietto scored twice and Mesaux Merga once for the Asian champions, who fell behind early and never got closer than 2-1 by halftime. Madrid led won the Club World Cup in 2016. It has succeeded in five different decades.

Benzema was a mild surprise in Madrid's starting lineup a day after Ancelotti said it was touch-and-go if he could play at all. The Real Madrid striker missed Madrid's last two games, including the 4-1 semi-final win against Egyptian club Al-Ahly on Wednesday.

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### Bigg Boss 16: Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan song 'Naiyo Lagda' releases at the finale; Salman Khan and Poorna Hegde romance

Just a few days ago, the makers of Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan released the trailer of the song 'Naiyo Lagda'. The makers decided to up the Valentine's day celebrations by launching the romantic track of the film during the week. And hence they announced the release of the song on the set of Bigg Boss 16, which is hosted by the superstar. February 12 also marks the grand finale of the latest season of the reality show with Shiv Thakare, Priyanka Chahar Choudhary, and MC Stan as the top three finalists.

Talking about the song, a source close to the film said, "It is supposed to be one of the most blissful compositions of Himesh Reshammiya. It had to perfectly

encapsulate the surreal chemistry between Salman Khan and Poorna Hegde, and the audiences will definitely not get enough of the on-screen couple after this song releases. Himesh Reshammiya's compositions for Salman Khan films have always ended up being blockbusters and 'Naiyo Lagda' will be no exception. The romantic number will make a place in everyone's heart. The makers wanted Salman Khan to look tough, rusty yet melt-your-heart and adorable."

The song is set against the divine backdrop of beautiful valleys in and around Leh and Ladakh. It coincided with the release of Eid 2023 and will be a Zee Studios world premiere.

order to further ensure that the release recipe is a hit. Talking about 'Naiyo Lagda', it was composed by Himesh Reshammiya, with lyrics by Shabbir Ahmed whereas Kamal Khan and Palak Muchhal leading their voice to the song.

A Salman Khan Films Production, produced by Salma Khan, Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan, is directed by Fahad Sanji. The film stars Salman Khan, Venkatesh Duggubati, Poorna Hegde, Jagapathi Babu, Bhumika Chawla, Vijender Singh, Abhinav Singh, Raghuvar Jayal, Siddharth Nigam, Jassie Gill, Sheemaaz Gill, Palak Tiwari and Vinod Dhanraj in pivotal roles. The film is slated to release on Eid 2023 and will be a Zee Studios world premiere.

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### Ranji Trophy: Saurashtra prevail over batting wobble to set up final clash with Bengal

Riding on a dominant all-round performance, Bengal stormed into the Ranji Trophy final, ousting defending champions Madhya Pradesh by 306 runs at the Holkar Stadium here on Sunday.

Bengal, who last won the Ranji title in the 1989-90 season, will face Saurashtra who beat Karnataka by four wickets in the semi-final.

Bengal will host the final against Saurashtra, by virtue of having secured more points than its fellow finalist in the group stage in a repeat of the 2020 final.

The star of the semi-final for Bengal was Akash Deep, who wrecked the home side with his six wickets to take the team to their second Ranji final appearance in three seasons.

Anustup Majumdar and Sudip Kumar Gharami also contributed heavily, scoring 200 and 153 runs respectively in the first innings that took Bengal to a massive 438.

Pradipta Pramanik also impressed



with his all-round skills, scoring an unbeaten







