

# THE DUŠNÍ TIMES

## Latest news from the USA:

### The Attack on Capitol Hill of America

A rally in support of President Donald Trump turned deadly when thousands of attendees stormed the U.S. Capitol building on Wednesday 6th January 2021.



Chaos in the nation's capital began midday Wednesday at a "Save America" rally at the Ellipse, a park near the White House, where Trump encouraged his supporters to march to Capitol Hill, where Congress was meeting to certify Joe Biden as the 46th president of the United States.



Federal law enforcement vehicles raced to the Capitol to beat the mob there. Soon, after breaching through barricades and security checkpoints, the protesters were inside the building -- forcing lawmakers to go into lockdown.

Members of the angry crowd went door to door waving Confederate flags, looting the offices of senators and congressmen, and repeating the false rhetoric that the

president had expanded since November -- that Trump was the real winner of the election.

Lawmakers were forced to get gas masks from under their seats as tear gas was released into the rotunda.



A woman was shot in the middle of a stalemate between police and protesters on the stairs in front of the House chamber. The woman, Ashli Babbitt, was one of four people who died because of this chaos.

As the minutes turned into hours of violence, politicians urged Trump to instruct his supporters to leave the Capitol. In a video on Twitter that was later removed, Trump

told them to go home, but he repeated that the election was "stolen" from him and said he "loved" the protesters.

Senators returned for the meeting at 20:00 to confirm electoral votes, but the building was not considered cleared until about 1:30, nearly 12 hours after the start of the madness.

### **Trump pardons dozens in his final hours, including his former adviser Steve Bannon**

In the final hours of his presidency, Donald Trump has pardoned 73 people, including his former adviser Steve Bannon, who is facing fraud charges. Another 70 people had their sentences commuted, ahead of Joe Biden's inauguration at noon. The president has not issued preemptive pardons for himself or family members. He can still issue more pardons on Wednesday morning, as he remains president until Mr. Biden takes the oath of office outside the US Capitol.

Mr. Trump has granted less than 1% of requests for clemency, the lowest on record. However, it is the nature of the pardons that has caused controversy. Although many on the list are conventional examples of convicts whose cases have been supported by rights activists and supporters in the community, others maintain the president's trend of focusing on allies. A number of those pardoned have been close associates and allies, such as former campaign manager Paul Manafort, long-time ally Roger Stone and his son-in-law Jared Kushner's father, Charles.

Opponents accuse him of using his constitutional powers unconventionally, to benefit his friends and close supporters. There had been speculation Mr. Trump could try to pardon himself or his family members ahead of any possible charges. It is unclear whether he has the legal power to do so and there is no precedent of a US leader issuing such a pardon. He does face a possible Senate impeachment trial for "incitement to insurrection", although dates have yet to be set for that.



### **Biden took the oath and promised to end the "uncivil war"**

WASHINGTON - Democrat Joe Biden was sworn in as president of the United States on Wednesday, vowing to end the 'uncivil war' in a deeply divided country reeling from a battered economy and a raging coronavirus pandemic that has killed more than 400,000 Americans.

With his hand on a five-inch-thick heirloom Bible that has been in his family for more than a century, Biden took the oath of office administered by U.S. Chief Justice John

Roberts that binds the president to “preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.”

“Through a crucible for the ages, America has been tested anew, and America has risen to the challenge,” Biden said in his inaugural address. “Today we celebrate the triumph not of a candidate but of a cause: the cause of democracy...At this hour, my friends, democracy has prevailed.”

Biden, 78, became the oldest U.S. president in history at a scaled-back ceremony in Washington that was largely stripped of its usual pomp and circumstance, due both to the coronavirus and security concerns following the Jan. 6 assault on the U.S. Capitol by supporters of outgoing President Donald Trump.



# News from the world of celebrities:

## **Elliot Page comes out as transgender**

The Oscar-nominated star, formerly known as Ellen Page, has announced he is transgender.

Elliot Page announced it on social media. Page uses both he/him and they/them pronouns and describes himself as transgender and non-binary. Meaning that his gender identity is neither man nor woman.



„I feel so happy to write this, to be here, to have reached this point in my life, “he wrote in the letter.

He asked for patience as he completed his transition. The actor said that even though he was feeling very happy about the process, he was also afraid of haters and violence that goes with it. His letter referred to statistics on discrimination against trans people.

Page had come out as a gay back in February 2014, during a speech at a Human Rights Campaign conference. He had then said that he hoped the announcement would help other people in a similar situation: "Maybe I can make it easier for others to have a good life," they said, adding that they were tired of hiding and lying. For a long time, Page was worried about how coming out would impact his career: "I suffered for years because I was afraid to be out."

Page can currently be seen in the Netflix show *The Umbrella Academy*, which is based on a superhero comic book series of the same name.

## **Actor Rupert Grint is considering quitting acting**

An actor who played Ron Weasley in the *Harry Potter* film, is considering quitting acting since he is a father. He and his girlfriend Georgia Groom had a baby last May. They have a daughter named Wednesday.

He said he had always thought about it, but now he likes the idea even more. He loves his job, but he became famous at a very young age and it was really difficult for him to deal with it. He also said that he is really grateful for this experience. And that he never refused to take a selfie with his fans, but he lacks anonymity. He appreciates that he can wear a veil.





What would he do if he wasn't an actor?

Rupert said it will be great to do something absolutely different. For example, he would like to build something out of wood. He had already made something out of wood before the pandemic and now he is trying to improve. Rupert also began to make ceramics. When his daughter is sleeping, he sits down at the potter's wheel and makes cups or bowls.

At the end of the interview Rupert Grint said that fatherly love is something

absolutely indescribable. And it changed his view of things, but in a good way.



### **Actress Emma Roberts became a mother**

Emma (29) became a mother for the first time on December 27. The star of the comedy Christmas Date gave birth to a son, but she was still silent about childbirth and the baby. Now she boasted her first photo of the baby boy and revealed his name.

She showed up for a long time and took pictures with her pregnant belly, the ground seemed to fall on her. Before giving birth, Emma last contributed to Instagram on December 21 and according to the MTZ website, six days later, she gave birth to the baby boy.

# News from science and technology:

## Covid-19 vaccine

There are many vaccines for Covid-19. It is important that a lot of people vaccinate. When people vaccinate, the infection rate will drop. The world will return to its original state.

Here are the vaccines that have been developed.

Oxford University - AstraZeneca vaccine: It was approved in late 2020 after trials showed that it stopped 70% of people developing Covid-19 symptoms. This vaccine is given in two doses.



The next vaccine is from Pfizer-BioNtech. They published its first results in November. This vaccine is

also given in two doses, three weeks apart. It is up to 95 % effective. The vaccine will be transported in a special box, because it must be stored at a temperature of around  $-70^{\circ}\text{C}$ . On 8th December, the UK received its first patient. Her name is Margaret Keenan, and she is 90 years old.

The last vaccine is called the Moderna vaccine which uses a tiny fragment of the virus's genetic code. The company says it protects 94,5 % of people. It is given in two doses, four weeks apart. The UK has pre-ordered it and should start to receive it in spring. The Moderna vaccine stays stable at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  for up to six months.

Sputnik V is a vaccine from Russia which has not been approved yet. It works like the Oxford one and data suggests it is 92% efficient.

## EU project to develop new experts in flying robots

Under the auspices of a new major EU project, 15 young researchers are to be trained to develop drones for small flying robots that can maintain wind turbines, bridges, and other important infrastructure.

Over the next three years, a total of 15 PhD students will be trained to develop intelligent flying robots through a new Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Network. The aim is for drones to be able to inspect infrastructures such as bridges, wind turbines, or large factories—and perform various maintenance tasks.

“In other words, the flying robots will be able to operate with both sensors and robotic arms so that not only can they observe a crack, for example, but also repair it,” says

Associate Professor Matteo Fumagalli, DTU Electrical Engineering, who is leading the large project.

AI and collaboration - Scientifically speaking, there are three main research pillars. The first one is intelligent mechatronics which combines mechanics, electronics, and information technology. The other two pillars are the AI for aerial robots and collaboration between humans and robots.



“The drones must be developed so that in future they can fly near the infrastructures while precisely maneuvering a tool with a robotic arm. In addition, its ability to function as an autonomous system must be strengthened, as it will not be controlled by a human pilot but must be able to maneuver around itself—even in challenging conditions such as in poor light or windy conditions, where it can be difficult for the flying robot to precisely perform a maintenance task,” says Matteo Fumagalli.

On the best - The project has just got underway and its immediate priority will be to find the 15 new PhD students. A total of three of the new young researchers will be affiliated with DTU.

“A Marie Curie PhD project is very prestigious in the research world and one of the best accolades you can have. We, therefore, expect to be able to hire some of the world’s brightest young minds in the upcoming months to carry out the research tasks associated with the project,” says Matteo Fumagalli.

The 15 PhD students will undergo a comprehensive training program where they will learn about the various technologies needed to complete the task.

### **The growth of Tesla in Asia**

First, we will talk about the car market in China because it is one of the biggest markets in the World. In only 8 months last year there were 14,55 million cars sold in China and the sale of New Energy Vehicles was increased by 25,88% or 109.000 cars.

Tesla's (TSLA) Model 3 tops the list of the 10 most sold new energy vehicles (NEVs) in China in 2020, while Warren Buffett-backed BYD Co. 's (BYDDF) Han luxury SUV made the list less than six months after it launched.

Tesla also introduced a new vehicle for China. A citation from the news: “The Model Y follows the Model 3 as the first Tesla vehicles for sale in China produced at Tesla’s \$2 billion Gigafactory plant in Shanghai, which opened two years ago.”

Elon Musk himself tweeted that Tesla is currently working with Indian companies on the placement of branches and publication. Tesla is also in talks with several Indian states on the subject of opening an office, showrooms along with research and development centers -- and possibly a factory. People in India are happy, but it will be a long wait until the company gets there. Some Indians already ordered a tesla car, for example Arun Bhat, a 34-year-old director that works at a company called Bengaluru. He has been waiting for his Tesla for 5 years.

