



Garbage piles up outside one of the apartment buildings at the center of an immigration controversy, in Aurora, Colorado



EO of Novartis Vas Narasimhan speaks at the Annual Meeting of World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland



A worker repairs a power line after snowfall in Tallahassee, Florida which is under a winter storm warning, snow and ice storm



An area around an airport sign is covered in snow at the closed George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston

Sanctions on Russia likely if Putin doesn't come to negotiation table: Trump

PTI, WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump on Tuesday said he is ready to meet his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin anytime, but at the same time warned that he would likely impose sanctions on Russia if the latter does not come to the negotiations table on the issue of Ukraine.



President Donald Trump speaks in the Roosevelt Room of the White House, in Washington

He disrespected Biden," Trump said. "Also, the Middle East would have never happened because Iran was broke," he added. Responding to a query, Trump said he is ready to meet Putin anytime. "Anytime they want, I'll meet. Millions of people are being killed... It's a vicious situation and they're now largely soldiers. A lot of people have been killed and the cities look like demolition sites," he said. "The thing with Ukraine is that many more people

US PREZ DONALD TRUMP ANNOUNCES \$ 500 BILLION AI INITIATIVE
PTI, WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump announced a USD 500 billion investment in AI infrastructure through a new company, which is being created in partnership with Oracle, SoftBank and Open AI. The venture, called Stargate, adds to tech companies' significant investments in US data centres, huge buildings full of servers that provide computing power. The three companies plan to contribute funds to the venture, which will be open to other investors and start with 10 data centres already under construction in Texas. That's a massive group of talent and money. Together, these world-leading technology giants are announcing the formation of Stargate, Trump announced on Tuesday at a White House news conference along with Oracle Chief Technology Officer Larry Ellison, Softbank CEO Masayoshi Son and Open AI CEO Sam Altman. This monumental undertaking is a resounding declaration of confidence in America's potential under a new president, he said.

10 PC TARIFF ON CHINESE IMPORTS STARTING FROM FEBRUARY 1
PTI, WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump has said he is considering to impose a 10 per cent tariff on Chinese imports starting February 1 to curb the flow of deadly drug fentanyl that Beijing sends to Mexico and Canada. Fentanyl is a highly addictive synthetic opioid, which, according to the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), presents the deadliest drug threat in the country. The DEA also says that the global fentanyl supply chain "often starts with chemical companies based in China". "We're talking about a tariff of 10 per cent on China based on the fact that they're sending fentanyl to Mexico and Canada," Trump said on Saturday at a joint news conference at the White House along with Oracle CTO Larry Ellison, Softbank CEO Masayoshi Son, and Open AI CEO Sam Altman. In response to a question, Trump said he is looking at February 1 as the date for imposing the tariffs.

TRUDEAU SAYS CANADA WILL RESPOND TO US TARIFFS, ONTARIO PREMIER SAYS TRUMP 'DECLARED WAR'
PTI, TORONTO: Canada's outgoing prime minister and the leader of the country's oil rich province of Alberta are both confident that Canada can avoid the 25 per cent tariff US President Donald Trump says he will impose on February 1. Justin Trudeau and Danielle Smith will argue that Canada is the energy super power that has the oil and critical minerals that America needs to feed what Trump vows will be a "booming" US economy. But Doug Ford, the premier of Ontario, the manufacturing and automobile hub of Canada, said a trade war is 100 per cent coming. Trump "declared an economic war on Canada", Ford said in an interview with The Associated Press. "And we are going to use every tool in our tool box to defend our economy," Trudeau said Canada will retaliate if needed, but noted that Canada has been here before during the first Trump presidency when they successfully renegotiated the free trade deal.

ple died than what you're reporting. You're not reporting the real numbers, and I'm not blaming you for that. I'm blaming maybe our government for not wanting to release those numbers," Trump told reporters. Asked if the US will continue sending weapons to Ukraine, or will he turn off the tap soon, Trump said he is looking into the matter. "We'll look into that. We're talking to (Volodymyr) Zelenskyy. We're going to talk with President Putin very soon, and we'll see how it all happens. We're going to look at it very soon," he said. "One thing I do feel is that the European Union should pay a lot more than

they're paying, because under Biden, I mean, we're in there for USD 200 billion more. Now it affects them... We have an ocean in between, right? The European Union should equal us. We're in there for USD 200 billion more than the European Union. I mean, what are we, stupid? I guess the answer is yes," the president said. Trump also said that Ukraine's President Zelenskyy told him that he would like to have peace. "He's told me that wants to have peace very strongly, but it takes two to tango. We'll see what happens. Anytime they want, I'll meet. I'd like to see that end. Millions of people are being killed. It's a vicious situation," he said.

2 people killed in knife attack in Germany, suspect detained, say police

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AP, BERLIN: Two people, including a two-year-old boy, were killed and two others were severely injured in a stabbing attack in Bavaria on Wednesday, German police said. Police said a suspect was detained in the knife attack, which occurred in a park in the southern German town of Aschaffenburg. Police told The Associated Press they did not immediately know the motive for the attack, because the investigation was still at an early stage. Train services in the town were temporarily interrupted as the suspect tried to flee along the tracks, German news agency dpa reported. However, he was quickly detained, police wrote on the social media platform X. Police asked possible witnesses to come forward. They said the second victim who was killed was a 41-year-old man and the suspect was an 28-year-old Afghan citizen. They did not know the nationality of the two people who were killed or release any details about those injured. They also declined to give details about how the attack took place. The governor of Bavaria condemned the attack and called it "a terrible day for all of Bavaria." "We mourn the victims of a cowardly and despicable act. We mourn the loss of a small, innocent child who was fatally injured," Markus Söder wrote on X. "We mourn the loss of a helper who paid for his civil courage with his own life."

Former UK PM Rishi Sunak takes up posts at Oxford, Stanford universities

PTI, LONDON: Britain's former prime minister Rishi Sunak has taken on new academic roles at the University of Oxford in the UK and University of Stanford in the US - both alma maters of the Conservative Party member of Parliament for Richmond and Northallerton in northern England. Sunak, 44, has joined Oxford's Blavatnik School of Government as a member of the World Leaders Circle and a Distinguished Fellow, the UK's premier university announced on Monday. Meanwhile, Stanford named him the William C Edwards Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the Hoover Institution, where he will be working on a wide array of issues, including trans-Atlantic relations, economic policy, technology, and global security challenges. "Both Blavatnik and Hoover do superb work on how we can rise to the economic and security challenges we face and seize the technological opportunities of our time," Sunak said in a statement. "I have huge affection for both Oxford and Stanford. I was fortunate enough to study at both, they shaped my life and career, and I look forward to contributing to their world-leading research

Greek authorities say over 170 migrants picked up as arrivals from Libya increase

AP, ATHENS (GREECE): Greek authorities say more than 170 migrants have been picked up from rickety boats in the past three days with most found off the southern tip of the country in a route that appears to be increasingly used by traffickers. Greece's coast guard said on Wednesday that a passing Philippines-flagged tanker had rescued 29 people found on a boat 65 nautical miles (120 kilometers, 75 miles) south of the southern island of Crete. Another 45 people were rescued overnight by a Marshall Islands-flagged cargo ship 42 nautical miles (78 kilometers, 49 miles) south of the tiny island of Gavdos. A patrol boat on Tuesday came across a speedboat carrying migrants near the eastern island of Tinos, with a chase resulting in the speedboat driver running the vessel aground on a beach, the coast guard said. A foot patrol later located a total of 31 people, including seven children and four women, while authorities arrested a 37-year-old Moldovan national as the alleged driver. Another 68 people were located in two separate cases in Crete and Gavdos Monday: 19 men and one boy found just having disembarked from on a wooden boat on the southern coast of Crete, and another 48 people, all men, found on Gavdos. In both cases, the migrants said they had set sail from Tobruk in Libya and had been heading to Greece. For decades Greece has been on one of the preferred routes into the European Union for people fleeing war and poverty in the Middle East, Africa and Asia, and has seen a spike in arrivals from neighbouring Turkey and the Libyan coast over the past year. In 2024, the country recorded more than 60,000 arrivals - the vast majority by sea - compared to just over 48,000 the previous year.

LUNAR HARMONY



A folk artist performs at the Qingzhou Ancient City Scenic Area in Qingzhou, in China's eastern Shandong province, in the buildup to Lunar New Year celebrations

'Love for humanity': Low-crime Japan's unpaid parole officers

AFP, TOKYO: Teruko Nakazawa once intervened in a knife fight between an ex-offender and their mother - all in a day's unpaid work for Japan's army of volunteer probation officers. The 83-year-old, who jokes she is a "punk" as she puffs on a cigarette, devoted decades to supervising and helping rehabilitate convicted criminals on parole. But she did not take a sin-

"I did what I did because I wanted to," she told AFP. "You can't help but try to put out a fire when you spot one, right?" But the altruistic programme faces an uncertain future, with around 80 per cent of hogoshi aged 60 or over. The recent murder of a hogoshi by a parolee has also rattled the trust in ex-offenders' good nature underlying the system. For one of Nakazawa's

former charges, "she was like a grandma". "I wouldn't dare do anything bad on her watch," he said, declining to be named because he hides his criminal past. "I was scared of ever feeling guilty that I had betrayed her." The 34-year-old said Nakazawa "helped me a great deal" - especially to apologise to his victims. A 60-year-old hogoshi was fatally stabbed in Otsu,

near Kyoto, by a man under his supervision in May. The incident raised fears that potential hogoshi -- who may already be wary of parolees whose crimes include theft, sex offences and sometimes murder - could be scared away. Hogoshi have historically rejected proposals to be paid a regular wage. This is because their activity is "a symbol of selflessness" rooted in "love for humanity", legal experts

said in an October report. Only some of their expenses are covered, and they must pay a yearly registration fee -- another factor blamed for the struggle to attract younger volunteers. Still, Japan "would be a different country without hogoshi", said Carol Lawson, a comparative criminal justice professor at the University of Tokyo, citing the nation's "extraordinary lack of post-war crime".