



Crews pull up a part of a plane from the Potomac River near Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, in Arlington, Virginia



Britain's PM Keir Starmer (L), speaks with European Council Prez Antonio Costa as he arrives for an EU summit at the Egmont Palace in Brussels



Defense Secy Pete Hegseth (R), listens to a briefing by Army soldiers while visiting the US-Mexico border in Sunland Park, New Mexico



A motorcyclist drives through a flooded street in the Jardim Pantanal neighborhood of Sao Paulo, Brazil after heavy rains

allovertheworld



Members of French agricultural union Confederation Paysanne gather outside the court house to support two fellow unionists appearing before a court for taking part in an action against European Union's Mercosur free trade agreement in December 2024, in Paris

Kenya gold mine collapses trapping 12: Police

NAIROBI: A dozen people were trapped after a gold mine in western Kenya partially collapsed, police said Tuesday. Kenya has a small mining sector compared to its neighbours. However despite rapid growth in recent years, much of it is unregulated with miners having to deal with poor safety measures and organised crime groups. "The information we have is that there were around 20 miners at the time it collapsed but eight have been rescued," said Daniel Makumbu, a county police commander in the Kakamega region told AFP. "The search and rescue operation is ongoing and we are urging the crowd to stay away to make the work easier and avoid endangering themselves because this area is very fragile," he added. The incident occurred late on Monday.

Myanmar junta bans possible conscripts from foreign travel

YANGON: Myanmar's embattled junta has banned anyone eligible for military conscription from leaving the country without permission, as it seeks to shore up its forces fighting rebel groups opposed to its rule. The junta has lost control of swathes of the country to ethnic minority armed groups and other opposition forces in the civil war triggered by its coup d'etat four years ago. A long-dormant conscription law was enforced last year as the army reeled from a string of battlefield defeats to ethnic armed groups and civilian "People's Defence Forces" seeking to oust it from power.

Hundreds of Congolese protest EU support of Rwanda

PRETORIA: Hundreds of Congolese nationals protested on Tuesday at the EU offices in South Africa to demand sanctions against Rwanda over its support for rebels in the turbulent eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. Rwanda-backed armed group M23 seized the major city of Goma last week in a lightning offensive, and has vowed to march across the vast country to the capital Kinshasa. Fighting has stopped in Goma - a city of more than a million people - but clashes have spread to the neighbouring province of South Kivu and heightened an already dire humanitarian crisis in the mineral-rich region. About 2,000 protesters, wearing the blue, yellow and red of the DRC, chanted outside the EU embassy in the South African capital Pretoria.

Ebola-hit Uganda begins vaccination trial: WHO



GENEVA: Uganda on Monday started the first ever vaccination trial for the Sudan species of the Ebola virus four days after an outbreak was confirmed, the World Health Organization announced. It is the sixth time Uganda has been hit by an outbreak of the Ebola Sudan virus, for which there is no approved vaccine. Of the five other Ebola species, just one has licensed vaccines. The deadliest Ebola epidemic killed more than 11,300 people in west Africa between 2013 and 2016. The UN health agency said it had supported Ugandan health authorities in getting the trial ready in the days following the announcement that a 32-year-old male nurse had died of Ebola in Kampala.

France allowed Nestle to use banned filter for bottled water: media

PARIS: The French government let food giant Nestle sell bottled water despite the firm using a banned filtering method, media reported Tuesday. According to Le Monde daily and Radio France, the offices of the prime minister and the president allowed Nestle to market the non-regulation water, against the recommendation of French health services. The water subsidiary of Nestle, which in France owns the Vitell, Contrex, Hepar and Perrier brands, in September agreed to pay a fine of two million euros (\$2.2 million) to close probes over illegal wells and treatment of mineral water. That followed a complaint brought by the Foodwatch association.

China hits back with tariffs on US products, will also probe Google

AP, BEIJING: China countered President Donald Trump's tariffs on Chinese products with tariffs of its own on multiple US imports Tuesday as well as announcing an antitrust investigation into Google and other trade measures.

US tariffs on products from Canada and Mexico also were to go into effect Tuesday, though Trump agreed to a 30-day pause on his threats against Mexico and Canada as they acted to appease his concerns about border security and drug trafficking. Trump planned to talk with Chinese President Xi Jinping in the next few days.

This isn't the first round of tit-for-tat actions between the two countries. China and the US had engaged in a trade war in 2018 when Trump raised tariffs on Chinese goods and China responded in kind.

This time, analysts said, China is much better pre-

pared to counter. "They have a much more developed export control regime. We depend on them for a lot of critical minerals: gallium, germanium, graphite, a host of others. So... they could put some significant harm on our economy," said Philip Luck, a former State Department official and director at the Center for Strategic and International Studies on Monday at a forum.

The slew of measures announced Tuesday cut across different sectors of the economy, from energy to individual US companies.

**Counter tariffs**  
China said it would implement a 15 per cent tariff on coal and liquefied natural gas products as well as a 10 per cent tariff on crude oil, agricultural machinery and large-engine cars imported from the US. The tariffs would take effect next Monday.

"The US's unilateral tariff increase seriously violates the rules of the World Trade



US President Donald Trump & Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping

Organisation," the State Council Tariff Commission said in a statement. "It is not only unhelpful in solving its own problems, but also damages normal economic and trade cooperation between China and the US."

China is the world's largest importer of liquefied natural gas, with its top suppliers being Australia, Qatar and Malaysia. The US, which is

the biggest exporter of LNG globally, does not significantly export LNG to China.

In 2023, the US exported 173,247 million cubic feet of LNG to China, representing about 2.3 per cent of total natural gas export volumes, according to data released by the US Energy Information Administration.

Further export controls on critical minerals

In addition to the tariffs, China announced export controls on several elements critical to the production of modern high-tech products. They include tungsten, tellurium, bismuth, molybdenum and indium, many of which are designated as critical minerals by the US Geological Survey, meaning they are essential to US economic or national security that have supply chains vulnerable to disruption.

The export controls are in addition to ones China placed in December on key elements such as gallium used in manufacturing.

**US companies also impacted**

In addition, China's State Administration for Market Regulation said Tuesday it is investigating Google on suspicion of violating antitrust laws. The announcement did not mention the tariffs but came just minutes after Trump's 10 per cent tariffs on China were to take effect.

UK to host EU chiefs for May 19 summit: Downing Street

AFP, LONDON: UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer will welcome European Union chiefs to Britain in May for the first of regular summits designed to reset Britain's relationship with the bloc, Downing Street announced Tuesday.

Starmer will host European Council president Antonio Costa and European Commission head Ursula von der Leyen on May 19, a spokesman for the British premier told reporters.

He added it would be the first of "annual summits" as the Labour leader seeks closer relations with European neighbours following the rancour of Britain's 2020 departure from the bloc under the previous Conservative government.

The announcement came a day after Starmer, elected to office last July, became the first UK premier since Brexit to attend a major gathering of all 27 EU leaders in Brussels on Monday.

10 killed in shooting at adult education centre in Sweden

AP, OREBRO (SWEDEN): Swedish police said that about 10 people, including the gunman, were killed during a shooting Tuesday at an adult education centre. But a final death toll and a conclusive number of wounded hadn't yet been determined.

The damage at the crime scene was so extensive that investigators were unable to be more definitive, said Roberto Eid Forest, head of the local police. The shooting happened on the outskirts of the city of Orebro, which is located about 200 km (125 miles) west of Stockholm.

Eid Forest told reporters that one of those killed was the suspected perpetrator. Police believe the perpetrator acted alone. He wasn't previously known to police, officials said.

The school, called Campus Risbergska, serves students who are over age 20, according to its website. Primary and upper secondary school courses are offered, as well as Swedish classes for immigrants, vocational training and programs for people with intellectual disabilities.

Police said that there were no suspected connections to terrorism at this point. Authorities were working to identify the deceased.

Gun violence at schools is very rare in Sweden. But there have been several incidents in recent years in which people were wounded or killed with other weapons such as knives or axes.

Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson will hold a news conference at 7:30 pm local time (1830 GMT) alongside Justice Minister Gunnar Strömmer.

The shooting erupted after many students had gone home following a national



Members of the Police special forces leave the scene at the Risbergska School in Orebro, Sweden

exam. Police vehicles and ambulances, lights flashing, blanketed the parking lots and streets around the school as a helicopter buzzed overhead.

Teacher Lena Warenmark told SVT News that there were unusually few students on the campus Tuesday afternoon after the exam. She also told the broadcaster that she heard probably 10 gunshots.

Students sheltered in nearby buildings. Other parts of the school were evacuated following the shooting, which began at around 12:30 pm local time (1130 GMT).

Maldives aims to attract 3 lakh Indian tourists by 2025

PTI, MALE: The Maldives government has set a target of attracting 3,00,000 Indian tourists in 2025 after their number went from the top place in 2023 to sixth in 2024 following strained relations between Male and New Delhi.

Maldives' Ministry of Tourism's statistics showed that Maldives received 20,46,615 visitors in 2024 compared to 18,78,543 tourist arrivals in 2023; China occupied the top slot followed by Russia in 2024. Indian tourists' visits to the archipelagic nation declined from January till about October last year with the number slowly rising thereafter.

Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC) chairman Abdulla Ghiyas told a local news portal Adhadhu on Monday that monthly events will be held in India to achieve the goal of attracting 3,00,000 tourists.

The MMPRC is also working with airlines, both Indian and Maldivian, to bring tourists from more destinations in India, Ghiyas said. They are targeting to fly from newer destination cities.

Thousands leave as fresh tremors shake Greece's Santorini

AFP, GREECE: Thousands of people were leaving the Greek island of Santorini by sea and air for a third day on Tuesday, as an unprecedented series of earthquakes shook the top travel destination.

Some 6,000 people have already left the island, known for its spectacular cliffside views and a dormant volcano, which has been hit by hundreds of tremors since last week, officials said.

A quake with a magnitude of 4.9 hit early on Tuesday morning amid other smaller tremors. No injuries or damage were reported on Santorini and the neighbouring islands of Anafi, Ios and Amorgos, which have also been affected by the seismic activity.

Experts say the region has not experienced seismic activity on this scale in recent history and do not know how long it will last.

"This is the first time this is happening, we have not seen it before," Athanassios Ganas, research director at the national observatory's institute of geodynamics, told state TV ERT. He noted that the area

had been hit with over 40 earthquakes with a magnitude of over 4.0 in the past 72 hours.

Santorini lies atop a volcano which last erupted in 1950 -- but an experts' committee on Monday said the current phenomenon was "not linked to volcanic activity." According to the Greek coastguard, over 4,600 people have left the island by ferry since Sunday alone.

The country's leading air carrier Aegean Airlines said it had flown nearly 1,300 people out of Santorini on Monday, with another eight flights able to carry 1,400 passengers scheduled for Tuesday.

Ferry services to Santorini have also been increased.

Schools on all four islands have been shut as a precaution until Friday, prompting many locals with children to leave until the situation stabilises.

Some tourists currently on the island say they are not overly concerned.

He noted that the tremor levels in Santorini are negligible compared to the earthquakes experienced in Japan.

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4 COPS SUSPENDED FOR DRUG SMUGGLING AT COLVALE JAIL

Despite ongoing raids and increased vigilance at the jail, the problem persists.

Authorities have been able to recover drugs and mobile phones during such raids, but the inmates involved are often tight-lipped, making it difficult for authorities to uncover the full extent of the smuggling network.

Inmates are also known to hide drugs or dismantled mobile phone parts in their undergarments during trips to court or the hospital. These items often go unnoticed during frisking and are later assembled inside the prison.

OUR WORK DAMAGED WATER PIPELINES, ADMITS SMART CITY CEO

A candid Rodrigues also admitted to administrative delays, saying, "There are some issues such as how the project will be maintained and handed over. The Chief Minister will hold a review wherein the issue of maintenance will be finalised. Many projects have been completed or are on the verge of completion. The CM is busy with the Assembly session but he has promised that a review will be taken," he added.

Rodrigues said as far as ticketing on the e-buses is concerned, IPSCDL is going conductor-less in phases and three routes have been made conductor-less, though there is some drop in the number of commuters because of the hesitation about e-payments.

SAHITYA AKADEMI EXCLUDING ROMI FOR AWARDS IS AN INJUSTICE: ACTIVISTS

"However, in 1983, the advisory committee, dominated by Devanagari writers, decided to exclusively accept books in Devanagari for the awards, effectively side-lining works in Romi script."

Former president of the Dalgado Konknni Akademi,

Premanand Lotlikar, suggested the decision was part of a deliberate effort by the Devanagari lobby to marginalise Romi script literature.

"They claimed that books in Romi script lacked standardisation," Lotlikar noted. "Yet, when Jess Fernandes' Romi book was accepted after transliteration, it was awarded the Sahitya Akademi prize. The Romi script has historically played a pivotal role in preserving Konkani -- particularly among the Catholic community. I strongly believe that Konkani written in both the scripts should be preserved."

Global Romi Lipi Abhiyan president Kennedy Afonso criticised the Akademi's policy, arguing that the 'one language, one script' approach disregards the rich history of Konkani written in Romi and Kannada scripts.

"The Sahitya Akademi was founded to promote literature in all Indian languages, including those in diverse scripts. By focusing solely on Devanagari, it neglects works in Romi and Kannada, both of which hold deep cultural significance for Konkani speakers," Afonso stated. "Other scripts should be acknowledged without the requirement of transliteration into Devanagari."

Anant Agni, headmaster at Ravindra Kelekar Dnyamandir and a prominent Konkani writer, defended the Sahitya Akademi's stance, citing a policy that awards literature in a single script per language.

"Devanagari is the natural script for Konkani, and I feel the awards should be given only for the Devanagari script," Agni asserted. "While Romi and Kannada works are occasionally transcribed into Devanagari, it is important to note that this process has helped include works from both scripts in the award process. The Goa Konkani Academy and Konkani Bhasha Mandal have a provision related to literature, by which they can transcribe books in either the Kannada script or Romi Konkani script to Devanagari, which are then eligible for the Sahitya Akademi awards."

Konkani writer Michael Gracias emphasised that the debate over script should not overshadow the importance of promoting the Konkani language itself. "Scripts are simply

tools to promote language," Gracias said. "The Devanagari lobby's tactics are suppressing the diversity of Konkani literature. Romi script played a central role in the language's history, with the first periodicals and newspapers being published in Romi, and even major figures like Shenoy Goembab writing in it. The Sahitya Akademi's refusal to recognise Romi is an injustice to this history."

Vasco-based writer Ashok Chodankar lamented the ongoing exclusion of Romi script works from the prestigious awards. "It is unfortunate that Sahitya Akademi continues to overlook Romi script literature," he said. "Romi-speaking people played a crucial role in making Konkani an official language, and their contributions, especially during the 1986 language agitation, should not be forgotten."

US MILITARY PLANE WITH 205 DEPORTED INDIANS FLIES IN FROM TEXAS

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal emphasised India's policy on illegal immigration.

"For Indian nationals staying without proper documentation, we will take them back once we verify their identity," he said.

A spokesperson for the US Embassy in New Delhi defended the deportations, saying, "The United States is vigorously enforcing its border, tightening immigration laws and removing illegal migrants. These actions send a clear message: illegal migration is not worth the risk."

The deportation flight comes just days before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to the US, where he is expected to meet with President Trump. This will be their first meeting since Trump began his second term in office.

During a recent phone call, Trump claimed that Prime Minister Modi assured him India would cooperate on the issue of illegal migration. "India will do what's right," Trump said, referring to Modi's response.

The treatment of deportees and the use of military aircraft for such operations have raised concerns about human rights and the dignity afforded to those being returned.