



President Donald Trump speaks to the media at Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, Florida



Portugal's PM Luis Montenegro (L) with Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva at the 14th edition of the Brazil-Portugal Summit in Brasilia, Brazil



Britain's King Charles meets students after his visit to Injury Studies at the Imperial College London's White City Campus, in London



Romania's interim President Ilie Bolojan (R) shakes hands with France's Prez Emmanuel Macron (R) ahead of talks in Paris

allovertheworld



Iran's president Masoud Pezeshkian (L) walking with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani during a welcome ceremony at the presidential palace in Tehran, on Wednesday

UK's knife crime crackdown named in memory of Indian-origin boy

LONDON: The UK government on Wednesday announced stricter rules for online retailers selling knives, along with tougher penalties for failing to enforce them, as part of a new crackdown named in memory of an Indian-origin boy killed in a stabbing attack. Ronan's Law will require retailers to report suspicious and bulk purchases of knives on their platforms to police, with tougher sentences for selling knives to under 18s. Ronan Kanda, 16, was attacked near his home in Wolverhampton in the West Midlands region of England in July 2022 and died at the scene after being stabbed twice in what emerged as a case of mistaken identity. His mother, Pooja Kanda, has since been campaigning for more stringent measures after two teenagers – also of Indian origin – were sentenced to a total of 34 years' imprisonment for her son's murder.

Imran Khan offered deal to overturn disqualification, claims key ally

ISLAMABAD: A key ally of Imran Khan has said that an offer was being made to the jailed former prime minister for the nullification of his disqualification, amid reports of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf seeking backdoor talks with the establishment. Sahibzada Hamid Raza, the chief of Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC), made the claim during Geo News' programme "Capital Talk" on Tuesday, according to The News. "The PTI founder did not demand the release of any [party] leader during the talks [with the government]. But in fact, an offer is being made to set aside his disqualification within three months," Raza said. The politician's remarks came after a well-placed source told The News that the PTI was once again seeking backchannel talks with the establishment, with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur reportedly playing a key role in the effort.

Coup plans: Brazil's prosecutor-general files charges against former prez Bolsonaro

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazil's prosecutor-general Paulo Gonet on Tuesday formally charged former president Jair Bolsonaro with attempting a coup to stay in office after his 2022 election defeat, in a plot that also included a plan to poison his successor and current President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. Prosecutor-General Paulo Gonet alleges that Bolsonaro and 33 others participated in a plan to remain in power. The alleged plot also included a plan to poison Lula and shoot dead Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes, a foe of the former president. "The members of the criminal organization structured at the presidential palace a plan to attack institutions, aiming to bring down the system of the powers and the democratic order, which received the sinister name of 'Green and Yellow Dagger'," Gonet wrote in a 272-page indictment. "The plan was conceived and taken to the knowledge of the president, and he agreed to it."

Nearly 300 deportees from US held in Panama as officials try to return them to their countries

PANAMA CITY (PANAMA): Panama is detaining in a hotel nearly 300 people from various countries deported under US President Donald Trump, not allowing them to leave while waiting for international authorities to organise a return to their countries. More than 40% of the migrants, authorities say, won't voluntarily return to their homeland. Migrants in the hotel rooms held messages to the windows reading "Help" and "We are not save (sic) in our country." The migrants hailed from 10 mostly Asian countries, including Iran, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Afghanistan, China and others. The US has difficulty deporting directly to some of those countries so Panama is being used as a stopover. Costa Rica was expected to receive a similar flight of third-country deportees on Wednesday. Panama's Security Minister Frank Abrego said Tuesday the migrants are receiving medical attention and food as part of a migration agreement between Panama and the US. The Panamanian government has now agreed to serve as a "bridge" or transit country for deportees, while the US bears all the costs of the operation. The agreement was announced earlier this month after US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's visit.

Trump, Zelenskyy trade barbs as US-Ukraine relations sour

AP, KYIV: Relations between Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and US President Donald Trump deteriorated rapidly Wednesday as Zelenskyy said Trump was living in a Russian-made "disinformation space" and Trump called Zelenskyy "a dictator without elections" in comments that were sure to complicate efforts to end the war.

UKRAINE CONFLICT

Zelenskyy also said he would like Trump's team "to be more truthful" as he offered his first response to a series of striking claims that Trump made a day earlier, including falsely suggesting that Kyiv was to blame for the war, which enters its fourth year next week.

The comments from Trump and Zelenskyy were a staggering back-and-forth between leaders of two countries that have been staunch allies in recent years under Trump's predecessor.

While former President Joe Biden was in the White House, the US provided crucial military equip-

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ment to Kyiv to fend off the invasion and used its political weight to defend Ukraine and isolate Russia on the world stage.

The Trump administration has started charting a new course, reaching out to Russia and pushing for a peace deal. Senior officials from both countries held talks Tuesday to discuss improving ties, negotiating an end to the war and potentially preparing a meeting between Trump and Putin after years of frosty relations.

Trump lashed out at Zelenskyy in a social media post, calling him "a modestly successful comedian" who "talked the United States of America into spending \$350 Billion Dollars, to go into a War that

couldn't be won, that never had to start, but a War that he, without the U.S. and TRUMP, will never be able to settle."

Trump went on to say that the only thing Zelenskyy "was good at was playing Biden like a fiddle." He advised Zelenskyy to "move fast or he is not going to have a Country left."

Meanwhile, Russian President Vladimir Putin said he would like to meet with Trump.

Russia's army crossed the border on February 24, 2022, in an all-out invasion that Putin sought to justify by saying it was needed to protect civilians in eastern Ukraine and prevent the country from joining NATO. Ukraine and its allies

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denounced it as an unprovoked act of aggression.

"I would like to have a meeting, but it needs to be prepared so that it brings results," Putin said Wednesday in televised remarks. He added that he would be "pleased" to meet Trump but noted that Trump has acknowledged that a Ukrainian settlement could take longer than he initially hoped.

The Russian leader hailed Tuesday's talks between Russian and US senior officials in the Saudi capital of Riyadh as "very positive." He said officials who took part in the talks described the US delegation to him as "completely different people who were open to the negotiation process with-

out any bias, without any condemnation of what was done in the past," and determined to work together with Moscow.

Putin said "the goal and subject" of Tuesday's talks "was the restoration of Russia-US relations."

"Without increasing the level of trust between Russia and the United States, it is impossible to resolve many issues, including the Ukrainian crisis. The goal of this meeting was precisely to increase trust between Russia and the United States," Putin said.

He brushed off Zelenskyy's complaints about Ukraine being left out of the US-Russian talks, saying that Kyiv's reaction was "unfounded."

"President Trump told me during our phone call that the United States are proceeding from the assumption that the negotiations process will involve Russia and Ukraine," Putin said. "No one is going to exclude Ukraine out of it."

Putin also added that he was surprised to see Trump showing "restraint" regarding the European leaders who backed his rival in the US election.

US: 2 dead after small planes collide mid-air

AP, MARANA: At least two people are dead after a midair collision involving two small planes in southern Arizona, authorities said Wednesday.

The National Transportation Safety Board said it is investigating the collision near an airport on the outskirts of Tucson. The Marana Police Department confirmed two deaths after responding to the crash. The Associated Press left a message with a police spokesperson seeking additional details.

Last week, one of two pilots died on a private jet owned by Mötley Crüe singer Vince Neil after the aircraft veered off a runway in Arizona and hit a business jet. There have been four major aviation disasters in North America in the last month.

Vijay Mallya's bankruptcy order appeals return to London High Court

PTI, LONDON: Embattled businessman Vijay Mallya's attempt to overturn a bankruptcy order imposed on him by the High Court in England over three years ago has returned for appeal hearings in London this week.

During a hearing at the Chancery Division in London on Wednesday, Justice Anthony Mann ruled against an adjournment petition by Mallya – who was not present and represented in court by recently appointed Zaiwala & Co lawyer Kartik Mittal and barrister Mark Watson-Gandy.

The judge then went on to hear a set of interlinked appeals related to the 69-year-old businessman, separately wanted in India on fraud and money laundering charges.

The appeals this week relate to a consortium of Indian banks led by the State Bank of India (SBI) seeking the repayment of an estimated judgment debt of around GBP 1.05 billion owed by his now-defunct Kingfisher Airlines.

"I find no good reason to adjourn

pending the outcome of Indian proceedings," Justice Mann said, noting that significant appeal time had already been "wasted".

He also went on to turn down as irrelevant Mallya's attempt to introduce fresh evidence in the case, including Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's intervention in Parliament in December last year stating that Rs 14,131 crores related to Mallya's properties had been restored to public sector banks (PSBs).

Justice Mann is hearing appeals related to a decision of Chief Insolvency and Companies Court (ICC) Judge Michael Briggs, made in the context of bankruptcy proceedings initiated by the banks against Mallya around six years ago.

The first appeal, referred to as the security appeal, was initiated by the banks and challenges Judge Briggs' conclusion that the banks were "estopped by reason of an Indian court judgment" from denying that they hold security over certain

of Mallya's assets.

"Dr Mallya's arguments (which have evolved somewhat) are based upon the (surprising) proposition, rejected by the Chief Judge (Briggs), that there is a principle of Indian law which somehow precludes the banks from giving up their security, and that this principle is somehow relevant to the English bankruptcy proceedings," reads one of the arguments made by the lawyers appearing on behalf of the Indian banks – represented by TLT LLP and barrister Tony Beswetherick.

During the latest set of hearings, expected to conclude on Friday, two further appeals against the amendment of the bankruptcy order and the July 2021 bankruptcy order itself are to be heard.

Meanwhile, Mallya remains on bail in the UK while a "confidential" legal matter believed to be related to an asylum application is resolved in connection with the unrelated extradition proceedings.

Meloni visits Pope Francis in hospital

AP, ROME: Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni visited Pope Francis in hospital Wednesday and reported he was "alert and responsive" and full of good humour, despite his diagnosis of pneumonia and a complicated bronchial infection that has sidelined the 88-year-old pontiff for six days.

Meloni said she wanted to bring get-well wishes to the pope on behalf of the government and the entire nation. "We joked around as always. He has not lost his proverbial sense of humour," she said in a statement issued by her office.

Meloni's visit marked the first confirmed outside visitor known to have called on the pope, beyond his secretaries and medical team.

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AGENT WHO 'DUPED' GOANS UNTRACEABLE

Mascarenhas has claimed in his complaint that George took Rs 8 lakh from him and Rs 10.5 lakh from Shiroda resident Gladson Souza with the promise of employment in the US.

The two were deported back to India after they were reportedly apprehended by US border officials last week while trying to illegally enter the country.

TESLA FACTORY IN INDIA WOULD BE VERY UNFAIR: DONALD TRUMP

"Every country in the world takes advantage of us, and they do it with tariffs. They make it impossible for [Musk] to sell a car, practically, as an example, India," Trump added.

Musk went on to say that India charges 100% tariff on auto imports.

Trump further said that he had spoken to Prime Minister Narendra Modi about the issue during his visit to US.

"I told Prime Minister Modi...They charge the highest tariffs in the world. I said, 'Here's what we're going to do: Whatever you charge, I'm charging.' [PM Modi said], 'No, no, I don't like that.' I said, 'No, no, whatever you charge, I'm going to charge'. I'm doing that with every country," Trump said during the interview.

Notably, Tesla has posted job advertisements on LinkedIn, seeking candidates for roles based in Mumbai, Delhi and Pune. This signals the entry plans for the Elon Musk-led company after his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his US trip.

PET LOVERS SLAM GOVT PLAN TO BAN TWO DOG BREEDS

In response to the public outcry, animal rights organization PETA India had previously called on Goa's Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services to take action, requesting the prohibition of breeding, selling, and owning breeds such as Pitbull Terriers and Rottweilers. The group cited concerns that these breeds, often bred for aggression, pose significant risks to both owners and the general public.

The ban follows the Centre's March 2024 decision to outlaw 23 dog breeds, including the Rottweiler and Pitbull, although the order was later stayed by courts in Karnataka and Delhi.

Chief Minister Sawant outlined that amendments to the Goa Animal Breeding, Domestic Regulations, and Com-

pensation Ordinance 2024 would be implemented soon. Under the new rules, individuals who currently own these breeds will be required to register their pets with the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Department (AHVS) and ensure that the animals do not pose a threat to public safety.

While the government's move is seen as necessary by some, it has drawn criticism from pet experts and owners. Dr Gustavo Pinto, a veterinarian, expressed disappointment over the government's intervention. He argued that the ban unfairly targets responsible pet owners due to the actions of a few irresponsible individuals. "It is unfortunate that the government feels the need to interfere in personal pet ownership based on the negligence of a few, leading to tragic incidents," Pinto said. "The responsibility should lie with dog owners to control their pets. Unfortunately, it's only after such attacks that the government steps in."

Pet business owner Chaitanya Malkarnekar shared similar concerns, questioning the practicality of enforcing such a ban. "Banning breeds like this is an easy decision to make, but incredibly difficult to implement. The government has no real data on how many of these breeds exist in the state, and monitoring their ownership is a near-impossible task," Malkarnekar said, adding that controlling pets is far more challenging than regulating products like cigarettes or drugs.

On the other hand, animal welfare advocate Sanchi-

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ta Banerjee, trustee of Panjim Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), supported the ban, calling it a necessary step to address rising concerns about irresponsible pet ownership. "Banning certain dog breeds is a vital measure to curb illegal breeding and protect public safety," Banerjee said. "Many of these dogs are bought as status symbols, only to be neglected or mistreated, which exacerbates their aggressive tendencies. Strict enforcement and education, along with alternatives, can help break the cycle of cruelty and ensure a safer environment for both animals and people."

TAPS TRICKLE & DIE IN PARCHED PORVORIM

Dhananjay Borkar, another resident, said, "There is only a trickle of tap water supply. This has been going on for around six months. It started after road work and due to the laying of underground cables. At many places, water pipes have been damaged as the contractors carry out works using earthmovers."

Alleging that the water pipelines are damaged repeatedly due to a nexus between the contractors and officials from the Public Works Department (PWD), he demanded the contractors engaged in the road works be replaced with the ones with a clean image.

Farida Vishal Bandekar, a resident of Sapna Gardens, said, "Water supply in our area is very bad. Our housing society is solely dependent on water from tankers. It's been nearly a month since we last got tap water. The society has 175 flats and 33 shops and the number of tankers ranges from five to 10."

Cecil Pinto, another local from the area, said, "We have been using well water for many years as the water supply has been irregular and unreliable. We are dependent on well water to meet our daily consumption and other needs."

John Vaz from Socorro said, "Water supply is irregular and on alternative days."

Bosco Eremita Souza, another resident, said, "We cannot rely on this government. It has sold Vagheri Hills. It has failed to stop diversion of Mhadei water."

Eurico Mascarenhas said, "To be honest, only this week we started receiving water. There was no water for the past 20 days. But what is surprising is that at some places water gets wasted. There are still many people who are still suffering and are not receiving water on a regular basis."

PWD sources attributed the water shortage in some of the areas to the ongoing road and underground cabling works, which is damaging the water pipelines.

