



People rally on Parliament Hill to mark the 3rd anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, in Ottawa



French President Emmanuel Macron departs the White House after participating in a G7 leader call, in Washington, DC



A serviceman poses for a photo with two pigeons on his shoulders at Independence Square in Kyiv during the third anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine



Britain's King Charles III (L) speaks with Tower Brewery owner John Mills (R) during a visit in Burton Upon Trent, central England

Merz wins German election

Pledges support for Ukraine & economic reforms

AP, BERLIN: Germany's mainstream conservatives led by Friedrich Merz won the country's national election, ensuring that Ukraine has an even stronger supporter in the European Union's largest country and creating hopes for renewal in an economic powerhouse that has been badly battered in recent years.

The far-right, anti-immigrant Alternative for Germany (AfD) surged to become the second-largest political force, gaining from a backlash against the high numbers of migrants and refugees the nation has absorbed over the past decade and a string of extremist attacks that has shaken its sense of security.

Merz, who is promising to unite Europe in the face of challenges from both Russia and the United States, is expected to become the



Leader and top candidate for chancellor of Germany's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) Friedrich Merz gestures as he addresses a press conference following a CDU party leadership meeting at the party's headquarters, the Konrad-Adenauer-Haus, in Berlin

country's next leader. He vowed to do everything in his power to continue a good transatlantic relationship with the US, even if the Trump administration appears to have waning interest in Europe.

"If those who really do not just make America First, but almost America Alone' their motto prevail, then it will be difficult," he told reporters Monday in his first post-election news conference. "But I remain hopeful that we will succeed in maintain-

ing the transatlantic relationship."

He warned that if the good relationship "is destroyed, it will not only be to the detriment of Europe, it will also be to the detriment of America."

Markets welcomed the victory of the fiscally conservative party, with stocks in major German companies rising Monday morning on hopes for a stable coalition government that could end policy gridlock and tackle the country's economic problems.

Merz said he wants to immediately begin negotiations with the centre-left Social Democrats, who suffered a stinging defeat after their coalition collapsed. But the results were seen as a rebuke for mainstream parties as AfD notched its best results ever — and the strongest for a far-right party since World War II.

UK sanctions Indian firm for aiding Russia's defence supply chain

PTI, LONDON: The UK on Monday marked three years since the Russia-Ukraine conflict with what the government described as the largest sanctions package against Moscow, targeting the country's military supply chains and producers in third countries — including a company in India.

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) said the latest set of sanctions will target producers and suppliers of machine tools, electronics and dual-use goods for Russia's military, including microprocessors used in weapons systems.

"These are based in a range of third countries including Central Asian states, Turkey, Thailand, India and China, which is the largest supplier

of critical goods for Russia's military," the FCDO said.

India Impex Private Limited, described as an India-based company that has exported "Common High Priority goods, including western-produced microelectronics" to Russia, appears on a list of companies named by the FCDO under the heading of "International enablers and suppliers to the Russian Defence Sector".

It came as British Prime Minister Keir Starmer virtually addressed a meeting of European leaders hosted by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to stress that US President Donald Trump had "changed the global conversation" around the conflict and created an opportunity.

allovertheworld



Visitors look at a cow during the 61st International Agricultural Fair (Salon de l'Agriculture) at the Porte de Versailles exhibition centre in Paris

Kenya officer in Haiti UN-backed mission killed

NAIROBI: A Kenyan police officer deployed to Haiti as part of a security mission under UN auspices has been killed while on duty in the troubled country, Kenya's police service said Monday. The East African nation is leading the United Nations-supported mission, which aims to help Haiti's national police push back against gangs who control large parts of the country. Earlier this month, Nairobi sent a fresh deployment of troops to Haiti — bolstering their numbers to roughly 700 — with the entire mission consisting of 1,000 officers. However, despite the deployments, the country remains ravaged by crippling instability due to rampant gang violence. The Multinational Security Support Mission said on X early Monday that an officer from the Kenyan contingent had "succumbed to the injuries" suffered during an operation.

Indonesian men sentenced to public flogging for gay sex

BANDA ACEH: A court in Indonesia's conservative Aceh province found two men guilty of sexual relations Monday and sentenced them to be publicly flogged, an official said. While gay sex is not illegal elsewhere in Indonesia — the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation — it is illegal in Aceh province, which imposes sharia, the Islamic law code. In November, locals raided a rented room in the provincial capital of Banda Aceh and found the two men — both students at a local university — together. They were taken to sharia police for the alleged crime of sexual relations. "The panel of judges at the Banda Aceh Sharia Court handed out punishment for the couple who committed liwath (gay sex)," Alfian, public prosecutor at Banda Aceh District Court who goes by one name, told AFP. Public flogging is a common punishment in Aceh for a range of offences that include gambling, drinking alcohol and adultery.

British couple arrested by Taliban in Afghanistan: Family

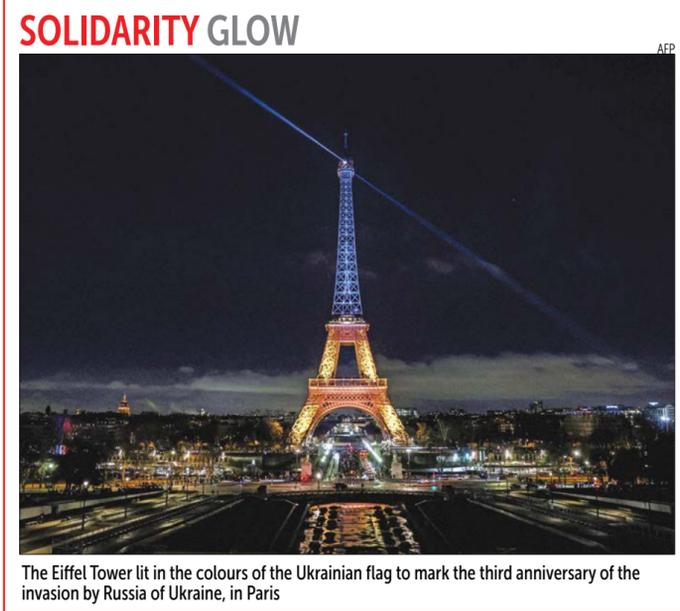
LONDON: An elderly British couple have been arrested by Taliban authorities in Afghanistan, their daughter said Monday, urging UK diplomats to do "everything in their power" to secure their release. Peter and Barbie Reynolds, who are in their seventies, have run school training programmes in the south Asian country for 18 years. Their daughter Sarah Entwistle and her three brothers had initially chosen not to involve the UK authorities "hoping to hear directly from the Taliban about why they'd arrested our parents", she told TimesRadio on Monday. "Our parents have always sought to honour the Taliban, so we wanted to give them the opportunity to explain their reasons for this detention," she said. The Taliban administration and the British Foreign Office declined to comment on the couple's arrest.

Cambodia police raid illegal online scam centres

PHNOM PENH: Cambodian police said Monday they have raided two locations in a city on the Thai border in a crackdown on online scam centres and detained more than 200 foreigners. The raids, conducted over the weekend in the city of Poipet, found 230 foreigners, including 123 Thais, after a three-month investigation, the Cambodian National Police said in a statement. "These foreigners were operating illegal online (activities) with Chinese nationals as ringleaders," the statement said, adding they accepted the "illegal work" voluntarily.

Over 7,000 people killed in eastern DR Congo since January: PM

GENEVA: Violence raging in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo has killed "more than 7,000 compatriots", many of them civilians, since last month, the Congolese premier said Monday. The Rwanda-backed M23 armed group has seized large swathes of the mineral-rich eastern DRC — including the main cities of Goma and Bukavu — in the face of limited resistance from Congolese forces. "The security situation in eastern DRC has reached alarming levels," Prime Minister Judith Suminwa Tuluka told the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, stressing that since January, "the deaths of more than 7,000 compatriots" had been registered. They include "more than 2,500 bodies buried without being identified", she said, adding that another 1,500 bodies were still in the morgue. Asked at a press briefing on the sidelines of the council whether the dead were civilians or soldiers, she said that "for the moment... we have not yet been able to identify all of these people".



The Eiffel Tower lit in the colours of the Ukrainian flag to mark the third anniversary of the invasion by Russia of Ukraine, in Paris

Vatican holds daily prayers for Pope Francis' health at St Peter's Square

AP, ROME: The Vatican on Monday announced the start of nighttime prayers for the health of Pope Francis in St Peter's Square, and invited Romans and others to join in, as the 88-year-old pontiff battled a complex lung infection and complications.

The Vatican No. 2, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, is to lead the first prayer on Monday evening. The announcement immediately brought to mind the nighttime candlelit vigils in the piazza that preceded the 2005 death of St John Paul II.

Francis, who has double pneumonia and the early stages of kidney insufficiency, was awake and in good spirits Monday. He is not in pain and is not re-



Nuns pray at the statue of John Paul II outside the Gemelli hospital where Pope Francis is hospitalized in Rome

ceiving artificial nutrition, the Vatican said.

"The night passed well, the pope slept and is resting," it said. A medical bulletin was expected later in the day.

At the Gemelli hospital, where Francis has been

since Feb 14 after a bout of bronchitis worsened, Bishop Claudio Giulio Dori presided over an emotional, standing-room-only Mass in the chapel named for John Paul; Some of the estimated 200 people.

CLASSIFIED CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

SITUATIONS VACANT

Wanted Female Office Staff with Computer knowledge to work Part time/Full time, Salary: 9000-16000, in an around Vasco only. WhatsApp Cv 8329482130.

2025006018

Wanted store manager/cashier for Millennium Farm shop at Margao. Timing 8am to 2pm then 4pm to 8pm. Contact: 8975909909/7620216472.

2025006000

Need 1) Full time Ro waterplant operator cum jar filler with fair idea of electrical/mechanical work. 2) Part-time candidate with Msc/Bsc in microbiology/Chemist. Location-Cuncolim Industrial Estate. Candidates preferably from Cuncolim, Bali, Ambaulim. Freshers welcome - Call: 7020626533 /9763820508

2025006018

Wanted Female Office Assistant Administrative office Margao (CS) with good skills. Knowledge of Ms office, Tally exp. WhatsApp 7798097138.

2025006019

wanted Indoor sales for an Exclusive Tiles Showroom. Panjim and Verna (Nuvem). Fresher or experienced. WhatsApp. Cv. 8080925217

2025006020

Urgently wanted Female Office Assistants & Recruitment Executives for Pyramid Travels, Margao, Goa. Call 9822017771

2025006021

Required Housemaid with Valid Passport. Call - +91 9326559120.

2025006023

Brendwin Enterprises requires office Girl for A/C Refrigeration showroom cum workshop Bamado, Chinchinim preferably from Chinchinim, Assolna, Velim, Cuncolim: 9579873606.

2025006026

Wanted Part Time Night Cashier, Tandoori Cook, Waiters for Longuinhos Bar & Restaurant opp. Margao Municipal Bldg. Mobile 7387602012

2025006027

Be a Business Leader with India's Largest Company. Flexible Timings. Unlimited Earnings. Government Regulated. Age: 30+. Qualification: 12th Std. Call: 9923641211

2025006028

SITUATIONS VACANT

Wanted housekeeping staff for Borkar Multispeciality Hospital, Margao-Goa. Contact: 9561932487/ 9561562487

2025006029

Wanted House Maid (Female) to clean and cook and to take care of the pet in Sodiem-Siolim. Contact: 7798081617

2025006030

Wanted One Multi-Tasking Staff-SSC and One L.D.C -XII Com & Computers on leave vacancy for 45 days. Attend walk in interview on 03/03/2025 at 9.00 a.m. along with your testimonials at St. Joseph Convent High School, Nagoa-Verna, Salcete Goa.

2025006033

Urgently wanted a Taxi Driver with Taxi banch for innova crystal for 5 star hotel in South Goa. salary 18k +incentives contact-8530039116

2025006059

TOURS & TRAVELS

Special Package Bangkok+ Pattaya =42000/-4N /5Days, Singapore +malaysia+ Bangkok= 115000/- (9n /10 days) Dubai= 65000/- (4n /5days) Vietnam 5 N /6 Days)90,000/-, Azerbaijan 3 N Georgia 2 N Baku 1,20,000/- from Goa .(All Inclusive) Contact: 7248913648 Nurvi Holidays.Fix Travels Date 25th March 2025.

2025005838

VEHICLES AVAILABLE

Sports Car Automatic Hyundai Tiburon GT 2 Door 2001 mfg n Reg Single owner 36000 kms only Well maintained Papers valid Only 1 car in India 990000. 9892803211 9870891599.

2025005658

Swift Dzire For sale, Swift dzire LXI, K series patrol engine, model 2012, Km done 217000, well maintained with AGT permit Contact 9822156008, 8999358697

2025005829

VEHICLES WANTED

We buy all Car's & Bike's. Maruti, Toyota, Hyundai, Honda (Vintage Car's) etc, even accidental and scrap car's. Spot payment-8381027157

2025001584

One dead, several injured in Bangladesh airbase clash

PTI, DHAKA: A man was killed and several others injured in a clash Monday between a group of local people and air force personnel at an airbase in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar, officials said.

The Inter Service Public Relations (ISPR) - the media wing of the military - in a statement said the "miscreants" attacked the Bangladesh Air Force Base near Cox's Bazar's Samitipara.

"Bangladesh Air Force is taking necessary actions in this regard," it said.

The ISPR said that "some local miscreants" of the Samitipara area adjacent to the beach resort town "launched a sudden attack" on the airbase after a biker was stopped at a checkpoint as he was crossing the base area without any papers for the vehicle.

It said the biker was taken inside the base for interrogation when over 200 people marched towards the base. The security personnel tried to stop them, sparking a clash that left four Air Force personnel injured.

Deputy Commissioner of the district, Mohammad Salahuddin, said: one person was killed, and several others were injured in the incident."

The official said a thorough investigation would be conducted into the

cause of the attack. The officer-in-charge of a police box at a local hospital where the wounded were being treated said the incident took place at around noon.

"Shihab Kabir, 30, a local trader, was shot during the clash," the officer said.

The incident sparked a social media uproar, with people claiming that the youth died in gunshots fired by the Air Force personnel. Bangladesh's defence ministry came up with a statement, saying BAF men did not fire any live bullets during the violence.

The ISPR said the Air Force personnel fired "blank shots" to protect a key installation, but no shot was fired on the people. It termed the incident to an "evil motive" of some "vested quarters".

French surgeon on trial accused of raping or abusing 299 people, mostly child patients

AP, VANNES (FRANCE): A former surgeon went on trial in France on Monday for the alleged rape or sexual abuse of 299 victims, most of them children who were his patients, in what investigators and his own notebooks describe as a pattern of violence spanning over three decades.

Joël Le Scourneac, now 74, will face hundreds of victims during his four-month trial in Vannes, Brittany. He faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted, on top of 15 years he has been serving after being found guilty in 2020 of

rape and sexual assault of children.

His lawyer, Maxime Tessier, told the court that Le Scourneac accepts responsibility for "a large majority" of the allegations against him.

Some survivors have no memory of the assaults, having been unconscious at the time. One man now in his thirties testified that he was assaulted during a consultation in 1995, when he was just a young boy. "I remember certain things in the recovery room. I was in total panic. I called my dad," he told the court.

Le Scourneac's tri-

al comes as activists are pushing to dismantle taboos that have long surrounded sexual abuse in France. The most prominent case was that of Gisèle Pélicot, who was drugged and raped by her now ex-husband and dozens of other men who were convicted and sentenced in December to prison terms ranging from three to 20 years.

The Le Scourneac case began in 2017, when a 6-year-old neighbour said the doctor had touched her over the fence separating their properties.

A subsequent search of his home uncovered more than 300,000 photos, 650 pedophilic, zoophilic and scatological video files, as well as notebooks where he described himself as a pedophile and detailed his actions, according to investigation documents.

In 2020, Le Scourneac was convicted of rape and sexual assault of four children, including two nieces, and was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

He has admitted to child abuse dating to 1985-1986, but some cases could not be prosecuted because the statute of limitations has expired.