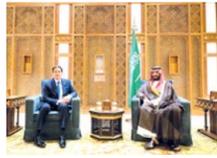




Vice President JD Vance speaks at the Congressional Cities Conference of the National League of Cities in Washington



Saudi Crown Prince & PM Mohammed bin Salman (R), & US Secy of State Marco Rubio meet at the Royal Palace in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia



ATF investigators and a member of the Seattle Fire Department inspect burned Tesla Cybertrucks at a Tesla lot in Seattle



A Discover Airlines passenger plane moves at a maintenance hangar at Frankfurt Airport, Germany, as the Verdi warning strike at 13 airports came to an end

allovertheworld



Spectators attend a charity concert given in aid of the starving children of Ethiopia at La Courneuve, near Paris

Columbia activist's arrest is first of many, warns Trump

PTI, NEW YORK: President Donald Trump warned Monday that the arrest and possible deportation of a Palestinian activist who helped lead protests at Columbia University will be the first of many to come as his administration cracks down on campus demonstrations against Israel and the war in Gaza.

Mahmoud Khalil, a lawful U.S. resident who was a graduate student at Columbia until December, was detained Saturday by federal immigration agents in New York and flown to an immigration jail in Louisiana.

We know there are more students at Columbia and other Universities across the Country who have engaged in pro-terrorist, anti-Semitic, anti-American activity, Trump wrote in a social media post. We will find, apprehend, and deport these terrorist sympathizers from our country never to return again.

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But a federal judge in New York City ordered Monday that Khalil not be deported while the court considered a legal challenge brought by his lawyers. A hearing is scheduled for Wednesday.

Khalil's detention drew outrage from civil rights groups and free speech advocates, who accused the administration of using its immigration enforcement powers to squelch criticism of Israel.

He is the first person known to be detained for



deportation under Trump's promised crackdown on student protests.

Federal immigration authorities also visited a second international student at Columbia on Friday evening and attempted to take her into custody but were not allowed to enter the apartment, according to a union representing the student.

Khalil, 30, had not been charged with any crime related to his activism, but Trump has argued that protesters forfeited their rights to remain in the country by

Ukraine-US peace talks begin in Saudi amid massive Kyiv drone attack

PTI, JEDDAH: High-stakes talks between senior delegations from Ukraine and the United States on how to end Kyiv's three-year war with Moscow opened in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, hours after Russian air defences shot down 337 Ukrainian drones over Russia.

Two people were killed and 18 were injured, including three children, in the massive drone attack that spanned 10 Russian regions, officials said. No large-scale damage was reported.

In the Red Sea port city of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, journalists briefly entered a room where senior Ukrainian delegation met with America's top diplomat for talks on ending Europe's biggest conflict since World War II.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio smiled for the cameras, while Ukrainian officials sat without expression at a

table across from them as the meeting got underway at a luxury hotel.

There was no immediate comment from Ukrainian or US officials on the drone attack.

Saudi Arabia's foreign minister was on hand for the talks as American, Saudi and Ukrainian flags stood in the background. Officials did not answer any of the shouted questions.

The talks offer an opportunity for Kyiv officials to repair Ukraine's relationship with Trump's administration after an unprecedented argument erupted during President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's February 28 visit to the White House.

Critically, Ukraine needs to persuade Washington to end the subsequent US suspension of military aid and some intelligence sharing. US officials have said that positive talks in Jeddah could mean it may be only a short suspension.

Eleven killed in jihadist revenge attack in Nigeria

KANO: Fighters from a new jihadist group torched seven villages in northwest Nigeria over the weekend and killed 11 people in a revenge attack, a police spokesman told AFP Monday. Militants from the Lakurawa group on Sunday attacked Birnin Dede and six villages near the border with Niger, Kebbi state police spokesman Nafiu Abubakar said, to avenge the killing of their commander by security forces in the area. "The Lakurawa terrorists shot dead 11 people and injured two others... (and) set fire to the seven villages," Abubakar said. Northwest and central Nigeria have long suffered from the recent appearance of Lakurawa jihadists in the northwest who worsened the violence in the region. On Thursday, security personnel posted in the area killed a senior commander of the jihadist group, known by the name Maigemu.

French parliament adopts bill to bring back village bars

PARIS: French lawmakers Monday adopted a bill making it easier to open a bar in villages without one, with backers saying it would revive rural socialising, but critics warning of health risks. France had some 200,000 cafes in 1960, often serving as the social centre of gravity for communities around the country. By 2015, that number had fallen to just 36,000, with most closures in rural areas, according to a 2017 report from the France Boissons industry body and the CREDOC consumer studies agency. The new legislation, which would loosen strict restrictions on new bar permits to sell hard liquor, does away with "an old and obsolete legal framework," said the centrist lawmaker behind the bill, Guillaume Kasbarian.

Australian police charge 14 over anti-Semitic attacks

SYDNEY: Australian police said Tuesday they have charged 14 members of an organised crime ring accused of menacing the country with attacks dressed up as religiously motivated hate crimes. Jewish neighbourhoods in Sydney city have in recent months seen synagogues daubed in anti-Semitic graffiti, buildings firebombed in the dead of night and cars torched by vandals. Although the crime wave stoked fears about rising anti-Semitism in Australia, police said they no longer believed many of these incidents were driven by "ideology." Instead, police said it appeared to be an attempt by organised criminals to gain favour by carrying out high-profile attacks - and then tipping off authorities later.

Swedish ex-govt advisor charged over mislaid documents

STOCKHOLM: Swedish prosecutors on Tuesday charged a former national security advisor, who resigned in January, for forgetting classified documents at a hotel conference centre in March 2023. Henrik Landerholm left the documents in an unlocked locker and the woman who found them, originally from Georgia, "can be linked to violent extremism circles," according to the charge sheet and police investigation. Landerholm - whose appointment two years ago sparked debate due to his longstanding friendship with Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson - was charged with "carelessness with secret information," the Swedish Prosecution Authority said in a statement.

India-UK trade talks focus only on business mobility visas

PTI, LONDON: Only temporary business mobility visas fall within the purview of the ongoing India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations and other categories, including student visas, will not form part of the pact, the UK government has informed peers during a House of Lords debate.

During a 'Question for Short Debate' session in the Upper House of the British Parliament last week, cross-party peers sought clarity on the FTA negotiations which were relaunched during UK Business and Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds visit to New Delhi last month.

Lord Sonny Leong responded to a series of is-

sues in his capacity as Government Whip in the Lords, while also pointing to his own India connection - being married to Indian-origin wife Gita.

"Our (bilateral) relationship also includes the millions in India who follow the Premier League and the huge market for Bollywood movies in the UK, which I and my wife enjoy most weekends and whose music we occasionally dance to," said Leong.

"Although I recognise and agree that we would all like this deal to be speedily signed, the government can sign only once we have secured the right deal for the UK, so we will prioritise the quality of the deal rather than the haste with which we can secure it."

Israeli fire kills 4 Palestinians in Gaza Strip

PTI, TEL AVIV: Israeli fire has killed four people and wounded 14 in the Gaza Strip over the past 24 hours, Palestinian officials said, even as a fragile ceasefire with Hamas has largely held.

Israeli strikes have killed dozens of Palestinians who the army says had approached its troops or entered unauthorized areas in violation of the January truce.

Israel last week suspended supplies of goods and electricity to the territory of more than 2 million Palestinians as it tries to pressure the militant group to accept an extension of the first phase of their ceasefire. That phase ended March 1.

EU plans more deportations, backs return hubs

AP, BRUSSELS: The European Union wants to increase deportations and is opening the way for "return hubs" to be set up in third countries for rejected asylum-seekers, according to a new migration proposal unveiled Tuesday.

Only 20% of people with a return order are effectively removed from EU territory, according to the European Commission, which presented the "European System for Returns" as a potential solution.

The proposal aims to set a standard for all 27 members of the bloc and allow national authorities from one country to enforce the deportation order issued by another. Such rules were missing from the EU's

THRILLING CHASE



Afghan horse riders compete in 'Buzkashi' (goat grabbing), a traditional Central Asian sport, at a field in Mazar-i-Sharif

Bus tragedy: 12 dead, dozen injured in South Africa crash

PTI, JOHANNESBURG: A bus overturned on a highway on Tuesday and passengers were thrown out of it, killing at least 12 people and injuring 45 in the South African city of Johannesburg, emergency services said.

Emergency crews were trying to lift the bus back onto its wheels to see if any more victims were trapped underneath it, said William Nthladi, a spokesperson for the city's Ekurhuleni Emergency Management.

On arrival we found patients lying across the road," Nthladi said.

The early-morning crash happened on a highway near Johannesburg's main O.R. Tambo International Airport.

The bus was lying on its side near the edge of



A general view of the scene of a bus accident in Ekurhuleni, South Africa

the highway. It had been transporting people from the township of Katilehong, east of Johannesburg, officials said.

Nthladi said 12 people were declared dead at the scene of the crash by para-

edics.

Nthladi said he also couldn't give exact details on the extent of the injuries but said they ranged from serious to critical. The driver was among those taken to the hospital.

Argentina searches for baby, sister swept away by floods

AFP, BAHIA BLANCA: Rescuers in Argentina searched Monday for two sisters, aged one and five, swept away by flash floods that killed 16 people in the city of Bahia Blanca at the weekend.

More than a year's worth of rain fell in a matter of hours Friday, inundating entire neighborhoods of the port city about an eight-hour drive south from Buenos Aires.

Argentines have been particularly shaken by the unknown fate of two little



girls who were travelling with their parents when their car became marooned in the fast-rising waters.

A delivery van driver

managed to rescue the children and their mother and bring them aboard his vehicle but it too filled with water, relatives of the fami-

6 killed in militant attack on hotel in Somalia

PTI, MOGADISHU: A car bomb exploded on Tuesday at a hotel in the central Somali city of Beledweyne in a militant attack that killed at least six people, including two prominent traditional elders, according to witnesses.

The explosion targeted the Cairo Hotel, which houses traditional elders and military officers currently involved in coordinating the government's offensive against the militant group al-Shabab.

The blast triggered intense gunfire as attackers stormed the hotel, engaging security forces.

Six people, including two

well-known traditional elders, were killed in the attack, said Muhsin Abdullahi, a resident who spoke to The Associated Press by phone. He added that several wounded were hospitalised.

Footage shared on social media showed thick plumes of black smoke rising above the hotel, with significant destruction to the building. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

However, al-Shabab frequently carries out bombings and assaults targeting government officials and military personnel in the Horn of Africa nation.

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