



Chairman of Germany's Social Democratic Party (SPD) Lars Klingbeil gives a statement in front of the Reichstag in Berlin



Members of the Argentina Association of Photojournalists (ARGRA) demonstrate outside Congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina



Placards are held up at a protest at home to the Houses of Parliament, in central London calling for urgent action on clean air, in London



Guatemalan soldiers patrol the shared border with Mexico as part of the Ring of Fire operation, aiming to strengthen border control, in Guatemala

## Ukrainian nationalist activist shot dead in Odesa

AFP, ODESA: A gunman shot and killed a well-known Ukrainian nationalist activist in Odesa on Friday, officials said, adding that a suspect had been detained and that they were probing a possible Russian connection.

Demian Ganul, 31, was a right-wing nationalist activist in the Black Sea city who led and took part in several anti-Russia protests, including violent clashes with counter-protestors in May 2014.

Ukrainian police reported that he was shot at 10:30 am (0830 GMT) on Friday, with the assailant fleeing the scene.

"A man suspected of murdering an activist has been detained. A weapon allegedly used to commit the crime was found in the apartment where he was hiding," Interior Minister Igor Klymenko said. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy confirmed in a social media post that the man killed was Ganul.

Ganul took part in Ukraine's 2013-2014 pro-European revolution and was involved in street clashes with pro-Russian protesters in the port city after Russia annexed the Crimean peninsula and started backing anti-Kyiv separatists in the east.

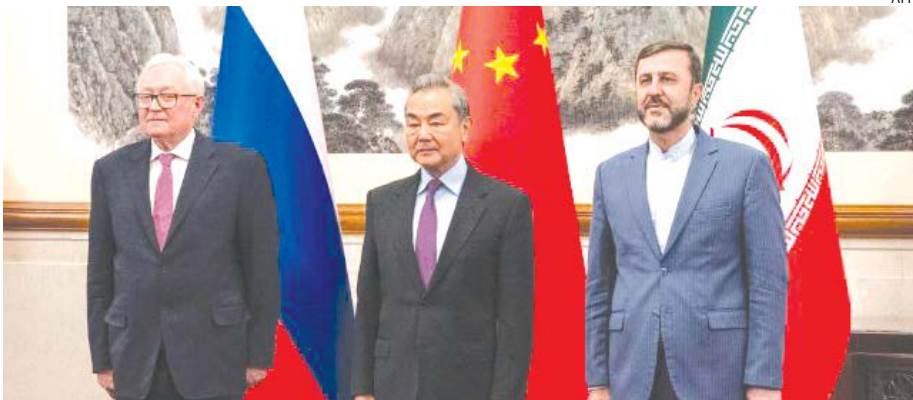
# China, Russia, Iran call for end to US sanctions on Iran, restart nuclear talks

AP, TAIPEI (TAIWAN): Representatives of China, Russia and Iran called on Friday for an end to US sanctions on Iran over its rapidly advancing nuclear programme and a restart to multinational talks on the issue.

The three countries' meeting was the latest attempt to broach the matter and come after US President Donald Trump wrote to Iran's supreme leader in an attempt to jumpstart talks.

The letter, which hasn't been published, was offered as Trump levied new sanctions on Iran as part of his "maximum pressure" campaign that holds out the possibility of military action while emphasizing he still believed a new deal could be reached.

China, Russia and Iran "emphasized the necessity of terminating all unlawful unilateral sanctions", China's Vice Foreign Minister



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov (L), and Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi (R), before a meeting regarding the Iranian nuclear issue at Diaoyutai State Guest House in Beijing, China

Ma Xiaoxu read from a joint statement, flanked by Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Ryabkov Sergey Alexeevich and Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi. "The three countries reiterated that political and diplomatic engagement and dialogue based on the principle of

mutual respect remains the only viable and practical option in this regard," Ma read.

In comments to the three representatives, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi reinforced China's commitment to a peaceful settlement and opposition to "illegal" sanctions, China's official Xinhua News Agency reported.

He added that China remains committed to the framework of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the nuclear deal between Iran and six major countries - the US, Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany - as "the basis for new consensus." Iran's Supreme Leader

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has mocked Trump, saying he wasn't interested in talks with a "bullying government", although Iranian officials have offered conflicting signals over the possibility of negotiations. Trump sent a letter to Khamenei in 2019 with no apparent effect on rising tensions.

China and Russia are both permanent members of the UN Security Council, along with France and Britain, that took part in the original 2015 Iran nuclear deal preliminary framework agreement. Trump withdrew America from the accord in 2018, setting in motion years of tensions in the wider Middle East.

China and Russia have particularly close relations with Iran through energy deals and Iran has provided Russia with bomb-carrying drones in its war against Ukraine.

## PIA flight lands at Lahore airport with a missing wheel

PTI, LAHORE: A Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) domestic flight landed on the Lahore airport with one of its wheels missing, an official said on Friday.

However, no untoward accident was reported due to the Thursday morning incident, the official said.

One of the rear wheels of PIA flight PK-306, which left from Karachi for Lahore, was missing when it landed at the Lahore airport, the official said.

An investigation has been initiated into the incident, a PIA official told PTI.

He added it was being probed whether the aircraft left Karachi with the "missing wheel" or got detached and fell during the take-off.

He said some fragments of the wheel were found at the Karachi airport.

### CLASSIFIED CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

#### SITUATIONS VACANT

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**Wanted Cheff all rounder** Goan cook (lady), waiter for a new restaurant in South Goa. Food/ accommodation provided. Contact: 8378006787.

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## DeepSeek dims shine of AI stars

AFP, LAS VEGAS: China-based DeepSeek shook up the world of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) early this year with a low-cost but high-performance model that challenged the hegemony of OpenAI and other big-spending behemoths.

Since late 2022, just a handful of AI assistants -- such as OpenAI's ChatGPT, Anthropic's Claude, and Google's Gemini -- have reigned supreme, becoming ever more capable thanks to multi-billion-dollar investments in engineers, data centers, and high-performance AI chips. But then DeepSeek up-

ended the sector with its R1 model, which it said cost just \$6 million or so, powered by less-advanced chips.

While specialists suspect DeepSeek may have cost more than its creators claim, its debut fueled talk that GenAI assistants are becoming just a regular commodity, thanks to innovation and market forces.

"The first company to train models must expend lots of resources to get there," said CFRA senior equity analyst Angelo Zino. "The second mover can get there cheaper and more quickly."

## How much sleep do you really need? Experts say it depends on age, other factors

AP, WASHINGTON: Chances are, if you're reading this, you got some sleep last night. But are you feeling rested?

Experts say it's an important question to consider, on the occasion of the World Sleep Day which falls on March 14

Most of us spend a third of our lives sleeping, but you may need more or less than eight hours a night. Here's what sleep scientists and doctors say about how much you really need - and whether your gender plays a role.

**Sleep quality over quantity** Sleep is still a mystery,

despite how critical it is for our health. "The reasons aren't entirely clear, but it's an essential thing that we all do," said Dr. Rafael Pelayo, a sleep specialist at Stanford University.

"Something remarkable happens when you sleep. It's the most natural form of self-care that we have."

Most of the population gets between seven to nine hours - and that particular category has the lowest association with health problems, said Molly Atwood, a behavioral sleep medicine clinician at Johns Hopkins.

Once people either dip

into less than six hours of sleep or get more than nine hours on average, the risk of health problems inches up, Atwood said, but everybody is different.

When you're trying to figure out how much sleep you need, it's important to think about the quality of it, Pelayo said: "What you really want to do is wake up feeling refreshed - that's what it's about."

"If somebody tells me that they sleep many hours but they wake up tired, something is wrong," Pelayo said. "You shouldn't leave your favourite restaurant feeling hungry."

### How much sleep we need changes

The amount of sleep we need changes throughout our lives. Newborns need the most - somewhere between 14 to 17 hours.

"Definitely when we're babies and children, because we are growing so rapidly, we do need a lot more sleep," Atwood said.

The National Sleep Foundation recommends most adults between 26 and 64 get between seven to nine hours of sleep. People who are 65 and older can get slightly less, and young adults between ages 16 and 25 can get slightly more.

## voice of business

# Starlink's India entry: Govt seeks control centre in country

AGENCY, NEW DELHI: Days after telecom giants Airtel and Reliance Jio signed a deal with Elon Musk's SpaceX for Starlink's entry into India, the Central government has asked the US-based satellite internet provider to establish a control centre in the country.

### SECURITY CONCERNS

According to a report, the control center is intended to help maintain law and order by enabling the suspension or shutdown of communication services

in sensitive areas when required. The report, citing sources, added that security agencies have specified mandates allowing them to intercept calls through official channels when necessary.

Highlighting the need for a control center, the report stated that it would be crucial in situations where sudden changes in law and order require the suspension of satellite communication services. Authorities cannot be expected to contact Starlink's US headquarters in emergencies, the report noted. Starlink has assured the government that it will

*The report stated that it would be crucial in situations where sudden changes in law and order require the suspension of satellite communication services. Authorities cannot be expected to contact Starlink's US headquarters in emergencies, the report noted*

address this concern.

Under India's telecom laws, the central and state govts can take temporary control of any telecom service or network in cases of public emergency, disaster management, or public safety, the report added.

Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak slams Musk's

mass firings: "Not how you run a business" Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak slams Musk's mass firings: "Not how you run a business"

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh has raised concerns over the recent Starlink agreements between telecom firms and SpaceX.

Criticising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he claimed that the deal was orchestrated to gain the goodwill of US President Donald Trump. Taking to X, Ramesh questioned how Airtel and Jio signed deals with SpaceX just 12 hours apart, despite their previous objections to its entry into India.

The deal between Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Jio and Elon Musk's SpaceX was signed on Wednesday, surprising many as the two billionaires had been at odds for months over the allocation of internet service airwaves.

# RBI fixes sovereign gold bond redemption rate at Rs 8,624/unit for 2016-17 series 4

AGENCY, MUMBAI: With gold prices soaring -- crossing the sensitive \$3000/ounce first time-ever early trade Friday in the international markets -- the Reserve Bank has fixed the final redemption price for sovereign gold bonds (SGBs) due on March 17, at Rs 8,624/gram for the 2016-17 series IV issued on March 17, 2017.

"The redemption price of the SGB shall be based on the simple average of the closing price of gold of 999 purity of the week (Monday- Friday), preceding the date of redemption, as published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association," the RBI said in a statement. It is not immediately clear how many tonnes of gold will be bought

back and what the issue price.

Since the inception of the SGB scheme way back in November 2015, under the gold monetisation scheme to offer an alternative investment to physical gold, as much as 146.96 tonne of gold was issued/raised through 67 tranches, amounting to Rs 72,274 crore. Since July 2024, the RBI has announced premature redemption for SGBs issued between 2017 and 2020.

In FY24, investors bought Rs 27,031 crore worth of gold bonds or 44.34 tonne of gold, before the July budget, when the govt announced the premature redemption along with a massive reduction the customs duty on the yellow metal imports -- from 15% to a low 6% as gold prices

were on steady climb. In 2024, the prices shot up more than 22%, while in 2025 so far it has gained over 14% and spot gold is trading over \$3000/ounce in the international markets.

For the record, as of 1800 hrs IST the spot price of the metal was sniffing at \$3,010 an ounce on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

The SGBs 2016-17 series IV was issued on March 17, 2017 under the sovereign gold bond scheme of the Centre and are repayable on the expiration of eight years from the date of issue. "Accordingly, the final redemption date of the above tranche shall be March 17, 2025," the central bank said.

SGB 2016-17 series I, issued at Rs 3,119 on August 5, 2016, was

redeemed in the first week of August 2024 at Rs 6,938/gram. The series II, issued at Rs 3,150 on September 30, 2016, was redeemed on September 30, 2024, at Rs 7,517, the third series, issued at Rs 3,007 on November 17, 2016, was redeemed on November 16, 2024, at Rs 7,788.

Two SGBs launched in 2016 have already matured in 2024 redeemed. Since July 2024, the government has redeemed six tranches of SGBs, with 61 tranches remaining outstanding, and the final redemption is scheduled for February 2032.

The July 2024 budget projected that government liabilities on gold bonds would Rs 85,000 crore by the end of this fiscal year,

almost nine times the number in FY20. The duty cut led to a massive 6% plunge in domestic gold prices hugely benefitting the government in redemption payout. Yet the first redemption gave the investor a premium of 122%.

The immediate past redemption was on February 11, 2025, at Rs 8,499/unit, which was a premature redemption, while the first tranche was in August 10, 2024 at Rs 6,938/unit.

In the first-ever SGB redemption on August 5, 2024 (issued on August 10, 2016) the RBI bought back 3.75 tonne and another 3.6 tonne on September 23, 2024, in the second tranche. In the third redemption it bought back 8 tonnes.

