



Students & teachers march during a demonstration on the fourth day of the relay strike in higher education at the University of Amsterdam



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) at the opening bell, in the Financial District of New York City



Canada PM Mark Carney (L) is greeted by President of France Emmanuel Macron as he arrives at the Palais de l'Elysee in Paris



People gather behind metallic barriers to watch a parade organised as part of the Purim feast celebrations, in Jerusalem

allovertheworld



A woman smiles as she cradles a dog outside the Tajrish Bazaar in central Tehran, as people prepare for Nowruz (Noruz), the Persian New Year, which coincides this year with the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Millions of people across the Middle East, Asia and Eastern Europe celebrate the Nowruz new year festival, which usually falls on March 20, to mark the start of spring

Kenya must investigate mutilated bodies dumped in quarry: HRW

NAIROBI: Human Rights Watch urged Kenya on Monday to conclude an investigation into mutilated bodies found in a quarry last year, and address claims that police blocked recovery efforts. There was shock and disgust last July in the east African country when 10 butchered female corpses, and other unidentified body parts, were recovered, mostly by volunteers, from an abandoned quarry in the Mukuru slum in the capital Nairobi. The discovery came as Kenya was gripped by deadly government protests, with rights groups alleging police brutality and the abduction of prominent protesters. Authorities promised swift action and quickly arrested a man who they said had confessed to murdering and dismembering 42 women. But around a month later, the suspect escaped police custody and disappeared without a trace.

Peru declares state of emergency in capital over extortion killings

LIMA: Peru announced a state of emergency late Sunday in the capital Lima over a wave of killings linked to extortion. The move came after singer Paul Flores was shot dead by hitmen who attacked a bus he was riding with bandmates as they left a concert outside Lima. The musicians had been threatened by a criminal gang who attempted to extort money from them, their representatives said. "It has been ordered that in the coming hours, a state of emergency be decreed throughout the province of Lima and the Constitutional province of Callao," Gustavo Adrianzen, head of the ministerial cabinet, posted on X. While extortion is a problem across Latin America, it has taken on alarming proportions in Peru - a phenomenon blamed partly on criminal gangs such as Venezuela's Tren de Aragua which operates in several Latin American countries.

Thai PM threatens legal action over latest construction deaths

BANGKOK: Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra called on Monday for legal action after six people were killed at the weekend on a highway construction project that has seen several deadly incidents in recent years. A concrete beam forming part of an under-construction elevated roadway collapsed early on Saturday on Rama II road, an important highway linking Bangkok to the country's south. Paetongtarn chaired an urgent meeting with government agencies on Monday to discuss safety after the accident, which also injured dozens of people. She said contractors could have their licences revoked if they were found to have been negligent and criminal charges could follow.

Man suspected of setting wife on fire in Germany turns self in

BERLIN: A 46-year-old Georgian man who had been on the run after allegedly setting fire to his wife on a tram in Germany turned himself in on Monday, police said. "The suspect turned himself in at the Gera police station shortly before 9:00 am (0800 GMT) and was arrested there without resistance," police in the eastern city said. The man, who was not named, is accused of dousing his wife with a flammable liquid and setting fire to her inside a tram in Gera on Sunday, causing her life-threatening injuries. "She was sprayed with flammable liquid and set alight by a man," police said after the attack, adding later that the suspect was believed to be the victim's husband. The tram driver used a fire extinguisher to put out the flames but the woman, also 46, had already sustained life-threatening injuries and was taken by helicopter to hospital.

UN chief to hold talks with rival Cyprus leaders

GENEVA: UN chief Antonio Guterres was to meet the rival Cypriot leaders on Monday to kick off two days of informal talks aimed at finding a "way forward" on the divided island. Guterres was to convene President Nikos Christodoulides of the Greek-speaking, internationally recognised Republic of Cyprus and Turkish Cypriot leader Ersin Tatar at the United Nations offices in Geneva. The guarantor powers of Britain, Greece and Turkey were also set to participate.

Both US and Iran-backed Houthis vow escalation after US airstrikes target rebels in Yemen

PTI, CAIRO: The United States and Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen are both vowing escalation after the US launched airstrikes to deter the rebels from attacking military and commercial vessels on one of the world's busiest shipping corridors.

The Houthi-run Health Ministry said the US strikes killed at least 53 people, including five women and two children, and wounded almost 100 in the capital of Sanaa and other provinces, including Saada, the rebels' stronghold on the border with Saudi Arabia.

We're not going to have these people controlling which ships can go through and which ones cannot. And so your question is, how long will this go on? It will go on until they no longer have the capability to do that," U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio told CBS on Sunday.

President Donald Trump on Saturday vowed to use overwhelming lethal force



People inspect the rubble of a house hit by a US strike on the weekend in Yemen's northern Saada province

until the Houthis cease their attacks, and warned that Tehran would be held fully accountable for their actions.

The Houthis have repeatedly targeted shipping in the Red Sea, sinking two vessels, in what they call acts of solidarity with the Palestinians in Gaza, where Israel has been at war with Hamas, another Iranian ally. The attacks stopped when a Israel-Hamas ceasefire took hold in January a day before Trump took office but last

week the Houthis said they would renew attacks against Israeli vessels after Israel cut off the flow of humanitarian aid to Gaza this month.

There have been no Houthi attacks reported since then.

The U.S. airstrikes were one of the most extensive attacks against the Houthis since the war in Gaza began in October 2023.

Trump's national security adviser, Mike Waltz, on Sunday told ABC that the strikes actually target-

Reasons behind renewed US action on Yemen's Houthis rebels

AP, DUBAI: The United States under President Donald Trump has launched a new campaign of intense airstrikes targeting Yemen's Houthi rebels.

This weekend's strikes killed at least 53 people, including children, and wounded others. The campaign is likely to continue, part of a wider pressure campaign by Trump now targeting the Houthis' main benefactor, Iran, as well.

Why did the US launch these new airstrikes?

The Houthi rebels attacked over 100 merchant vessels with missiles and drones, sinking two vessels and killing four sailors, from November 2023 until January this year. Their leadership described the attacks as aiming to end the Israeli war against Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

The campaign also greatly raised the Houthis' profile in the wider Arab world and tamped down on public criticism against their human rights abuses and crackdowns on dissent and aid workers.

Trump, writing on his social media platform Truth Social, said his administration targeted the Houthis over their "unrelenting campaign of piracy, violence and terrorism." He noted the disruption Houthi

attacks have caused through the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, key waterways for energy and cargo shipments between Asia and Europe through Egypt's Suez Canal.

"We will use overwhelming lethal force until we have achieved our objective," Trump said.

Didn't the US already target the Houthis with airstrikes?

Under former President Joe Biden, the US and the United Kingdom began a series of airstrikes against the Houthis starting in January 2024. A December report by The International Institute for Strategic Studies said the US and its partners struck the Houthis over 260 times up to that point.

US military officials during that period acknowledged having a far-wider target list for possible strikes.

While the Biden administration didn't go too far into explaining its targeting, analysts believe officials largely were trying to avoid civilian casualties and not rekindle Yemen's stalemated war, which pits the Houthis and their allies against the country's exiled government and their local and international allies, such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

ed multiple Houthi leaders and took them out. He

didn't identify them or give evidence. Rubio said some

Houthi facilities had been destroyed.

Nightclub fire leaves North Macedonia grappling with grief, accountability

PTI, KOCANI: As families gathered outside a hospital for updates, Tomco Stojanov had already been given the devastating news.

His 25-year-old son, Andrej, had been killed Sunday in a nightclub fire that left dozens dead, many trampled during a desperate bid to escape.

Thank you for your condolences, but my pain is incurable. The wound is incurable. The wound is incurable, Stojanov said, holding up a photograph of his son, clean shaven and wearing a suit jacket. "He died while returning and entering to save other people. And he was pushed, run over, that's how my son died." North Macedonia is grappling with the loss of dozens of young lives in Sunday's nightclub inferno in the eastern town of Kocani, while trying to hold those responsible to account and prevent another calamity.

Fire tore through the overcrowded Club Pulse

during a live concert, leaving 59 people dead and more than 150 injured from burns, smoke inhalation and being trampled in the panicked escape toward the building's single exit.

Videos showed sparkling pyrotechnics on the stage hitting the club's ceiling and igniting the blaze as a band played.

The fire that shook the nation of 2 million where close-knit extended family bonds made the disaster personal to many was the latest in a string of deadly nightclub fires around the world. People as young as 16 were among the casualties, and the nation declared seven days of mourning.

We are all in shock, and I am shocked myself: as a mother, as a person, as a president, North Macedonian President Gordana Davkova Siljanovska said in an address to the nation Sunday night.

UN chief to meet rival Cyprus leaders

AFP, GENEVA: UN chief Antonio Guterres was to meet the rival Cypriot leaders for dinner on Monday ahead of informal talks aimed at finding a "way forward" on the divided island's future.

Guterres was to dine with President Nikos Christodoulides of the Greek-speaking, internationally recognised Republic of Cyprus and Turkish Cypriot leader Ersin Tatar in Geneva.

Sri Lanka's suspended police chief loses court plea to prevent his arrest

PTI, COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's suspended police chief Deshabandu Tennakoon on Monday lost his appeal at the Court of Appeal seeking an order to stay the arrest warrant issued against him by a local court.

The Appeal Court refused his plea without a hearing, court officials said. The two-judge bench, headed by Justice (Acting President) Mohamed Laffar, also directed the police

FIERY TRIBUTE



Cardboard figures known as a "Ninot" depicting the President of the Valencian Community Carlos Mazon, are displayed during the Fallas festival in Valencia. The fallas, gigantic cardboard structures that portray current events and celebrities in which individual figures or ninots are placed, are burned in the streets of Valencia every year on March 19 as a tribute to San Jose (Saint Joseph), patron saint of the carpenters' guild. The Fallas festival was added to UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage of humanity list in 2016

UN experts slam US arrests of pro-Palestinian students

AFP, GENEVA: UN-appointed experts on Monday branded US authorities' arrests of foreign students for pro-Palestinian protests on campus "disproportionate" and called for their rights to be respected.

US campuses including Columbia University in New York were rocked by student protests against Israel's war in Gaza following the October 7, 2023 attack by Palestinian militant group Hamas, drawing accusations of anti-Semitism.

Immigration officers arrested Mahmoud Khalil, a leader of protests at Columbia, on the weekend of March 9-10 after US President Donald Trump vowed to deport foreign pro-Palestinian student demonstrators.

The White House later said authorities had supplied a list of other Columbia students that officers were seeking to deport over their alleged participation in protests.

"These actions are disproportionate, unnecessary, and discriminatory and will only lead to more trauma and polarisation negatively impacting the learning environment within university campus-

es," the UN experts said in a statement.

"These actions create a chilling effect on the rights to freedom of expression, assembly and of association," they added.

The Trump administration has moved to revoke Khalil's residency permit, accusing him of leading "activities aligned with Hamas".

Khalil's lawyer later told a court that he had been taken to Louisiana and denied legal advice.

The independent experts, appointed by the UN to report on rights issues, urged US authorities "to cease repression and retaliation, including in the form of arbitrary detention of US lawful permanent residents, and removal of international students who have participated in university protests".

The Trump administration cut \$400 million in federal funding for Columbia University, accusing it of not sufficiently addressing anti-Semitism.

Columbia administrators later said they had suspended and expelled a number of students who had occupied a campus building last year.