



Hungarian demonstrators protest against the amendment of the assembly law banning the Pride in the downtown of Budapest, Hungary



Protesters shout slogans as holds a picture of Istanbul's Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu during a protest after he was arrested and sent to prison, in Istanbul, Turkey



Artist Kaya Mar holds a painting depicting Chancellor Rachel Reeves at the entrance gate to Downing Street in London



Mira Nair attends 45th Annual New York Women In Film And Television Muse Awards at Cipriani 42nd Street, in New York City

allovertheworld



A male common kestrel (Falco tinnunculus), stands on a tree in Nice, southern France

Four US soldiers go missing in Lithuania drills

VILNIUS: Four American soldiers have gone missing during military drills in Lithuania, the United States command in Europe and the Baltic state's army said on Wednesday. Lithuanian and foreign troops, along with helicopters from the air force and the state border guard service, were deployed to search for the missing soldiers. The incident occurred during a military drill on a training ground in eastern Lithuania. "A possible scene has now been identified, and a search and rescue operation is underway," the Lithuanian military said in a statement. Lithuanian authorities received a report about the soldiers' disappearance on Tuesday afternoon. US Army Europe and Africa's public affairs office confirmed in a statement that the soldiers "were conducting scheduled tactical training at the time of the incident".

Kenya minister who criticised abductions fired

NAIROBI: A Kenyan minister who broke ranks to criticise President William Ruto over a spate of abductions, including his own son, was fired on Wednesday in a cabinet reshuffle. Earlier this year, Public Service Minister Justin Muturi accused the intelligence agency of abducting his son, saying he was forced to seek Ruto's intervention for his release. Muturi's son, Leslie, was abducted in June at the height of massive youth-led protests against the government's tax proposals. The Kenya National Commission on Human Rights has recorded more than 60 extrajudicial killings and 89 abduction cases since the June protests, with 29 people still missing. Muturi, a former attorney general, repeatedly urged the government to launch a public inquiry into the disappearances and vowed earlier this month to boycott cabinet meetings until the issue was investigated.

Chinese doctors implant pig liver in human for first time

PARIS: Chinese doctors said Wednesday that they had transplanted a liver from a genetically modified pig into a brain-dead human for the first time, raising hopes of a live-saving donor option for patients in the future. Pigs have emerged as the best animal organ donors, with several living patients in the United States having received pig kidneys or hearts in the last few years. Livers have proved trickier - and had not previously been tested out inside a human body. But with a huge and growing demand for liver donations across the world, researchers hope that gene-edited pigs can offer at least temporary relief to seriously ill patients on long waiting lists. Doctors at the Fourth Military Medical University in Xi'an, China, announced the field's latest breakthrough in a study in the journal Nature.

Spain arrests suspect over murder of US priest

MADRID: Spanish police said on Wednesday they had arrested a man suspected of strangling an 80-year-old US Catholic priest during a robbery in the southern city of Malaga. Father Richard Gross, who was from the US city of Boston, was found dead in January inside a holiday apartment he had rented in the centre of the city, where he was preparing to embark on a cruise. Officers arrested a 40-year-old French national on Tuesday in the southern city of Seville, Spain's national police said in a statement. They said he was detained on suspicion of murder. Another suspect was already in custody: a 27-year-old North African man arrested in late January. Police said they believed he acted as a lookout during the attack. Both men have criminal records related to theft.

Denmark ready to buy new US F-35 jets

COPENHAGEN: Denmark said Wednesday that it planned to buy more US F-35 fighter jets despite strained relations with Donald Trump, who wants to annex its autonomous territory of Greenland. "We have to strengthen our fleet of fighter jets and it is completely logical to acquire more F-35 fighter jets," Defence Minister Troels Lund Poulsen told the Borsen newspaper after Denmark announced a huge increase in defence spending. Poulsen's department declined to give more details about any future order when contacted by AFP. Questions about whether it is wise for Denmark to keep buying weapons from the United States have been put into sharp focus since Trump's rapprochement with Russia and threats of aggression against Canada and Greenland. Canada said this month that it would re-examine its purchase of F-35s and look at other options. But Poulsen said: "It's completely unrealistic to think that we could stop cooperating with the United States and buying its military equipment."

Trump signs order to overhaul US elections, seeks proof of citizenship

PTI, NEW YORK: President Donald Trump on Tuesday signed a sweeping executive action to overhaul elections in the US, including requiring documentary proof of citizenship to register to vote in federal elections and demanding that all ballots be received by Election Day.

The order says the US has failed to enforce basic and necessary election protections and calls on states to work with federal agencies to share voter lists and prosecute election crimes. It threatens to pull federal funding from states where election officials don't comply.

The move, which is likely to face swift challenges because states have broad authority to set their own election rules, is consistent

with Trump's long history of railing against election processes. He often claims elections are being rigged, even before the results are known, and has waged battles against certain voting methods since he lost the 2020 election to Democrat Joe Biden and falsely blamed it on widespread fraud.

Trump has focused particularly on mail voting, arguing without evidence that it's insecure and invites fraud even as he has shifted his position on the issue given its popularity with voters, including Republicans. While fraud occurs, it's rare, limited in scope and gets prosecuted.

The order's documentary proof of citizenship requirement signals that the president is not waiting for

US PREZ DONALD TRUMP DISMISSES WAR PLAN LEAK AS 'GLITCH'

AP, WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump on Tuesday downplayed the texting of sensitive plans for a military strike against Yemen's Houthis this month to a group chat that included a journalist, saying it was "the only glitch in two months" of his administration as Democratic lawmakers heaped criticism on the administration for handling highly sensitive information carelessly. Trump told NBC News that the lapse "turned out not to be a serious one," and expressed his continued support for national security adviser Mike Waltz. Waltz, according to an article posted online Monday by The Atlantic, appeared to have mistakenly added the magazine's editor-in-chief, Jeffrey Goldberg, to a chat that included 18 senior administration officials discussing planning for the strike.

congressional Republicans to pass their long-anticipated Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act, or SAVE Act, which has aimed to do the same thing.

Republicans have defended that measure as necessary to restore public confidence in elections. Voting in federal elections by noncitizens is already illegal and

24 dead as wildfires ravage parts of S Korea, force 27,000 to evacuate

AP, SEOUL: Wind-driven wildfires that were among South Korea's worst ever have ravaged the country's southern regions, killing 24 people, destroying more than 300 structures and forcing 28,800 residents to evacuate, officials said Wednesday.

The death toll included a pilot who died after a helicopter crashed during efforts to contain a blaze in the southeastern town of Uiseong, one of the hardest-hit areas.

The aircraft had no other crew members. Police said that most of the dead are those in their 60s and 70s.

The National Fire Agency said at least 26 people sustained varying degrees of injuries. An ancient Buddhist temple, houses, factories and vehicles were destroyed in the wildfires that have burned 17,752



The remains of burnt-out pavilions due to wildfires are seen at the Gounsa temple in Uiseong, South Korea

hectares (43,866 acres), the government's emergency response centre said.

In a televised address, South Korea's acting President Han Duck-soo said the wildfires that began last Friday were worse than many previous ones.

"Damages are snowballing," Han said. "There are

concerns that we'll have wildfire damages that we've never experienced, so we have to concentrate all our capabilities to put out the wildfires in the rest of this week."

Han said crews struggled to extinguish the wildfires because strong winds swept the areas overnight.

4 facilitators of Jaffar Express attack arrested in Pak: Report

PTI, ISLAMABAD: Four suspects have been arrested for facilitating the hijacking of the Jaffar Express that resulted in the killing of 26 hostages, including 18 security personnel, earlier this month in Pakistan's Balochistan, according to a media report.

Terrorists belonging to the banned separatist outfit Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) hijacked the Jaffar Express carrying 440 passengers. Twenty-six hostages lost their lives in the attack. The Army eliminated all 33 terrorists the next day and rescued 354 hostages.

Since then, multiple attacks have taken place across Balochistan.

Leaders of Brazil, Japan stress importance of democracy and free trade

AP, TOKYO: Brazilian President Luiz Incio Lula da Silva stressed the importance of free trade and multilateralism and decried threats against democracy as he and Japan's Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba agreed Wednesday to step up ties across the board.

The two leaders are expected to sign an action plan for the next five years to bolster their cooperation in a wide range of areas from security to economy and trade to climate change.

Lula said now is a perfect time to reactivate their strategic partnership when democracy and multilateralism are threatened, protectionism is rising in a number of countries and there is something of a "cold war" between the

United States and China.

Lula said it was extremely important for Brazil and Japan to reconfirm that democracy is the most important form of government and to ensure the importance of multilateralism and free trade.

Brazil, the second largest steel exporter to the United States after Canada and Japan, the sixth largest, both face 25 per cent duty as the US President Donald Trump steps up his tariff threats.

Ishiba emphasised Brazil's growing global presence as the ninth economic power that shares Japan's principles and values.

Lula on Tuesday met with Emperor Naruhito and attended a state banquet at the State Guest House.

TIMELESS BEAUTY



A general view of Andong Hahoe Village, a traditional Korean village and UNESCO World Heritage site, in Andong, South Korea

France, Indonesia vow to boost security in Indo-Pacific region as tensions between EU and Beijing persist

PTI, JAKARTA: France and Indonesia's top diplomats inked a new maritime security project on Wednesday aiming "to ensure peace and safety" at sea in the Indo-Pacific region.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Nol Barrot's visit to Jakarta, his second stop in his four-day Asia tour after Singapore, comes amid ongoing trade tensions between the European Union and Beijing.

He told reporters on Wednesday that the Indo-Pacific Port Security Project "is close to my heart," promising France's support.

Neither he nor his Indonesian counterpart Sugiono shared what the project will entail.

Earlier this month, during a discussion of the project at the Ottawa Conference on Security and Defence, Indonesia's naval chief of staff, Admiral Muhammad Ali, said it would address various maritime security challenges, including piracy, terrorism, and illegal activities at sea, and would likely involve collaboration among countries in the Indo-Pacific.

Sugiono, who like many Indonesians uses a single

Earlier this month, during a discussion of the project at the Ottawa Conference on Security and Defence, Indonesia's naval chief of staff, Admiral Muhammad Ali, said it would address various maritime security challenges, including piracy, terrorism, and illegal activities at sea, and would likely involve collaboration among countries in the Indo-Pacific

name, said the "maritime collaboration is important to realise a stable, peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific." Barrot said the project will support Indonesia as the world's largest archipelago nation with more than 17,000 islands, with a focus on two Indonesian ports in Jakarta and Surabaya cities "in

their sustainability and security." The two diplomats, who signed the project's agreement at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations headquarters in the Indonesian capital, said they also discussed strengthening their strategic partnerships and enhancing cooperation in various fields.

Military cooperation between France and Indonesia has grown in recent years.

French air force planes made a stopover in July in Jakarta as part of a visit to Southeast Asia that was meant to display France's commitment to security in the Indo-Pacific region.

Last year, Indonesia purchased 42 Rafale and Dassault Aviation fighter jets and is expected to receive the first Rafale jets under the contract in 2026. It also announced the purchase of two French Scorpene Evolved submarines and 13 Thales

Ground Control Interception radars.

Five of the radar systems are expected to be installed in the country's future capital, Nusantara, on Borneo island.

Barrot's visit is also expected to help lay the groundwork for a meeting between Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto and French President Emmanuel Macron who is expected to visit the Southeast Asian country in May.

The French diplomatic set to travel to Beijing and economic powerhouse Shanghai on Thursday and Friday.