



Egyptian Prez Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, greets his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron after their meeting at the Presidential Palace in Cairo



Indonesian Prez Prabowo Subianto gestures as he delivers a speech during an event called National Economic Gathering in Jakarta, Indonesia



Tugboats assist a container ship as it prepares to dock at the Manila International Container Terminal at the Philippine capital



Britain's King Charles III and Queen Camilla pose for a portrait at Villa Wolkonsky, in Rome, Italy

allovertheworld



An explosive eruption occurs at the summit vent of Mount Kanlaon, as seen from Bago City, Negros Occidental province, Philippines

Two Nepalis swept away by Annapurna avalanche

KATHMANDU: Nepali mountaineers on Tuesday searched for two people swept away by a powerful avalanche on the world's 10th highest mountain Annapurna, officials said. The 8,091-metre (26,545-foot) Annapurna is a dangerous and difficult climb, and the avalanche-prone Himalayan peak has a higher death rate than Everest. Three men were climbing the mountain as part of the first ascent of this spring season when a "huge avalanche swept down" around midday Monday, said expedition company Seven Summit Treks. The trio were ferrying oxygen cylinders used for the summit push for later climbers, when they were hit by huge blocks of snow. It swept away two climbers - Ngima Tashi and Rima Rinje - who work with Seven Summit Treks.

EU prosecutors search Croatian foreign ministry in graft probe

ZAGREB: European prosecutors and their local counterparts searched the Croatian foreign ministry Tuesday as part of a probe into the alleged illegal use of funds, they said. The European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPP) said it and Croatia's bureau for the fight against corruption and organised crime (USKOK) were jointly conducting "urgent evidence-collecting activities... in an investigation into possible illegal use of funds at the ministry of foreign and European affairs". The actions come "in the wake of a criminal investigation into possible abuse of position and authority at the ministry... involving funds from the (EU's) Internal Security Fund and the state budget of the Republic of Croatia", it added. "After questioning suspects, the EPP will make a decision on further action."

UN sees 'significant slowdown' in Myanmar fighting since truce

GENEVA: Fighting has slowed significantly in quake-hit Myanmar since a temporary truce began last week, the UN said Tuesday, urging a complete end to hostilities to deliver aid and allow recovery work to begin. A multi-sided conflict has engulfed Myanmar since 2021, when Min Aung Hlaing's military wrested power from the civilian government of Aung San Suu Kyi. Following reports of sporadic clashes even after the March 28 truce that so far has killed more than 3,600 people, the junta joined its opponents last week in calling a temporary halt to hostilities for relief to be delivered. But the UN noted reports of the military continuing to carry out strikes even after the truce. The UN has not had difficulty delivering aid in urban areas and areas under military control, Mitra said.

UK teens convicted of killing 80-year-old dog walker

LONDON: A 15-year-old boy and 13-year-old girl were found guilty Tuesday of killing an octogenarian grandfather, in one of several cases of youth violence that have shocked the UK. The teenagers, who cannot be named because of their ages, were convicted of the manslaughter of 80-year-old Bhim Kohli following a six-week trial. The court was told the boy racially abused Kohli and slapped him in the face with a shoe as the pensioner walked his dog in a park in Braunstone near Leicester, central England, on September 1. The girl encouraged the attack and laughed as she filmed it on her phone, the trial heard. Kohli died in hospital the next day, with jurors told that he had suffered a broken neck and rib fractures. The boy had also been charged with murder but was found not guilty on that count. The pair are due to be sentenced on May 20.

Anthrax kills 50 hippos in Africa's oldest nature reserve

GOMA: Anthrax poisoning has killed about 50 hippos in Virunga, Africa's oldest national park located in the Democratic Republic of Congo's troubled east, the head of the park told AFP on Tuesday. It is caused by a spore-forming bacterium, Bacillus anthracis, which survives for decades in soil where animals that died of anthrax or were carriers were buried. It is transmissible to humans and potentially fatal in its inhaled form. The hippopotamuses were found floating in a river south of Lake Edward, which separates the DRC from Uganda, park director Emmanuel de Merode said. The local office of the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN) in the North Kivu province, where the hippos were found floating, recommended precautionary measures including avoiding eating bushmeat.

China vows to fight to the end if Prez Trump continues tariff war

PTI, BEIJING/WASHINGTON: The US and China headed to a full-blown trade war Tuesday with Beijing vowing to fight America's "blackmail" to the end and retaliate against Donald Trump's threat to impose an additional 50 per cent tariff. If Trump executes the additional tariff, the total tariffs on goods imported into the United States from China would be 104 per cent. China is ready to fight to the end if the United States is bent on waging a tariff war or trade war, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said responding to Trump's threat to impose an additional 50 per cent tariff on Chinese imports.

TRUMP TARIFFS THREATEN 35,000 JOBS, ENTIRE TOWNS IN SOUTH AFRICA'S CITRUS SECTOR: FARMERS GROUP

AP, CAPE TOWN: The new 30 per cent tariffs set to be imposed on South Africa by the Trump administration will threaten 35,000 jobs in the country's citrus-growing sector and the economies of entire towns, a farmers group said on Tuesday. The Citrus Growers' Association of Southern Africa said the impending reciprocal tariffs, due to come into effect on Wednesday, will be deeply damaging to South Africa's largest agricultural export. The group said the tariffs would likely make South African citrus fruits cost USD 4.25 more per carton for American consumers. South Africa provides citrus to the US market when it is out of season there. South Africa is the second-biggest exporter of oranges behind Spain and the world's fourth-largest exporter of soft citrus fruits, according to the World Citrus Organisation. South Africa sends around 5-6 per cent of its citrus exports to the United States, which is more than 6.5 million cartons per year, the growers' association said, but some rural towns were specifically geared to and heavily dependent on the US market. The farmers' group cited the case of the town of Citrusdal, near Cape Town, and said it faced major job losses and "maybe even total economic collapse" because it was built on exporting citrus to the US. It said there were other rural towns like it.

"The US threat to escalate tariffs against China is a mistake on top of a mistake, which once again exposes the US' blackmailing nature," a ministry spokesperson said on Tuesday. "If the US insists on going

its own way, China will fight it to the end. If the US escalates its tariff measures, China will resolutely take countermeasures to safeguard its own rights and interests. Lin said "let me stress once again that trade wars and tar-

iffs have no winners and protectionism has no way out" "The Chinese people never create trouble nor do we fear trouble", he said, adding that "pressuring threatening and exhorting China is not the right way to engage with us."

China will do what is necessary to firmly safeguard our legitimate and lawful rights and interests, he said. "If the US insists on waging the tariffs war and trade war regardless of the interests of both the countries and the international community, China will play along to the end," he told a media briefing here responding to questions about Trump's new tariff threat. Trump on Monday threatened the new 50 per cent duty on China, effective Wednesday, if Beijing does not withdraw its 34 per cent tariffs on all US goods by Tuesday, which China imposed in retaliation for a 34 per cent levy on Chinese goods the Trump administration announced last week. China retaliated with 34 per cent additional tariffs on the USD 143 billion US exports.

Sitharaman highlights domestic demand amid US Tariffs

PTI, LONDON: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Tuesday that the resilience of the economy and strength of domestic demand will continue to make India an engine of growth amid the rapidly evolving global trade landscape as a result of US tariffs. In an interaction entitled the 'Opportunities and challenges for India's quest to become a developed economy by 2047' at the High Commission of India in London, she asserted that the economy was well placed to capitalise on domestic efficiencies and competitiveness as it tackles global headwinds. "The world has seen depressed growth for over several years; earlier, it was low interest for long and now it's going to be low growth for long, and that's not happy news for anybody," said Sitharaman, who is here on her first UK visit in her current Union Cabinet term.

UK court denies India's appeal in Sanjay Bhandari extradition case

PTI, LONDON: The High Court in London on Tuesday refused the government of India's application seeking permission to appeal in Britain's Supreme Court against the discharge of Sanjay Bhandari, the defence sector consultant wanted in Delhi to face charges of alleged tax evasion and money laundering. Lord Justice Timothy Holroyde handed down the judgment at a brief "pronouncement" hearing at the Royal Courts of Justice in response to the Indian government's application filed last month. It followed Holroyde and Justice Karen Steyn's February 28 High Court judgment granting the 62-year-old businessman's appeal against be-

ing extradited on human rights grounds. "The court received an application from the government of India seeking certification of points of law of general importance and grant leave to appeal to the Supreme Court," said Justice Holroyde. "Having considered the written submissions, the court is satisfied that no oral hearing is necessary, and no further submissions required. The two points on which leave to appeal was sought is refused. The reasons being that neither of the points of law of general importance were involved in the court's decision," he said. "Neither of these two points merits consideration by the Supreme Court," the judge concluded.

DEFENCE TECH



NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte inspects an unmanned underwater vehicle used for mine detection during his visit to Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force base in Yokosuka, south of Tokyo

S Korea says its military fired warning shots after N Korean soldiers crossed border

AP, SEOUL: South Korea's military fired warning shots after North Korean soldiers crossed the rivals' tense border on Tuesday, South Korean officials said. South Korea's military said in a statement that about 10 North Korean soldiers returned to the North after South Korea made warning broadcasts and fired warning shots. It said the North Korean soldiers violated the military demarcation line at the eastern section of the border at 5 p.m. South Korea's military said it is closely monitoring North Korean activities. Bloodshed and violent confrontations have oc-



South Korean soldiers patrolling along the barbed-wire fence in Paju, South Korea, near the border with North Korea

asionally occurred at the Korea's heavily fortified border, called the Demilitarised Zone. But when North Korean troops briefly violated the border in June last

year, it didn't escalate into a major source of tensions as South Korean officials assessed the soldiers didn't deliberately commit the border intrusion. The motive for Tuesday's border crossing by North Korean soldiers wasn't immediately clear. Animosity between the Koreans are running high now as North Korean leader Kim Jong Un continues to flaunt his military nuclear capabilities and align with Russia over President Vladimir Putin's war on Ukraine. Kim is also ignoring calls by Seoul and Washington to resume denuclearization negotiations. South Korea, meanwhile, is experiencing a leadership vacuum after the ouster of President Yoon Suk Yeol last week over his ill-fated imposition of martial law.

Gaza rescuers say 19 killed in Israeli strikes overnight

AFP, GAZA CITY: Gaza's civil defence agency said on Tuesday that Israeli strikes overnight killed at least 19 people across the Palestinian territory, where Israel has resumed its offensive against Hamas. Civil defence spokesman Mahmud Bassal told AFP that "19 civilians including several children were martyred" and dozens more wounded in the latest Israeli raids. Five children and four adults were killed in a strike that hit a home in the central city of Deir el-Balah, while two separate pre-dawn attacks on Gaza City and Beit Lahia in the north left a total of 10 peo-

ple dead, Bassal said. Separately, a media outlet affiliated with the Islamic Jihad movement, a Hamas ally, announced the death on Monday of an employee named Ahmed Mansur in an Israeli strike on a tent used by journalists in the Khan Yunis area. The Hamas government media office had on Monday reported the death of journalist Hilmi al-Faqawi, who worked for a local news agency, in the same strike, which also wounded another nine. Israel resumed intense strikes on the Gaza Strip on March 18, ending a two-month ceasefire with Hamas. Efforts to restore the truce have so far failed.

Pentagon chief fires US military representative to NATO

AFP, WASHINGTON: Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has fired the US military representative to NATO, the Pentagon announced Tuesday, saying her removal was due to a loss of confidence in her ability to lead. Vice Admiral Shoshana Chatfield is the latest in a string of top officers to be dismissed by President Donald Trump's administration, part of a major shakeup that also includes plans to slash the Pentagon's civilian workforce. Hegseth removed Chatfield "from her position as US representative to NATO's military committee

due to a loss of confidence in her ability to lead," Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell said in a statement. Chatfield is a helicopter pilot by training who had held the NATO post since 2023. Her dismissal comes after Trump abruptly fired the top US military officer, general Charles "CQ" Brown, without explanation in February, less than two years into his four-year term as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Hegseth also announced the removal of admiral Lisa Franchetti - the first woman to lead the Navy - as well as the vice chief of staff of the Air Force and three top military lawyers.

World Trade Center session marks beginning of 75-day countdown to Int'l Yoga Day

PTI, NEW YORK: Yoga mats were rolled out in the iconic New York city landmark World Trade Centre as a special event at the tallest building in the Western Hemisphere kickstarted the 75-day countdown to the 11th International Day of Yoga. The Consulate General of India in New York hosted a special "75 days to go" yoga session, a countdown to the 11th International Day of Yoga, that will be commemorated globally on June 21. Overlooking expansive aerial views of Manhattan and New Jersey, the special yoga session was held

early morning on a rainy Monday on the 102nd floor of the One World Observatory at the 1,776 feet tall One World Trade Center, built near the site of the Twin Towers that were destroyed in the 9/11 terror attacks. Consul General of India in New York Binaya Pradhan told the participants that the over the hour-long session celebrates the 75-day countdown to the International Day of Yoga. The special yoga session at the One World Observatory was led by eminent yoga and meditation in-

structor Ruchika Lal of the Art of Living Foundation and attended by Deputy Consul General of India in New York Vishal Harsh, members of the Indian diaspora, students, yoga enthusiasts and practitioners. Pradhan "kickstarted the countdown with a soulful Yoga session on the 102nd Floor" of One World Trade Centre - "the tallest building in the Western Hemisphere and a symbol of resilience and hope", the Consulate said in a post on X. "The session included meditation, Yogasanas, breathwork & self-aware-

ness techniques — a powerful way to begin the day with peace and positivity. The session brought together members of the Indian Diaspora and friends of India in a shared celebration of health, harmony & holistic living," the post added. Lal told PTI that a "venue that had the most gruesome act of terrorism is now bringing people together in yoga". Describing the session as "amazing", she said a yoga session "from the top of the world" is the best way to be counting down to the International Day of Yoga.