



Lazio fans clash with Italian Policemen in riot gear outside the olympic stadium prior to the start of the Italian Serie A soccer match between Lazio and Roma in Rome



Speaker of the House Rep Phillip DeVillier, R-Eunice (L), with Senate Prez Sen Cameron Henry, R-Metairie, on opening day of legislative session, in Baton Rouge, La



Taxi drivers drive their vehicles along a central road to protest against regulations affecting their industry during a one day strike in Athens, Greece



Diego Luna arrives at a launch event of the second season of 'Andor', at the El Capitan Theatre in Los Angeles

allovertheworld



Penitents of 'San Gonzalo' brotherhood process through the streets of Seville during Holy Week in Spain

Mexican president opposes ban on songs glorifying drug cartels

MEXICO CITY: Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said Monday that she opposed a ban on songs glorifying drug traffickers, after violence erupted at a concert by an artist famous for singing "narcocorridos." Luis R. Conriquez was forced to flee a stage over the weekend when fans rioted in response to his announcement that he was not allowed to sing such songs. Sheinbaum said at her morning news conference that her government was opposed to censorship. "We are not banning a musical genre. That would be absurd. What we are proposing is that the lyrics not glorify drugs, violence, violence against women, or viewing a woman as a sexual object," she said. Sheinbaum said her government wanted to build a "social consensus that violence should not be glorified," not just in songs but also in television series.

China tells airlines to suspend Boeing jet deliveries: Report

BEIJING: China has told its airlines to stop taking deliveries of jets from American aviation giant Boeing, a report said Tuesday, as a trade war between Beijing and the United States deepens. Since President Donald Trump took office in January, the world's two biggest economies have been locked in a tit-for-tat tariff war, with the US now charging levies of up to 145 percent on imports from China. Beijing has reacted furiously to what it calls unlawful "bullying" by Washington and has imposed retaliatory duties of 125 percent on US imports, dismissing further hikes as pointless. Bloomberg News reported Tuesday that China had also ordered airlines to halt deliveries of Boeing planes, citing people familiar with the matter. Beijing has also told its carriers to suspend purchases of aircraft-related equipment and parts from US companies, the financial news outlet reported the people as saying.

French prisons targeted with arson, gunfire: Ministry

PARIS: Cars have been set on fire near several prisons in France while one was targeted with automatic gunfire, in possible retaliation against government anti-drug policies, justice ministry officials said on Tuesday. In recent months Justice Minister Gerald Darmanin and Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau have vowed to intensify the fight against narcotics and drug-related crime. "All this appeared to have been coordinated and is clearly linked to the anti-drug gang strategy" introduced by Darmanin, a source close to the matter told AFP after the incidents recorded overnight to Tuesday. "The republic is face to face with drug trafficking, and is taking measures that will seriously disrupt criminal networks," Darmanin himself said on X, promising a "firm and courageous" government response.

Nearly 60,000 Afghans return from Pakistan in two weeks: IOM

KABUL: Nearly 60,000 Afghans have been forced to leave Pakistan since the start of April, the International Organization for Migration said Tuesday, after Islamabad ramped up a campaign to deport migrants to Afghanistan. Pakistan last month set an early April deadline for some 800,000 Afghans carrying Afghan Citizen Cards (ACC) issued by the Pakistani authorities to leave the country, in the second phase of efforts to remove Afghans. "Between 1 and 13 April 2025, IOM recorded a sharp rise in forced returns, with nearly 60,000 individuals crossing back into Afghanistan through the Torkham and Spin Boldak border points," the UN agency said in a statement. Families with their belongings in tow have crowded the crossings at Torkham in the north and Spin Boldak in the south, recalling scenes in 2023 when tens of thousands of Afghans fled deportation threats in Pakistan.

Pope paves way for 'God's architect' Gaudi's sainthood

VATICAN CITY: The Catholic Church has put Antoni Gaudi, the designer of Barcelona's Sagrada Familia basilica nicknamed "God's architect", on the path to sainthood, the Vatican said on Monday. Pope Francis recognised the Catalan architect's 'heroic virtues' and authorised a decree declaring him 'venerable,' the Vatican said in a statement. This acknowledgement comes before beatification, and the next step after that is sainthood. "It was a joy to receive the news... it is a recognition not only of his architectural work but something more important," said the Archbishop of Barcelona, Cardinal Juan Jose Omella.

US deploys second aircraft carrier to Middle East amid Iran tensions

AP, DUBAI: A second US aircraft carrier is operating in Mideast waters ahead of the next round of talks between Iran and the United States over Tehran's rapidly advancing nuclear programme, satellite photos analysed on Tuesday by The Associated Press showed.

The operation of the USS Carl Vinson and its strike group in the Arabian Sea comes as suspected US airstrikes pounded parts of Yemen controlled by the Iranian-backed Houthi rebels overnight into Tuesday.

American officials repeatedly have linked the US' month-long campaign against the Houthis under President Donald Trump as a means to pressure Iran in the negotiations.

Questions remain over where the weekend talks between the countries will be held after officials initially identified Rome as hosting the negotiations, only for Iran to insist early Tuesday they would return to Oman. American officials



Aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70)

so far haven't said where the talks will be held.

The stakes of the negotiations couldn't be higher for the two nations closing in on half a century of enmity. Trump repeatedly has threatened to unleash airstrikes targeting Iran's nuclear programme if a deal isn't reached.

Iranian officials increasingly warn that they could pursue a nuclear weapon with their stockpile of uranium enriched to near

weapons-grade levels.

But even Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei reportedly described the first round of talks as going "well," even while still couching his remarks Tuesday.

US Mideast envoy Steve Witkoff, who represented America in last weekend's talks in Oman, separately signalled that the Trump administration may be looking at terms of the 2015 nuclear deal that the

Israeli airstrike hits Gaza hospital entrance, killing medic, wounding nine



People walk past a puddle of water by tent shelters erected near the rubble of a collapsed building in the Nasr neighbourhood in western Gaza City

AP, DEIR AL-BALAH (GAZA STRIP): An Israeli airstrike hit the northern gate of a field hospital in the Muwasi area, where hundreds of thousands have sought shelter in

spokesman for the hospital said.

The strike hit the Kuwaiti Field Hospital in the Muwasi area, where hundreds of thousands have sought shelter in

sprawling tent camps. The wounded were all patients and medics, and two of the patients were in critical condition after the strike, said Saber Mohammed, a hospital spokesman.

There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military.

The military has struck hospitals on several occasions during the 18-month war, accusing Hamas militants of hiding out in them or using them for military purposes. Hospital staff have denied the allegations and accused Israel of recklessly endangering civilians and gutting the territory's health system.

US mulls more on tariffs on key imports, investigating computer chips, pharmaceuticals

AP, BANGKOK: The Trump administration has taken its next steps toward imposing more tariffs on key imports, launching investigations into imports of computer chips, chip making equipment and pharmaceuticals. The Department of Commerce posted notices about the probes late Monday on the Federal Register, seeking public comment within three weeks. It had not formally announced them earlier.

Although President Donald Trump paused most of his biggest tariff hikes last week for 90 days, apart from those for imports from China, he has said he still plans tariffs on pharmaceutical drugs, lumber,

copper and computer chips.

The Commerce Department said it is investigating how imports of computer chips, equipment to make them and products that contain them — which include many daily necessities such as cars, refrigerators, smart phones and other items — affect national security.

Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 permits the president to order tariffs for the sake of national security.

The probe includes assessing the potential for US domestic production of computer chips to meet US demand and the role of foreign manufacturing and assembly, testing and packaging

in meeting those needs.

Among other aspects of the entire computer chip supply chain, the government intends to also study the risks of having computer chip production concentrated in other places and the impact on US competitiveness from foreign government subsidies, "foreign unfair trade practices and state-sponsored overcapacity".

After Trump said electronics would not be included in what his administration calls "reciprocal" tariffs of up to 50 per cent on some nations, US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick explained in an interview on ABC News that pharmaceuticals, semiconductors and autos will be

included with "sector specific" tariffs.

"And those are not available for negotiation," Lutnick said. "They are just going to be part of making sure we reshore the core national security items that need to be made in this country. We need to make medicine in this country," he said. "We need to make semiconductors."

The investigation into pharmaceutical imports includes ingredients used to make such drugs and touches on many of the same aspects of relying on imports to make them.

Asked about his plans for more tariffs on pharmaceuticals, Trump said Monday, "Yeah, we're going to be doing that."

Attack by gunmen kill 40 people in Nigeria

AP, ABUJA (NIGERIA): Nigeria's president said on Monday that at least 40 people were killed when Muslim gunmen, believed to be herders, attacked a Christian farming community in the north-central part of the country, the latest in an increasing wave of violence in the West African country.

President Bola Tinubu also said he has ordered an investigation over the late Sunday night attack on the Zike community, extending his condolences to the victims and their families.

"I have instructed security agencies to thoroughly investigate this crisis and identify those responsible for orchestrating these violent acts," Tinubu said in a statement late Monday.

Amnesty International said the victims, who included children and the elderly, were taken by surprise and could not flee from the gunmen.

Such attacks have become common in this part of Africa's most populous country, where gunmen

- typically herders from Fulani, a Muslim tribe — exploit security lapses to launch deadly raids on farmers in a fight over land resources.

According to Andy Yakubu, a local resident, gunmen in Sunday night's attack also destroyed and looted homes in the Zike community, located in the Bassa area of Plateau state. Yakubu said he saw bodies after the attack and that the number of dead could exceed 50. No one has been arrested so far, he added.

The Fulani have been accused of carrying out mass killings across the northwest and central regions, where the decades-long conflict over access to land and water has further worsened the sectarian division between Christians and Muslims.

Amnesty says that between December 2023 and February 2024, 1,336 people were killed in Plateau state - an indication that the measures taken by Tinubu's administration to curb the violence are not working.

PLAYFUL RELIEF



Members of the Gaza Circus School relief team rehearse as they dress up before performing for children at the Abdelaziz al-Rantisi Paediatric Hospital in Gaza City

Singapore dissolves Parliament ahead of May 3 general election

AP, SINGAPORE: Singapore's parliament was dissolved Tuesday, paving the way for general elections in which the city-state's long-ruling People's Action Party will seek to strengthen its dominance under Prime Minister Lawrence Wong. The election will be held May 3, the Elections Department said later in the afternoon.

Victory is virtually assured for the PAP, which has led Singapore since its independence in 1965.

But Wong, who was sworn in as Singapore's fourth leader in May last year, wants to clinch a stronger win after the PAP suffered a setback in

2020 polls over voters' rising discontent with the govt.

Wong succeeded Lee Hsien Loong, who stepped down after two decades at the helm. Lee's departure marked the end of a family dynasty started by his father, Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore's first leader who built the colonial trading outpost into one of the world's richest nations during 31 years in office.

The PAP will field more than 30 new candidates to refresh the party. Wong has warned that "who you have in the cockpit matters" amid economic uncertainties as US tariffs hit the global trading system.

Russia jails four journalists who covered Navalny

AFP, MOSCOW: Russia on Tuesday sentenced four journalists it said were associated with late opposition leader Alexei Navalny to five and a half years in a penal colony, intensifying a crackdown on press freedom and Kremlin critics.

Navalny - Putin's main opponent - was declared an "extremist" by Russian authorities, a ruling that remains in force despite his death in an Arctic penal colony on February 16, 2024.

Moscow also banned Navalny's organisations as "extremist" shortly before launching its 2022 Ukraine offensive and has ruthlessly targeted those it deems to have links to him.

Over 2 million displaced people to return to Khartoum over six months: UN



People ride with furniture and other items atop a truck moving along a road from Khartoum to Wad Madani at the locality of Kamlin, southeast of Khartoum

lion, the UN's International Organization for Migration noted the need to prepare for many of the displaced

to begin returning home to Khartoum.

The capital city became a battleground almost from

the start, but since the army recaptured it last month, the agency said: "We are seeing people returning, we are seeing hope coming."

The organisation estimates "that over the next six months, we will have 2.1 million returning" to Khartoum, Mohamed Refaat, its chief of mission in Sudan, told reporters in Geneva, speaking from Port Sudan.

This calculation, he said, was "based on the numbers we understand that... left the capital when the war started".

The returns, he said, would depend on "the security situation and... the availability of services on the ground".

Getting the city ready for a mass influx will be a challenge, Refaat acknowledged.

"We see that some spots in the Khartoum itself have been cleaned, but the process I'm sure will take longer," he said, adding that "the electricity system in the whole (of) Khartoum has been destroyed". Some people who had sought refuge in Egypt were also beginning to return to Sudan, although most of those were not going to Khartoum, Refaat said.

"Over the last 12-13 days, we have seen almost 33,000 returning from Egypt to Sudan, and those mainly returning to Al Jazeera and to Sennar" in the east, he said.