

China accuses US NSA agents of cyberattacks during Asian Games

AP, TAIPEI (TAIWAN): China said Tuesday it is pursuing three alleged U.S. operatives accused of carrying out cyberattacks on Chinese infrastructure during the Asian Games held in the city of Harbin in February. A notice from the Harbin police headquarters named them as Kathryn A. Wilson, Robert J. Snelling, and Stephen W. Johnson and said they worked through the National Security Agency. The police said nothing about how they obtained the names or where the three were believed to be at present. The alleged attacks targeted the systems for managing the Games themselves, such as registration, competition entry and travel, all of which stored "vast amounts of sensitive personal data of individuals associated with the Games," the police said. The attacks continued during the Games in an attempt to "disrupt them and undermine their normal operations," according to the official Xinhua News Agency. The report also alleged the NSA cyberattacks targeted critical infrastructure in Heilongjiang province, which includes Harbin, such as energy, transportation, water resources, tele-

communications, and defense research institutions. The hackers also attacked Chinese technology company Huawei, Xinhua said.

The report alleged that the NSA "transmitted unknown encrypted data packets to specific devices running Microsoft Windows operating systems within the province."

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian, dished out further criticisms at a daily briefing, while offering no firm evidence.

The attacks caused "serious harm to China's critical infrastructure, national defense, finance, society, production, and the personal information security of Chinese citizens. The nature of these actions is extremely malicious," Lin said.

"China has expressed its concerns to the US side through various means regarding the US cyberattacks on China's critical infrastructure. We urge the US to adopt a responsible attitude on cybersecurity issues, stop cyberattacks on China, and cease unwarranted smears and attacks on China. China will continue to take necessary measures to protect its cybersecurity," the spokesperson said.

Three policemen killed, 18 injured in IED blast in Pakistan



People look at a damaged police bus parked in a security compound following a bomb explosion in Mastung district

PTI, KARACHI: Three policemen were killed and 18 others injured on Tuesday when an improvised explosive device (IED) hit a constabulary vehicle in the restive Balochistan province of Pakistan. Balochistan government spokesperson, Shahid Rind, said the Balochistan Constabulary vehicle was hit in the Dasht area of Mastung district while returning on duty.

He said three policemen were killed on the spot while 18 others were moved to a hospital in Quetta where the condition of three of them is critical.

The Balochistan Constabulary is part of the provincial police service.

Rind said the Balochistan Constabulary policemen were deployed for a sit-in

by the Balochistan National Party—Mingal against the arrest of Baloch Yakjehti Council leaders and BNP-M activists.

He said the security forces cordoned off the area and an investigation into the attack was underway.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack but the Balochistan Liberation Army often attacks security forces in the province.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif strongly condemned the attack and directed au-

thorities to ensure immediate medical treatment for the injured.

Sharif vowed to continue the fight against terrorism and said: "We will thwart the nefarious designs of terrorists, who are enemies of humanity. Our war against terrorism will persist until this menace is completely eradicated from the country."

Balochistan has been witnessing violence for about two decades by ethnic Baloch groups who are fighting for greater control over the mineral resources of the province.

The blast comes a day after a Frontier Corps soldier and two terrorists were killed during an attack on a Frontier Constabulary post in Noshki city.

Over 270 rescued scam victims attempt escape in Myanmar

AP, BANGKOK: They walked out of the compound in Myanmar not knowing where they would go. Though they were aiming for the river that separated them from Thailand and freedom, they didn't know if they would make it across. A group of more than 270 men and women, who were rescued from forced labour in scam compounds two months ago but remain in detention in Myanmar, attempted a mass escape Sunday out of fear that they may end up being sent back to prison-like compounds where they face beatings, torture and potentially even death. "We will kill ourselves instead of going back to them," said one woman, who has been waiting to go home to Ethiopia for more than two months.

She came to Myanmar for what she thought was a job in customer service more than a year ago, only to realise she had been trafficked. She was forced to work in online scams targeting people across the world.

Facing pressure from China, Thailand and Myanmar's governments launched a massive operation in February in which they released thousands of trafficked people from scam compounds, working with the ethnic armed groups that rule Myanmar's border areas.

That includes this group of 270, most from Ethiopia and other African countries, who attempted to escape after a meeting in which guards suggested they could be returned to scam compounds.

Enough raw materials available to keep British Steel plant operational

AP, LONDON: The UK government said on Tuesday it had bought enough raw materials to keep Britain's last steelmaking blast furnaces operating for the "coming weeks". The announcement came amid fears that the government's decision to wrest control of British Steel from its Chinese owners would deepen tensions between the UK and China. The Chinese Foreign Ministry on Monday warned against "politicising" the issue as British officials raised concerns about Chinese investment in strategic industries.

The issue has dominated British politics since Saturday, when Prime Minister Keir Starmer recalled lawmakers from their spring recess so Parliament could pass emergency legislation allowing the government to take operational control of British Steel.

That move was spurred by reports that the company's owners, China's Jingye Group, were trying to shut down steelmaking operations in Scunthorpe, northern England, by starving the plant of the iron ore and coking coal needed to keep the blast furnaces operating.

That raised the prospect that Britain would lose its last plant capable of making high-quality steel from scratch because once blast furnaces are shut down it is difficult and expensive to restart them.

The Department for Business and Trade said shipments of the raw materials that had been waiting at the port of Immingham will be unloaded on Tuesday after the government agreed to pay for them. A separate shipment is on the way from Australia after the government resolved a legal dispute with Jingye.

US flies long-range bomber for drill with S Korea, as North marks key state anniversary

AP, SEOUL: The United States flew long-range B-1B bombers in a show of force against North Korea on Tuesday, days after the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un vowed to resist a US-led push to eliminate the North's nuclear programme. North Korea often reacts to the US deployment of B-1B bombers and other powerful military assets with missile tests and fiery rhetoric. Tuesday's flyover of the US bombers could draw an angrier response because it happened when North Korea was marking a key anniversary — the 113th birthday of state founder Kim Il Sung, the late grandfather of the current leader.

South Korea's Defence Ministry said the US bombers participated in a South Korea-US aerial drill over the Korean Peninsula to strengthen the allies' com-



Two US Air Force B-1B bombers, top left, fly over the Korean Peninsula with South Korean Air Force F-35A fighter jet, F-16 fighter jets and US Air Force F-16 fighter jets in South Korea during the joint aerial drills of South Korea and the United States, at an undisclosed location in South Korea

combined operational capability and demonstrate their deterrence capability against North Korea's advancing nuclear programme.

A ministry statement said South Korean F-35 and F-16 fighter jets and American F-16 fighter jets also

Trump began his second term in January.

In February, North Korea's Defence Ministry slammed the B-1B's earlier flyover as proof of intensifying US-led provocations since Trump's inauguration. It pledged to counter the strategic threat of the US with strategic means.

Days later, North Korea test-fired cruise missiles in what it called an attempt to show its nuclear counterattack capability.

Trump has repeatedly said he will reach out to Kim Jong Un to revive diplomacy. North Korea hasn't directly responded to Trump's outreach.

Last Wednesday, Kim Yo Jong - Kim's sister and a senior official - derided the US and its Asian allies over what she called their "daydream" of denuclearising the North, insisting that the country will never give up its nuclear weapons programme.

LORD I AM COMING HOME



FELIX ACCURCIO AUGUSTO LINO D'SILVA
-: Chandor :-
Beloved husband of Tr. Dolly D'Silva. Loving father/ father-in-law of Angela/ Antonio, Judith/ Edward, Daphney/ Assumpt. Dearest grandfather of Derwin, Tonella, Glynis, Krystle, Alton, Clive, Tanya, Tavanya and dotting great grandfather. Passed away peacefully. Funeral cortege will leave his residence in Chandor to Nossa Senhora de Belem Church for Eucharistic Celebration at 4.00 pm on Wednesday, 16th April 2025, followed by burial. Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation. Conflidant Advrg. & Funeral Services, Margao. Ph. 9823022194

Returned to the Lord



Shanti Erola Furtado
(Ex-Teacher, Infant Jesus High School, Cuncoim)
(Sanvorcotto-Cuncoim/Fatorda)
Beloved Daughter of Late Joaozinho J. Furtado/Late Romualdina Rebelo. Most Affectionate Sister / Sister-in-Law of Late Nelly/Maria Magdalena, Late Cedric, Late Melba, Late Benigno, Sara(Ex-SBI)/Jacinto(Ex-IOB). Loving Aunt of Neumann/Brenda, Nicossa/Rupesh, Nixon / Vanescia, Norman / Simonia, Nevasa, Dr. Querida / Nigel, Chiquita. Passed away Peacefully. Funeral cortege will leave his residence at Sanvorcotto -Cuncoim, Today, Wednesday (16/04/2025) at 9:45 a.m. to Our Lady of Health Church, Cuncoim for Eucharistic Celebration followed by burial. Relatives and friends accept this as the only intimation. Intergraphix-9822133969

ED questions Robert Vadra in Haryana money laundering case

PTI, NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday recorded the statement of Robert Vadra, businessman and brother-in-law of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, for about five hours in a 2008 Haryana land deal-linked money laundering case, official sources said. He has been asked to depose again on Wednesday for continuing the grilling session, the sources said.

Terming the agency's move to summon him as "political vendetta", Vadra said he has spent hours with the ED earlier during questioning (in separate money laundering cases), sharing thousands of pages but still the agency has been raking up cases against him.

The 56-year-old walked down from his residence at Sujan Singh Park in central Delhi to the ED headquarters on APJ Abdul Kalam Road, a two-km stretch. He



Businessman Robert Vadra after being summoned by the Enforcement Directorate for questioning in a land deal-linked money laundering case, in New Delhi

entered the ED office at 11 am along with his lawyer while his security team stayed out.

Speaking to reporters on the way to the ED office, he alleged, "This is nothing but political vendetta. Whenever I speak for minorities they try to stop me, crush us... they tried to stop Rahul

ED raids premises of Rajasthan Cong leader Khachariyawas, others

PTI, JAIPUR: The Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday raided the premises of Rajasthan Congress leader and former minister Pratap Singh Khachariyawas along with a few others as part of a Rs 48,000-crore PACL Ponzi "fraud"-linked money laundering probe, official sources said. About 15 premises -- including the politician's house in Jaipur and that of another person, Kulwant Singh -- are being searched by the federal probe agency. A security team of the CRPF has also been deployed.

The 55-year-old Congress leader served as minister for transport, food and civil supplies in the cabinet of former chief minister Ashok Gehlot. He has represented the Civil Lines (Jaipur) seat in the Rajasthan Assembly.

Addressing reporters outside his ancestral house here, Khachariyawas, nephew of former



Congress leader and former minister Pratap Singh Khachariyawas, in yellow, during the Enforcement Directorate's raid at his residence as part of a Rs 48,000-crore PACL Ponzi "fraud"-linked money laundering probe, in Jaipur

vice president Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, said the ED action was "politically motivated" because he has been speaking against the government.

He asserted he had done nothing wrong and that he was "not afraid" of the ED. The money laundering

investigation of 2015 stems from a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) FIR against PACL India Limited, PGF Limited, the late PACL promoter Nirmal Singh Bhangoo and others for operating "fraudulent" investment schemes to deceive investors.

RETURNED TO THE LORD



MARIA TERESA LOURENÇO
BORN: 25/07/1934 DIED: 15/04/2025
Wife of Late Gonsalo De Araujo.
Daughter of Late Jose Caetano Lourenço (Popular Printing Press)/Late Helena Dias.
Mother/Mother-in-Law of: Maria Perpetua Socorro/John Marques, Justiniano Apolin De Araujo/Fatima Negrodo, Esmeralda/Cruz Fernandes, Jovita/Late Diago Fernandes. Daughter-in-law of Late Inacio Araujo/Late Joaquina Esmeralda Lourenço.
Sister/Sister-in-Law of: Late Domingos (Popular Printing Press) former Sarpanch/ Berthalinha, Conceicao/Late Caetaninho, Late Angela/Late Rodolfo, Felicidade/Late Andrew, John/Olga, Maria Rosa/ Late Flinto, Lucy/ Late Manuel, Ezilda/Danny.
Grandmother of: Judith/ Marwin Carvalho, Michelle/Hyacinth Marrell, Dr. Queenie/ Dr. Maj. Rahul, Pearl, Dylan, Jason and Ian. Great grandmother of: Myron, Mark and Riya.
Funeral cortege will leave her residence at Cujira, Oilem Bhatt, St. Cruz on Wednesday, 16th April 2025 at 3.30 pm to Holy Cross Church, St. Cruz, Goa for Eucharistic celebration at 4.00 pm followed by burial. Relatives, neighbours and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

Increase in demand for adoption leading to child trafficking: SC cautions parents

PTI, NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday warned parents in the country about the dangers of child trafficking and asked them to be extremely vigilant with their children. A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan, which took a stern view of the inter-state child trafficking rackets, said long delays in the adoption process had led to an increase in the demand for children declared legally fit for adoptions, giving rise to children being trafficked for adoption. "We want to convey a message to one and all, more particular-

ly the parents across the country that they should remain extremely vigilant and careful with their children. A slight carelessness or negligence or laxity on their part may prove to be extremely costly," the bench said.

The verdict went on, "Over the years, demands for the adoption of children have increased and there is a significant waiting period for prospective parents to adopt. At any given point in time, there are parents waiting for at least 3-4 years to adopt. Even after being processed and children being matched, the necessary

The bench observed a global recognition for the duality of the crime committed during the course of illegal adoption, where a parent has participated in the commercial transaction of transferring the custody of their child, or cases where the parent did not have any financial gain but the adoption was illegal

verification processes also take a long time." The bench observed a global recognition for the duality of the crime committed during the course of illegal adoption, where a parent has participated in the commercial transaction of transferring the custody of their child, or cases where the parent did not have any financial gain but

ficked from any hospital, the court said, the immediate action against the hospital should be suspension of licence to run the hospital in addition to other legal actions.

"When any lady comes to deliver her baby in any hospital, it is the responsibility of the administration of the hospital to protect the newborn infant in all respects," the bench said.

The state governments and law enforcement machinery was therefore directed to strengthen their mechanism to check operation of inter-state child trafficking rackets.