



Visitors look at a flying drone launch pad at the 137th Canton Fair in Guangzhou in southern China's Guangdong province



Egypt's Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly speaks during a ceremony at Egypt's Suez Canal near Ismailia, Egypt



World Trade Organization (WTO) Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala during a press conference on annual trade forecast in Geneva



Nestle chairman Paul Bulcke speaks during a general shareholders meeting of Swiss food giant Nestle in Ecublens, near Lausanne, Switzerland

allovertheworld

AFP



A Sikh pilgrim arrives to pay her respects at the Gurdwara Panja Sahib during 'Baisakhi', the annual spring harvest festival, in Hasan Abdal, Pakistan

Serbia set to get new government amid protests

**BELGRADE:** Serbia is likely to get a new government Wednesday led by a political novice that closely resembles the previous administration, which was brought down after months of student-led anti-corruption protests. The Balkan nation has been in political turmoil since former Prime Minister Milos Vucovic and other senior officials resigned in January, amid marathon protests sparked by a railway station disaster that left 16 people dead. "Serbia is tired of divisions and blockades," said Prime Minister-designate Dr Djuro Macut, an endocrinologist, while presenting the proposed cabinet in parliament. It includes 20 members of the previous cabinet - among them the heavyweight finance, interior and defence ministers.

Berlin palliative doctor accused of killing 15 patients

**BERLIN:** Prosecutors said Wednesday they charged a Berlin palliative care doctor with the murder of 15 patients, alleging he acted out of a "lust" for killing. The 40-year-old suspect is accused of having killed 12 women and three men between September 2021 and July 2024 using a deadly cocktail of sedatives. German press reports identify the suspect as Johannes M., but prosecutors have not released a name. The doctor allegedly "administered an anaesthetic and a muscle relaxant to his patients... without their knowledge or consent", the Berlin prosecutor's office said in a statement. The relaxant "paralysed the respiratory muscles, leading to respiratory arrest and death within minutes". The victims, who were all receiving care at the time, were aged between 25 and 94 years old.

EU approves sale of new Alzheimer's drug, with conditions

**BRUSSELS:** The European Commission said Wednesday that it had given formal approval for Legembi, a long-awaited new treatment for early-stage Alzheimer's disease, to be sold in the EU under strict conditions. The authorisation was granted Tuesday based on a favourable decision by Europe's medicines watchdog, which after initial misgivings endorsed the treatment last November for a set category of patients. Legembi, developed by US multinational Biogen and Japanese-based Eisai, is the brand name of an active substance called lecanemab that is used to treat adults with mild memory and cognitive problems resulting from the early stages of the common type of dementia. The first such medicine to be allowed in the EU, the drug was approved in line with the "positive scientific assessment of the European Medicines Agency," the commission said in a statement.

Guinea opposition leader Bah in court for appeal

**CONAKRY:** Guinean opposition leader Aliou Bah appeared in court behind closed doors Wednesday for an appeal after being convicted of insulting the leader of the ruling junta, AFP journalists said. The trial comes with tensions running high after the disappearance of several opponents of the military regime which has imposed severe restrictions on freedoms in the West African state. Bah, who heads the Liberal Democratic Movement, was sentenced in January to two years in jail for "insulting and defaming" General Mamadi Doumbouya, who seized power in September 2021 after overthrowing civilian president Alpha Conde. Defence lawyers shunned the hearing "for security reasons," according to defence attorney Antoine Pepe Lamah, while neither media nor diplomats were permitted inside the courtroom. Bah's defence team said he had been accused of urging Guinean religious leaders to speak out against the junta and of having described the latter's ruling body as "incompetent".

UK, France vow to 'maintain pressure' on Haiti gangs

**PARIS:** Britain and France on Wednesday pledged to maintain pressure on criminal gangs in Haiti via sanctions. The poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, Haiti is politically unstable and swaths of the country, including parts of the capital, are under the control of rival armed gangs. "The UK and France are concerned by reports of criminal gangs coordinating to further destabilise Haiti's Transitional Presidential Council," Britain and France said in a joint statement. "We are committed to maintaining pressure on those who seek to destabilise Haiti via the implementation of sanctions, and we call on authorities to fully implement the sanctions regime in Haiti," the added.

California to sue US govt over Trump tariffs

**AFP, LOS ANGELES:** California is set to sue the federal government on Wednesday over Donald Trump's on-again-off-again tariffs, claiming the US president does not have the right to enact such damaging policies.

As the richest state in the union, and one of the country's largest importers and exporters, California looks set to bear the brunt of the economic damage forecasters expect from recent gyrations.

Democratic Governor Gavin Newsom -- a long-time foe of Trump's and widely expected to be considering a 2028 presidential bid -- will announce a lawsuit against the Republican administration, a statement said.

The legal action will argue that the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, which Trump has used to impose tariffs as high as 145 percent, does not grant him the authority

CHINA NOW FACES UP TO 245% RETALIATORY TARIFF: WHITE HOUSE

**PTI, WASHINGTON:** China now faces tariffs up to 245 per cent on imports to the United States due to its retaliatory actions, the White House has said, as the trade war escalated between the world's two largest economies. Separately in a post on Truth Social, President Donald Trump said on Tuesday that China "just reneged on the big Boeing deal, saying that they will 'not take possession' of fully committed to aircraft". He appeared to be confirming reports that China has asked its airlines not to take deliveries of planes from American aircraft manufacturer Boeing. In the post, he also vowed to protect the US and its farmers in a trade war with its adversaries, such as China. In a fact sheet issued on Tuesday, the White House said President Trump signed an executive order launching an investigation into the national security risks posed by US reliance on imported processed critical minerals and their derivative products.

to impose tariffs on goods coming into the United States.

"President Trump's unlawful tariffs are wreaking chaos on California families, businesses, and our economy - driving up prices and threatening jobs," Newsom said in a statement.

"We're standing up for American families who can't afford to let the chaos continue."

The case is the latest of more than a dozen lawsuits that California has filed against the Trump administration.

But it is the first one in

which Newsom is taking such a prominent role.

The governor has spent much of the last three months trying to avoid open conflict with Trump.

After the fires that swept through Los Angeles in January, he went out of his way to welcome Trump and to impress upon him how much the state needed him.

But Trump's moves to stymie international trade could have a devastating effect on an economy that is hyper-exposed to the outside world, with huge volumes of trade passing through its ports, and millions of foreigners visiting every year.

Newsom's office says California -- which would be the world's fifth largest economy if it were independent -- could lose billions of dollars in revenue if Trump's tariff policies shrink international trade, especially with key trading partners China, Mexico and Canada.

Russian apex court hearing petition to lift ban on Afghan Taliban

**PTI, MOSCOW:** The Russian apex court is expected to pronounce its verdict on Thursday on an appeal filed by the Prosecutor General's Office seeking to lift a ban on the Afghan Taliban, a move towards full diplomatic recognition of the Kabul regime. Russia had proscribed the Afghan Taliban as a terrorist outfit in 2003.

According to local media reports, Prosecutor General Igor Krasnov had filed a petition in the Supreme Court with a request to lift the ban on the Taliban and an in camera hearing will be held on Thursday.

Earlier in May last year, the Russian Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of Justice in a report to President Vladimir Putin had recommended excluding the Taliban from the list of terrorist organisations

banned in the country as it was required for diplomatic recognition of Taliban regime controlling Kabul since the hasty US withdrawal in August 2021.

Afghanistan's Central Asian neighbours have already established official relations with the Taliban government.

Earlier in a media interview, Russian Presidential envoy on Afghanistan Zamir Kabulov had ruled out full diplomatic recognition of the Taliban until a number of international requirements were met.

Formation of an inclusive government that would include representatives of various ethnopolitical groups, as well as the observance of basic human rights, especially in relation to women, were named among the key conditions for it.

Russian glide bombs, artillery strike Ukrainian city, killing one, wounding five

**AP, KYIV:** Russian glide bombs and artillery struck a city in southern Ukraine on Wednesday, killing one person and wounding five others as Moscow forces continued daily attacks across the country. The city of Kherson was struck with glide bombs on Wednesday morning, and when rescue teams arrived at the scene, Russian forces launched an artillery barrage, said the region's head, Oleksandr Prokudin. "This is a deliberate tactic by Russia to hinder the rescue of the injured and harm doctors, rescuers, and police," he said. The attack damaged



Firefighters put out the fire following Russia's drone attack in Kamianske, Dnipropetrovsk region, Ukraine

a sports facility, a supermarket, residential buildings and civilian vehicles, Prokudin added.

The strike on Kherson

followed other deadly attacks in recent days.

On Palm Sunday, two Russian ballistic missile hit the northeastern city

UK Supreme Court rules that equalities law defines woman as someone born biologically female

**AP, LONDON:** The Supreme Court ruled Wednesday that the U.K. equalities law defines a woman as someone born biologically female. Justice Patrick Hodge said five judges at the court had ruled unanimously that "the terms woman' and sex' in the Equality Act refer to a biological woman and biological sex." The ruling means that a transgender person with a certificate that recognises them as female

should not be considered a woman for equality purposes.

But the court added that its ruling "does not remove protection from trans people," who are "protected from discrimination on the ground of gender reassignment."

The case stems from a 2018 law passed by the Scottish Parliament stating that there should be a 50% female representation on the boards of Scottish public bodies. That law includ-

ed transgender women in its definition of women.

For Women Scotland (FWS), a women's rights group, had challenged that law, arguing that its redefinition of woman went beyond parliament's powers. But Scottish officials then issued new guidance stating that the definition of woman included someone with a gender recognition certificate.

FWS successfully sought to overturn that. The group had said the

outcome of the case could have consequences in Scotland, England and Wales for sex-based rights as well as single-sex facilities such as toilets, hospital wards and prisons.

"Not tying the definition of sex to its ordinary meaning means that public boards could conceivably comprise of 50% men, and 50% men with certificates, yet still lawfully meet the targets for female representation," the group's

Iran confirms second round of nuclear talks with US will be in Rome

**AP, DUBAI:** Iran confirmed Wednesday that the next round of nuclear talks with the United States will be held in Rome after earlier confusion over where the negotiations would be held. The announcement by Iranian state television came as Iran's president formally approved the resignation of one of his vice presidents who served as Tehran's key negotiator in its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, just as the head of the United Nations' nuclear watchdog arrived in the Islamic Republic on Wednesday.

President Masoud Pezeshkian's announcement late Tuesday regarding Mohammad Javad Zarif preceded the state TV announcement, which said Oman will again mediate the talks.

Oman's foreign minister served as an interlocutor between the two sides at talks last week-end in Muscat, the sultanate's capital.

Officials initially on Monday identified Rome as hosting the negotiations,

only for Iran to insist early Tuesday they would return to Oman. American officials so far haven't said where the talks will be held, though Trump did call Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tariq on Tuesday while the ruler was on a trip to the Netherlands.

Meanwhile, the visit by Rafael Mariano Grossi, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, may include negotiations over just what access his inspectors can get under any proposed deal.

The stakes of the negotiations couldn't be higher for the two nations closing in on half a century of enmity. US President Donald 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.

Pezeshkian praises Zarif while acknowledging his resignation

BURNING TRUTH

AFP



An Indigenous spiritual leader performs a ritual song with ashes from the Amazon fires to pressure leaders to implement a just energy transition and to phase out fossil fuels, ahead of the country hosting the COP30 U.N. Climate Summit, in front of the Itamaraty Palace, in Brasilia, Brazil

Al-Qaida-linked militants attack strategic town in Somalia

**AP, MOGADISHU:** The Somalia-based militant group al-Shabab on Wednesday attacked a strategic town that serves as a major base for government troops, raising new concerns about the sustainability of the fight against the al-Qaida-linked militants. The dawn attack on Adan Yabal in Middle Shabelle region started with the launching of explosives before the militants attacked on foot on multiple fronts. Al-Shabab in a statement claimed it captured the town. A Somali military officer who spoke on condi-

tion of anonymity because he was not authorised to speak to the media said government troops controlled some areas and fighting continued.

Adan Yabal, about 245 kilometres north of the capital, Mogadishu, came under al-Shabab control in 2016 and was retaken by government forces in December 2022.

President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud visited the town last month, underscoring its symbolic and strategic importance in the fight against the militants.

"For the past two consecutive years, we have been on a winning streak. Occasional losses on the battlefield do not mean we are losing the war," he said.

Military sources reported significant casualties on both sides Wednesday, though the exact number was unclear due to disrupted communication lines in the area. There was no immediate government statement.

In a related development, government forces and an allied militia withdrew from the nearby village of Abooreey after 10 days of clashes. Local sources confirmed that al-Shabab has since captured the village.