



The country's Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi (L) with his Pakistan counterpart Ishaq Dar during meeting in Kabul, Afghanistan



A destroyed building is pictured after bombardment carried out by Myanmar's military in in Mandalay Region of Central Myanmar

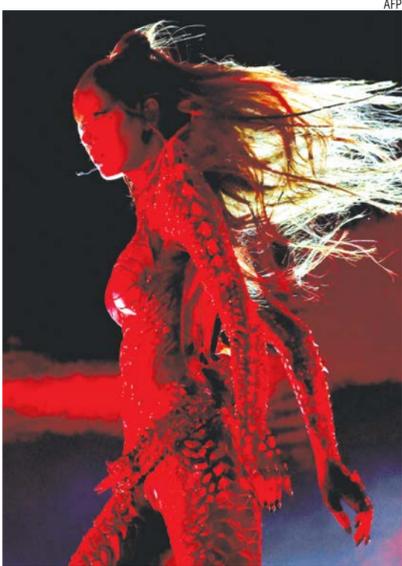


Protesters wave flags and hold placards as they gather in Parliament Square in support of 'trans rights' in London



Brian Johnson (L), and Angus Young of AC/DC performs, at Rose Bowl Stadium in Pasadena, California

allovertheworld



Lisa performs at Sahara Tent 2025 at the Coachella Valley Music And Arts Festival in Indio, California

About 200 people flee Myanmar to Thailand, Thai officials say

**BANGKOK:** Around 200 ethnic Karen people fled fighting in Myanmar and crossed the border into Thailand, Thai border officials said Saturday. Fighting has been raging in Myanmar's eastern Karen state, which borders Thailand, with local ethnic militias battling the military junta that seized power in a 2021 coup. Four years of conflict across Myanmar have spurred mass displacement, driving tens of thousands across the border into neighbouring Thailand. About 200 ethnic Karen people fled to the kingdom on Friday and Saturday due to bombing and civil unrest a few kilometres from the border on the Myanmar side, Major General Maitree Chupreecha, commander of the Thai military's Naresuan Force border unit, told AFP.

Man dies in on migrant boat in Channel: UK police

**LONDON:** A man died after a medical emergency aboard the type of small boat that migrants use to make the dangerous Channel crossing from France, British police said Friday. Many migrants make the risky trip each year in search of a better life, often travelling in flimsy rubber dinghies. On Tuesday, 12 boats carrying 705 migrants reached the British coast, the highest daily figure since the beginning of the year. Police in Kent, southeast England, said they were alerted at around 8:30 am (0730 GMT) on Friday after a patrol from the UK's Border Force "responded to a medical emergency" on the boat.

Sri Lankans throng Kandy for rare display of Buddhist relic

**KANDY:** Tens of thousands of pilgrims thronged Sri Lanka's holy city of Kandy on Friday at the start of a rare display of a prized Buddhist relic, triggering traffic chaos and public protests. Devotees who had camped overnight outside the Temple of the Tooth complained that they were confined to a holding area after security checks and were deprived of food and water for hours. President Anura Kumara Dissanayake officially launched the exposition by offering flowers to what Buddhists in Sri Lanka believe to be the left canine tooth of the Buddha. Dissanayake's office said he was accompanied by Colombo-based diplomats invited as guests to the 16th-century temple shortly before the exhibition opened to the public.

Mali banks suspend strike after agreement with junta

**BAMAKO:** Banks and gas stations that had gone on strike in Mali called off their action on Friday after reaching an agreement with the junta, the union and the government said. The National Union of Banks, Insurance Companies, Financial Institutions, Retailers, and Gas Stations (Synabef) had stopped work on Thursday to demand the release of three union members arrested a month ago and to advocate better working conditions. The Sahel country has been under military rule since quickfire coups in 2020 and 2021 and has been mired in a serious security crisis since 2012. A joint statement from Synabef and an office attached to the prime minister's announced "the suspension of the strike order" late Friday, following a meeting between the union and a government delegation led by Prime Minister Abdoulaye Maiga.

A month after Istanbul mayor arrest, spirit of protest lives on

**ISTANBUL:** Last month's jailing of Istanbul mayor Ekrem Imamoglu may have ousted Recep Tayyip Erdogan's biggest rival but the Turkish president is struggling to stamp out the spirit of protest ignited in Turkey's youth. When Imamoglu was arrested on March 19, huge crowds began rallying in protest outside Istanbul City Hall every night with the demonstrations quickly spreading across the country in Turkey's biggest wave of unrest since 2013. Although the mass demonstrations tapered off over the Eid festivities at the end of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, the protests have resumed over the past 10 days at universities in Istanbul and the capital Ankara.

Tunisia opposition figures get prison terms in mass trial

**TUNIS:** A Tunisian court handed down jail sentences of up to 66 years to multiple defendants, including prominent opposition figures, for national security offences, defence lawyers said on Saturday. The trial, criticised by rights groups and decry by a defence lawyer as a "masquerade", is of unprecedented scale with around 40 defendants including vocal critics of President Kais Saied. A prosecutor cited by local media announced sentences ranging from 13 to 66 years for the defendants, accused of "conspiracy against state security" and "belonging to a terrorist group".

Over 90 killed in Gaza strikes in 48 hours, say Palestinians

**AP, DEIR AL-BALAH (GAZA STRIP):** Israeli strikes in Gaza have killed more than 90 people in the last 48 hours, Gaza's Health Ministry said Saturday, as Israeli troops ramp up attacks to pressure Hamas to release its hostages and disarm.

The dead include 15 people who were killed overnight, among them women and children, some of who were sheltering in a designated humanitarian zone, according to hospital staff.

At least 11 people were killed in the southern city of Khan Younis, several of them in a tent in the Mwasi area where hundreds of thousands of displaced people are living, hospital worker said. Israel has designated it as a humanitarian zone.

Four other people were killed in separate strikes in Rafah city, including a



People run for cover as a plume of smoke rises above tents at a camp for displaced Palestinians in northern Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip, during an Israeli strike

mother and her daughter, according to the European Hospital, where the bodies were brought.

Israel has vowed to intensify attacks across Gaza and occupy large "security zones" inside the strip. For six weeks Israel also has

dwindle, according to the United Nations.

On Saturday, Dr. Hanan Balkhy, the head of the World Health Organisation's eastern Mediterranean office, urged the new US ambassador in Israel, Mike Huckabee, to push the country to lift Gaza's blockade so medicines and other aid can enter the strip.

"I would wish for him to go in and see the situation firsthand," she said. In his first appearance as ambassador on Friday, Huckabee visited the Western Wall, the holiest Jewish prayer site in Jerusalem's Old City. He inserted a prayer into the wall, which he said was handwritten by US President Donald Trump. Huckabee said every effort was being made to bring home the remaining hostages held by Hamas.

Trump warns US could ditch Ukraine talks if no progress

**AFP, WASHINGTON:** US President Donald Trump warned Thursday that Washington would "take a pass" on talks to end the Ukraine war within days unless there is rapid progress from Moscow and Kyiv.

His comments came just hours after US Secretary of State Marco Rubio set the clock ticking, saying in Paris that the United States could "move on" from its role brokering the negotiations.

Trump has been pressing both sides for a truce, but has failed to extract any major concessions from the Kremlin despite an ice-breaking call with

Russian President Vladimir Putin and repeated negotiations with Moscow.

"If for some reason one of the two parties makes it very difficult, we're just going to say: 'You're foolish. You're fools. You're horrible people' -- and we're going to just take a pass," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office.

"But hopefully we won't have to do that." Republican Trump refused to cast blame on either Putin, who ordered the February 2022 full-scale invasion of pro-Western Ukraine, or Kyiv's President Volodymyr Zelensky, insisting both sides had to make progress.

5.9 magnitude quake jolts Pakistan

**PTI, ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan was jolted by a 5.9 magnitude earthquake on Saturday but no loss of life and property has been reported so far. According to the National Seismic Monitoring Centre, the epicentre was located near the Afghanistan-Tajikistan border region, with a depth of 94 kilometres. The quake was recorded at 11:47 am.

Tremors were felt across a wide region of Pakistan, including Islamabad, Lahore, Peshawar, Rawalpindi, and various parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

CROP PROTECTION



An Afghan agricultural department worker wearing protective gear sprays insecticide on locusts foraging on a hillside in Qeran village in Hazrat Sultan district of Samangan province

Iran, US move to expert-level talks over Tehran's nuclear programme after negotiations in Rome

**AP, ROME:** Iran and the United States will begin having experts meet to discuss details of a possible deal over Tehran's rapidly advancing nuclear programme, the top Iranian diplomat said Saturday after a second round of negotiations in Rome.

The comments by Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, who met with US Mideast envoy Steve Witkoff for several hours, suggest movement in the talks. The experts will meet in Oman before

Araghchi and Witkoff meet again in Oman on April 26, Araghchi said.

There was no immediate readout from the US side after the meeting at the Omani Embassy in Rome's Camilluccia neighbourhood. President Donald Trump has been pushing for a rapid deal with Iran while threatening military action against it.

"The talks were held in a constructive environment and I can say that is moving forward," Araghchi told Iranian state television. "I

hope that we will be in a better position after the technical talks."

He added: "This time, we succeeded to reach a better understanding about a sort of principles and aims."

Iranian officials described the talks as indirect, like those last weekend in Muscat, Oman, with Omani Foreign Minister Badr al-Busaidi shuttling between them in different rooms.

"These talks are gaining momentum and now even the unlikely is possible,"

al-Busaidi said on X.

In a separate post, Oman's Foreign Ministry said the sides agreed to keep talking to seek a deal that ensures Iran is "completely free of nuclear weapons and sanctions, and maintaining its ability to develop peaceful nuclear energy".

That talks are even happening represents a historic moment, given the decades of enmity between the two countries since the 1979 Islamic Revolution and the US Embassy hostage crisis.

China holds world's first humanoid robot half-marathon

**PTI, BEIJING:** China on Saturday held the world's first marathon of humanoid robots running together with human runners, showcasing progress in AI technologies amid Beijing's deepening rivalry with the US in robotics. Twenty-one humanoid robots, accompanied by their tech handlers from top universities and firms ran over a 21-km race through Beijing's Economic-Technological Development Area.

The robots in different shapes and sizes running along with humans created

a spectacle, drawing greetings from large crowds gathered on the sidewalks.

The robots were launched sequentially at intervals exceeding one metre, confined to dedicated tracks where battery swaps mirror Formula 1's pit stops.

In the end, awards were distributed not just for speed but for categories like Best Endurance, Best Gait Design, and Most Innovative Form - celebrating both athletic performance and engineering ability.

FROM PAGE 1

CM SAYS NO HOUSES WILL BE TOUCHED, BHOMKARS STICKS TO BYPASS DEMAND

"I don't want to demolish a single house or temple. If any house is being affected, show me. I'm ready to change the plan," Sawant told the gathering.

The meeting, held in Sankhali, aimed to ease tensions surrounding the infrastructure project.

Assurances from the Chief Minister follow rising apprehension among Bhoma residents, who have been vocal about protecting their homes and heritage from any unintended consequences of the development.

Sanjay Naik, a Bhoma resident said "I was not part of the delegation that met with the Chief Minister in Sankhali. Only locals from one waddo (ward) met with the Chief Minister to gather more information about the alignment plan and that there are six waddos in Bhoma."

Naik said, "We have been advocating for a bypass for the past two-and-a-half years, but the alignment plan has never been presented to Bhoma residents. While the Chief Minister discusses widening the existing NH road, Bhoma residents are agitating for a bypass to protect the entire village from a flyover structure that would hinder their cultural preservation efforts. A resolution has also been adopted at the gram sabhas."

When asked if he would meet with the Chief Minister at the Mantralaya on Monday, Naik said he will discuss the matter with the villagers and arrive at a decision soon.

GREENS HAIL HC ORDER DIRECTING MINING COS TO PAY RS 2 CR TO DMF

Gaonkar said, "We have requested the WRD to examine the causes of water logging in Savat Khajan fields and find out a solution. A letter was written to the WRD in July 2024 and till date no action has been taken in this regard." Activist Swapnesh Sherlekar said, "The High Court deci-

sion should be extended to other mining areas as well because mining has created serious disasters. Mining affects low-lying fields and water bodies and during monsoon silt flows down and gets deposited in these low-lying fields and water bodies. Mining companies should take responsibility and rejuvenate them. They cannot escape from their responsibility."

It is ironic that the State government does not know why the District Mineral Fund has been established. The DMF should be solely utilised for the welfare of the villagers affected by mining operations in their respective areas. But the government is diverting this fund for other purposes

- Ramesh Gauns, environmentalist

GUV, CM, ARCHBISHOP EXTEND EASTER GREETINGS

In his message Archbishop Filipe Neri Cardinal Ferrao said "On this Easter day I would like to extend my cordial greetings to all those who believe in the great Hope offered to us through the triumph of Jesus over death and evil, the hope of a Grace-filled Eternal Life. This is what we celebrate today: that Christ offered us life beyond the Tomb, and that, by rising from the dead, he offered us a share in this new life."

"As I send out my wishes for a Happy and Grace-filled Easter, I wish you, one and all, a joyful Easter, with abundant blessings of Jesus, the Risen Lord," the Archbishop added.

AT LAST, CHURCHILL BROS CROWNED I-LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

However, the AIFF Appeal Committee later put the decision "inoperative and in abeyance" until the final

hearing. If Inter Kashi were awarded the three points, they will win the I-League title as they will have 42 points then.

The AIFF Appeal Committee was to hear the case on April 28 but advanced the date to April 12. But the counsel who was to represent Namdhari did not turn up for the hearing, citing "sickness" and the AIFF Appeal Committee did not pronounce a verdict.

After another hearing on Friday, the AIFF Appeal's Committee set aside the Disciplinary Committee's order and ruled in favour of Namdhari.

"... Churchill Brothers FC, Inter Kashi, and Namdhari FC has obtained 40 points, 39 points, and 32 points respectively. Accordingly, Churchill Brothers FC, Inter Kashi, and Namdhari FC stands at No. 1, No. 2, and No.6 respectively at the Points table: I-League 24-25," the AIFF Appeals Committee ruling said.

"As the I-League has concluded on April 6, 2025, the AIFF is directed to act forthwith by conducting a medal distribution ceremony in accordance with points obtained respectively," said the committee headed by Justice Rajesh Tandon, Supreme Court senior advocate and former judge of Uttarakhand High Court.

Meanwhile, a statement Inter Kashi read, "Inter Kashi welcomes the order of the AIFF Appeals Committee following a protracted process which should have been wrapped up before April 6."

"The conclusion of the hearing, and with it, the exhaustion of all internal dispute resolution processes, enables Inter Kashi to approach the CAS for a truly free and fair hearing of the matter."

"From the very beginning, Inter Kashi have been clear that the case involves a simple interpretation of rules and regulations based on some undisputed facts. Inter Kashi will keep no stone unturned to secure justice, and any celebration in the interim may ultimately prove to be premature in nature," the club statement added.