**UN Secy-General António Guterres** condemns the Pahalgam terror attack and urges India and Pakistan to prevent



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz attends a Grand Tattoo ceremony to mark his farewell in Berlin

**AIRPORT** 



**CDU** parliamentary group leader Jens Spahn is pictured during a session break at the Bundestag in Berlin



U.S. Speaker of the House Rep. Mike Johnson takes a question from a reporter during a news conference

## Merz's poll stumble clouds hopes for German economic revival

AP, FRANKFURT: Friedrich Merz's unprecedented failure to win election as German chancellor in the first round of voting in parliament raises doubts about the new government's ability to push Europe's largest economy out of stagnation.

Tuesday's events add uncertainty to an economy that hasn't seen significant growth since before the Covid-19 pandemic.

Above all, Merz was expected to end the squabbling over spending and budgets that plagued pre-

decessor Olaf Scholz's unruly three-party coalition that collapsed in November.

His February election win and codeal seemed alition to provide assurance that his government could confront multiple challenges including lagging investment in pro-growth projects, choking bureaucracy and a lack of skilled la-

Now that fresh start seems much less certain,

# Israeli air strikes hit Yemen airport, power stations in Sanna

**ISRAEL LAUNCHES AIRSTRIKES ON YEMEN** 

DAY AFTER HOUTHI REBELS STRIKE ISRAELI

PTI, JERUSALEM: Israel's military targeted Houthi rebels

with a punishing round of airstrikes, killing at least one

person and wounding 35. The strikes came a day after

the Iranian-backed rebels launched a missile that hit

Israel's main airport. The rebels' media office said at

least six strikes hit the crucial Hodeida port Monday

in Yemen's Red Sea province of Hodeida on Monday

voice of the world

AFP, SANAA: Israeli air raids struck Yemen's main airport and power stations in the Sanaa area on Tuesday, Huthi media and Israel's military said, the latest retaliation for a missile attack by the Iran-backed

AFP correspondents in the rebel-held Yemeni capital Sanaa reported hearing several strikes and seeing plumes of smoke rising from areas including the airport.

An Israeli military statement said that "fighter jets struck and dismantled Huthi terrorist infrastructure at the main airport in Sanaa" and hit "several central power plants" in the area of the capital.

An earlier raid on Mon-

afternoon. Other strikes hit a cement factory in the Bajil district, located 55 kilometers (34 miles) northeast of Hodeida city, the rebels said.

and the lifeline port of Ho-Tuesday's raids hit several locations including Sanaa airport, three power stations in and around the capital, and a cement fac-

ple and wounded 35 others, tory in Amran, rebel media according to Huthis, when

They follow the Iranbacked Huthis' missile attack on Israel's main airport on Sunday, which for the first time penetrated the perimeter, leaving a large crater near a car park. Just before Tuesday's

attacks, Israel's military urged Yemeni civilians to "immediately' evacuate the airport and "stay away from the area".

"Failing to evacuate may put you at risk," military spokesman Avichay Adraee posted on X in Arabic.

The latest exchanges come as regional tensions soar anew over Israel's plan to expand operations in Gaza and displace much of its population.

The Huthis blamed Israel and its ally the United States for the latest strikes. While Israel claimed responsibility, an American official denied any US involvement in Monday's raids.

## allovertheworld



Britain's King Charles III and Queen Camilla pose with their official Coronation State Portraits during a visit to The National Gallery in London

# Peru suspends gold mining in north

LIMA: Peru's President Dina Boluarte on Monday imposed a curfew and suspended gold mining in a northern district where 13 people were killed after a kidnapping inside a gold mine. Mining is a key economic driver in Peru, one of the largest gold producers in Latin America. Pataz, located around 560 miles (900 kilometers) from the capital Lima, is under a state of emergency due to escalating violence caused by a gold rush there. The 13 people found dead on Sunday were employees of a subcontractor of mining company Poderosa. They had been kidnapped days earlier, allegedly by illegal miners working with criminal gangs. Boluarte on Monday announced several new measures to try to get to grips with the situation, including an overnight curfew and the establishment of a military base in Pataz.

#### Three dead, seven missing as boat overturns off California

LOS ANGELES: Three people have died and seven are missing, including two children, after a boat overturned off the California coast, officials said Monday. The US Coast Guard was alerted to a vessel in trouble near Del Mar, north of San Diego, around 6:30 am (1330 GMT), spokesman Hunter Schnabel said. A boat and a helicopter were dispatched to the spot, where four people were rescued and taken to hospital. "Three people were located and found to be deceased," he said. Interviews with survivors indicated that there were nine other people on board, two of whom are thought to be children, Schnabel said.

#### Two riders killed in British Supersport motorbike race

LONDON: Two motorcycle racers died and another was seriously injured in an 11-bike crash during a British Supersport event on Monday, organisers said. Englishman Owen Jenner and New Zealander Shane Richardson were fatally injured in the pile-up on the first lap of the race at Oulton Park in the northwest of England. The race, a support event to the British Superbike Championship, was halted and the rest of the day's race programme cancelled. Another English rider, Tom Tunstall, sustained "significant injuries" in the crash, said a statement on Monday night from circuit organisers Motorsport Vision Racing (MSVR)."Owen Jenner, 21, was initially treated trackside and then taken to the circuit medical centre. where despite further resuscitation treatment he died from a catastrophic head injury," MSVR said.

#### Colombia arrests 217 suspected members of top drug cartel

**BOGOTÁ**: Colombian authorities said Monday they had captured more than 200 members of the country's biggest drug cartel, which is accused of murdering two dozen security force members in the past month. The Gulf Clan was born out of the right-wing paramilitary groups that fought leftist guerrillas in the 1990s before turning their attention to the cocaine trade. President Gustavo Petro has accused the group, with which he suspended peace talks in early 2023, of devising a strategy to "systematically murder" members of the security forces. Armed forces chief Franciso Cubides told a news conference on Monday the security forces had responded by arresting 217 members of the clan since April 15.

#### Myanmar junta calls new ceasefire after earthquake

YANGON: Myanmar's junta declared a new postearthquake truce on Tuesday, days after the expiry of a previous humanitarian ceasefire it was accused of violating with a continued campaign of air strikes. The March 28 magnitude-7.7 quake near the central city of Mandalay killed nearly 3,800 and has left tens of thousands homeless as the summer monsoon season approaches. Monitors say junta aerial bombardments breached the first truce in April - with the Britain-based Centre for Information Resilience logging 65 strikes, many in quake-hit regions. A statement from the junta information team on Tuesday said the new armistice "to continue the rebuilding and rehabilitation process" would last until the end of May. The military - which seized power in a 2021 coup - warned the array of ethnic armed groups and anti-coup fighters it is battling that it would still strike back against any offensives. "We have to protect the towns and people's lives by using air strikes," a military officer in the eastern state of Karen told AFP on condition of anonymity.

## **CLASSIFIED CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4**

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2025013135

## day killed at least four peo-Niger jihadist

attack kills 10

soldiers: State radio

AP, NIAMEY: An attack blamed on suspected jihadist fighters killed about 10 soldiers in Niger, state radio reported Tuesday.

The attack on Sunday near a village in the southwest of the huge desert country, ruled by a military regime, was the latest in a series suspected to be by groups affiliated with al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group.

Since July 2023, when the army staged a coup, at least 2,400 people have been killed in the violence, according to a tally by NGO Acled, which tracks the victims of conflict around the world.

# **ROYAL ARRIVAL**

Israel hit a cement factory



King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden and Iceland's President Halla Tómasdóttir arrive in a horse carriage at the Royal Palace in Stockholm

## They don't vote in conclave, nuns lead global catholic orders in Rome

AP, ROME: They don't have a vote in the pope's election, but nearly 900 superiors of the world's female Catholic orders met in Rome on Monday to chart a course forward, a few miles from where cardinals will gather in a conclave to choose a successor to Pope Francis.

Sister Mary Barron. president of the umbrella group of leaders of women's religious orders, urged the superiors and the over 650,000 nuns worldwide to pray that the cardinals make the right choice and reflect on how to carry forward Francis' vision.

"We must be vigilant in doing our part to keep that flame of church renewal alive," she told the assembly of sisters — some in regular clothes, others in traditional habits.

The International Union of Superiors General is holding its plenary assembly this week - coincidentally at the same time as the conclave, which opens **CARDINALS URGE PEACE IN UKRAINE,** MIDEAST AHEAD OF CONCLAVE

AFP, VATICAN CITY: The Catholic cardinals gathered ahead of the conclave to elect a new pope called on Tuesday for ceasefires and peace negotiations without preconditions in Ukraine and the Middle East.In a atement, they "noted with regret that there has not been progress in promoting peace in Ukraine, the Middle East and many other parts of the world".

Wednesday.

The Catholic Church reserves the priesthood for men, so only men will choose the leader of the world's 1.4-billion Catholics. Of the 133 cardinals expected to vote at the conclave, 108 were appointed by Francis.

Among those present at the assembly was Sister Nathalie Becquart — elevated by Pope Francis as the first female undersecretary in the Vatican's Synod of Bishops office in 2021.

Many saw her appointment, as well as that of Sister Raffaella Petrini as president of the Vatican City State, as a sign that the rigidly male Catholic hier-

archy might finally allow women to assume high-level decision-making responsibilities.

Delphine Kalisha of the Sisters of Mercy in Zambia said she hopes the new pope will continue to promote sisters in positions of leadership.

"That has given us hope for women in the church," Kalisha said. Becquart told The As-

sociated Press that sisters want "to be better listened to, like others, to be valued." "Mavbe vou are a cardi-

nal or a young sister, we are all together called to be protagonists to carry on the mission of the church,"

## **Defence pacts** with India amended, says Maldives

PTI, MALE: The Maldives on Tuesday said existing defence agreements with India are being amended to ensure they do not compromise the Maldives sovereignty and independence, media reports said here.

Defence Minister Mo-GhassanMauhamed moon also told Parliament members that 74 Indian soldiers stationed in the Maldives, who were repatriated under an agreement reached with India last year, were unarmed while in the Maldives.

Maumoon's statements come days after Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu, during a marathon 15 hour press conference, said that there is nothing to worry about the agreements signed by the previous government with other countries, including with India.

# US researchers develop AI chatbot that can address loneliness and other mental issues

AFP , NEW YORK: Researchers at Dartmouth College believe artificial intelligence can deliver psychotherapy, distinguishing their work from the unproven and sometimes dubious mental health apps flooding to-

day's market. Their application, Therabot, addresses the critical shortage of mental health professionals.

According to Nick Jacobson, an assistant professor of data science and psychiatry at Dartmouth, even multiplying the current number of therapists tenfold would leave too few to meet demand.

"We need something dif-

ferent to meet this large need," Jacobson told AFP. The Dartmouth team

recently published a clinical study demonstrating Therabot's effectiveness in helping people with anxiety, depression and eating disorders.

A new trial is planned to compare Therabot's results with conventional thera-

The medical establishment appears receptive to such innovation.

Vaile Wright, senior director of health care innovation at the American Psychological Association (APA), described "a future where you will have an AI-generated chatbot rooted in science that is co-created by experts and developed for the purpose of addressing mental health."

Wright noted these applications "have a lot of promise, particularly if they are done responsibly and ethically," though she expressed concerns about potential harm to younger users.

Jacobson's team has so far dedicated close to six years to developing Therabot, with safety and effectiveness as primary goals. Michael Heinz, psychiatrist and project co-leader,

believes rushing for profit

would compromise safety. The Dartmouth team is how their digital therapist

works and establishing trust.

They are also contemplating the creation of a nonprofit entity linked to Therabot to make digital therapy accessible to those who cannot afford conventional in-person help.

With the cautious approach of its developers, Therabot could potentially be a standout in a marketplace of untested apps that claim to address loneliness, sadness and other issues.

According to Wright, many apps appear designed more to capture attention and generate prioritizing understanding revenue than improve mental health.