

MUSTREAD

Cholera outbreak kills over 110 people in Angola

Luanda: Angola has recorded 3,402 cholera cases and 114 deaths since the outbreak began in early January, according to the Health Ministry's daily press release on Tuesday. Since Feb. 1, Angola has been reporting more than 100 new cholera cases daily, peaking at 295 on Feb. 8. However, laboratory testing to confirm infections remains limited, with only about 20 samples analyzed per day. Since the outbreak on Jan. 7, the disease has spread to multiple provinces, with Luanda and the neighboring Bengo province the most affected. More than 925,000 people have been vaccinated against cholera, covering 86 percent of the target population, according to the Health Ministry's epidemiological bulletin on Monday.

Landslide kills 2 gold miners in Northern Afghanistan

Faizabad, Afghanistan: Two gold miners lost their lives due to the landslide in northern Afghanistan's Badakhshan province on Tuesday, provincial police spokesman Ehsanullah Kamgar said Wednesday. A group of gold miners were busy extracting the precious element in Shahr-e-Buzurg district on Tuesday afternoon when a hillside slide killed two on the spot, the official added. A similar incident claimed the life of another gold miner in Badakhshan province a week ago. Lack of modern machinery in mining and illegal extraction of mines by unskilled miners often lead to disasters, which claim the lives of poor miners in Afghanistan.

2 killed as landslide sweeps truck off Bolivian highway

La Paz: Two women died when a cargo truck was swept off a highway by a landslide in Bolivia's La Paz department, authorities said Tuesday. The regional police commander said the accident happened Monday morning on the Quiabaya-Sorata highway following heavy rains that triggered deadly landslides across the country. Relentless rains since November 2024 have caused widespread destruction across Bolivia. The Vice Ministry of Civil Defense reported that 109,156 families had been affected or displaced as of Feb. 5, with more than 300 homes completely destroyed.

5 injured after bus transit center explosion in US Texas

Houston: Five people were injured Tuesday after an explosion at a bus transit operations center in El Paso, a city in the U.S. state of Texas, according to the El Paso Fire Department. One person was seriously injured, as reported by the El Paso Times. A fire started in a bus maintenance garage area at the Sun Metro Transit Operations Center, which is about 3.5 miles (5.6 km) away from El Paso International Airport, around 1 p.m. local time (2000 GMT) Tuesday. The explosion caused "severe damage" to the building, with the roof and walls collapsing. El Paso Fire Department Assistant Chief Robert Arvizu said. Fortunately, no firefighters were injured. More than 100 firefighters responded to the fire, according to Arvizu. A large plume of black smoke was visible miles away, as seen in photos and videos shared on social media.

2 killed in hospital fire in Kyrgyzstan

Bishkek: Two people were killed on Tuesday evening in a hospital fire in the Kyrgyz capital, the country's Health Ministry has said. The fire reportedly broke out at the Research Institute of Cardiac Surgery in Bishkek around 9 p.m. (1500 GMT). It started in the basement, and the entire building quickly filled with smoke. The fire was completely extinguished two hours later. As a result of the incident, 260 people were evacuated, namely 216 patients and 44 medical personnel, the health ministry said. Despite resuscitation efforts, two postoperative patients — a one-year-old child and a 16-year-old — died in the intensive care unit of the cardiology center. Kyrgyz Prime Minister Adylybek Kasymaliyev has ordered the formation of an interdepartmental commission to investigate the cause of the fire.

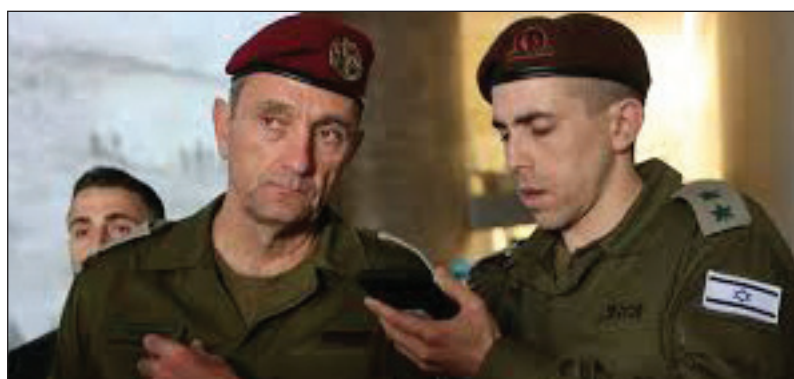
Israeli military calls up reservists as uncertainty over Gaza ceasefire builds

Agencies, Jerusalem/Dubai

Israel's military has called up reservists in preparation for a possible resumption of fighting in Gaza if Hamas fails to meet a Saturday deadline to release more Israeli hostages and a nearly month-old ceasefire breaks down.

Under the ceasefire deal in force since January 19, the Palestinian militant group agreed to free three more hostages on Saturday. But it said this week it was suspending the handover because of what it said were Israeli violations of the terms.

U.S. President Donald Trump responded by saying all hostages must be freed by noon on Saturday or he would "let hell break out." Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned on Tuesday that Israel would resume "intense fighting" if Hamas did not meet the deadline, but did not say how many hostages should



be freed. The standoff threatens to reignite a conflict that has devastated the Gaza Strip, internally displaced most of its people and caused shortages of food, running water and shelter, and pushed the Middle East to the brink of a wider regional war.

Israeli officials said government ministers had endorsed Trump's threat to "cancel" the ceasefire unless all the remaining Israeli hostages are released on Saturday.

Hamas has said it remains committed to the agreement but has not agreed to release the hostages on

Saturday. A Palestinian official close to the talks said mediators had stepped up their intervention "to prevent things sliding into a real crisis."

"Things are not yet clear, but

- Trump's Gaza plan risks new crises, says Arab League's Gheit
- Netanyahu may end ceasefire if Hamas doesn't release hostages
- Egypt to host Arab summit to address Palestinian issues
- Israeli reservists call up reservists

there is a big intervention from the side of the mediators with both sides in an attempt to resolve the impasse and ensure no pauses in the ceasefire agreement," said the official, who asked not to be identified.

NASA plans to return stranded astronauts from space earlier than schedule



Los Angeles (UNI)

NASA and SpaceX are accelerating the target launch and return dates for the upcoming crew rotation missions to and from the International Space Station (ISS), which will bring the agency's stranded astronauts

Suni Williams and Butch Wilmore back home.

The agency's Crew-10 launch now is targeting March 12, pending mission readiness and completion of the agency's certification of flight readiness process, NASA said on Tuesday.

The Crew-9 mission, consisting of Williams, Wilmore, NASA astronauts Nick Hague along with Roscosmos cosmonaut Aleksandr Gorbunov, is planned for return to Earth following a several day handover period with the newly arrived Crew-10 crew. The previous launch date for Crew-10 was no earlier than late March.

The Crew-10 mission will carry NASA astronauts Anne McClain, and Nichole Ayers, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency astronaut Takuya Onishi, and Roscosmos cosmonaut Kirill Peskov, to the space station.

The earlier launch opportunity is available following a decision by mission management to adjust the agency's original plan to fly a new Dragon spacecraft for the Crew-10 mission that requires additional processing time, according to NASA.

China reveals names of moon-landing spacesuit, manned lunar rover

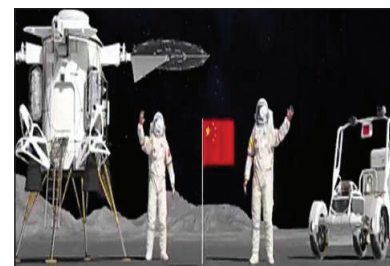
Beijing (UNI)

The China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) on Wednesday unveiled the names of the moon-landing spacesuit and manned lunar rover for the country's manned lunar exploration missions.

The moon-landing spacesuit is named Wangyu, meaning gazing into the cosmos, and it echoes the name of the country's extravehicular spacesuit, Feitian, which means flying into space, according to the CMSA.

It represents that after realizing the goals of spaceflight and establishing China's space station, the country's manned space program has embarked on a new journey of venturing to the moon and deeper space.

The name also signifies the country's steadfast commitment to the



peaceful use of space and its contribution to building a community with a shared future for humanity through the development of its space endeavors.

The manned lunar rover is called Tansuo, meaning to explore the unknown. This name reflects the lunar rover's mission and practical value in aiding the Chinese people to uncover the moon's mysteries, said the agency.

Egypt to unveil Gaza rebuilding plan without relocation

Cairo: Egypt plans to present a comprehensive Gaza reconstruction plan designed to ensure Palestinians remain on their land, officials said Tuesday. The Egyptian foreign ministry said in a statement that the plan will be formulated in a way that respects and upholds the legitimate and legal rights of the Palestinian people.

According to the ministry, any proposed solution must consider the peace process within the region and seek to resolve the root causes of the ongoing conflict.

This requires an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories and the implementation of the two-state solution, which is the sole path towards achieving stability and peaceful coexistence among all peoples in the region, the statement added.

Suspended US aid hits UN humanitarian operations in DRC: UN official

United Nations (UNI)

The suspension of U.S. foreign aid has harmed UN humanitarian operations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), a senior UN official said Tuesday.

"The security and humanitarian situation in the eastern DRC remains extremely volatile," with escalating armed clashes, mass displacement and increasing insecurity in both North Kivu and South Kivu provinces, said Bruno Lemarquis, deputy special representative of the UN secretary-general, resident coordinator and humanitarian coordinator for the DRC.

The U.S. suspension of foreign aid "is having a major impact" on humanitarian aid operations in the



country, Lemarquis told reporters via video from the capital Kinshasa.

The dependence on U.S. funding "means a lot of programs had to shut down on everything we are doing. So, it's emergency health, it's emergency shelter," he said, adding that coordination capacity in his office

41 healthcare centers closed in 2 Afghan provinces

Kabul: A total of 41 healthcare centers have been forced to shut down due to cuts in U.S. assistance in the provinces of eastern Ghazni and central Bamiyan in Afghanistan, a local media outlet reported on Wednesday. "A total of 39 healthcare centers have been closed, including 15 small clinics, three subsidiary centers, 17 mobile teams, one safety center, and two medical clinics, in Ghazni province," TOLONews quoted Mullah Hamidullah Nisar.

Russia releases detained U.S. citizen Marc Fogel



Moscow (UNI)

U.S. citizen Marc Fogel, who was convicted in Russia for drug smuggling and possession, has been re-

leased to the United States, local media reported on Wednesday.

"The information regarding his release is accurate. However, we do not know the route he is being transported on," Fogel's lawyer, Dmitry Ovsyannikov, told RIA Novosti, adding that he could not provide further details.

Earlier, U.S. National Security Advisor Mike Waltz said that Trump's Middle East envoy, Steve Witkoff, visited Russia to negotiate Fogel's return. Witkoff accompanied Fogel on a flight back to the United States.

CNN previously reported that Fogel, 61, had worked for nearly a decade as a history teacher at the Anglo-American School in Moscow.

Body of missing Baloch youth found in Panjgur as protests intensifies

Panjgur, Pakistan: The body of a Baloch youth who had been forcibly disappeared was found in Balochistan's Panjgur area on Tuesday.

The body was discovered in Panjgur's Shahu Kahan neighbourhood and was subsequently recognized as that of Hayat, son of Sabzal, who lived in Turbat's Bug neighbourhood, The Balochistan Post reported.

According to sources cited by The Balochistan Post, Hayat was supposedly forced to disappear by Pakistani soldiers from Turbat on July 3, 2024. Following his disappearance, his family organized a sit-in protest in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office, protesting against his abduction.

UN chief condemns death of employee detained by Yemen's Houthis

United Nations (UNI)

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Tuesday denounced the death of a staff member of the World Food Programme (WFP) detained by the Houthis in Yemen, calling for an immediate, transparent and thorough investigation into the tragedy.

"I strongly condemn the death in detention on 10 February of a World Food Programme colleague who had been arbitrarily detained by the Houthi de facto authorities since 23 January 2025," Guterres said in a statement.

The UN chief extended his deepest condolences to the employee's family and WFP colleagues.

"The circumstances surrounding this deplorable tragedy remain un-



clear, and the United Nations is urgently seeking explanations" from the Houthis, he said, calling for "an immediate, transparent and thorough investigation" and for those responsible to be held accountable.

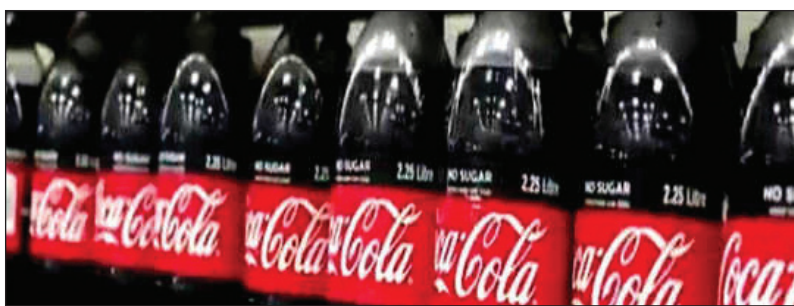
Coca-Cola may opt for more plastic bottles in US after Trump tariffs

Washington (UNI)

Beverage giant Coca-Cola has said it may opt to sell more drinks in plastic bottles in the US if President Donald Trump's tariffs end up making aluminium cans more costly.

"If one package suffers some increase in input costs, we continue to have other packaging offerings that will allow us to compete in the affordability space. For example, if aluminium cans become more expensive, we can put more emphasis on PET [plastic] bottles," the company's chief executive, James Quincey said in a call with investors, according to BBC.

Quincey's remarks follow Trump's order for a 25% import tax on all steel and aluminium entering the US, which has the potential to jack up the price of canned food and drink items in the US.



In December, the company lowered its sustainability target of using 50% recycled materials in its packaging by 2030, to using 35% to 40% by 2035.

Agencies and NGO's working for a cleaner and less polluted environment have dubbed Coca-Cola as the "top global plastic polluter" for six consecutive years.

Quincy, however, played down the effect of the enhanced tariff on his company's business arguing that packaging constituted a small fraction of its expenses.

In recent years, Coca-Cola had been selling more products in aluminium containers as part of its marketing and sustainability strategies.

Mexico rejects US tariffs on steel, aluminum

Mexico City: Mexico on Tuesday rejected the 25-percent tariffs on all steel and aluminum imports announced a day earlier by the U.S. administration.

Noting that Mexico has a deficit with the United States in steel and aluminum trade, Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum told reporters that there is no point in placing tariffs on Mexico's steel and aluminum exports. It is even more important to note the existence of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, which benefits all three parties, she said.

Elon Musk slams judge's decision on gender ideology web pages, calls it "absurd"

Washington: After a federal judge ordered the restoration of web pages removed under President Trump's executive order on gender ideology, US Senator from Utah, Mike Lee criticised the decision, calling it an "unprecedented assault on legitimate presidential authority" and labelling it "absurd" for judges to dictate which government web pages should exist.

Tesla CEO Elon Musk also responded to the senator's post, calling the development "truly absurd."

These judges are waging an unprecedented assault on legitimate presidential authority, all the way down to dictating what webpages the government has.