

MUSTREAD

Afghan caretaker
govt releases another
US citizen in 10 days

Kabul: The Afghan caretaker government has set free another US citizen, a woman named Faye Hall, from a detention center, reported local media outlet Tolonews on Saturday night. “The released woman is currently with Qatari friends in Kabul and she will soon be shifted to her home,” Tolonews quoted former US ambassador and special envoy for Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad as saying on his X account. This is the second American citizen released by the Afghan administration over the past 10 days.

6 terrorists killed in
SW Pakistan

Islamabad: Six terrorists were killed during an intelligence-based operation in Pakistan's southwest Balochistan province, the military said on Saturday. The security forces conducted the operation in Kalat district of the province on the reported presence of terrorists, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media wing of the Pakistan Army, said in a statement. During the operation, intense fire exchanges took place between security forces and terrorists. Six terrorists were killed, the ISPR said. The ISPR said that the killed terrorists remained actively involved in attacks against law enforcement agencies and the targeted killings of innocent civilians.

Four injured in knife
attack in Norway

Oslo: Four people were injured in a knife attack in Trondheim, Norway, local media reported on Saturday. Police confirmed the attacker acted alone and is now in custody. The area was sealed off as the investigation continues.

2 teenagers killed after
crashing stolen car in
southeast Melbourne

Sydney: Two teenagers died after crashing a stolen car into a tree in Melbourne's southeast, police in the Australian state of Victoria said on Sunday. Police said that a passing motorist located the crash scene in Rowville, 28 km southeast of central Melbourne, shortly after 2:30 a.m. local time on Sunday and alerted authorities. Emergency services attended the scene where the two teenage male occupants of the vehicle, who have not yet been formally identified, were declared deceased. A police statement said that investigations revealed the car involved in the crash was one of two vehicles stolen from a neighboring suburb earlier at night.

Trump reiterates
intention to ‘get
Greenland’

Washington: US President Donald Trump reiterated that he was 100 percent confident in the success of his initiative to annex Greenland. “We’ll get Greenland. Yeah, 100%,” Trump said in an interview with NBC News. On Friday, US Vice President J.D. Vance visited the US space base in Greenland. Trump has been talking about the need to annex Greenland to the United States since December. At the same time, neither political parties in Greenland and nor the overwhelming majority of the island's population support joining the United States. Greenland was a colony of Denmark until 1953. It remains part of the kingdom, but in 2009 it received autonomy with the opportunity for self-governance and independent choice in domestic policy.

Taiwan receives first
long-awaited F-16C/D
Block 70 Jets from US

Taipei, Taiwan: Taiwan on Friday received the first of its long-awaited 66 F-16C/D Block 70 jets from the US during a delivery ceremony held at Lockheed Martin's factory in the US's Greenville, South Carolina, Taipei Times reported on Sunday. According to Taipei Times, Taiwan's Deputy Minister of National Defence Po Horng-huei and Representative to the US Alexander Yui attended the event. US Representative William Timmons also expressed pride in supporting Taiwan's air defence capabilities, sharing a photo of the ceremony on X.

Myanmar faces humanitarian crisis after quake

Agencies, Geneva

Myanmar faces a humanitarian crisis following the 7.7-magnitude quake that has killed more than 1,700 people, and the country's aid needs are increasing by the hour, Red Cross officials said on Sunday.

Friday's quake, one of the strongest to hit Myanmar in a century, has damaged infrastructure including bridges, highways, airports and railways - hampering rescue efforts as a civil war rages on in the Southeast Asian nation.

“This is not just a disaster; it is a complex humanitarian crisis layered over existing vulnerabilities,” Alexander Matheou, regional director for Asia Pacific at the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, said in a statement. “The magnitude of this disaster is substantial, and the need for support is urgent,” he added.

Foreign rescue teams arrived in Myanmar on Sunday to help the impoverished country cope with the disaster, and the Red Cross of Myanmar said volunteers were administering



first aid and distributing items such as blankets, tarpaulins and hygiene kits.

“The destruction has been extensive, and humanitarian needs are growing by the hour,” it said in Sunday's statement.

The IFRC has launched an emergency appeal for 100 million CHF (\$113.60 million) to assist 100,000 people with life-saving relief and early recovery support.

Sharjah Ruler receives Eid Al Fitr well-wishers

Agencies, Sharjah

Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, received well-wishers on Sunday morning at Al Badi' Palace on the occasion of Eid Al Fitr.

He was joined by Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Crown Prince and Deputy Ruler of Sharjah; Sheikh Abdullah bin Salem bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Deputy Ruler of Sharjah, and Sheikh Sultan bin Ahmed bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Deputy Ruler of Sharjah.

Sheikh Sultan accepted Eid greetings from sheikhs, senior officials, and dignitaries, including Abdulrahman bin Mohammed Al Owais, Minister of Health and Prevention, as well as senior officers from the Sharjah Police General Command, the Amiri Guard, and the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs in Sharjah.

Citizens, tribal leaders, and community figures also gathered to extend their heartfelt congratulations.



The well-wishers expressed their sincere congratulations on this blessed occasion, praying for Sheikh Sultan's continued good health and

10 killed in military
operation against
terrorists in NW Pak

Islamabad: At least 10 people were killed in a military operation in northwestern Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Friday night, a security source said.

The security source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity on Saturday that Pakistani security forces launched an intelligence-based operation in the Babuzai area of the Mardan district in the province.

The operation was launched against the terrorists' hideout at three different locations in the Katlang mountain range of the area.

The operation led to an intense exchange of fire, resulting in at least 10 casualties, said the source, adding that the death toll could rise because of the large range of the operation.

The identities of the killed are not known yet as there is no official word on the operation yet.

Hamas agrees to Gaza ceasefire proposal

Agencies, Cairo

Hamas has agreed to a Gaza ceasefire proposal it received two days ago from mediators Egypt and Qatar, the Palestinian militant group's chief said.

“Two days ago, we received a proposal from the mediators in Egypt and Qatar. We dealt with it positively and accepted it,” Khalil al-Hayya said in a televised speech.

“We hope that the (Israeli) occupation will not undermine (it),” said Hayya, who leads the Hamas negotiating team in indirect talks aimed at securing a ceasefire in the Hamas-Israel war in Gaza that erupted in October 2023.

Security sources told Reuters on Thursday that Egypt had received positive indications from Israel over a new ceasefire proposal that would include a transitional phase.



The proposal suggests Hamas release five of the Israeli hostages it is holding each week, the sources said.

The Israeli prime minister's office said it had held a series of consultations according to the proposal that was received from the mediators, and that Israel had conveyed

Plane crashes in US
Minnesota residential area

Los Angeles: A small plane crashed in a residential area in the U.S. state of Minnesota on Saturday, setting a house on fire, said the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration.

The SOCATA TBM7 aircraft crashed into the house around 12:20 p.m. local time (1920 GMT) on Saturday, according to the agency.

“The plane departed from Des Moines International Airport in Iowa and was headed to Anoka County-Blaine Airport in Minneapolis,” said the agency, adding that the number of people on board was still unknown.

Local media reported no survivors on board, citing the Brooklyn Park Fire Department.

Witnesses nearby told local TV station KARE 11 that the plane crash started a fire at a home in Brooklyn Park.

Hegseth says US command in ‘warrior’ Japan being upgraded to deter China

Agencies, Tokyo

U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth described Japan on Sunday as indispensable for tackling Chinese aggression and said implementing of a plan to upgrade the U.S. military command in the country would get under way.

“We share a warrior ethos that defines our forces,” Hegseth told Japanese Defence Minister Gen Nakatani at a meeting in Tokyo. “Japan is our indispensable partner in deterring communist Chinese military aggression,” including across the Taiwan Strait, he said.

Calling Japan a “cornerstone of peace and security in the Indo-Pacific,” he said President Donald Trump's government would continue to work closely with its key Asian ally.

In July, then-President Joe Biden's White House announced a major revamp of the U.S. military command



in Japan to deepen coordination with Tokyo's forces, as the two countries labelled China their “greatest strategic challenge”.

That change will place a combined operational commander in Japan, who would be a counterpart to the head of a joint operation command established by the Japan's Self-

Cambodia to provide 100,000 USD in initial
emergency aid to quake-devastated Myanmar

Phnom Penh: Cambodian Foreign Minister Prak Sokhonn said on Sunday that the kingdom would provide 100,000 US dollars in initial emergency assistance to earthquake-devastated Myanmar.

Sokhonn, who is also a deputy prime minister, made the remarks during the Special Emergency Meeting of ASEAN Foreign Ministers in the Aftermath of the Earthquake in Myanmar held via videoconference. About 1,700 people died, 3,400 were injured, and 300 remained missing in the massive earthquake in Myanmar, according to the country's State Administration Council on Sunday. “We are working on the possibility to further contribute to the regional relief efforts, including through the provision of medical and other essential supplies where appropriate,” Sokhonn said.

Bangladesh to send rescue team to quake-hit Myanmar

Dhaka: A Bangladesh Armed Forces rescue team will depart for Myanmar on a special flight Sunday to support earthquake relief and rescue efforts.

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) of the Bangladesh Armed Forces made the announcement in a media statement here on Saturday, mentioning the team will leave for Myanmar on Sunday.

It said that the Bangladesh Armed Forces will provide emergency medicine, relief supplies, rescue operations, and medical aid to the country.

Earlier that day, an official alert issued by the Fire Service and Civil Defense Directorate said that Bangladesh could experience tremors of similar intensity that recently struck Myanmar and Thailand, particularly in high-risk zones, including Chattogram, Sylhet, Mymensingh, and Dhaka.

Venezuelan gov't
announces return of
229 migrants from US

Caracas: The Venezuelan government announced Saturday that 229 Venezuelan migrants will return from the United States on Sunday.

“Tomorrow, the Return to the Homeland Plan resumes with the arrival of a flight carrying fellow Venezuelans from the United States,” said Jorge Rodriguez, president of the National Assembly and chief negotiator with the United States, in a statement.

The statement confirmed the “repatriation of 229 brothers and sisters.”

Rodriguez said the flight is scheduled to land at Simon Bolivar International Airport around midday on March 30.

Since its launch in 2018, the Return to Homeland Plan has facilitated the return of nearly 1 million Venezuelans.

Russian drone attack kills
two in Ukraine's Kharkiv

Agencies, Kharkiv, Ukraine

A Russian drone strike on Ukraine's second-largest city killed two people and wounded 35 late on Saturday, officials said, as President Volodymyr Zelenskyy urged Kyiv's partners to respond to such attacks while seeking peace in the three-year-old war.

The strike on the eastern city of Kharkiv, which damaged a military hospital among other structures, came as Ukraine seeks strong backing from Western allies to pressure Russia into ending its full-scale invasion of its smaller neighbour.

Mayor Ihor Terekhov said five children were wounded in the attack, which also damaged several dozen residential buildings and a dormitory housing war refugees.



One survivor, who identified himself as Anton, described running to an adjacent room in his apartment when a drone struck and showered him with shrapnel.

Defense Forces last week.

Hegseth's praise of Japan contrasts with the criticism he levelled at European allies in February, telling them they should not assume the U.S. presence there would last forever.

- US command upgrade to give joint Japanese commander a counterpart
- Japan and U.S. agreed to accelerate joint missile production
- Hegseth did not respond to question about Signal chat details

er. Trump has complained that the bilateral defence treaty, in which Washington pledges to defend Tokyo, is not reciprocal. In his first term, he said Japan should pay more to host U.S. troops.

Japan hosts 50,000 U.S. military

Sudan's paramilitary RSF chief
says war with army is not over

Agencies, Cairo

The leader of Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, said on Sunday that his war against the army was not over and his forces would return to Khartoum despite being largely driven out of the capital.

It was Dagalo's first comment since the RSF were pushed back from most parts of Khartoum last week by the army in the latest development in Sudan's devastating two-year-old war. Dagalo, also known as Hemedti, conceded in an audio message on Telegram that his forces had left the capital last week as the army consolidated its gains.

“It's true that in the past few days there was a withdrawal by forces



[from Khartoum] to reposition in Omdurman. This was a tactical decision made by the leadership. It was a collective decision,” Dagalo said.

However, he vowed to return to Khartoum “stronger, more powerful and victorious”.