MUSTREAD

2 killed, 7 injured in roof collapse in S-Afghanistan

Kabul: Two children lost their lives and seven others were injured after the roof of a mud house collapsed in south Afghanistan's Î province, a local official said on Friday. The tragedy occurred on Thursday night while the families of the children were gathering for a dinner party on the outskirts of Police District 15, Kandahar City, the capital of the province, said the provincial director for the disaster management authority Mullah Abdul Salam. The injured children have been shifted to a nearby health center for treatment, saiḋ the official, adding that the health conditions of two of them

Two critically injured in crash during police chase

Sydney: Two people have been hospitalised in critical conditions following a crash during a police pursuit in Sydney's southwest. A police statement said on Thursday night that officers from the traffic and highway patrol command in Australia's state of New South Wales (NSW) attempted to stop an unregistered vehicle in Cabramatta, about 25 km from central Sydney, on Thursday night. A pursuit ensued when the driver allegedly failed to stop. The chase continued into the neighboring suburb of Canley Vale where the unregistered vehicle crashed into a power pole. Two occupants of the vehicle, a 33-year-old female driver and a 35-year-old male passenger, were injured.

Senior Russian military officer killed in car explosion

Moscow: A senior Russian mili-tary officer was killed on Friday after a car exploded in the town of Balashikha in the Moscow region, Russian news outlets Mash and Shot reported. Mash named the officer as Yaroslav Moskalik, deputy head of the Main Operations Directorate of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces. There was no immediate official confirmation from the authorities of what happened or details about the identity of the officer targeted. Russian media outlet Baza, which has sources in Russia's law enforcement agencies, said a bomb in a parked car had been detonated remotely when the officer - who lived locally - walked past.

Five dead in tragic fire at rice mill in **UP's Bahraich**

Bahraich: At least five people died in a major industrial fire at the Rajgarhia Rice Mill located in the Dargah area of Bahraich district, Uttar Pradesh on Friday, officials said. Three others are injured and undergoing treat-ment at a nearby hospital. Their condition is critical. According to reports, the fire started in the upper section of the rice mill around dawn, triggering chaos among the workers present. In an attempt to control the blaze, eight workers rushed to extinguish the fire but were quickly surrounded by the dense, toxic smoke filling the facility. Tragically, five of them lost their lives after suffocating inside the mill.
Bahraich District Magistrate
Monika Rani confirmed the incident and explained the circumstances leading to the mishap.

"The workers were engaged in operations related to drying paddy. A machine was being used to remove moisture from the grains, and the smoke that emanated during this process proved fatal. Unfortunately, five workers died due to smoke in-halation," she stated.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa reports 8th mpox case of 2025

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa health department has confirmed a new case of mpox in the Khyber tribal district, bringing the province's total to eight cases in 2025, as reported by Dawn. This marks the second mpox case in Khyber district. The first case, earlier this year, involved a resident who contracted the virus in the United Arab Emirates. With the new case, the region has reported 17 mpox cases over the past three years, as cited by Dawn. The patient, a 31-yearold man, was screened at Bacha Khan International Airport as he was departing for Dubai.

India hands over vaccine against Sickle Cell and Thalassemia to Nepal

Agencies, Kathmandu

In a significant demonstration of its ongoing commitment to supporting the health and well-being of the peo-ple of Nepal, Ambassador of India to Nepal, Naveen Srivastava handed over the first consignment of vaccines for Sickle Cell Disease and Thalassemia to Minister of Health and Population, of Nepal, Pradip Paudel.

As per the release from the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu the first consignment of vaccines is worth

It would be for the management of patients with Thalassemia and Sickle Cell Disease responding to a request from Nepal.

"The first consignment of vac-cines/ medicines includes Influenzae Vaccine (3100 unit), Salmonella Vaccine (1550 unit), Meningococcus Vaccine (3100 unit), Haemophilus



Influenza Vaccine (4640 unit) and Streptococcus Pneumonia Vaccine (4640 unit)," the release detailed.

This vital contribution from India will help bolster Nepal's efforts in addressing these inherited blood disorders, which pose significant health challenges to affected individuals

"The provision of these vaccines underscores the strong and enduring partnership between the two na-

Indonesian police arrest 101 suspects in destructive fishing crackdown

in destructive fishing, a practice that damages marine ecosystems and the environment, a police officer said on Friday. The suspects were detained in 72 separate cases between Feb. 24 and March 24, according to Police Brigadier General Aidil Tabransyah, director of the National Police's Wa-

"The cases were handled by marine police units at both national and regional levels. This operation is not just about law enforcement but also about protecting marine ecosystems, Tabransyah said during a press briefing in Jakarta. The suspects allegedly used illegal methods, including fish bombs, banned fishing gear, chemi-

Speaking at the handover event, tal in enhancing the quality of life for individuals affected by Sickle Cell Disease and Thalassemia in Nepal.

He further mentioned the deeproted friendship between India and Nepal and India's readiness to extend support in areas of mutual interest.

Receiving the vaccines on behalf

of the Government of Nepal, Minister of Health and Population expressed gratitude for India's generous support outlining the positive impact these vaccines will have on public health. Paudel acknowledged the long-standing collaboration with India and its contributions to Nepal's healthcare system.

Pak Deputy PM Ishaq Dar postpones Bangladesh visit

Islamabad/Dhaka: Pakistan Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar's visit to Bangladesh has been postponed in light of the Pakistan-backed terror attack in Pahalgam, which has led to rising tensions

"Owing to unforeseen circumstances, the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan is unable to undertake the visit to Bangladesh on 27-28 April 2025," said Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Bangladesh Ministry of Foreign Affairs released a statement announcing the postponement of Dar's visit to Dhaka which would have been the first such by a Pakistani Foreign Minister since 2012.

The visit was being highly anticipated in Dhaka with Bangladesh and Pakistan becoming increasingly friendly since the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in August

Trump poised to offer Saudi Arabia over \$100 billion arms package



Agencies, Washington/Riyadh

The United States is poised to offer Saudi Arabia an arms package worth well over \$100 billion, six sources with direct knowledge of the issue told Reuters, saying the proposal was being lined up for announcement during U.S. President Donald Trump's visit to the kingdom in May.

Concerns raised over forced disappearance of student in Karachi

Karachi: Paank, a human rights organisation, has expressed deep concern following the recent forced disappearance of Javed Baloch, a student from Balochistan, in Karachi.

In a post on X, Paank stated, "We express deep concern over the recent incident in Karachi, where Javed Baloch, son of Musafir Baloch and a resident of Malar, Awaran, was forcibly disappeared by state intelligence personnel in the Gulistan-e-Jauhar area in

Karachi capital city of Sindh."
According to Paank, Javed, the son of Musafir Baloch and a resident of Malar, Awaran, was taken by state intelligence personnel from the intelligence personnel from the Gulistan-e-Jauhar area in Karachi, sparking alarm and fear within the Baloch community. Javed had been pursuing a Master's degree in Political Science at Balochistan University and had previously enrolled in a law program at Karachi University.

The offered package comes after the administration of former President Joe Biden unsuccessfully tried to finalize a defense pact with Riyadh as part of a broad deal that envisioned Saudi Arabia normalizing ties with Israel.

The Biden proposal offered access to more advanced U.S. weaponry in return for halting Chinese arms purchases and restricting Beijing's investment in the country. Reuters could not establish if the Trump administration's proposal includes similar requirements.

The White House and Saudi government communications office did not immediately respond to requests for comment. In his first term, Trump celebrated weapons sales to Saudi Arabia as good for U.S. jobs.

Jakarta: Indonesian police have arrested 101 people allegedly involved ter and Air Unit.

S-Korea's former president Moon says bribery indictment is 'political'

Agencies, Seoul

South Korea's former president Moon Jae-in said on Friday that prosecutors were becoming political and abusing their power and that his indictment on bribery charges was a good example.

good example.

South Korean prosecutors indicted Moon for alleged bribery on Thursday, making him the latest former leader of the country to face legal troubles in a case linked to the employment of his then son-in-law at a Thai airline between 2018 and 2020.

Moon said the indictment against

Moon said the indictment against him was unfair and accused the prosecutors of pursuing the case in a predetermined direction.

"Beyond revealing my personal innocence, I plan to focus on proper-



ly uncovering and informing the public about the abuse and politicisation of the prosecution's power," he said during a meeting with National Assembly Speaker Woo Won

Lee was indicted for bribery and breach of trust in the case, according

UK likely to abandon plans to send troops to Ukraine

The UK is likely to abandon the idea of sending thousands of troops to Ukraine, which was what France wanted, because the risks are too high, the Times newspaper reported citing British sources.

The risks are too high and the forces inadequate for such a task. This was always the UK's thought. It was France who wanted a more muscular approach," a source involved in discussions about a "coalition of the willing" said.

The report said a security commitment to Ukraine would focus on the reconstitution and rearmament of Ukraine's armed forces.

French President Emmanuel Macron said after hosting the summit of the "coalition of the willing" in Paris on March 27 that a number of countries wanted to send troops to Ukraine as "deterrent forces." He said that the UK-French initia-

tive would be neither a replacement

for Ukrainian troops nor a peace-keeping force. The goal would be to deter Russia by stationing troops in the strategic locations.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokes-woman Maria Zakharova has said any foreign military presence in Ukraine will be viewed as a threat to Russia and carries the risk of a direct military clash.

Russia ready to reach Ukraine deal, details still under discussion: Lavrov

Moscow: Russia is prepared to conclude an agreement on the settlement of the conflict with Ukraine, but certain provisions of the deal still require fine-tuning, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said in an interview

"The statement by the (U.S.) president (Donald Trump) mentions a deal, and we are ready to reach a deal, but there are still some specific points — elements of this deal which need to be finetuned," Lavrov said during an interview with U.S. broadcaster CBS

Fragments of the interview were published on Thursday night. The full version will be aired

Over 50 people killed in Israeli strikes on Gaza Strip on March 24

Gaza: The death toll from Israel strikes on the Gaza Strip since Thurs day morning has reached 52 people, 39 of whom have been killed in strikes on Gaza City and northern areas of the enclave, Al Jazeera broad-caster reported, citing Palestinian

on the cities of Jabalia, Deir al Balah and Khan Yunis, including houses where refugees were accommodate ed, the report said on Thursday. Cer tain areas in the north of the enclave were subjected to artillery shelling the report added. Israel resumed strikes on the Gaza Strip, citing Palestinian movement Hamas' refusal to accept the US plan to extend the ceasefire, which expired on March 1. Israel also cut off electricity supplies to a desalination plant in the Gaza Strip and closed off entry to trucks carrying humanitarian aid.

Philippine president orders probe into alleged foreign interference in elections



Agencies, Manila

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos has ordered an investigation into alleged foreign interference in next month's elections after a top security official's warning that Chinese statesponsored groups may be attempting to influence the outcome of the vote. "This is truly alarming," Presidential Communications Undersecretary Claire Castro told a media briefing. "We will conduct a thorough investigation so we can uncover the truth behind this."

The order came after a top National Security Council official told a Senate hearing on Thursday that signs of Chinese information operations had been detected.

His comments coincided with

Senator Francis Tolentino presenting what he said was evidence linking the Chinese embassy in Manila to the proliferation of "troll farm" operations in the Philippines.

Tolentino said the embassy had paid a local marketing firm to run online operations, and presented what we said was a copy of cheque issued by the mission as proof.

A small police plane crashed near the shore of Thailand's resort town of Hua Hin on Friday morning, killing

six people, the That police said.

The That national police said on its social media page that the aircraft of the police aviation division crashed into the sea off Cha-am District, Phetchaburi Province shortly after taking off from the nearby Hua Hin airport, with all six on board

The police said the accident took place when the plane was conducting a test flight for parachute train-

video footage showed the plane nosedived into the sea. Initial investigations suggest that the engine malfunctioned shortly after

The police said the cause of the



accident will be investigated.

The police emergency center of Phetchaburi province said that it re-

ceived notifications of a plane plunging into the sea just near a local

Crowds file into St. Peter's on last day to pay respects to Pope Francis

Tens of thousands of mourners filed into St. Peter's Basilica on Friday on the last day to pay final respects to Pope Francis ahead of his funeral on

Long queues snaked around St. Peter's Square and the surrounding roads, before being funnelled through the heart of the basilica in a single column leading to the central altar, where Francis' open-topped

coffin is placed on a dais. The basilica was open for most of Thursday evening into Friday morning, shutting its doors for only three

hours overnight. The body of the 88-year-old pope, who died on Monday in his rooms at



the Vatican's Santa Marta guesthouse after suffering a stroke, was brought to St. Peter's in a solemn procession on Wednesday

Since then, almost 130,000 people from all over the world have bid farewell to the pontiff, the Vatican

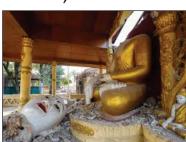
Myanmar junta defies quake ceasefire to continue deadly attacks, data shows

Agencies, Bangkok

Myanmar's junta has kept up a deadly military campaign, including airstrikes and artillery assaults, despite announcing a ceasefire after a major earthquake killed thousands in March, according to the United Nations and data from a crisis moni-

The March 28 quake, the worst natural disaster to hit the impoverished nation in decades, triggered a multi-national relief effort to support hundreds of thousands already ravaged by conflict and repeated in-

ternational calls to halt the fighting. On April 2, following similar moves by opposition armed groups, Myanmar's military announced a 20day ceasefire to support humanitarian relief. On Tuesday it said the tem-



porary cessation had been extended until April 30 after rare high-level talks led by Malaysia's premier.

A junta spokesman did not re-spond to multiple calls from Reuters seeking comment. Between March 28 and April 24, the military launched at least 207 attacks, including 140

airstrikes and 24 artillery barrages.

















