

MUSTREAD

12 killed as tractor slides into water

Kabul: Twelve people lost their lives and four others sustained injury as a tractor slid into a river in the southern Afghanistan Helmand province on Friday, provincial director for Information and Culture Hafiz Abdul Bari Rashid said. The deadly accident took place in Garmsir district, claiming the lives of three women and nine children on the spot and injuring four others, all children, the official added. Security personnel reached the site of the accident on time and rescued 14 others, the official said.

OpenAI to set up its 1st office in India this year, Sam Altman to visit next month

Washington: OpenAI will set up its first office in India this year, CEO Sam Altman announced on Friday, highlighting the growing users of ChatGPT in the country. Sam Altman also informed that he will visit India next month. "We are opening our first office in India later this year! And I'm looking forward to visiting next month. Ai adoption in India has been amazing to watch—ChatGPT users grew 4x in the past year—and we are excited to invest much more in India!" Sam Altman said in a post on X.

3 armed robbers killed in N. Afghanistan

Kabul: Police forces have shot dead three armed robbers in northern Afghanistan's Balkh province, the provincial police office said on Friday. On Thursday afternoon, police attempted to arrest a group of armed robbers in Chahar Bolak district, and the suspects resisted, leading to a shootout and the deaths of three robbers. One suspect escaped. Police also seized two pieces of handguns from the scene. The Afghan interim government has vowed to spare no efforts to ensure law and order in the country.

Explosion at Louisiana oil plant prompts evacuations

Washington: At explosion at an oil plant in the US state of Louisiana triggered evacuations, NBC News reported. No casualties have been reported so far. Videos circulating on social media showed thick plumes of black smoke billowing from the facility following the blast.

China hikes military incursions around Taiwan

Taipei: Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense detected 22 sorties of Chinese military aircraft and five Chinese naval vessels operating around its territorial waters as of 6am (local time) on Saturday. As per the MND, of the 22 sorties, 18 crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's northern and southwestern ADIZ. In a post on X, the MND said, "22 sorties of PLA aircraft and 5 PLAN vessels operating around Taiwan were detected up until 6 a.m. (UTC+8) today.

Glacier burst and floods devastate Ghizer in PoGB

Gilgit, PoGB: Over 300 homes and many shops were damaged in the Ghizer district of Pakistan-occupied Gilgit Baltistan (PoGB) due to a glacier burst, landslide, and flooding on Friday, as per the initial assessment by the government reported by Geo News. A glacial lake outburst (GLOF) triggered flooding that caused extensive damage, resulting in the formation of an artificial lake yesterday morning. Numerous villages were inundated, leading to significant financial losses; however, there were no reported casualties, according to Geo News.

Flash floods ravage Buner, Swat; 60% families lose livelihoods

Islamabad: A recent evaluation conducted by the humanitarian organisation Islamic Relief indicates that 60 per cent of families in the severely affected regions of Buner and Swat have experienced a loss of their livelihoods due to flash floods, alongside significant destruction of homes and agricultural land, as reported by Dawn. The emergency response team from Islamic Relief is actively distributing food and water in the area.

Trump again gives Putin ‘a couple of weeks’

With no sign of Ukraine peace talks underway



Washington (UNI)
US President Donald Trump said he will give Russian President Vladimir Putin "a couple of weeks," further extending his deadline for potential consequences against Moscow after urging the Russian leader to meet with his Ukrainian counterpart in hopes of ending the war.
When asked by CNN if there's a possibility he does nothing if Putin doesn't come to the table, Trump said on Friday, "We'll see. I'll see whose fault it is."
"If there are reasons why, I will understand that; I know exactly what I'm doing. We're going to see whether or not they have a meeting, that will be interesting to see, and if they don't, why didn't they have a meeting? Because I told them to have a meeting," Trump said.
"But I'll know in two weeks what I'm going to do," Trump added, reprising a timeline he's repeatedly issued to determine Putin's willingness to end the war in Ukraine.
His latest comments come as the

momentum around peace talks has stalled, with no sign that the bilateral meeting the White House has pushed is happening. It made Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov

said earlier on Friday that there were no plans for a meeting between the two leaders, reports CNN.
After Trump met with Putin in Alaska last week and hosted Zelen-

Wickremesinghe remanded over alleged misuse of state funds

Colombo (UNI)
The Colombo Fort Magistrate's Court on Friday night remanded former Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe, who had been arrested earlier in the day by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) over allegations of misusing state funds, until Aug. 26, local media reported.
The court took the decision after a representative for the country's Attorney General's Department, appearing for the CID, told the court that evidence against Wickremesinghe will be presented under the Public Property Act and requested that the court remand the suspect as the investigation is not complete.
Wickremesinghe was admitted to



the prison hospital following the ruling, local media reported.
Wickremesinghe was produced before the court after he was arrested for charges of misusing state funds to visit London to attend an event organized by a British university, during his tenure as president in September 2023, according to local media.
It is the first time a former executive president has been arrested and remanded in Sri Lanka's history. Wickremesinghe was elected president by parliamentarians in July 2022 following the resignation of Gotabaya Rajapaksa as president. He lost the presidential election held in September 2024.

Canada PM Carney to visit Germany next week for talks with Merz

Ottawa: Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said that he would be paying an official visit to Germany next week where he intends to meet with Chancellor Friedrich Merz.
"I'm very much looking forward to meeting with the Chancellor Merz, members of his cabinet, a number of German businesses next week, next Tuesday," Carney told reporters when asked to confirm the news broken by the German government.
Canada and Germany will pick up on discussions held at the G7 Summit of Kananaskis, Carney said. Talks will revolve around finding ways to enhance Ottawa's economic and security partnership with Berlin.

Russia, US exploring cooperation in Arctic, Alaska: Putin



Moscow (UNI)
Russia and the United States are in talks about potential cooperation in the Arctic and Alaska, Russian President Vladimir Putin said today.
"We are discussing, by the way, with our American partners the potential for collaboration in this area, not just within our Arctic zone, but also in Alaska," Putin said during a

meeting with Russian nuclear industry workers.
Separately, Putin noted that no other country in the world possesses the technology that Russia has for operating in the Arctic region, which has attracted interest from various partners, including the United States.
Putin further stated that Rosatom's efforts in the Arctic have promising prospects and are advancing steadily.
"The Arctic zone, the Northern Sea Route, and your [Rosatom] efforts in that region hold significant potential and are progressing at an impressive pace," Putin said.

Russia, US discuss possible cooperation on LNG projects
Russia and the United States are discussing the possibility of cooperating in liquefied natural gas (LNG), not only in the Russian Arctic zone but also in the U.S. state of Alaska, Russian President Vladimir Putin said Friday.
Speaking at a meeting with nuclear industry workers and scientists in Sarov, Nizhny Novgorod region, Putin noted that several Russian companies, including major LNG producer Novatek, are already cooperating with partners from Europe and Asia.
"We are also discussing with American partners the possibility of working together in this area, and not only in our Arctic zone, but also in Alaska," Putin said, quoted by TASS news agency. Putin noted that Russia possesses unique LNG technologies, which have attracted the interest of its partners, including those from the United States.

UK's Farage sets out plan for 'mass deportation' of asylum seekers

Agencies, London
Former Brexit campaigner Nigel Farage set out plans on Saturday for "mass deportations" of migrants who have crossed the English Channel on small boats if his Reform UK party forms Britain's next government.
In an interview, opens new tab with Saturday's edition of The Times newspaper, Farage said he would withdraw Britain from the European Convention on Human Rights and sign deals with Afghanistan, Eritrea and other top countries of origin to repatriate illegal migrants.
The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here.
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"We can be nice to people, we can be nice to other countries, or we can be very tough to other countries ... I mean (U.S. President Donald) Trump has proved this point quite



comprehensively," Farage said.
Asked if he was concerned that asylum seekers would be killed or tortured if they were sent to countries with poor human rights records, Farage said he was more worried about the threat he believed asylum seekers posed to Britons.
"I can't be responsible for despot-

ic regimes all over the world. But I can be responsible for the safety of women and girls on our streets," he said.
Britain has seen regular small-scale protests in recent weeks outside hotels housing asylum seekers, spurred in part by concerns about public safety after some migrants were charged with sexual assault.
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Broader opinion polls show that immigration and asylum are the public's greatest concern, just ahead of the economy, and Reform UK - which won five seats at last year's general election - has topped recent voting intention polls.
Last year 37,000 people - mostly from Afghanistan, Syria, Iran, Vietnam and Eritrea - arrived in Britain from France by crossing the English Channel in small boats. The total was up by a quarter from 2023 and accounted for 9% of net migration.

sky and European leaders at the White House earlier this week, he'd indicated a bilateral meeting, potentially to be followed by a trilateral meeting he would join.
"You understand that I wanted to have a meeting with those two. I could have been at the meeting, but a lot of people think that nothing's going to come out of that meeting. You have to be there... , as people continue to die," Trump said Friday.
The US president repeated his two-week timeframe several times. "We'll see what happens. I think in two weeks, we'll know which way I'm going, because I'm going to go one way or the other, and they'll learn which way."
Talking about the Russian leader, Trump said, "He's been very respectful of me and of our country, but not so respectful of others."
"He may be coming and he may not, depending on what happens. We have a lot of things happening over the next couple of weeks," Trump said.

Zelensky, NATO chief meet on security guarantees for Ukraine

Kiev (UNI)
Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said that he discussed security guarantees for Ukraine during a meeting with North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) secretary general Mark Rutte in Kiev.
Following the talks, Zelensky said that Ukraine aims to secure "Article 5-like" guarantees, similar to Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty.
"The outcome we must achieve: a crystal-clear architecture of which countries assist us on the ground, which are responsible for the security of our skies, which guarantee security at sea and support Ukraine," Zelensky said in a statement on his official website.
He added that guarantees should also include financing of the Ukrainian military from partner nations.

China activates emergency response as Typhoon Kajiki approaches

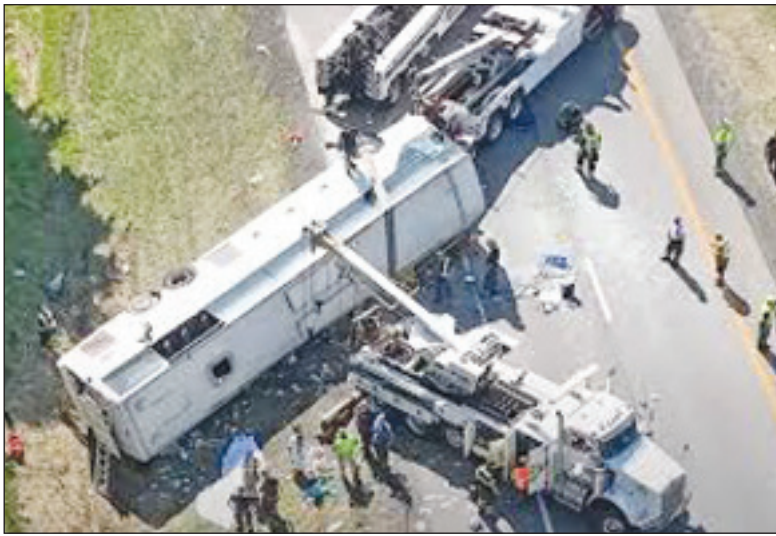
Beijing: China on Saturday activated a Level-IV emergency response to flooding and typhoon in Hainan Province as Typhoon Kajiki, the 13th typhoon of this year, is approaching, according to the Ministry of Emergency Management. The State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters has initiated emergency response measures and dispatched a work team to the southern province to assist with local flood and typhoon relief efforts, the ministry said.
At 11 a.m. Saturday, the center of Typhoon Kajiki was located around 650 km east of Hainan's Sanya City over the sea, and it is forecast to move westward at a speed of up to 25 km per hour with its intensity expected to strengthen significantly, according to meteorological authorities.
China's National Meteorological Center on Saturday issued a yellow alert for Typhoon Kajiki, warning that it is likely to make landfall or pass close to the southern coast of Hainan Island around Sunday evening.



According to Zelensky, negotiations between Ukraine, Europe and the United States on the specific content of the security guarantees are ongoing. Zelensky and Rutte also discussed weapons deliveries to Ukraine coordinated under the Prioritized Ukraine Requirements List, proposed by NATO and the United States.

UAE condemns Israeli settlement plan

Abu Dhabi: The United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Friday condemned Israel's newly-announced settlement plan in the occupied West Bank and its ongoing military operations in the Gaza Strip.
The Foreign Ministry said in a statement that the measures were "serious violations of international law and relevant UN resolutions" and posed a grave threat to regional and international efforts to achieve peace and establish an independent Palestinian state.
The UAE urged an immediate halt to settlement expansion and military operations and called on the international community to act to stop the violations and launch a credible political process leading to lasting peace.



Five killed, dozens injured in bus crash in US

Washington (UNI)
As many as five people were killed when a tourist bus with 52 passengers lost control and skidded off the road in the United States, CNN reported, citing police.
Dozens were injured in the crash that occurred when the bus driver, carrying tourists from Niagara Falls to New York City, got distracted and lost control.
Some passengers were rescued while others were trapped inside the wreckage.
Emergency teams, including state and local police, ambulances, helicopters, and firefighters rushed to the accident site. New York State Police spokesman James O'Callaghan said the bus, driving at full speed, did not hit any other vehicles.
The passengers were not wearing seat belts, so some were thrown from the bus, which rolled over, and some others were stuck inside in the heavily damaged bus, CNN reported authorities as saying.
Several passengers, including

tourists from China and the Philippines, spoke little English, prompting the deployment of translators to assist with rescue and medical efforts.
State police said no children were killed. At least 30 people were taken to hospitals with injuries from critical to minor.
Dozens of vehicles were stuck on the busy interstate when both eastbound and westbound lanes were shut down to respond to the crash, to later be reopened.
The National Transportation Safety Board said it was sending a team to New York to investigate the crash.
New York State Governor Kathy Hochul said her team was coordinating with state police and local officials "who are working to rescue and provide assistance to everyone involved".
Blood and organ donor network Connect Life issued a call for blood donors to come forward in the wake of the crash.