

**MUSTREAD**

**Drugs, firearm discovered, 4 detained**

Kabul: Police during two separate operations have discovered 39 kg of illegal drugs and arrested four alleged drug smugglers in western Afghanistan's Nimroz province, provincial police spokesman Mawlawi Gul Mohammad Qudrat said Saturday. In the first operation, which was conducted on a road linking the provincial capital Zaranj to Dilaram district, police discovered 18 kg of opium poppy from a car and took into custody its owner, the official said. In the second operation launched in the same area, police found 21 kg of opium poppy, an assault rifle and bullets from a car and arrested three individuals who were attempting to take the contraband outside the province, the official said.

**2 killed, 7 injured as wall collapses**

Kabul: Two individuals lost their lives and seven others sustained injuries as the wall of a house under-construction collapsed in eastern Afghanistan's Nangarhar province on Friday, provincial government spokesman Ehsanullah Esmani said Saturday. The deadly incident took place in Chapharhar district, the official said. In Afghanistan, people usually construct mud houses, which are prone to collapse or damage in natural disasters such as rainstorms, earthquakes and gusty winds.

**NASA expels Chinese nationals over espionage fears**

Washington: NASA has announced new restrictions barring Chinese nationals holding US visas from accessing its facilities, research programs, and internal networks. The move highlights Washington's growing concerns over safeguarding America's space leadership as competition with Beijing intensifies, as reported by The Epoch Times. According to The Epoch Times, individuals of Chinese nationality who had been contributing to NASA projects as contractors or researchers were notified on September 5 that their access was terminated.

**Protesters in PoGB slam Pakistan's tax**

Gilgit, Pakistan: A major protest movement led by the Trade Action Committee continues to gain momentum across Pakistan-occupied Gilgit-Baltistan (PoGB), as citizens, traders, and youth demand the immediate declaration of the region as a tax-free zone, citing its disputed constitutional status and decades of economic neglect. In a video shared by Markhor Times on Facebook, the traders stated that the protest has entered its 55th day, with widespread support from various districts, including Astore, Skardu, Diamer, and Ghizer. The movement asserts that the imposition of taxes on PoGB is unconstitutional, referencing Article 1 of the Gilgit-Baltistan Order and United Nations resolutions that recognise the region as a disputed territory, not a constitutional part of Pakistan.

**Earthquake of magnitude 4.0 strikes Myanmar**

Naypyidaw, Myanmar: An earthquake of magnitude 4.0 struck Myanmar on Saturday, as reported by the National Centre for Seismology (NCS). According to the NCS, the earthquake occurred at a depth of 10 kilometres. "EQ of M: 4.0, On: 13/09/2025 11:09:51 IST, Lat: 25.65 N, Long: 97.08 E, Depth: 10 Km, Location: Myanmar."

**UAE sends 2500 tonnes of aid to support quake-affected people in Afghanistan**

Abu Dhabi: The UAE aid ship set sail heading to Gwadar Port in Pakistan, in preparation for transporting its cargo by land to Afghanistan to assist the Afghan people following the earthquake that struck the country recently. The ship carries 2,500 tonnes of food, shelter, and medical supplies, in implementation of the directives of President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. This comes as part of the UAE's relief bridge to support the friendly Afghan people following the earthquake that struck the eastern regions of the country.

**Nepal PM Karki fixes March 5, 2026 as date for next general elections**

Kathmandu (UNI)

Nepal's interim Prime Minister Sushila Karki, in her cabinet's first decision, has recommended the dissolution of the House of Representatives. PM Karki has also fixed March 5, 2026 as the date for the next parliamentary elections.

President Ramchandra Paudel has endorsed the recommendation to dissolve Parliament, and for holding of the next elections.

Karki took the oath of office as Prime Minister late Friday night.

She was appointed by President Paudel under Articles 61 (3) and (4) of the Constitution, which empower the Head of State to designate the interim government's leader.

The decision comes in the backdrop of the Gen-Z uprising of September 8-9, 2025, which triggered major political upheavals.



Former Chief Justice Karki was appointed Prime Minister on Friday, with the backing of the Gen Z representatives. She has been mandated to hold general elections within six months.

**Kashi was first political school for Sushila Karki**

Varanasi: Newly appointed Prime Minister of Nepal Sushila Karki completed her postgraduate studies in political science from Banaras Hindu University (BHU) in 1975. The neighbouring country is now moving towards peace. President Ramchandra Paudel administered the oath of office to Sushila Karki as the Prime Minister of the interim government last night.

Karki met Durga Prasad Subedi, prominent youth leader, while studying at BHU. According to former student union president Anil Srivastava, the newly appointed PM of Nepal often used to study for hours in the library.

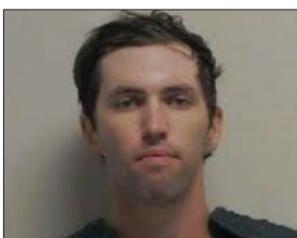
**Accused sniper jailed in Charlie Kirk killing awaits formal charges in Utah**

Agencies, Orem

The Utah trade school student jailed on suspicion of fatally shooting conservative activist Charlie Kirk faces formal charges next week, according to the governor, from an act of violence widely seen as a foreboding inflection point in U.S. politics.

Tyler Robinson, 22, was arrested on Thursday night after relatives and a family friend alerted authorities that he had implicated himself in the crime, Governor Spencer Cox said on Friday, opening a press conference with the words, "We got him."

The arrest capped a 33-hour manhunt for the lone suspect in Wednesday's killing, which President Donald Trump has called a "heinous assassi-



nation." Kirk, co-founder of the conservative student group Turning Point USA and a staunch Trump ally, was gunned down by a single rifle shot fired from a rooftop during an out-

door event attended by 3,000 people at Utah Valley University in Orem, about 40 miles south (65 km) of Salt Lake City. The sniper made his getaway in the ensuing pandemonium, captured in graphic detail in video clips that circulated widely on the internet and television news reports.

A bolt-action rifle believed to be the murder weapon was found nearby, and police released images from surveillance cameras showing a "person of interest" wearing dark clothing and sunglasses.

A break in the case came when a relative and a family friend alerted the local sheriff's office that he had "confessed to them or implied that he had committed" the murder, Cox said.

**Trump presses NATO nations to halt Russian oil purchases**

Agencies, Washington

U.S. President Donald Trump issued a letter to NATO nations on Saturday, urging them to stop buying Russian oil and impose major sanctions on Russia to end its war in Ukraine.

"I am ready to do major sanctions on Russia when all NATO nations have agreed, and started, to do the same thing, and when all NATO nations stop buying oil from Russia," he said in a social media post.

He proposed that NATO, as a group, place 50-100% tariffs on China to weaken its economic grip over Russia.

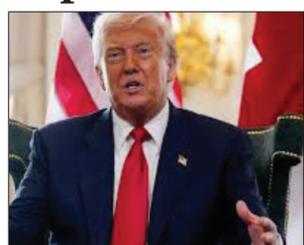
This follows Trump's earlier threats of sanctions on Moscow and secondary sanctions on countries buying its oil, such as top buyers

**97 killed, over 4.4 mln affected by floods in Pakistan's Punjab**

Islamabad: At least 97 people have been killed and more than 4.4 million others affected by recent floods in Pakistan's eastern Punjab province, the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has said. According to the PDMA on Friday, floods triggered by high water levels in the Ravi, Sutlej, and Chenab rivers have damaged over 4,500 villages across the province.

The authority said that so far, about 2.45 million people have been relocated to safer areas as part of ongoing rescue and relief operations.

A total of 396 relief camps have been established in affected districts, while around 1.9 million heads of livestock have also been evacuated, the PDMA said. Nationwide, seasonal rains and floods since June 26 have killed at least 956 people and injured more than 1,060 others, according to official statistics. Over 8,400 houses have been destroyed or damaged, and more than 6,500 livestock have perished across the country.



China and India, if no progress is made to end the war in Ukraine.

The president has imposed an additional 25% tariff on Indian goods, citing its continued imports of Russian oil, but has not taken similar action against China.

**Brazilian ex-president Bolsonaro's defence pledges to further appeal**

Sao Paulo: The defence team of former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro announced Thursday that it intends to file further appeals against the ruling sentencing him to 27 years and three months in prison.

The announcement followed a decision by four of five Supreme Federal Court justices to convict the former president of attempting a coup.

In a statement, attorneys Celso Vilardi and Paulo Amador da Cunha Bueno said they will pursue "all possible appeals, including internationally."

The attorneys argued the case should have been tried by a lower court or by the full Supreme Federal Court, not its First Panel. They also criticised the limited time allotted to review the evidence.

**Mossad 'refused' to carry out ground ops in Qatar, leading to IDF airstrike**

Jerusalem (UNI)

Israel's external intelligence wing Mossad had refused to carry out Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's planned ground operation to kill Hamas' leaders in Doha, fearing that the operation would doom hostage-ceasefire talks and damage the agency's ties with Qatar, according to Washington Post.

This was earlier affirmed by the organisation's chief David Barnea following the Tuesday strike, who was critical of the action — not so much for its objective — but rather its timing and location.

As such, the PM instructed the IDF to carry out the missile strike in Doha to eliminate the Hamas leadership, which has in turn led to widespread condemnation due to breach



of Qatar's territorial sovereignty and security.

The missile strike's success has also been questioned, with the IDF itself unsure of whether it even achieved its objective. Similar doubts were echoed by external observers, while Hamas claimed that its leaders were safe.

The success of the attack has now

become even more dubious, as Hamas announced that its Qatar-based leader Khalil al-Hayya performed funeral rites for his "martyred" son Hammam, effectively negating initial rumours that the terror group's chief was killed in the attack.

A security official told Israel's Channel 12 that majority of the security apparatus was against the attack for similar reasons, deeming it tactically invariable and rash, due to fears over the security of hostages.

"The position was clear — there is a deal for the return of the hostages on the table, and the negotiations should be exhausted. Everyone understood the consequences for the hostages and that an operation like this at the current time could harm this possibility," the official said.

**12 troops killed in terrorist attack in NW Pak**

Islamabad: Twelve troops were killed and four others injured when terrorists attacked a security forces' post in Pakistan's northwest South Waziristan district early Saturday morning, official sources said.

The incident took place at about 5 a.m. local time (0000 GMT) when terrorists opened fire on a block party of security forces, the sources told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The sources added that all of the injured personnel are in critical condition.

Security officials said that a local commander of the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) group is believed to be active in the area. However, no group has claimed responsibility for the attack yet.

The forces cordoned off the site and launched a search operation to trace the attackers.

**London police brace for large rival protests**



Agencies, London

London police will deploy extra officers on Saturday as right-wing, anti-immigrant protesters and opposing anti-racism demonstrators stage rival rallies, raising concerns over potential clashes.

A "Unite the Kingdom" march organised by anti-immigrant and anti-

Muslim activist Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, also known as Tommy Robinson, is due to meet near London's Waterloo Bridge before making its way to the southern end of Whitehall where a rally will take place.

A counter-protest, organised by "Stand Up To Racism", is due to gather at the other end of Whitehall, the main thoroughfare towards parliament.

The Unite the Kingdom march is expected to mourn Charlie Kirk, the American conservative activist shot dead on Wednesday as he gave a talk at a university in Utah.

It said more than 1,600 officers will be deployed across London on Saturday, including 500 brought in from other forces, as in addition to the marches there are high-profile soccer fixtures including West Ham versus Tottenham, concerts and other events.

**Sunni cleric killed in mosque in Iraq**

Baghdad: Sheikh Abdul Sattar al-Quraghuli, Imam of a mosque in Baghdad's southern Dora district, was killed on Friday inside the mosque, the Sunni Endowment, which oversees Sunni Muslim religious affairs in Iraq, said in a statement.

It noted that in coordination with security services, the perpetrators involved in the incident had been apprehended and will be brought to justice.

A source from the Iraqi Interior Ministry told Xinhua that al-Quraghuli was killed by a group of "radical worshippers" affiliated with an extremist religious group.

The source added that several individuals who surrounded and assaulted the cleric inside the mosque had been arrested by security forces.

**IDF intercepts cluster warhead-equipped ballistic missile from Yemen**



Tel Aviv/Sanna (UNI)

The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) on Saturday reportedly downed a ballistic missile from Yemen headed for Tel Aviv. The Sanna-based Houthis have taken responsibility for the attack and said that it was a cluster explosive equipped warhead directed at "sensitive targets" in the city.

The Israeli forces confirmed that the missile was successfully intercepted, reports Times of Israel. However, the military did not comment on the Houthi claim over the warhead being a cluster explosive.

There were no reports of injuries or damage, but the attack triggered sirens around 3:45 am (local time) in Tel Aviv and a large number of towns and communities in central Israel.

The Iran-backed Islamic hardline militia has fired several missiles equipped with cluster bomb warheads at Israel in recent weeks.

This has proven a significant challenge for the IDF's air defence, as cluster munitions even when successfully intercepted can release several small bombs which may either detonate immediately, or after an uncertain period of time.

**Russia-Ukraine peace talks going nowhere: Kremlin**

Moscow (UNI)

Russia-Ukraine peace talks are "more on pause" than they are active, the Kremlin said, in an acknowledgement that confirms what Ukraine has been warning for months — negotiations are faltering despite a push from US President Donald Trump.

"The channels of communication exist and are established; our negotiators are able to use them to communicate. However, at the moment, it's fair to say things are more on pause than active interaction," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters during a regular briefing call, reports CNN.

"It's important not to wear rose-tinted glasses or expect that the negotiation process will deliver lightning-fast results."

"I want to remind you of President Trump's own words: at first, he



thought it could be settled quickly, but later realized it would take more time," Peskov said, adding that Russia "remains committed to pursuing peaceful dialogue."

It comes as Ukraine has repeatedly warned that Russia is not genuinely interested in peace and accused Russian President Vladimir Putin of using negotiations to buy more time

for his economy and war effort.

Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Friday that "everything possible must be done to take money away from Russia's war machine," as he thanked the United Kingdom for a new sanctions package targeting Moscow's shadow fleet of oil

tankers and its military supply chains.

Japan also imposed further sanctions on Russian companies on Friday and joined the countries implementing a price cap on Russian oil, which aims to reduce the Kremlin's revenue.

**Ukrainian drones attack key Russian oil terminal on Baltic Sea**

Kiev: Drones launched by the Security Service of Ukraine (SSU) hit the port of Primorsk, Russia's largest oil terminal on the Baltic Sea, the Ukrinform news agency reported Friday.

The drones struck a vessel in the port and a pumping station, triggering a fire and temporarily halting oil shipments, it added.

Drones also struck several oil pumping stations to disrupt the main pipeline system that supplies crude oil to the Ust-Luga port terminal, said the report.

The SSU has launched coordinated drone attacks against Russia's oil industry, the report said, citing an informed source in the security agency.