

MUSTREAD

Four children killed as wall collapses inside Abu Fana monastery

Cairo: Four children died after a wall collapsed inside the ancient Coptic Orthodox Monastery of Saint Fana (Deir Abu Fana, also known as the Monastery of the Cross) in Egypt's Minya Governorate, Egyptian media reported. The accident occurred on Friday, when an interior wall of one of the buildings at the 4th-century monastery collapsed, the Al Masry Al Youm daily reported. Building blocks and large stones fell on visitors to the monastery, named after Saint Fana, a Coptic Christian hermit. Four children were killed and another two were taken to the hospital with injuries, the newspaper said on Friday.

Earthquake of magnitude 3.9 strikes Myanmar

Naypyidaw, Myanmar: An earthquake of magnitude 3.9 struck Myanmar on Saturday, a statement by the National Center for Seismology (NCS) said. The earthquake occurred at a depth of 85km. Earlier on Friday, an earthquake of magnitude 4.9 struck Myanmar. As per the NCS, the earthquake occurred at a depth of 96km.

FAA steps up drone restriction enforcement ahead of Super Bowl

Washington: The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has fined multiple drone operators and suspended or revoked pilot licenses in 2025 for unsafe and unauthorised operations, including flights near major sporting events, emergency response activities and in restricted airspace, an official statement said. Super Bowl LX, one of the major sporting events in the US, is set to be held on Sunday in Santa Clara, California. The FAA said such violations pose serious safety risks to other aircraft, first responders and the public, stressing that drone operators are responsible for understanding and complying with all applicable regulations.

Arab Parliament for Child prepares for Sharjah session

Sharjah: The Arab Parliament for the Child is preparing to receive its male and female members from across the Arab world in the Emirate of Sharjah, as part of its ongoing efforts to empower Arab children, amplify their voices, and involve them in shaping their future. The third session of the fourth term will be held from 8th to 15th February. Held under the theme "Cybersecurity: Towards Child-Friendly Content for Arab Children", the eight-day programme will include the official session of the Advisory Council on Saturday, 14th February, at the Consultative Council headquarters in Sharjah. This key session will address one of the most prominent contemporary challenges facing childhood in the digital age, with the aim of developing visions and recommendations that promote a safe and positive digital environment for Arab children. This session continues the pioneering role of the Arab Parliament for the Child as the first Arab parliament dedicated to children's rights and issues. It seeks to refine young leadership skills, strengthen the values of dialogue, and build a generation that is aware of national issues and capable of proposing solutions and creative initiatives.

Saqr Humanitarian Ship arrives at Al Arish Port

Al Arish, Egypt: The Saqr Humanitarian Ship has arrived at Al Arish Port in the Arab Republic of Egypt, carrying more than 4,000 tonnes of humanitarian aid and relief aid to support the brotherly people of the Gaza Strip. The shipment comes as part of the UAE's ongoing humanitarian efforts under Operation Chivalrous Knight 3. The aid cargo includes essential food supplies, shelter materials such as winter clothing and basic living necessities, as well as medicines, medical consumables and equipment. These supplies aim to alleviate the suffering of civilians and meet urgent humanitarian needs, particularly for children, women and the elderly.

Record-breaking tradition: NSCBICC wows crowd with Indian dance to welcome PM

Agencies, Kuala Lumpur

A spectacular display of Indian culture stole the spotlight in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday, as the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Indian Cultural Centre (NSCBICC) set a new record for the most performers in traditional Indian dance while welcoming Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a community event as part of his two-day visit to the Southeast Asian country.

The performance, part of the community programme in which PM Modi addressed the Indian diaspora, was certified by the Malaysia Book of Records.

Under the banner of the Indian Community Cultural Committee, around 800 dancers performed a single, continuous five-minute choreographed piece, showcasing a wide variety of Indian classical and folk dance forms.



The record attempt, titled "Largest Number of Dancers in a Single Choreographed Dance Representing a Wide Variety of Indian Classical and Folk Dance Forms Performed by the Indian Diaspora", took place at the MINES International Exhibition & Convention Centre (MIECC) in the presence of PM Modi and his Malaysian counterpart.

Commenting on the achievement, Malaysia Book of Records CEO Christopher Wong said, "to actually have 800 dancers perform Indi-

an classical dance is not easy to achieve. There is a lot of coordination and teamwork. Thanks to the musical director who put this together. The Malaysia Book of Records is very proud to certify this achievement."

Prime Minister Modi congratulated the performers during his address, saying, "we have just seen record-setting cultural performance. More than 800 dancers in perfect harmony. This performance will be remembered by our people for years to come. I congratulate you. I congratulate all the performers."

Taking to the social media platform X, PM Modi described it as "A grand celebration of Indian culture in Malaysia!"

A highlight of the community programme in Kuala Lumpur was a dance performance which has set a record in Malaysia.

US establishes "America First Arms Transfer Strategy" to boost domestic defense industry

Washington (UNI)

President Donald Trump signed an executive order on Friday establishing an "America First Arms Transfer Strategy," aiming to prioritize US interests in foreign military sales and expand domestic defense production.

To maintain US military dominance and technological superiority, the time has come to establish, implement, and execute an America First Arms Transfer Strategy, he said while stressing that this strategy will advance a technologically superior, ready, and resilient national security industrial enterprise. It will strengthen the United States defense industrial base to ensure it has the capacity to support US military and its allies and partners, especially as the country increase burden-sharing.



The order directs the Departments of War, State, and Commerce to coordinate efforts that will use US-made military equipment as both a foreign policy tool and a means to strengthen the nation's defense industrial base.

"American-manufactured mili-

tary equipment is the best in the world," the order states, adding that the strategy will ensure future arms transfers support domestic production, technological superiority, and national security.

The strategy sets deadlines for federal agencies to identify priority weapons and systems for foreign sales, develop industry engagement plans, and streamline export processes. It also calls for improved monitoring of foreign military use and coordination across agencies to reduce inefficiencies in arms transfers. A new task force, the Promoting American Military Sales Task Force, will oversee implementation, meet quarterly, and report performance metrics to improve transparency for both US industry and foreign partners.

Poland scrambles aircraft after reports of Russian aviation activity near Ukraine

Warsaw (UNI)

Poland scrambled military aircraft and placed air defence systems on high alert on Saturday following what it described as Russian long-range aviation activity linked to the war in Ukraine, the country's Armed Forces Operational Command said.

"Due to activity by Russian long-range aviation operating in connection with strikes carried out on targets in Ukraine, Polish and allied aircraft have begun operating in Polish airspace," the command said in a statement posted on X.

Ground-based air defence units and radar reconnaissance systems were also put on heightened readiness, the statement said, describing the steps as precautionary measures aimed at protecting areas near Poland's eastern border.

This comes as fierce fighting con-



tinues along the front line between Russian and Ukrainian forces despite freezing winter conditions, Ukraine's Commander-in-Chief Oleksandr Syrskii said, noting that the front line now stretches roughly 1,200 kilometres across eastern and southern Ukraine. Syrskii said advances in drone warfare have expanded the so-called "kill zone" on the battlefield to as much as 20 kilometres in depth.

White House removes Trump post with racist footage of Obamas

Washington (UNI)

The White House on Friday removed an election-conspiracy video shared by President Donald Trump on social media that included racist footage depicting former President Barack Obama and former first lady Michelle Obama as apes.

A White House official said a staffer "erroneously made the post," which has been taken down.

The statement came after serious backlash, including from GOP Sen. Tim Scott, the only Black Republican in the Senate, who called the post racist and said Trump should remove it.



"Praying it was fake because it's the most racist thing I've seen out of this White House. The President should remove it," the South Carolina Republican, who's also the chair of the Senate GOP campaign committee, wrote on X.

The White House had earlier defended the post and downplayed the response to the video, calling it "fake outrage."

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt had said earlier Friday that the footage was part of an "internet meme video" that depicted the president as "King of the Jungle" and Democrats as characters from the Lion King.

Trump renews Iran National Emergency, authorizes tariffs on countries doing business with Tehran

Washington (UNI)

US President Donald Trump signed an executive order renewing a national emergency over Iran and outlining a mechanism to impose tariffs on countries that do business with Tehran, the White House said on Friday.

The order allows the United States to levy additional duties on imports from nations that directly or indirectly purchase goods or services from Iran in an effort to protect American national security, foreign policy and economic interests. It does not set specific tariff levels but authorises officials to determine and adjust them based on changing circumstances.

The President may modify the Order if circumstances change, in re-



sponse to retaliation, or if Iran or an affected country takes significant steps to address the national emergency and align with the United States on national security, foreign policy, and economic matters.

The Order authorises the Secretary of State, Secretary of Commerce, and United States Trade Representative to take all necessary actions, in-

cluding issuing rules and guidance, to implement the tariff system and related measures.

The White House statement framed the move as part of a broader strategy to counter what it described as Iran's malign influence, including its pursuit of nuclear capabilities, support for terrorism, ballistic missile development, and regional destabilization, all of which threaten American security, our allies, and US interests.

The White House said, "As the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism, Iran provides support to proxy groups and militias across the Middle East, including organizations responsible for killing and wounding Americans and actively targeting U.S. forces, regional partners, and allies."

Qatar welcomes US-Iran negotiations hosted by Oman

Doha: Qatar on Friday welcomed the negotiations between the United States and the Islamic Republic of Iran being held in Oman, expressing hope that the talks would lead to a comprehensive agreement and contribute to regional security and stability. In a statement, Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said it hopes the negotiations in Muscat will "lead to a comprehensive agreement that achieves the interests of both parties and enhances security and stability in the region."

The ministry also expressed its full appreciation to the Sultanate of Oman for hosting and facilitating the negotiations, praising its role and good offices with sisterly and friendly countries to help defuse the crisis and expand opportunities for constructive dialogue to address outstanding issues.

Russia criticises US backout from New START, calls it 'regrettable'

Moscow/Washington (UNI)

Criticising the US for ignoring its proposal on the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START), Russia has decried the US position, calling it "regrettable" as uncertainty continues to loom over the future of nuclear arms control.

Speaking in Geneva, Russia's permanent representative to the United Nations and other international organisations, Gennady Gatilov, said that Moscow has received no official proposals from the White House regarding renewing negotiations to reduce nuclear arsenals.

He added that Russia remains open to political and diplomatic avenues to stabilise the strategic situation but will shape its approach



based on a "careful analysis" of US military policy, reports TASS.

Gatilov said Russia's advanced weapons systems, including Burevestnik and Poseidon, were designed to preserve strategic balance

with the US, not to undermine it.

Despite landmark arms control agreement nearing its expiration, and no formal successor in place, both sides, while appearing to rekindle talks continue to back down on doing so, due to widespread differences on their respective visions, concerning the future of nuclear arms reduction.

His comments came following President Donald Trump's refusal to support the agreement, who announcing Washington's position wrote on Truth Social that instead of preserving parts of the New START framework, Washington and Moscow should negotiate an entirely new nuclear arms reduction agreement.

B'desh NCP convenor reiterates anti-India rhetoric in election rally, says Dhaka not Delhi to decide on govt

Cox's Bazar (UNI)

Once again reiterating the group's anti-India rhetoric, the convenor of Bangladesh's youth-based National Citizen Party (NCP), Nahid Islam, said that the country's future course would be decided solely by the people, stressing that New Delhi's alleged hegemony will no longer work.

Making his remarks while addressing an election rally at Baraghop in Kutubdia, Cox's Bazar in support of a Jamaat-e-Islami candidate, Islam alleged that those involved in extortion, land grabbing and the rehabilitation of "fascists" after August 5 have emerged what he termed as new tyrants in the country, and called Feb 12 as the decisive day of resistance against the so-called evil forces.



The NCP convenor further stated that the 11-party alliance (of which it's a part of) is contesting the election in unity across the country to free Bangladesh from hegemony, fascism, corruption and looting. Addressing the rally, Jamaat

Nayeb-e-Ameer Syed Abdullah Mohammad Taher stressed the importance of a fair election to safeguard the nation, and warned against any form of ballot rigging or any planned conspiracies, claiming that such devious tactics would not be accepted by the people, reports Business Standard BD.

The Jamaat member further urged the Election Commission and the interim administration of Chief Advisor Md Yunus to ensure that the twin polls are conducted freely, and without partiality, calling the upcoming parliamentary election - a milestone in creation of a new Bangladesh; one which is based on democracy, protection of civil rights, egalitarianism, and a new constitutional approach to nation-building.

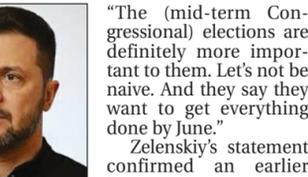
US wants Russia, Ukraine to end war by summer: Zelenskiy

Agencies, Kyiv

The United States wants Russia and Ukraine to find a solution on how to end the war, the largest since World War Two, before summer, President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said.

In remarks to reporters released by his office on Saturday, Zelenskiy said that Washington had proposed a new round of talks between Kyiv and Moscow to take place in Miami in a week and that Kyiv had agreed to that.

"The Americans are proposing that the parties end the war before the start of this summer, and will likely pressure the parties to adhere to this schedule," Zelenskiy said.



"The (mid-term Congressional) elections are definitely more important to them. Let's not be naive. And they say they want to get everything done by June."

Zelenskiy's statement confirmed an earlier Reuters report on the proposed timing for a deal. Ukraine had suggested a sequencing plan, Zelenskiy said, but provided no specific details. Ukraine and Russia concluded two days of US-brokered peace talks in Abu Dhabi this week without a major breakthrough but the two sides agreed to exchange 157 prisoners of war each, resuming such swaps after a five-month pause.