



\$5,23,000 worth of lottery tickets brought by thieves in France using a stolen bank card



Table with weather forecasts for various cities including Beijing, Colombo, Dhaka, Dubai, Houston, Istanbul, London, Los Angeles, Melbourne, Moscow, New York, Singapore, Toronto, and Washington.

Hamas frees 6 more Israeli hostages

Two of them held for about a decade after visiting Gaza individually

After mix-up, Bibas' body arrives in Israel

A body released by Palestinian militants overnight was confirmed to be Shiri Bibas, the Israeli mother whose two young sons also died in captivity, her family said.



People cheer as a military helicopter carrying newly released Israeli hostage Tal Shoham arrives in Petah Tikva in central Israel on Saturday | AFP



NUSEIRAT

PALESTINIAN militants freed six Israeli hostages on Saturday, with hundreds of Palestinian prisoners expected to be released in exchange under a fragile Gaza truce that is nearing the end of its first phase.

At a similar ceremony in Rafah, southern Gaza, militants handed over Tal Shoham, 40, and Avera Mengistu, 38, who both appeared dazed. Shoham was made to address the gathering, flanked by masked gunmen dressed all in black.

tory, the military said. Sayed, a Bedouin Muslim, and Mengistu, an Ethiopian Jew, had been held in Gaza for about a decade after they entered the territory individually.

Don sacks top US general in major Pentagon shake-up

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Donald Trump fired top US military officer General Charles "CQ" Brown on Friday, part of a major shake-up of the armed forces' leadership.



General Charles CQ Brown

Trump offered no explanation for Brown's dismissal less than two years into his four-year term as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, which followed sweeping layoffs of federal workers and moves to dismantle government institutions just a month into the president's second term.

Trump thanked Brown for "his over 40 years of service to our country" in a post on his Truth Social platform, describing him as "a fine gentleman and an outstanding leader."

perienced fighter pilot with more than 3,000 flight hours, 130 of them in combat -- recorded an emotional video about his personal experiences, including with discrimination in the US military. "I'm thinking about my Air Force career, where I was often the only African American in my squadron or as a senior officer, the only African American in the room," Brown said.

Kash Patel takes oath on Bhagavad Gita

WASHINGTON

KASH Patel took oath as the ninth director of the FBI on the Bhagavad Gita and spoke about how a first-generation Indian kid is living the American dream, reflecting on his heritage.



US attorney general Pam Bondi administers the oath of office to Kash Patel in Washington on Saturday | AFP

The US Senate voted 51 to 49 to confirm Patel on Thursday. Patel's family members and girlfriend were present during the oath ceremony on Friday. The oath ceremony was administered by US Attorney General Pam Bondi in the Indian Treaty Room in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building (EEOB) on the White House campus.

Indian kid who's about to lead the law enforcement community, the greatest nation on God's green earth. That can't happen anywhere else," Patel, 44, said. New York-born Patel has his roots in Gujarat. However, his parents are from East Africa - his mother is from Tanzania and his father is from Uganda. They came to the US from Canada in 1970.

Disinformation blizzard in Germany

LENS ON MOSCOW

Russia has been the main suspect, and the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) the main beneficiary, says Berlin. Security officials suspect the Kremlin-linked Storm-1516 network was behind some of the online campaigns.

Stories of a pre-election state of emergency, police escorts for toddlers and forged ballot papers—a blizzard of online disinformation has targeted German voters ahead of Sunday's election



VOTING IS ILLEGAL, WARNS POST ON SOCIAL MEDIA

- One recent false post claimed Chancellor Olaf Scholz had imposed a state of emergency so as to delay Sunday's elections. And a pro-AfD influencer wrongly claimed that President Frank-Walter Steinmeier had threatened "the annulment of the German elections". One post viewed 4,000 times on Telegram claimed that voting itself was illegal and encouraged readers to report people trying to vote.

EXPRESS READ

Violence meant to disrupt probe into high-profile cases: SL govt

COLOMBO: The Sri Lankan government said on Saturday that the recent killings in the country, including that of a prominent underworld figure, appear to be an attempt to undermine the ongoing investigations into high-profile criminal cases such as the 2019 Easter Sunday suicide bombings. The incident sent shockwaves across the country, leading to the opposition probing the government's measures to tackle the spate of violence.

Pope not out of danger, faces sepsis risk in pneumonia battle, docs say

ROME

THE Vatican carried on with its Holy Year celebrations without the pope Saturday, as Pope Francis battled pneumonia and a complex respiratory infection that doctors say remains touch-and-go and will keep him hospitalised for at least another week.



nia. As of Friday, there was no evidence of any sepsis, and Francis was responding to the various drugs he is taking, the pope's medical team said in their first in-depth update on the pope's condition. "He is not out of danger,"

said his personal physician, Dr Luigi Carbone. "So like all fragile patients I say they are always on the golden scale: In other words, it takes very little to become unbalanced." Francis, who has chronic lung disease, was admitted to Gemelli hospital on February 14 after a weeklong bout of bronchitis worsened. Doctors first diagnosed the complex viral, bacterial and fungal respiratory tract infection and then the onset of pneumonia in both lungs. They prescribed 'absolute rest' and a combination of cortisone and antibiotics, along with supplemental oxygen when he needs it.

South Sudan closes schools for two weeks as students collapse due to heat

JUBA

SOUTH Sudan closed all schools on Thursday for two weeks due to an extreme heat wave that has caused some students to collapse.

This is the second time the country "which faces extreme effects from climate change, including flooding during the rainy season" has closed schools during a heat wave in February and March.

Deputy Education Minister Martin Tako Moi said "an average of 12 students had been collapsing in Juba city every day". Most schools in South Sudan have makeshift structures made with iron sheets and do not have electricity that could power cooling systems.

Environment Minister Josephine Napwon Cosmos urged residents to stay indoors and drink water as temperatures were expected to rise as high as 42 degrees Celsius.

Napwon proposed that government employees "work in shifts" to avoid heat strokes.

Education workers have urged the government to consider amending the school calendar so that schools close in February and resume in April when the temperatures decline. Abraham Kuol Nyuon, the dean of the Graduate College at the University of Juba, told The Associated Press that the calendar should be localised based on the weather in the 10 states.



People fetch water inside a camp in Juba, South Sudan | AP

SINGAPORE

SHARP RISE IN ROAD CRASH FATALITIES

According to a report by Channel News Asia, Singapore saw a significant rise in road fatalities and injuries in 2024. Speeding emerged as a major factor, contributing to 33.1% of these fatal incidents, up from 24.4% the previous year. The total number of speeding violations also spiked by 64.8%, with over 1,90,000 cases recorded, the report said.

ASIA MATTERS

INDONESIA



THAILAND

100 SCAM CENTRE VICTIMS REPATRIATED Myanmar handed over more than 100 Chinese scam centre workers to be repatriated through Thailand on Saturday, the third batch in a major crackdown on the illegal operations. Live footage on Thai media outlet The Reporters showed people disembarking from two double-decker coaches and boarding a Southern China Airlines plane.

INDONESIA

CARRIAGE HORSES ENDURE HARSH LIVES

In a dark stable under a heaving highway in Indonesia's capital, trucks rumble past emaciated carriage horses tied to pillars in ramshackle wooden stalls, their ribs protruding. The steeds are used to pull traditional wooden carriages known as delman, once a staple of colonial-era transportation, but fading from view in Jakarta in an era dominated by ride-hailing apps. Now limited to just a few areas of the city, only several hundred delman horses remain. Animal rights activists say the conditions under which the horses are kept are so harsh the practice must end.

Advertisement for HDB Financial Services Ltd. and JM Financial Asset Reconstruction Company Limited. Includes details about name change and corporate identification numbers.

Advertisement for HDB Financial Services Ltd. regarding a corrigendum to an e-auction sale notice. Details include the date and time of the auction and the location.

Advertisement for JM Financial Asset Reconstruction Company Limited regarding an e-auction sale notice. Includes details about the property being auctioned and the terms of the sale.