



Twenty-six killed in Bangladesh as bus carrying them sinks in Padma river



GLOBAL WEATHER

Belling	21	1	SNY	Los Angeles	20	12	SNY
Colombo	28	24	SNY	Melbourne	26	15	LC
Dhaka	31	19	SNY	Moscow	4	2	SNY
Dubai	26	21	SNY	New York	7	2	SNY
Houston	31	19	TDS	Singapore	28	25	TDS
Istanbul	33	21	SNY	Toronto	1	-5	SNY
London	13	9	SNY	Washington	3	-2	SNY

KALABURAGI

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Gulf crisis deflects attention from Ukraine-Russia quagmire

KYIV

THE Iran war has deflected global attention from Russia's all-out invasion of its neighbour Ukraine as Europe's biggest conflict since World War II enters its fifth year and an emboldened Kremlin undertakes a spring offensive.

Russian forces are in an early phase of a spring offensive, assaulting Ukraine's eastern so-called Fortress Belt of cities, said Elina Beketova of the Center for European Policy Analysis, a Washington-based think tank.

"Over the past weeks, the Russians have intensified pressure on the battlefield and in the air," she told The Associated Press. In Ukraine's eastern Donbas region, Ukraine's industrial heartland long coveted by Russian President Vladimir Putin, the situation is "critical," she said, though Ukrainian troops say they are holding firm.

"Russia is trying, on the tactical level, some new approaches" with mechanized infantry and armor in its offensive, ac-



A Russian Pion self-propelled 203 mm cannon fires towards a Ukrainian position. The war has killed over 15,000 Ukrainians till date | AP

According to Robert Murrett, a retired vice admiral in the U.S. Navy, fierce fighting is taking place along the roughly 1,250-kilometer (750-mile) front line snaking along eastern and southern parts of Ukraine, the commander-in-chief of Ukraine's armed forces, Gen Oleksandr Syrskyi, said.

More than 15,000 Ukrainian civilians have been killed in the

war, according to the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine.

Months of US-mediated talks have produced no breakthrough who keeps Ukrainian territory and how to prevent future Russian invasions. Washington's peace efforts are largely on hold while the White House is "totally distracted by Iran," Murrett said. AP

Trump says war ahead of schedule, pushes Iran for a quick peace deal

EU accused Russia of providing intelligence support to Iranian forces

DUBAI

US President Donald Trump said Thursday that the Iran war was "extremely" ahead of schedule, as he pushed Tehran to make a deal at his first cabinet meeting since the conflict began nearly a month ago.

As Tehran publicly rebuffed negotiations, Trump again cited the original timeframe of four to six weeks that he gave early on in the joint US-Israeli military offensive.

"They're lousy fighters, but they're great negotiators, and they are begging to work out a deal," Trump said at the White House alongside top officials including Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth.

"We estimated it would take approximately four to six weeks to achieve our mission. Twenty-six days in we're extremely, really, a lot ahead of schedule," added Trump.

Trump has been saying for days that Iran wants to make a deal, amid growing signs he is seeking a quick end to the conflict. Iran, however, says there are no direct negotiations.

The US leader also launched a fresh attack on NATO allies after they rejected his appeals to send naval assets to secure the Strait of Hormuz, the oil chokepoint Iran has effectively closed in response to the US-Israeli attacks. "I'll say it publicly. We're very disappointed with NATO, because NATO has done absolutely nothing," Trump said.

The EU accused Russia of



A man removes rubble at his destroyed house that was hit in an Israeli airstrike in the southern port city of Tyre, Lebanon, on Thursday | AP

providing intelligence support to Iran in the Middle East war to "kill Americans", calling on the United States to increase pressure on Moscow. "We see that Russia is helping Iran with intelligence to target Americans, to kill Americans, and Russia is also supporting Iran now with the drones so that they can attack neighbouring countries and also US military bases," the European Union's top diplomat Kaja Kallas said.

Abdul Malik al-Houthi, leader of Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi movement, warned on Thursday of a "military response" should the Middle

East war require it. The Houthi, a key part of Iran's so-called "axis of resistance", have so far refrained from joining the war.

"As the people of Yemen, we repay loyalty with loyalty," the Houthi leader said. "Any development in the battle that requires a military response, we will promptly undertake it... just as we did in previous rounds."

The Kremlin denied a report it was close to completing a shipment of drones to Iran. "There are lies being spread by the media... Do not pay attention to them," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. AP

EU approves US trade deal, with safeguards

BRUSSELS

THE European Parliament voted Thursday to approve a trade deal between the European Union and the United States but with amendments added to protect European interests should the US fail to hold up its end of the bargain.

The deal was negotiated last July in Turnberry, Scotland, by Donald Trump and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. It set a 15% tariff on most goods in an effort to stave off far higher import duties on both sides that might have sent shock waves through economies around the globe.

New language now says that the deal can be suspended if it is determined that Washington "undermined the objectives of the deal, discriminated against EU economic operators, threatened member states' territorial integrity, foreign and defence

policies, or engaged in economic coercion." That clause was forged because of tensions over Greenland, said Bernd Lange, a German lawmaker and head of the EU's parliamentary trade committee.

Trump drew widespread condemnation across the 27-nation bloc by threatening to take control of Greenland, a semi-autonomous territory of Denmark. He has backed away from the threat, at least for now.

"If this would happen again, then immediately the tariffs would be installed," Lange said at a news conference after lawmakers voted. He said the protective modifications were "weatherproofing" the Turnberry deal.

The deal will now be further negotiated by EU trade representatives Maros Sefcovi and his US counterpart Jamieson Greer, who are meeting Friday in Yaounde, Cameroon. AP



In this photograph from last year, President Donald Trump and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen during a trade deal | AP



North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un and Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko in Pyongyang | AP

Lukashenko gifts automatic rifle to North Korea's Kim

SEOUL

BELARUSIAN President Alexander Lukashenko gifted Kim Jong Un an automatic rifle during his maiden visit to Pyongyang, joking that the North Korean leader may need it "in case enemies appear", state media said Thursday.

Both nations have aided Russia in its war in Ukraine, with Pyongyang dispatching ground troops and weapons and Minsk serving as a launchpad for the invasion in 2022.

The two leaders signed a "friendship and cooperation" treaty on Thursday after Kim gave a lavish welcome to Lukashenko, declaring the two countries were now "entering a new phase".

Video footage released by Belarusian state media showed Lukashenko presenting Kim with what appeared to be an automatic rifle, prompting Kim to respond with a mock reloading gesture and say "thank you".

"That's right," Lukashenko said, adding, "Just in case enemies appear," prompting Kim to laugh.

Both Belarus and North Korea have aligned themselves with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russia's Vladimir Putin to create a "multipolar world" and challenge Western hegemony.

Lukashenko said the world's major powers "ignore and violate the norms of international law", appearing to criticise the United States. Kim said North Korea opposes "illegitimate pressure on Belarus from the West". AP

Maduro arrives in NY court in drug trafficking trial

NEW YORK

FORMER Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has been brought into a New York courtroom as he seeks to have his drug trafficking indictment thrown out over a geopolitical dispute over legal fees.

Maduro's lawyer contends the U.S. is violating the deposed leader's constitutional rights by blocking Venezuelan government funds from being used to pay his legal costs. Thursday's hearing is the first time Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, have been in court since a January arraignment at which he protested their capture by US military forces and declared: "I am not guilty. I am a decent man, the constitutional president of my country." Flores has also pleaded not guilty.

Maduro and his wife are also accused of ordering kidnappings, beatings and murders of those who owed them drug money or undermined their trafficking operation. That included the killing of a drug boss in Caracas, the indict-



Demonstrators outside Manhattan federal court before a pre-trial hearing of Nicolas Maduro | AP

ment said. If convicted, they face life in prison. Both have remained jailed at a Brooklyn detention centre, and neither has asked to be released on bail. Judge Alvin Hellerstein has yet to set a trial date.

Before the hearing, groups of demonstrators gathered outside the courthouse to rally both in favor of and against Maduro. Among the anti-Maduro contingent, one person waved a sign reading "Maduro rot in prison." Nearby, "Free President Maduro" placards were ubiquitous. AP

ASIA MATTERS

REMOTE WORK FOR CIVIL SERVANTS

Civil servants will be allowed to work from home on a phased and selective basis as part of more flexible working arrangements being considered by the government to cushion the impact of rising oil prices, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said Thursday. Anwar also urged the private sector to adopt similar measures.

EXPRESS READ

In Kenya, 33 bodies exhumed from graves

NAIROBI: Authorities in western Kenya said Thursday they have exhumed at least 33 bodies from a mass grave, and the remains were believed to have been transferred there from a hospital morgue. Homicide detectives exhumed the remains of eight adults and 25 children as well as dismembered body parts packed in gunny sacks from a mass grave at a church-owned cemetery in the town of Kericho, according to authorities.

Two detained for hate crime get bail in UK

LONDON: British police said Thursday that two men arrested in connection with an arson attack that destroyed four ambulances owned by a Jewish charity have been released on bail as they continue to investigate the suspected antisemitic hate crime. The two British nationals, aged 45 and 47, were detained Wednesday on suspicion of arson with intent to endanger life, London's Metropolitan Police Service said.

Nepal's next PM urges unity in first post-poll rap

KATHMANDU

NEPAL'S newly elected members of parliament were sworn in Thursday with nearly two-thirds of them from a political party that is less than four years old.

Rapper-turned-politician Balendra Shah, set to be sworn in as the new prime minister, issued his first post-election message via a rap song on Thursday, urging unity. "The strength of unity is my national power," Shah, better known as Balen, sang in the track, which racked up tens of thou-



Balendra Shah, centre with sunglasses, arrives for a swearing-in of newly elected members at the Federal Parliament in Kathmandu, Nepal, Thursday | AP

sands of views within minutes of being released on social media and streaming sites.

"Undivided Nepal, this time, history is being made," the 35-year-old added, singing in Nepali. The sharply dressed Shah, who usually sports trademark dark sunglasses, has emerged as a symbol of youth-driven political change and will formally become premier on Friday.

"My heart is full of courage, my red blood is boiling; my brothers

stand with me, this time we will rise," he sang, over a video of him campaigning for election. 275 members of the House of Representatives, the powerful lower chamber of parliament, will be in their positions for the next five years.

His Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) won March 5 polls in a landslide, the first elections since a deadly youth-led uprising in September 2025. At least 77 people were killed in the anti-graft protests. AFP/AP

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SYED IBRAHIM S/O SYED TAHER resident of H.NO. 128 HAMILAPUR GADGI BIDAR-585402 KARNATAKA STATE, do here by change of my name from SAYED IBRAHIM to SYED IBRAHIM affidavit before Advocate and notary by Md. Munwer Taj Adv & Notary Bidar. Dated 26-03-2026 Bidar-585401 (K.S.)

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MATIN UNISSA W/O MOHAMMED AHMED resident of H.NO.7-5-129 NEAR CHANDA SHAH KAMAN INSIDE SHAH GUNI BIDAR-585401 KARNATAKA STATE, do here by change of my name from MATEEN UNISSA BEGUM to MATIN UNISSA Affidavit before Advocate and notary by Md. Munwer Taj Adv & Notary Bidar. Dated 26-03-2026 Bidar-585401 (K.S.)

MANAPPURAM FINANCE LTD. Registered Office: W-4/636A, Manappuram House, P.O. Vittalpur, Thrissur - 680 567, Kerala, India

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

The borrowers, in specific and the public, in general, are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted at the following branches on 16/04/2026 from 10.00 am onwards. The auction is of the gold ornaments of defaulted customers who have failed to make payment of their loan amount despite being notified by registered letters. Unauctioned items shall be auctioned on any other days without any further notice. Reserve price is fixed on the basis of market price of the gold on the date of auction or the 85% of the average 30 days IBA rate whichever is higher. Change in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at the auction centre and on the company website. The details given below are in the order of Branch Name, Loan Number, Customer Name, Total Due Amount (in ') & Item Name

List of pledges:-
RAICHUR, DEVADURGA, 0122280700057674, VEERESH, 31800/-, DROPS & STUD 1, 7722, DEEPIKA, 18000/-, STUD 1, 0122280730021002, MANJUNADHA, 34029/-, U-DROPS 1
Persons wishing to participate in the above auction shall comply with the following:- Interested Bidders should submit Rs. 10,000/- as EMD (refundable to unsuccessful bidders) by way of NEFT/RTGS on the same day of auction. Bidders should carry valid ID card/PAN card. For more details please contact 9072607147.

Authorised Officer For Manappuram Finance Ltd

AMBIT FINVEST PRIVATE LIMITED

Corporate Off: Kanakia Wall Street, 5th floor, A-506-510, Andheri-Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai-400093
DEMAND NOTICE Under The Provisions of The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("The Act") and The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ("The Rules")
The undersigned being the authorized officer of Ambit Finvest Private Limited under the Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) of the Act read with the Rule 3, issued Demand Notice(s) under Section 13(2) of the Act, calling upon the following borrower(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notice(s) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The undersigned reasonably believes that borrower(s) is/are avoiding the service of the demand notice(s), therefore the service of notice is being effected by affixation and publication as per Rules. The contents of demand notice(s) are extracted herein below:

Name of the Borrower(s)	Demand Notice Date & Amount
1. FEROUZUDDIN AHMED FAREEDUDDIN AHM	10.03.2026. Rs.25,93,573/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakh Ninety Three Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Three Only)
2. FAHEEM BEGUM MOHD ABDUL RAZZ Lan Nos. BDR000001012502	As On : 07.03.2026

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/PROPERTIES MORTGAGED
ALL PART AND PARCEL OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY RESIDENT HOUSE BEARING CMC NO. 18-4-38/39, (CONSTRUCTED OVER OPEN PLOTS NO. 38 & 39), ADMEASURING TOTALLY COVERED BY AN AREA 1370 SQ. FT., LOCATED IN LAND SURVEY NO. 123/1/A, SITUATED AT HAG COLONY, CHIDRI, DISTRICT BIDAR - 585403, BOUNDRIES ARE AS UNDER: EAST : 20' FEET WIDE ROAD WEST : PLOT NO. 40 NORTH : OTHER LAND SOUTH : PLOT NO. 37

The borrower(s) are hereby advised to comply with the demand notice(s) and to pay the demand amount mentioned therein and hereinabove within 60 days from the date of this publication together with applicable interest, additional interest, bounce charges, cost and expenses till the date of realization of payment. The borrower(s) may note that AFPL is a secured creditor and the loan facility availed by the Borrower(s) is a secured debt against the immovable property/properties being the secured asset(s) mortgaged by the borrower(s). In the event borrower(s) are failed to discharge their liabilities in full within the stipulated time, AFPL shall be entitled to exercise all the rights under Section 13(4) of the Act to take possession of the secured asset(s) including but not limited to transfer the same by way of sale or by invoking any other remedy available under the Act and the Rules thereunder and realize payment. AFPL is also empowered to ATTACH AND/OR SEAL the secured asset(s) before enforcing the right to sale or transfer. Subsequent to the Sale of the secured asset(s), AFPL also has a right to initiate separate legal proceedings to recover the balance dues, in case the value of the mortgaged properties is insufficient to cover the dues payable to the AFPL. This remedy is in addition and independent of all the other remedies available to AFPL under any other law. The attention of the borrower(s) is invited to Section 13(8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets and further to Section 13(13) of the Act, whereby the borrower(s) are restrained/prohibited from disposing of or dealing with the secured asset(s) or transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of business) any of the secured asset(s), without prior written consent of AFPL and non-compliance with the above is an offence punishable under Section 29 of the said Act. The copy of the demand notice is available with the undersigned and the borrower(s) may, if they so desire, can collect the same from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

Sd/- Anket More, Authorised Officer
Ambit Finvest Private Limited
Date: 27.03.2026, Place: Bidar, Karnataka