



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



GLOBAL WEATHER table with columns for location, temperature, and weather conditions.

MANGALURU

FRIDAY 27.03.2026

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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-



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

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 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 Houthis, 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. AFP

Gulf nations want to be part of peace talks

Dubai: Gulf countries said they wanted to be involved in any talks between the United States and Iran. "We emphasize the necessity of involving the GCC countries in any talks or agreements to resolve this crisis, in a way that contributes to strengthening their security and stability," GCC Secretary Jaseem AlBuda'wi said in a televised speech.

WTO: Worst trade disruption in 80 yrs

PARIS: The global trading system is experiencing the "worst disruptions in the past 80 years", World Trade Organization chief Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala warned Thursday at the opening of the WTO ministerial conference. "We cannot deny the scale of the problems confronting the world today," Okonjo-Iweala said.

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 Elena 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, according to Robert Murrett, a retired vice admiral in the US Navy. Fierce fighting is taking place along the roughly



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

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 Mis-

sion in Ukraine. Months of US-mediated talks have produced no breakthrough which 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



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

Maduro arrives in NY court in drug trafficking trial

NEW YORK

FORMER Venezuelan President Nicolás 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 indictment 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

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. AP

MESSAGE OF PEACE



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

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

"Undivided Nepali, 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 Raastriya 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

EXPRESS READ

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.

IN THE COURT OF PRINCIPAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT UDUPI

Between: Union Bank of India, Manipal Branch - Plaintiff And Mallika, D/o Bhaskar, residing at 5-54, Jodukatte Miyar, Karkala - 576107 Udipi District - Defendants

Before the Land Tribunal, Kapu

Between: Appi Poojarthy - Petitioner And Krishnadasa Mittanthaya - Respondent

ಮಾನ್ಯ ಓರಿಯಂಟ್ ಸ್ಟೂಡಿಯೋಸ್ (ಪಿ.ವಿ) ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ್‌ನಿಂದ ಸ್ವಯಂಚಾಲಿತವಾಗಿ ಪ್ರವರ್ಧಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಉಪವಿಳಾಸ (ಒ.ವಿ) ಅನುಬಂಧ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 39/2025

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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.

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

- CHANGE OF NAME: I, Sameera Sadiq (old name), wife of Ahmed Sadiq M., residing at Dandinapet, 2nd Block, Kushalnagar Town, Kushalnagar Taluk, Kodagu District, have changed my name as Dhanalakshmi M. (new name) for all purposes vide affidavit dated 02-03-2026 sworn before Notary Manjunatha S. K., Kushalnagar.