

Canva says issues in uploading images to platform resolved

Washington (News Desk) Canva, an online graphic design tool, said on Tuesday that issues in uploading images to the website were resolved after users faced disruptions in using the platform earlier today. As of early 2024, the platform — which offers free as well as paid premium subscriptions — had more than 170 million users, who use it to create social media content, presentations, and videos, among other material. According to Canvastatus.com, which shows real-time data on system performance, two issues were reported today. An initial post on the error at 9:54am (Pakistan time) read: "We are aware of an issue where users are unable to upload images and are currently investigating." In a subsequent update at 11:19am (Pakistan time), it said: "The issue affecting image uploads on Canva has been resolved." This screengrab from Canva shows an "Image not found" error displayed upon copying and pasting a picture.

20 arrested after Denmark protest against arms supply to Israel

COPENHAGEN: (News Desk) Danish police on Monday said they had arrested 20 people at a protest demanding maritime transport company Maersk to stop delivering military equipment to Israel. Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg was among the protesters who gathered at Maersk's headquarters in Copenhagen. Police used batons and tear gas to disperse several protesters, according to photos published by local media. "We are here to demand that Maersk must stop all the transportation of weapons and weapon components to Israel," Thunberg said in a video posted on social media. "They must terminate all contract and investment that supports the genocide and occupation of Palestine." Thunberg, the face of the "Fridays for Future" climate protest movement, has participated in several protests in support of Palestinians since the beginning of the conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza. Maersk said the cargo did not contain "weapons or ammunition". "These shipments contain military-related equipment and are derived from US policy under the US-Israeli security cooperation programme. The cargo has been screened and complies with applicable laws," Maersk said in a message. "We tried using dialogue to get the protesters to leave the area, it's a private area. And in the end, the dialogue stopped and then we had to use the necessary means to remove the protesters from the area," a police spokesperson said.

US shuns UN climate science meeting

PARIS: (News Desk) Tense negotiations on the timing and content of the UN's next blockbuster assessment of global warming science opened in China on Monday, with US scientists reportedly absent. The meeting in Hangzhou comes on the heels of the hottest year on record and rising alarm over the pace of warming. But it will be dominated by a battle over whether the next UN assessment will arrive in time for a crunch update on countries' progress in responding to climate change — with some leading emitters arguing against trying to meet that deadline. Donald Trump's withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Agreement on climate change will also cast a shadow, with media reports suggesting Washington will not send a delegation to the five-day meeting. The talks are supposed to agree whether the next landmark report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), set up in 1988 to inform policymakers, will arrive in time to inform a 2028 UN "stocktake" of responses to rising temperatures. Many wealthy countries and developing nations most exposed to climate impacts support an accelerated timetable for the three-part assessment covering physical science, climate impacts, and solutions for reducing greenhouse gas levels. But they face objections from some oil producers and major polluters with rising emissions, such as India and China. Opening the meeting, which will largely take place behind closed doors, top UN officials sought to inject urgency into proceedings. The Paris Agreement's goal of keeping temperature rises no more than 1.5 Celsius above pre-industrial levels "is still mathematically possible but of course we are pushing against that very limit," warned UN Environment Programme chief Inger Andersen. "Time is not on our side," she warned, urging "ambitious" outcomes from the talks. The High Ambition Coalition of European and climate-vulnerable countries says the 2028 stocktake should be informed by the IPCC's next report. "We owe it to everyone suffering the impacts of the climate crisis now, and to future generations, to make decisions about our planet's future on the basis of the best evidence and knowledge available to us," it said on Saturday. The UN's first stocktake, published in 2023, was a damning indictment of the lack of progress on tackling warming. In response, countries at the COP28 climate summit in Dubai issued a groundbreaking call for the world to move away from fossil fuels, albeit cushioned by concessions to oil and gas interests.



Rescuers search for missing workers after a bridge collapsed at an expressway construction site in Anseong on February 25

At least 4 dead in South Korea highway construction project collapse

Seoul (News Desk) At least four people died and six were injured on Tuesday after a collapse at a highway construction site in an area south of the South Korean capital, Seoul, fire authorities said. The accident took place at 9:49am (5:49am PKT) in Anseong, about 70 kilometres from Seoul, when five 50 metre (164 ft) concrete structures supporting the highway

bridge collapsed one after another after being hoisted into place by a crane, the Yonhap News Agency reported. Ko Kyung-man, an Anseong fire official, said that four people had died, including two Chinese nationals, and six were injured, including five who were in a critical condition. The five also included one Chinese citizen. "They were working to install a

deck on the bridge," Ko told a televised briefing. "All of the 10 were up on the deck ... and fell from both sides when it collapsed." Broadcaster YTN aired dramatic footage showing a deck of a towering bridge collapsing at the site. Rescue members search for missing workers after a bridge collapsed at an expressway construction site in Anseong on

Feb 25, 2025. — AFP/Rescue workers at the site were seen examining twisted metal struts and fractured concrete slabs below the columns of the highway bridge. Acting President Choi Sang-mok called to mobilise all available personnel and resources to rescue any missing people and to ensure safety measures to prevent further damage, his office said.

Europeans defeat US in UN dispute over Ukraine

UNITED NATIONS: (News Desk) The United States on Monday abstained in a United Nations vote on a resolution it drafted to mark the third anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine after the General Assembly agreed to add language supportive of Kyiv to Washington's text. The vote was a victory for European nations con-

cerned about US overtures to Russia by the administration of President Donald Trump in talks to end the war. The original US draft was three paragraphs — mourning the loss of life during the "Russia-Ukraine conflict", reiterating that the UN's main purpose is to maintain international peace and security and peacefully

settle disputes, and urging a swift end to the conflict and a lasting peace. But European amendments added references to the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by Russia and the need for a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in line with the founding UN Charter and reaffirmed the UN's support for Ukraine's sovereignty, independence, unity

and territorial integrity. "Multiple resolutions ... have demanded that Russia withdraw its forces from Ukraine. Those resolutions have failed to stop the war," Acting US Ambassador Dorothy Shea said before the vote. "What we need is a resolution, marking the commitment from all UN member states to bring a durable end to the war."



KYIV: Leaders from France, Sweden, Norway, Estonia, Canada, Lithuania, Finland, Ukraine, Latvia, the European Council, the European Commission, Denmark, Iceland, and Spain attend a conference held to mark three years of the Ukraine war, on Monday.

Bogus video of Trump and Musk briefly appears on screens at US govt office

Washington (News Desk) A computer-generated video of US President Donald Trump licking tech billionaire Elon Musk's toes briefly played on video screens at the office of US Department of Housing and Urban Development as staff returned to work on Monday. The bogus footage played

on a loop for several minutes throughout the department's Washington headquarters, according to Marisa Kabas, an independent journalist who posted a video of the incident to social media. She cited an agency source. Washington Post journalist Jeff Stein also said on social media that the de-

partment's televisions had been hijacked. Reuters was unable to establish the provenance of the video. "Another waste of taxpayer dollars and resources. Appropriate action will be taken for all involved," department spokesperson Kasey Lovett said in an email. Musk's re-

making of the American government, which he is carrying out through the so-called Department of Government Efficiency, is unpopular inside the civil service. A Reuters/IPSON poll published on Sunday shows that 42 per cent of the country supports the endeavour while 53pc oppose it.

Afghan govt says British couple in its custody

KABUL: (News Desk) Taliban authorities have detained two Britons, a Chinese-American and their Afghan translator, the interior ministry confirmed late Monday, after the daughter of the British couple called on London to secure their release. "Based on certain considerations, the authorities have detained four people: two British citizens holding Afghan papers, one person with Chinese and American nationality and their translator," Abdul Mateen Qani, spokesman for the Afghan Interior Ministry, said. "Efforts are underway to resolve this issue," he added. Qani spoke shortly after Sarah Entwistle, in an interview with British media, called for her government to do "everything in their power" to secure the release of her parents, Peter and Barbie Reynolds, who had been running training programmes in Afghanistan for years. British media had reported their arrest, along with a Chinese-American woman and their Afghan translator, on Feb 1 in the province of Bamian, a major tourist attraction west of Kabul known for its giant Buddhas.

Pitch invasion incident will not be repeated: PCB

Lahore (News Desk) The Pakistan Cricket Board on Tuesday said it had taken serious note of the security breach that occurred yesterday when a spectator entered the field of play during the ICC Champions Trophy match between New Zealand and Bangladesh. Pitch invasion incidents are common in cricket and other sports across the globe when overzealous fans enter the playing field to try and meet their favourite players in person. During the match in Rawalpindi, a fan entered the playing field and tried to hug New Zealand player Rachin Ravindra. He held a photograph of Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) chief Hafiz Saad Hussain Rizvi when he ran onto the pitch. "The PCB has taken serious note of the security breach that occurred yesterday when a spectator entered the field of play. Ensuring the safety of players and officials remains our top priority," the board said. "As a responsible organisation, we have engaged with local security agencies, who have committed to increasing security personnel around the field of play at all venues and strengthening access control measures," the statement said. "The individual involved was arrested and presented before a court of law today. In addition, he has been permanently banned from entering all cricket venues in Pakistan," it added. "To prevent such incidents in the future, the PCB is working closely with security agencies and venue authorities to review and reinforce security protocols," the statement concluded.

Australia, South Africa Champions Trophy clash abandoned

Lahore (News Desk) The Champions Trophy Group B fixture between Australia and South Africa in Rawalpindi was abandoned without a ball being bowled on Tuesday after persistent rain kept the players from the field. According to the International Cricket Council, the points were shared between the two sides as the exciting contest was called off, incessant weather ensuring the game was abandoned without a ball being bowled. The cut-off time for the start of a 20-overs-a-side contest is 7.02pm local time, ESPNcricInfo said, however, the continuous rain dashed any chance of the match happening. Earlier, Umpires Chris Gaffaney and Richard Kettleborough inspected the conditions under light drizzle before deciding to delay the toss, which had been scheduled for 1:30pm. South Africa top the pool on net run rate from Australia with both teams on three points after winning their opening fixtures against Afghanistan and England respectively.

Australia, South Africa look to maintain semi-final push

RAWALPINDI: (News Desk) It was a rush; there were practice sessions to be held at the Islamabad Club for both teams. South African skipper Temba Bavuma and Australian batter Alex Carey had come over to the Pindi Cricket Stadium for their news conferences and they quickly set off once they were done. Tuesday's fixture is the first Champions Trophy clash between two sides who are coming in having won their opening games. After their stunning victory against England at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium, where they chased down the highest score in the venue's history, Australia are enjoying "a good vibe around the group". "We're really excited for tomorrow," Carey told reporters on Monday. "It's a beautiful place to play cricket here. I think South Africa are playing really well and they look like they've got a great balance across their 11 players. It's another exciting opportunity for the Australian team." Australia might be shorn of their frontline pace attack due to injuries — a fact that Carey accepts — but they've shown their batters can provide the required runs. Australia's middle-order came to the fore against England in their chase of 352 to win with Carey hitting 69 and Josh Inglis starring with a century. "We've come into the tournament really confident that our bowling attack will still do a fantastic job without the big three [of Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood] and hopefully as a batting group we can score as many runs and make it easy for our bowlers," said Carey, who suggested Australia might need to score 400 if they bat first against South Africa. Bavuma, whose side eased past Afghanistan in the opener, shared similar views. "The wickets [here] are ones that are favourable towards batting," he said. "Batting second does seem to be the thing. It does seem to be a bit easier and a bit tough to defend. If we find ourselves on the other side of the coin toss where we are batting first, then we will have to do that extremely well." A victory for either side would put them on a better footing for the semi-finals and both aren't keen on letting the opportunity pass.

Merz warns it's 'five minutes to midnight for Europe'

BERLIN/JERUSALEM: (News Desk) Germany's election winner Friedrich Merz warned the United States on Monday against turning its back on allies but also urged Europeans to build up their own defence capabilities, saying it was now "five minutes to midnight for Europe". His comments underscored the turmoil engulfing the transatlantic alliance since the re-election of US President Donald Trump and fears he could strike a deal with Russia over Ukraine while Kyiv and Europe just watch

from the sidelines. Merz's conservatives are looking to quickly form a government after winning a national election on Sunday but face tricky coalition talks and the prospect of an obstructive parliament after far-right and far-left parties surged. Time is pressing for Europe's ailing largest economy. German businesses are demanding help to remain globally competitive, society is split over migration and the new government must also deal with a confrontation-

al Trump administration threatening tariffs as well as a hostile Russia and an assertive China. "And what we also see with the greatest concern, of course, is the attempt (by Trump) to make a deal with Russia on Ukraine over the heads of the Europeans, over the heads of Ukraine," Merz told a press conference. "It will come as no surprise to you when I say that this is unacceptable both for Ukraine and for Europe," Merz said, adding it would be difficult if those who put "America First"

actually made their motto "America Alone". His conservative bloc wants to ally with Olaf Scholz's Social Democrats (SPD), who came in third, after the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) surged to a historic second place. But Merz's bid for an alliance with the SPD comes after a bruising campaign that highlighted deep policy divisions, in particular over migration. The SPD, smarting from its worst post-war result, may set a high price for any deal. The AfD and the radical

Left Party jointly secured one third of seats in the new parliament, enough to block constitutional changes needed to loosen state borrowing limits — changes that some economists say are crucial to revive the flagging economy. Merz said on Monday he had invited Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to visit and would find a way for him to do so without being arrested under a warrant by the International Criminal Court. "I think it is a completely absurd idea that an Israeli prime min-

ister cannot visit the Federal Republic of Germany," Merz said at a press conference. Merz said he had told Netanyahu by phone "that we would find ways and means for him to visit Germany and leave again without being arrested". Netanyahu's office said the Israeli leader had congratulated Merz. It also said Merz had told Netanyahu he would invite him to Germany "in defiance of the scandalous International Criminal Court decision to label the prime minister a war criminal".