

‘Delete your data’: Genetic testing firm 23andMe files for bankruptcy

SAN FRANCISCO: (News Desk) Pioneering US genetic testing company 23and Me has filed for bankruptcy and is looking for a buyer two years after hackers gained access to millions of profiles.23andMe, which sells a mail-back saliva test to determine ancestry or certain health-related genetic traits for less than \$200, said late Sunday that it had “filed a voluntary petition for reorganisation” with a state bankruptcy court in Missouri. The announcement prompted warnings for 23andMe customers to ask the company to delete their data amid privacy fears. At its height a few years ago, the DNA testing craze saw millions of consumers rushing to discover their ancestry and health information with tests from 23andMe becoming popular holiday gifts.

Protesters clash with police over Indonesia military law

SURABAYA: (News Desk) A violent clash broke out on Monday in the Indonesian metropolis of Surabaya between police and demonstrators protesting against the country’s newly passed military law, journalists witnessed.

Around 1,000 students and activists dressed in black participated in the protest in front of an East Java government building. Holding posters that said “Reject the Military Law”, and “The Military Should Return to the Barracks”, protesters hurled rocks, sticks, and Molotov cocktails towards the police guarding the demonstration.

Police eventually used water cannons to disperse the protesters at around 7pm. “We received information that 25 people are being detained right now, but until now we are still unable to give legal assistance to them,” Fatkhul Khoir, a human rights activist from the Commission for the Disappeared and Victims of Violence, said.He said that some of the protesters taken to the police office looked bruised. The Indonesian parliament approved the amendment of the military law on Thursday, despite protests that it would expand the armed forces’ role in civilian affairs.The revision to the armed forces law, pushed mainly by President Prabowo Subianto’s coalition, was aimed at expanding the military’s role beyond defence in a country long influenced by its powerful armed forces.

Trump to impose sharp tariff on countries buying Venezuelan oil

WASHINGTON: (News Desk) US President Donald Trump announced on Monday steep tariffs on imports from countries buying oil and gas from Venezuela, a punitive measure that could hit China and India, among others, and sow fresh global trade uncertainty. Since returning to the White House in January Trump has unleashed tariffs on US allies and foes alike, attempting to strong-arm both economic and diplomatic policy via the mechanism.

“The latest across-the-board 25 per cent levies targeting buyers of Venezuelan oil will come into effect April 2”, Trump said on his Truth Social platform.

These could hit China and India in particular. Trump has dubbed the date “Liberation Day” for the world’s biggest economy, already promising reciprocal tariffs tailored to each trading partner in an effort to remedy practices that Washington deems unfair.

Migrants from the Latin American country targeted for deportation entitled to hearings, judge rules On Monday the White House said it might consider more targeted tariffs than expected. In his latest announcement involving Venezuela, the president cited “numerous reasons” for what he called a “secondary tariff.”He accused Venezuela of “purposefully and deceitfully” sending “undercover, tens of thousands of high level, and other, criminals” to the United States. He added in his post that “Venezuela has been very hostile to the United States and the Freedoms which we espouse.”

Under past rounds of US sanctions, Venezuela had been able to shift exports to major economies like China and India.Trump’s latest move adds to a range of tariffs he has already vowed would start on or around April 2. He previously promised sweeping sector-specific duties hitting imported automobiles, pharmaceuticals and semiconductors.

As things stand, however, his plans might become more targeted and affect certain trading partners more heavily. Sector-specific tariffs “may or may not happen April 2,” a White House official said on Monday, adding that the situation is “still fluid.”

“No final decisions have been made yet on sectoral tariffs being tacked onto reciprocal for April 2,” the official said. But the official reaffirmed that reciprocal tariffs would take place.

Appeals, not impeachments Venezuelan migrants targeted by the Trump administration for deportation under a little-used 18th-century law must be allowed to challenge the decision to remove them, a judge ruled on Monday in rejecting the government’s request to set aside a temporary ban on such deportations.



Palestinians react at the site of an Israeli strike, which according to medics, killed journalist Hossam Shabat, in the northern Gaza Strip on March 24, 2025

Egypt makes new proposal to restore Gaza truce

CAIRO: (News Desk) Egypt has floated a new proposal aimed at restoring the Gaza ceasefire deal, security sources said on Monday, as Palestinian health authorities said Israeli strikes had killed at least 65 people in the enclave in the past 24 hours. The proposal, made last week, follows an escalation in violence after Israel resumed air and ground

operations against Hamas on March 18, effectively ending a two-month period of relative calm after 15 months of war.Gaza health officials said Israeli airstrikes and shelling have killed nearly 700 Palestinians since then, including at least 400 women and children.Among those killed on Monday were two local journalists, Mohammad Mansour and Hussam Sha-

bat, medics said.Hamas said several of its senior political and security officials had also been killed. The Egyptian plan calls for Hamas to release five Israeli prisoners each week, with Israel implementing the second phase of the ceasefire after the first week, two security sources said.Both the US and Hamas have agreed to the proposal, the security sources said,

but Israel has not yet responded.The sources said the Egyptian proposal includes a timeline for a full Israeli military withdrawal from Gaza, backed by US guarantees, in exchange for the release of remaining prisoners.Education at riskSince Israel launched a major operation in the West Bank in January, the trip has become even more perilous.

White House mistakenly shares Yemen war plans with journalist

Washington(News Desk) Top Trump administration officials mistakenly disclosed war plans in a messaging group that included a journalist shortly before the US attacked Yemen’s Houthis, the White House said on Monday, following a first-hand account by The Atlantic.Democratic lawmakers swiftly blasted the misstep, saying it was a breach of US national secu-

riety and a violation of law that must be investigated by Congress.The Atlantic’s editor-in-chief Jeffrey Goldberg said in a report on Monday that he was unexpectedly invited on March 13 to an encrypted chat group on the Signal messaging app called the “Houthi PC small group”. In the group, national security adviser Mike Waltz tasked his deputy Alex

Wong with setting up a “tiger team” to coordinate US action against the Houthis. National Security Council spokesperson Brian Hughes said the chat group appeared to be authentic.US President Donald Trump launched an ongoing campaign of large-scale military strikes against Yemen’s Houthis on March 15 over the group’s attacks against Red Sea shipping,

and he warned Iran, the Houthis’ main backer, that it needed to immediately halt support for the group. Hours before those attacks started, Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth posted operational details about the plan in the messaging group, “including information about targets, weapons the US would be deploying, and attack sequencing”, Goldberg said.



Surabaya (Indonesia): A student kicks shields held by anti-riot police, who have arranged themselves into a defensive formation, during a protest on Monday against a revision to the armed forces law.

Greenland lambasts US as Trump talks of takeover

COPENHAGEN: (News Desk) Greenlandic leaders criticised a planned trip this week by a high-profile US delegation to the semi-autonomous Danish territory that President Donald Trump has suggested the United States should annex. The delegation, which will visit a US military base and watch a dog sled race, will be led by Usha Vance, wife

of Vice President JD Vance, and include White House National Security Adviser Mike Waltz and Energy Secretary Chris Wright. President Donald Trump on Monday said his administration was dealing with people in Greenland who wanted something to happen, referencing his repeated calls for the US to annex the semi-autonomous Danish territory.“I

think Greenland is going to be something that maybe is in our future,” Trump told reporters after a meeting with his cabinet.Greenland’s outgoing Prime Minister Mute Egede called the delegation’s visit, which runs from Thursday to Saturday, a “provocation” and said his caretaker government would not meet with it.“Until recently, we could trust the Americans,

who were our allies and friends, and with whom we enjoyed working closely,” Egede told local newspaper Sermitsiaq. “But that time is over.” The Greenlandic government, Naalakkersuisut, is currently in a caretaker phase following a March 11 parliamentary election won by the Democrats, a pro-business party that favours a slow approach.

First Black Republican congresswoman dies

WASHINGTON: (News Desk) Mia Love, the first Black Republican Congresswoman, has died after a three-year battle with brain cancer, her family wrote on social media. She was 49.

Love died on Sunday surrounded by her family. “With grateful hearts filled to overflowing for the profound influence of Mia on our lives, we want you to know that she passed away peacefully today,” the family wrote.Love was born Ludmya Bourdeau to Haitian immigrants on Dec 6, 1975 in New York City. After earning a degree in fine arts from the University of Hartford, she converted from Catholicism to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and moved to Utah.In college, she met Jason Love. The couple reconnected in Utah, married and had three daughters. She was elected to the city council in Saratoga Springs, Utah, in 2003 and then was elected mayor in 2009 as a proponent of smaller government during the recession of the late 2000s.

Bangladesh ex-captain Tamim Iqbal recovering after heart attack

Dhaka(News Desk) Former Bangladesh captain Tamim Iqbal regained consciousness and was speaking to family members after suffering a major heart attack during a domestic match, cricket officials told AFP on Tuesday. The 36-year-old was leading Mohammedan Sporting Club in a match of the 50-over Dhaka Premier Division Cricket League when he was rushed to a nearby hospital after severe chest pain on Monday.

“He is now better. He talked to his family members and also walked briefly at the hospital,” club official Tariqul Islam said.

Mohammedan physiotherapist Enamul Haque said Tamim was in a stable condition and would likely be transferred to another medical facility soon.

“We had to go to hospital quickly to save his life, and luckily we did that,” Enamul told AFP.

Tamim was in critical condition when he was rushed to hospital, Razeeb Hasan, the medical director at the facility where Tamim received treatment, told reporters on Monday.

He also said Tamim had to undergo surgery to implant stents to clear an artery blockage.

News of Tamim’s health crisis saw an outpouring of support from the cricketing world.

“Please pray that my brother Tamim recovers quickly and returns to the game!” long-time teammate Shakib Al Hasan wrote in a social media post.

Tamim’s heart attack came the same day as Shakib’s 38th birthday, but the all-rounder said he was unable to enjoy the occasion because of the news. Indian cricketer Yuvraj Singh likewise offered his “prayers and wishes”.

Pakistan embark on Asian Cup quest with Syria clash

AL AHSA (Saudi Arabia): (News Desk) When Stephen Constantine was appointed Pakistan’s head coach almost 18 months ago, he was clear in his mind that the target for his side should be realistically aiming to qualify for the 2027 AFC Asian Cup.A historic victory over Cambodia paved the way for Pakistan’s place in the third round of the Asian Cup qualifiers for the first time with Constantine and his charges opening their campaign in Group ‘E’ against much-fancied Syria on Tuesday. The group winner gets a spot at the tournament in Saudi Arabia with Myanmar and Afghanistan the other teams in the section.Pakistan face a tall order if they are to qualify for the Asian Cup and there has been little change to the dynamics of the sport in the country since Constantine first arrived.The Englishman had pleaded for a domestic league to begin in order to provide local players regular competition but once again, he will have players who have had little action on the pitch apart from training sessions with the foreign-based players arriving to bolster the squad.

Bangladesh court orders seizure of cricketer Shakib’s assets

Dhaka(News Desk) A Bangladeshi court ordered the seizure of cricketer Shakib Al Hasan’s assets in the latest legal headache for the sports star over his allegiance to the country’s former leader.

Shakib is a former lawmaker from the party of autocratic ex-leader Sheikh Hasina, who was overthrown in a student-led uprising last year and fled by helicopter to neighbouring India.

His links to Hasina made him a target of public anger and he was among dozens facing murder investigations for a deadly police crackdown on protesters during the uprising.

He has not been charged over those allegations but is currently being prosecuted on fraud charges for allegedly bouncing cheques totalling more than \$300,000. Shakib is a former lawmaker from the party of autocratic ex-leader Sheikh Hasina, who was overthrown by revolution and fled by helicopter to India in August 2024. Shakib was playing in a domestic Twenty20 cricket competition in Canada when Hasina’s government collapsed and has not returned to Bangladesh since.

The left-arm all-rounder has played 71 Tests, 247 One-day Internationals and 129 Twenty20s for Bangladesh, taking a combined 712 wickets.

However, he was left out of the 15-man squad for the ODI tournament in the Champions Trophy in Pakistan and Dubai next month. Najmul Hossain Shan-to will captain the side, with Bangladesh placed in Group ‘A’ alongside India, Pakistan and New Zealand. His links to Hasina made him a target of public anger and he was among dozens facing murder investigations for a deadly police crackdown on protesters during the uprising.

A magistrate in the capital Dhaka ordered the seizure on Monday after a warrant for Shakib’s arrest was issued by the court in January.

Shakib was playing in a domestic Twenty20 cricket competition in Canada when Hasina’s government collapsed and has not returned to Bangladesh since. The left-arm allrounder has played 71 Tests, 247 one-day internationals and 129 Twenty20s for Bangladesh, taking a combined 712 wickets.

Iran says open to indirect nuclear talks with US

TEHRAN: (News Desk) Iran said on Monday it was open to indirect talks with the United States, after President Donald Trump had demanded negotiations for a new nuclear deal.“The way is open for indirect negotiations,” Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said, dismissing the prospect of direct talks “until there is a change in the other side’s approach towards the Islamic republic.”The top Iranian diplomat said Tehran would not engage in direct talks with Washington under threats and

so long as Trump maintain his “maximum pressure” policy. Under that policy in his first term as president, reimposed crippling sanctions on Tehran.The deal, sealed in 2015 between Tehran and world powers, required Iran to limit its nuclear ambitions in exchange for sanctions relief. Western countries including the United States have long accused Iran of pursuing a nuclear weapon, which Tehran has denied, insisting its enrichment activities were solely for peaceful purposes.Bagh-

dad accuses Tehran of using forged Iraqi documents on oil tankersOn March 7, Trump said he had written to Iran’s supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei to call for nuclear negotiations and warn of possible military action if Tehran refused. The letter was delivered to Tehran on March 12 by UAE presidential adviser Anwar Gargash. On Friday Khamenei said US threats “will get them nowhere”, warning of reciprocal measures “if they do anything malign” against Iran. He has also

has dismissed Trump’s outreach for talks, accusing him of attempting to deceive global public opinion by portraying the United States as willing to negotiate and Iran as unwilling to engage.Araghchi on Thursday said Trump’s letter was “more of a threat”, but added that it could also open up some opportunities and that Tehran would respond soon. The Iranian top diplomat also said on Monday that “no one would even think of invading” Iran, “given that the country’s prepared-

ness is very high and at 100 per cent.” “This is because they are familiar with the consequences,” he added.US Middle East envoy Steven Witkoff, in an interview, said Trump’s goal was to avoid military conflict by building trust with Iran. He insisted the letter was not meant as a threat.Araghchi also said in an interview that “letters and correspondence make part of diplomacy” but they also can be a “part of pressure and threats.” “But the reality is that it can never be said that the path of di-

plomacy is over, because the alternative to diplomacy is war,” he added. Tehran and Washington cut diplomatic ties after Iran’s 1979 Islamic Revolution that toppled the Western-backed Shah. Since then, the Swiss embassy in Tehran has facilitated communications between the two nations. Gulf state Oman has also mediated indirect talks on Iran’s nuclear issue via the so-called “Muscat process”, which Araghchi had said in October was “halted for the time being.”