

US senator smashes record with 25-hour anti-Trump speech

Washington(News Desk) A Democratic US lawmaker, Senator Cory Booker, shattered a record for the longest speech in Senate history on Tuesday, staying on his feet for more than 25 hours to deliver a fiery protest against President Donald Trump’s “unconstitutional” actions. Booker’s display of endurance — to hold the floor he had to remain standing and could not even go to the bathroom — recalled the famous scene in Frank Capra’s 1939 film classic Mr. Smith Goes to Washington. The longest Senate speech on record before Tuesday was delivered by South Carolina’s Strom Thurmond, who filibustered for 24 hours and 18 minutes against the Civil Rights Act of 1957. Booker, only the fourth Black senator to be popularly elected to the body, blew past that deadline, his voice still strong but emotional as he topped out at 25 hours and five minutes.

More women come forward over ‘prolific’ Chinese rapist

Hongkong(News Desk) More than 20 women have come forward to say they may have been sexually assaulted by a Chinese student convicted last month of raping 10 women, London police said on Wednesday after an international appeal. According to a report published in 2024, Unicef estimates revealed that more than 370 million girls and women alive today experienced rape or sexual assault before the age of 18. Serial rapist Zhenhao Zou, 28, who is due to be sentenced in June, targeted young Chinese women whom he invited to his flat for drinks or to study before drug-ging and attacking them. He filmed some of the rapes with hidden or handheld cameras, his London trial was told. Of the 10 women cited in the trial, only two have been identified. After his March 5 conviction, London’s Met police said they had evidence to suggest he could have targeted more than 50 other women and urged possible victims to come forward.

Trump to escalate global trade tensions with new reciprocal tariffs on US trading partners

Washington(News Desk) US President Donald Trump was poised to impose sweeping new reciprocal tariffs on global trading partners on Wednesday, upending decades of rules-based trade, threatening cost increases and likely drawing retaliation from all sides. Details of Trump’s “Liberation Day” tariff plans were still being formulated and closely held ahead of a White House Rose Garden announcement ceremony scheduled for 4pm Eastern Time (1am PKT). The new duties are due to take effect immediately after Trump announces them, White House spokesperson Karoline Leavitt said on Tuesday, while a separate 25 per cent global tariff on auto imports will take effect on April 3. Trump for weeks has said his reciprocal tariff plans are a move to equalise generally lower US tariff rates with those charged by other countries and counteract their non-tariff barriers that disadvantage US exports. But the format of the duties was unclear amid reports that Trump was considering a 20pc universal tariff. A former Trump first-term trade official told Reuters that Trump was more likely to impose comprehensive tariff rates on individual countries at somewhat lower levels. The former official added that the number of countries facing these duties would likely exceed the approximately 15 countries that Treasury Secretary Scott Besent had previously said the administration was focused on due to their high trade surpluses with the US. Besent told Republican House of Representatives lawmakers on Tuesday that the reciprocal tariffs represent a “cap” of the highest US tariff level that countries will face and could go down if they meet the administration’s demands, according to Republican Representative Kevin Hern. Ryan Majerus, a former Commerce Department official, said that a universal tariff would be easier to implement given a constrained timeline and may generate more revenue, but individual reciprocal tariffs would be more tailored to countries’ unfair trade practices. “Either way, the impacts of today’s announcement will be significant across a wide range of industries,” said Majerus, a partner at the King and Spalding law firm. Stacking tariffs In just over 10 weeks since taking office, the Republican president has already imposed new 20pc duties on all imports from China over fentanyl and fully restored 25pc duties on steel and aluminum, extending these to nearly \$150 billion worth of downstream products. A month-long reprieve for most Canadian and Mexican goods from his 25pc fentanyl-related tariffs is also due to expire on Wednesday. Administration officials have said that all of Trump’s tariffs, including prior rates, are stacking, so a Mexican-built car previously charged 2.5pc to enter the US would be subject to both the fentanyl tariffs and the autos sectoral tariffs, for a 52.5pc tariff rate — plus any reciprocal tariff Trump may impose on Mexican goods.



A mourner reacts near the bodies of Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes, at Nasser hospital in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip on April 2, 2025

Russian strike on Ukraine leader’s home city kills four

Marinka(News Desk) A Russian ballistic missile strike killed at least four people and wounded nine others in Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s home city of Kryvyi Rig on Wednesday, authorities said. The strike followed an overnight drone barrage on the regions of Zaporizhzhia and Kharkiv, which killed one and

wounded a dozen others, according to officials. The head of Kryvyi Rig’s military administration, Oleksandr Vikul, said Russia attacked civilian infrastructure with a ballistic missile, sparking a large fire, and that a rescue operation was underway. An unverified social media video from the scene showed fire and smoke

rising from a damaged industrial building and debris lying around. “The death toll in Kryvyi Rig has risen to four,” Dnipropetrovsk regional governor Sergiy Lysak said. Among the wounded were a 29-year-old woman and men aged 35 and 41, he added. Russia and Ukraine have stepped up aerial attacks even as US President

Donald Trump pushes the Kremlin and Kyiv to agree to a ceasefire after more than three years of costly fighting. Earlier on Wednesday, a 45-year-old man was killed when a Russian strike hit cars parked outside a house in Zaporizhzhia, the head of the Ukrainian region’s military administration Ivan Federov said on Telegram.

US prosecutors to seek death penalty for Luigi Mangione, Bondi says

Washington(News Desk) US Attorney General Pamela Bondi directed federal prosecutors to seek the death penalty for Luigi Mangione, the man accused of shooting and killing Brian Thompson, the CEO of UnitedHealth Group’s insurance division, in New York last year. In a statement, Mangione’s lawyer Karen Friedman Agnifilo called the

decision to seek the death penalty “barbaric.” While claiming to protect against murder, the federal government moves to commit the pre-meditated, state-sponsored murder of Luigi,” Friedman Agnifilo said. Mangione, 26, has pleaded not guilty to New York state charges of murder as an act of terrorism and weapons offences. He could face life in prison without parole

if convicted in that case. New York does not have the death penalty for state charges. Mangione faces a parallel federal indictment in Manhattan federal court over Thompson’s killing, which is where Bondi said prosecutors will aim for the death penalty. He has not yet been asked to enter a plea to the federal charges. If Mangione is convicted

in the federal case, the jury would determine in a separate phase of the trial whether to recommend the death penalty. Any such recommendation must be unanimous, and the judge would be required to impose it. Thompson was shot dead on December 4 outside a Midtown Manhattan hotel, where the company was gathering for an investor conference.



Buddhist monks clear up rubble at the damaged Thahtay Kyaung Monastery in Mandalay on April 1, 2025, four days after a major earthquake struck central Myanmar.

Arrest of Netanyahu’s close aides over ‘Qatargate’ flares up political tension in Israel

Talabib(News Desk) Two long-serving aides of Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu were remanded in custody for three days after Israeli police arrested them for alleged unlawful ties between the senior aides and Qatar, a case that has become known as ‘QatarGate,’ CNN reported. Netanyahu testified

on Monday in the probe, which alleged payments from Qatar to some of his aides, an investigation he denounced as “politically motivated.” The two aides, Yonatan Urich and Eli Feldstein, were arrested earlier on Monday. The arrests ratchet up political tensions in the country, where the government is trying to fire

both the domestic security chief and attorney general, while expanding the power of politicians over the appointment of judges. The moves have reignited a protest movement in Israel, coinciding with the government’s resumption of fighting this month in the Gaza Strip. Feldstein had separately been arrested late

last year and released into house arrest on accusations of leaking a classified document related to hostage negotiations in Gaza to shift critical media coverage of the Israeli leader. “As soon as I was asked to testify, I said that I was free and that I wanted to testify immediately,” Netanyahu said in a video statement.

Singapore detains teenage boy allegedly planning to kill Muslims

Marina Bay (News Desk) A Singaporean teenager allegedly planning to kill dozens of Muslims outside several mosques has been detained, the city-state’s Internal Security Department said on Wednesday. The 17-year-old boy was detained in March, the ISD said in a statement, adding that he had regarded white supremacist Brenton Tarrant — who in 2019 had killed worshippers at mosques in New Zealand — as a “hero”. The ISD also said he had “identified as an ‘East Asian Supremacist’”, and had decided on five mosques across Singapore for his post-Friday prayer attacks. “This boy wanted to kill at least 100 Muslims, so that he can kill more Muslims than Tarrant had killed. He also wanted to live-stream his attacks,” Home Minister K Shanmugam told reporters.

Death toll in India firework factory blast rises to 21: officials

Uttar Pradesh(News Desk) An explosion at an illegal firecracker factory in western India left 21 people dead and several others injured on Tuesday, officials said. The fiery blast sent chunks of rock, metal and body parts flying far from the factory complex in the town of Deesa in Gujarat state. “There was a huge blast in the factory, causing the concrete roof to collapse,” government spokesman Rishikesh Patel told reporters, confirming many deaths and injuries. “The number of people killed in the incident at the firecracker unit now stands at 21,” police officer C. L. Solanki said. Top district government official Mihir Patel said that the “explosion was so powerful that body parts of some victims were found scattered in a farm 200-300 metres away.” The families of the victims lived on the factory premises, Patel said, which was operating without a licence. Authorities have launched a probe into the incident. Fireworks are hugely popular in India, particularly during the Hindu festival of Diwali, as well as for use during wedding celebrations.

Hay, Sears shine as hosts New Zealand beat Pakistan to win ODI series

Hamilton(News Desk) Mitchell Hay just missed out on a hundred before Ben Sears took five wickets as New Zealand beat Pakistan by 84 runs in their second one-day international in Hamilton on Wednesday to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series. Wicketkeeper-batsman Hay reignited New Zealand after a lull midway through their innings, smashing 22 runs in the final over bowled by Mohammad Wasim with two sixes and two fours to finish on 99 not out off 78 balls. It was the 24-year-old’s highest score, and his pyrotechnics later on guided New Zealand to 292-8, with Muhammad Abbas scoring 41, after the top-order batsmen all got good starts but failed to make significant scores. Pakistan then struggled in windy, overcast conditions during their innings and lost five wickets for 32 runs as pace bowlers Sears (5-59), Jacob Duffy (3-35) and Will O’Rourke (1-19) extracted plenty of bounce from the wicket. Haris Rauf walked off following a concussion check after he was hit on the helmet by O’Rourke with Pakistan seven down, but his replacement Naseem Shah frustrated the hosts by scoring 51 in the company of Faheem Ashraf, who made 73. New Zealand delivered the final blow through the impressive Sears, who had Naseem caught behind as Pakistan finished on 208 in 41.2 overs.

Israeli attack kills two police officers in central Gaza

Gaza(News Desk) The interior ministry in Gaza says an Israeli air raid in Deir el-Balah killed two officers and injured five others. The bombing comes days after suspected criminals killed a police officer in the same area. “As it mourns the police martyrs who were targeted by the Israeli occupation while carrying out their duty of ensuring security and serving citizens, the interior ministry stresses that the foals of the Israeli occupation overlap with the goal of troublemakers and outlaws,” the ministry said in a statement. Netanyahu says Israeli army ‘dissecting’ Gaza to retrieve hostages Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that the military is “dissecting” Gaza and “seizing territory” to retrieve hostages held in the Palestinian enclave, AFP reports. The military is “dissecting the (Gaza) Strip and increasing the pressure step by step so that (Hamas) will return our hostages”, Netanyahu said in a statement, adding that Israel “is seizing territory, striking terrorists, and destroying infrastructure”. UN rights council demands Israel ‘prevent genocide’ in Gaza The UN Human Rights Council has condemned Israel’s renewed offensive in Gaza and demanded the country uphold its responsibility to “prevent genocide” in the Palestinian territory, AFP reports. The United Nations’ top rights body overwhelmingly adopted a resolution putting forth a list of demands to Israel, including calling on it to “lift its illegal blockade” on Gaza. The text, adopted with 27 of the council’s 47 members voting in favour, four against and 16 abstaining, deplored “the violation by Israel of the ceasefire agreement”. The resolution, put forward by most members of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, demanded “unimpeded humanitarian assistance and the urgent restoration of basic necessities” to Gaza. It slammed “the use of starvation of civilians as a method of warfare”, and called on all countries “to take immediate action to prevent the continued forcible transfer of Palestinians within or from the Gaza Strip”. Today’s death toll in Gaza rises to 68 Medical sources tell Al Jazeera that Israeli attacks across the Gaza Strip have killed at least 68 people since dawn.

Myanmar quake victim rescued after 5 days as death toll rises to over 2,880

Mwyanmar(News Desk) Rescuers in Mandalay on Wednesday pulled a man alive from the rubble five days after Myanmar’s devastating earthquake, as calls grew for the junta to allow more aid in and halt attacks on rebels. The shallow 7.7-magnitude earthquake on Friday flattened buildings across Myanmar, killing more than 2,800 people and making thousands more homeless. Myanmar’s state television MRTV said the death toll

from last week’s earthquake has risen to 2,886. MRTV on Telegram also said 4,639 people were injured and 373 were missing, according to data as of Wednesday morning. Several leading armed groups fighting the government have suspended hostilities during the quake recovery, but junta chief Min Aung Hlaing said military operations would continue — despite international criticism of multiple reported air strikes.

UN agencies, rights groups and foreign governments have urged all sides in Myanmar’s civil war to stop fighting and focus on helping those affected by the quake, the biggest to hit the country in decades. Hopes of finding more survivors are fading, but there was a moment of joy on Wednesday as a man was pulled alive from the ruins of a hotel in the capital Naypyidaw. The 26-year-old hotel worker was extracted by

a joint Myanmar-Turkish team shortly after midnight, the fire service and junta said. Dazed and dusty but conscious, the man was pulled through a hole in the rubble and put on a stretcher, a video posted on Facebook by the Myanmar Fire Services Department showed. Call for peace With patchy communication and infrastructure delaying efforts to gather information and deliver aid, the full scale of the disaster has yet to become clear,

and the toll is likely to rise. The World Health Organisation (WHO) reported severe damage in the city of Sagaing, citing local rescuers saying one in three houses there have collapsed. Healthcare facilities, damaged by the quake and with limited capacity, are “overwhelmed by a large number of patients”, while supplies of food, water and medicine are running low, WHO said in an update. People queue for relief supplies after a strong earthquake

near the earthquake’s epicentre in Sagaing, Myanmar on March 31, 2025. — Reuters/Stringer Sagaing has seen some of the heaviest fighting in Myanmar’s civil war, and AFP journalists have not been able to reach the area. Relief groups say the overall quake response has been hindered by continued fighting between the junta and the complex patchwork of armed groups opposed to its rule, which began in a 2021 coup.