

Impeachment week in Seoul ends with chaos-free protests

Seoul(News Desk) IN contrast to the violent unrest that followed the Constitutional Court's 2017 removal of then-President Park Geun-hye — which left four people dead — the public response to Yoon Suk Yeol's ouster on Friday has been largely calm, with protests remaining peaceful and orderly.Aside from two isolated incidents Friday — a man in his 20s attempted to break a police bus window with a baton, and a reported self-immolation attempt near the presidential residence in Hannam-dong — the overall atmosphere at major rally sites in Seoul, including Anguk Station, Gwanghwamun and Hannam-dong, remained calm. No illegal protests or serious challenges to public order were reported.Protestors against and for Yoon's removal expressed their emotions, but other than the above two incidents no violence was reported on Friday.

Le Pen slams ‘witch-hunt’ at Paris rally

PARIS: (News Desk) France's far-right leader Marine Le Pen on Sunday vowed to pursue her presidential ambitions after she was found guilty of embezzlement and banned from standing for office, saying her party is the target of a “witch hunt”. Polls have made the National Rally (RN) party figurehead the frontrunner ahead of a presidential election in two years, and the court sentence has stunned France's political establishment.Le Pen spoke at one rally in central Paris six days after a court in the French capital found her and other RN officials guilty of embezzling European parliament funds to use them for domestic political duties.Her opponents backed the court's decision at rival events on Sunday. “If you steal, you pay,” former prime minister Gabriel Attal told his supporters. Le Pen, 56, was given a four-year jail term, with two years suspended, and banned from public office for five years.“I won't give up,” Le Pen told followers gathered in a Paris square with the golden dome of the Hotel National des Invalides in the background.

Over 50 countries contacted White House to start trade talks, says Trump’s adviser

WASHINGTON: (News Desk) More than 50 countries have reached out to the White House to begin trade talks, a top economic adviser to US President Donald Trump said on Sunday as US officials sought to defend sweeping new tariffs that have unleashed global turmoil.

During an interview on ABC News' ‘This Week,’ US National Economic Council Director Kevin Hassett denied that the tariffs were part of a strategy by Trump to crash financial markets to pressure the US Federal Reserve to cut interest rates.

He said there were would be no “political coercion” of the central bank.

In a Truth Social post on Friday, Trump shared a video that suggested his tariffs aimed to hammer the stock market on purpose in a bid to force lower interest rates. EU expected to approve targeted countermeasures on US imports

However, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent in a separate interview on NBC News's Meet the Press, downplayed the stock market drop and said there was “no reason” to anticipate a recession based on the tariffs. Trump jolted economies across the world after he announced broad tariffs on US imports on Wednesday, sparking fears of a globe trade war and recession as the EU may join Canada and China in imposing retaliatory tariffs on the US in an early escalation of what some fear will become a global trade war.

On Sunday morning talk shows, top Trump officials sought to portray the tariffs as a savvy repositioning of the US in the global trade order and the economic disruptions as a short-term fallout.

US stocks have tumbled by around 10pc in the two days since Trump announced a new global tariff regime.

Tariff-stunned markets face another week of potential tariff turmoil, with fallout from Trump's sweeping import levies keeping investors on edge after the worst week for US stocks since the onset of the Covid-19 crisis some five years ago.Hassett told ABC News' ‘This Week’ that Trump's tariffs had so far driven “more than 50” countries to contact the White House to begin trade talks. Unlike other economists, he said he did not expect a big hit to consumers because exporters were likely to lower prices.Also, Bessent downplayed chances for a recession based on the tariffs, citing stronger-than-anticipated US jobs growth. “We could see from the jobs number on Friday, that was well above expectations, that we are moving forward, so I see no reason that we have to price in a recession,” he reasoned.On the other hand, European Union countries seek to present a united front in the coming days in first strike back at Trump tariffs as the 27-nation bloc is set to face new 20pc US tariff from next week.The EU members are expected to approve a first set of targeted countermeasures on up to \$28 billion of US imports from dental floss to diamonds.Such a move would mean the EU joining China and Canada in imposing retaliatory tariffs on the United States in an early escalation of what some fear will become a global trade war.



A Palestinian stands amid the rubble of houses, in Gaza City, April 6, 2025

Israel changes its story on killing of Palestinian paramedics

JERUSALEM:(News Desk) The Israeli military has provided new details that changed its initial account of the killing of 15 emergency workers near the southern Gaza city of Rafah on March 23, but said investigators were still examining the evidence.Red Crescent and UN officials said that 15 of the 17 paramedics and emergency workers from the Red Crescent, the Civil

Emergency service and the UN were shot dead and buried in a shallow grave by Israeli troops on March 23.They said the paramedics were dispatched to respond to reports of injuries from Israeli air strikes. Bodies of the paramedics were found a week later by officials from the United Nations and the Palestinian Red Crescent. An emergency worker is still missing.

The Israeli military initially claimed that soldiers had opened fire on vehicles that approached their position “suspiciously” in the dark without lights or markings. It said they killed nine militants from Hamas and Islamic Jihad who were travelling in Palestinian Red Crescent vehicles.But video recovered from the mobile phone of one of the dead men and published by the

Palestinian Red Crescent showed emergency workers in their uniforms and clearly marked ambulances and fire trucks, with their lights on, being fired on by Israeli soldiers.The only known survivor of the incident, Palestinian Red Crescent paramedic Munther Abed, also said he had seen soldiers opening fire on clearly marked emergency response vehicles.

India sees no hit to projected growth from US tariffs; economists remain sceptical

Delhi(News Desk) India may still meet its 6.3 per cent to 6.8pc growth projection for the 2025/26 fiscal year that started on April 1 despite global disruptions from new US tariffs, if oil prices stay below \$70 per barrel, government officials said, even as many private economists lowered their forecasts.

Economists, including at Goldman Sachs, have

lowered India's growth estimates by 20-40 basis points to 6.1pc for the current 2025/26 financial year, citing the impact of the global tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump.

A 26pc tariff on Indian imports, with even higher levies on other countries like China, has escalated global trade tensions, with major stock indices plung-

ing in Asia on Monday. India's diamond industry, which ships more than a third of its exports to the US, is expected to be among the worst hit sectors, putting thousands of jobs at risk. Discussions are underway with ministries and exporters' associations to assess the fallout, the officials said.The Indian finance ministry has already

received four to five proposals from the commerce ministry to support export industries, including an extension of interest subsidy scheme, aid for diversification, and increased bank credit, a second official said.“We are still studying the impact of tariff hikes on the export sectors and the decision could be taken at the appropriate time,” the official said.



Firefighters extinguishing a fire in a residential building following an air strike in the Ukrainian city of Kupiansk, on Sunday.

UK finds Russian nuke sensors around the country

LONDON: (News Desk) The UK military has found Russian sensors in seas around the country that it believes were attempting to spy on its nuclear submarines, the Sunday Times reported.The Royal Navy found some devices planted on the sea bed while several washed ashore, the newspaper reported. Military and

intelligence chiefs believe they were planted to gather intelligence on the UK's four submarines that carry nuclear missiles.“There should be no doubt, there is a war raging in the Atlantic. This is a game of cat and mouse that has continued since the ending of the Cold War, and is now heating up again,” a senior UK military figure

told the paper.The newspaper's three-month investigation said it had discovered unmanned Russian vehicles “lurking next to deep-sea communications cables”. Macron calls for ‘strong action’ if Moscow continues to ‘refuse peace’The government also had “credible intelligence” that Russian oligarch-owned superyachts

may have been used to conduct underwater reconnaissance, said the report.France warningFrench President Emmanuel Macron on Sunday called for “strong action” if Russia continued “to refuse peace”, days after a Russian ballistic missile killed nine children in Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelenskyy's hometown.

Britain incensed by Israel’s detention of its lawmakers

LONDON: (News Desk) Britain's Foreign Secretary David Lammy said on Saturday it was “unacceptable” that Israel had detained two UK lawmakers and denied them entry.

Yuan Yang and Abtisam Mohamed, from the governing Labour Party, flew from London to Israel but were blocked from entering the country and deported, British media reported.

“It is unacceptable, counterproductive, and deeply concerning that two British MPs on a parliamentary delegation to Israel have been detained and refused entry by the Israeli authorities,” Lammy said in a statement. “I have made clear to my counterparts in the Israeli government that this is no way to treat British parliamentarians, and we have been in contact with both MPs tonight to offer our support,” Lammy said.

Afghanistan wants gradual repatriation under joint mechanism: spokesperson

Kabul(News Desk) Afghan officials on Sunday called on Pakistan to prepare a joint mechanism for the gradual repatriation of refugees, adding that forced deportation is in neither country's interests.The interior ministry, in a statement on March 7, had stated “All illegal foreigners and ACC holders are advised to leave the country voluntarily before 31 March 2025; thereafter, deportation will commence wef 1 April 2025”Mufti Abdul Mutalib Haqqani, spokesman for the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation, said that bringing the refugees back is official Afghan policy, but it should be under a joint mechanism with Pakistan so that refugees are returned gradually and with “honour”.“But if Pakistan unilaterally sends refugees, we are fully prepared to receive them,” the spokesman told the Taliban's Hurriyat Radio.“We have held meetings with Pakistani officials on the issue and are still in contact with them,” he added. “Our demand is that they (Afghan refugees) should not be forcibly deported, as deportation is not only against international laws but contrary to Islamic values and an act against good, neighbourly norms.

Number of journalists killed in Gaza rises to 210: govt office

Gaza(News Desk) The number of media personnel killed in Israeli attacks on Gaza since October 2023 has risen to 210 after the killing of journalist Helmi al-Faqawi, Al Jazeera reports, citing the Government Media Office.

Al-Faqawi was among at least two people killed when Israeli warplanes bombed a tent for journalists near a hospital in Khan Younis early on Monday. At least seven people were wounded in the attack.

In a report published on April 1, the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs said Israel's war on Gaza has been the deadliest for media workers ever recorded and that Israeli forces had killed 232 journalists since October 7, 2023.

That means more journalists have been killed in Gaza than in both world wars, the Vietnam War, the wars in Yugoslavia and the US war in Afghanistan combined. The French president will go tomorrow to El Arish, a town in northern Egypt some 50km (31 miles) from Gaza, where humanitarian aid is gathered, Al Jazeera quotes reporter Bernard Smith.

Before that, Macron will meet this afternoon with Jordan's King Abdullah II as well as with el-Sisi again to focus particularly on Gaza. The Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) has begun a news conference in el-Bireh, the occupied West Bank, Al Jazeera reports.

PRCS is demanding an independent investigation into Israel's killing of paramedics in Gaza.

‘Not a single grain of wheat’: Israel dismisses reports it will let aid into Gaza

Gaza(News Desk) The Israeli military has dismissed media reports saying the army would allow aid deliveries into the besieged Gaza Strip in response to international pressure and to avoid facing legal consequences, Al Jazeera reports.

“The army was working on a pilot project to distribute aid to the population while not delivering any to Hamas”, Al Jazeera quotes Yedioth Ahronoth, an Israeli daily mass market newspaper.

Israel's Finance Minister Smotrich dismissed the report, saying, “Not a single grain of wheat will enter the territory.”

Denying the media reports, the army said on X: “Following this morning's announcement about humanitarian aid, the [Israeli army] is acting in accordance with the directives of the political echelon ... Israel is not and will not transfer any aid to Hamas.” 10 British citizens accused of war crimes while fighting for Israel in Gaza

A war crimes complaint against 10 Britons who served with the Israeli military in Gaza is to be submitted to the Met police by Michael Mansfield, one of the UK's leading human rights lawyers, The Guardian reports.

Mansfield is among a group of lawyers who will hand in a 240-page dossier to Scotland Yard's war crimes unit alleging targeted killing of civilians and aid workers, including by sniper fire, and indiscriminate attacks on civilian areas, including hospitals.

According to The Guardian, the report — prepared by a team of UK lawyers and researchers in The Hague — also accuses suspects of coordinated attacks on protected sites, including historic monuments and religious sites, as well as of forced transfer and displacement of civilians.

Mansfield, who is known for his work on landmark cases such as the Grenfell Tower fire, Stephen Lawrence and the Birmingham Six, was quoted as saying: “British nationals are under a legal obligation not to collude with crimes committed in Palestine. No one is above the law.”

Sean Summerfield, a barrister at Doughty Street Chambers who helped compile the dossier, said it was based on open-source evidence and witness testimony, which together presented a “compelling” case.

Iran warns regional nations of retaliation in case of US strikes

Dubai: (News Desk) Iran is pushing back against US demands that it directly negotiate over its nuclear programme or be bombed, warning neighbours that host US bases that they could be in the firing line if involved, a senior Iranian official said. Although Iran has rejected US President Donald Trump's demand for direct talks, it wants to continue indirect negotiations through Oman, a longtime channel for messages between the rival states, said the official. “Indirect talks offer a

chance to evaluate Washington's seriousness about a political solution with Iran,” said the official. Although that path could be “rocky”, such talks could begin soon if US messaging supported it, the official said. Iran has issued notices to Iraq, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Türkiye and Bahrain that any support for a US attack on Iran, including the use of their air space or territory by US military during an attack, would be considered an act of hostility, the official said.

Tehran issues notices to Iraq, Kuwait, UAE, Qatar, Türkiye and Bahrain saying any support to US ‘would be considered an act of hostility’Such an act “will have severe consequences for them”, the official said, adding that Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei had placed Iran's armed forces on high alert. Warnings by Trump of military action against Iran have jangled already tense nerves across the region after open warfare in Gaza and Lebanon, military strikes on Yemen,

a change of leadership in Syria and Israeli-Iranian exchanges of fire.Worries of a wider regional conflagration have unsettled states around the Gulf, a body of water bordered on one side by Iran and on the other by US-allied Arab monarchies that carries a significant proportion of global oil supplies. Türkiye's Foreign Ministry said it was not aware of a warning but that such messages could be conveyed by other channels. On Wednesday, Iranian state media reported that Kuwait had reassured

Iran that it would not accept any aggressive action being directed at other countries from its soil. Iran's ally Russia said on Thursday that US threats of military strikes against the Islamic Republic were unacceptable and on Friday called for restraint. Iran is trying to gain more support from Russia, but is sceptical about Moscow's commitment to its ally, said a second Iranian official. This “depends on the dynamics” of the relationship between Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin, the

official said.Two-month windowTrump has said he would prefer a deal over Iran's nuclear programme to a military confrontation, and he said on March 7 he had written to Khamenei to suggest talks.The first Iranian official said a first round of indirect talks could involve Omani mediators shuttling between the Iranian and US delegations. Khamenei has authorised Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi or his deputy, Majid Takht-e Ravanchi, to attend any talks in Muscat.