

Nepal interim PM adds youth figures to cabinet

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal's Prime Minister Sushila Karki yesterday expanded her interim cabinet which was formed in the wake of youth-led uprising last month, inducting two ministers seen as popular among young people.

President Ram Chandra Paudel administered the oath of office to the new members of Karki's government: Youth and Sports Minister Bablu Gupta, and Sudha Sharma, who was made minister of health and population.

Gupta, 28, is known for his work with a volunteer organisation called 100's Group which supports underprivileged communities through food drives and education programmes.

Sharma, a doctor by profession, is also an author known for her leadership in maternal and child health policy.

Russian drone strikes hit Ukraine's Kyiv 3 killed, 31 hurt

REUTERS

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky called for new strong sanctions against Russia and its allies after Russian drones killed three and injured 31, including six children, in an overnight air attack on Kyiv.

The attack destroyed two high-rise apartment buildings and Kyiv's Mayor Vitali Klitschko said on the Telegram messaging app that seven of the injured, including two children, were taken to city hospitals.

Debris from destroyed Russian air weapons fell onto a nine-storey apartment building in Kyiv's leafy Desnianskyi district, sparking a fire that engulfed several storeys, the mayor said.

"Every Russian strike is an attempt to inflict as much damage as possible on ordinary life," Zelensky said on Telegram.

"Of course, additional tariff and sanctions restrictions are needed against Russia and all those helping it stay afloat," he said. Ukraine's state emergency service said 13 people were rescued from the building's upper floors.

Kyiv and its surrounding region were under air-raid alerts for about 11/2 hours before the air force called them off at around 0030 GMT.

ANTI-TARIFF TV AD Trump raises tariffs on Canada by 10pc in retaliation

REUTERS, Washington

US President Donald Trump said on Saturday he was increasing tariffs on Canada by an additional 10 percent "above what they're paying now," as he reacted again to an ad by Canada's Ontario province, a day after it was aired during the World Series broadcast.

Trump on Thursday ended trade talks with Ottawa over the tariff-related ad, which Trump said was misleading.

Trump announced the higher tariffs in a Truth Social post on Saturday referencing the ad, which features a video of former president Ronald Reagan, a Republican icon, saying that tariffs cause trade wars and economic disaster. The ad had already been running for some days before Trump first reacted to it on Thursday night.

Ontario Premier Doug Ford said on Friday that after discussions with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, Ontario would pause the US ad campaign on Monday so that trade talks could resume.

The advertisement aired Friday during the broadcast for Game 1 of Major League Baseball's World Series, in which the Toronto Blue Jays are facing off against the Los Angeles Dodgers.

"Their Advertisement was to be taken down, IMMEDIATELY, but they let it run last night during the World Series, knowing that it was a FRAUD," Trump posted.

"Because of their serious misrepresentation of the facts, and hostile act, I am increasing the Tariff on Canada by 10 percent over and above what they are paying now," he wrote.



Malaysia's Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim and leaders of other Asean member states walk on stage at the 47th Asean Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

CENTRAL GAZA Israeli forces conduct 'targeted strike'

One Palestinian killed, four hurt; tanks shell eastern areas of Gaza City

AGENCIES

Israeli forces carried out a "targeted strike" on an individual in central Gaza who was planning to attack Israeli troops, Israel's military said earlier yesterday.

A US-backed ceasefire is in force between Israel and the Palestinian group Hamas just over two years since the war in the Gaza Strip began, but each side has accused the other of violations.

Israel said it had targeted a member of Islamic Jihad. Yesterday, the Palestinian group said in a statement that the Israeli

- Palestinian group denies allegation of planning to attack Israeli troops
- Israel insists it calls shots in Gaza despite truce
- Israel allows Egyptian officials into Gaza to help locate the bodies of hostages

military's claim of a planned attack by the group was a "mere fallacious allegation".

At least one Palestinian has been killed. It did not say whether



one of its members was killed in the Israeli strike.

Witnesses told Reuters they had seen a drone strike a car and set it ablaze. Local medics said four people had been wounded, but there were no immediate reports of deaths, reports Reuters.

Witnesses said separately that Israeli tanks had shelled eastern areas of Gaza City, the Gaza Strip's biggest urban area. The Israeli military did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Several Israeli media sites said Israel, in a reversal of a policy of barring entry to foreign forces, had allowed Egyptian officials into the Gaza Strip to help locate the bodies of hostages taken captive in the Hamas-led attack on Israeli communities on October 7, 2023,

that triggered the war.

As part of the ceasefire agreement, Hamas has said it will return all the hostages it abducted, but the remains of 13 are still in the enclave.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said US officials are getting input on a possible UN resolution or international agreement to authorise a multinational force in Gaza and were set to discuss the issue in Qatar yesterday.

However, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday that Israel alone would decide which countries it would allow to join a planned international security force in Gaza.

He also said Israel does not need approval to strike foes.

India, China resume direct flights as ties improve

AFP, Kolkata

India and China resumed direct flights yesterday after a five-year suspension, a move important both for trade and a symbolic step as Asia's giants cautiously rebuild relations.

The neighbours -- the world's two most populous nations -- remain strategic rivals competing for regional influence, but ties have eased gradually since a deadly Himalayan border clash in 2020.

India's government said the resumption of flights will boost "people-to-people contact" and aid the "gradual normalisation of bilateral exchanges".

Warming relations with Beijing come as India's ties with key trade partner Washington struggle, following US President Donald Trump's order of punishing 50 percent tariffs. Trump's aides have accused India of fuelling Russia's war in Ukraine by buying Moscow's oil.

India's carrier, IndiGo, operated the first daily flight to mainland China, departing Kolkata at 10:00 pm (1630 GMT) yesterday for Guangzhou. There are already regular flights between India and Hong Kong, while additional services from New Delhi to Shanghai and Guangzhou will begin in November.

Pakistan reports border clashes during talks with Afghanistan

REUTERS, Karachi

Five Pakistani soldiers and 25 militants have died in clashes near the border with Afghanistan, the military said yesterday, as delegations from both countries met to try to defuse tensions after the deadliest fighting in years.

The militants tried to cross over from Afghanistan on Friday and Saturday in Kurram and North Waziristan districts, rugged areas along Pakistan's northwestern frontier, the Pakistani military's media wing said.

It said the attempted infiltrations cast doubt on the intentions of the government in Afghanistan in "regards to addressing the issue of terrorism emanating from its soil".

In Afghanistan, the Taliban government's chief spokesman and the defence ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the reported attacks. The Taliban denies accusations of sheltering militants and says Pakistan's military operations violate Afghan sovereignty.

Officials from both countries are meeting in Istanbul to prevent a relapse into conflict after clashes between their armies earlier this month.

That fighting erupted after Pakistan demanded the Taliban rein in militants it says operate from Afghan sanctuaries, prompting heavy exchanges of fire and Pakistani airstrikes. Both sides reached a truce in Doha last Sunday.

Trump headlines Asean summit Oversees trade deals, Thailand-Cambodia ceasefire

REUTERS, Kualalumpur

The leaders of Thailand and Cambodia signed an expanded ceasefire deal yesterday watched over by US President Donald Trump, who landed in Malaysia for the Asean Summit and to oversee a series of pivotal trade talks.

Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul and his Cambodian counterpart Hun Manet signed the agreement at a ceasefire ceremony in front of a backdrop covered in US insignia and the words "Delivering Peace", building on a truce signed three months ago.

"This declaration, if fully implemented, will provide the building blocks for a lasting peace, but more importantly, it will begin the process of mending our ties," Hun Manet said.

"Our border communities have been divided by conflict, and innocent civilians have suffered immense losses."

Trump helped broker an end to the five-day conflict in July by calling the then-leaders of the two countries and urging them to end hostilities, their worst fighting in recent history, or risk their respective trade talks with Washington being put on hold.

"The United States will have a robust commerce and cooperation, transactions, lots of them, with both nations, as long as they live in peace," Trump said.

On arriving in Malaysia, Trump was greeted by Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim and a troupe of ceremonial dancers at Kuala Lumpur International Airport.



Federal agents detain a man in a parking lot in Chicago's Avondale neighbourhood following a confrontation during immigration raids. The incident occurred after US President Donald Trump ordered increased federal law enforcement presence to assist in crime prevention, in Chicago, Illinois, US on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

LOUVRE MUSEUM Two suspects arrested in jewel heist

AFP, Paris

French authorities have detained two of the suspected robbers believed to have stolen precious crown jewels from the Louvre in a museum heist that stunned the world, officials said yesterday.

A swarm of investigators had been mobilised to track down the thieves who robbed the world-renowned museum in broad daylight on October 19, making off with jewellery worth an estimated \$102 million in just a few minutes.

Paris prosecutor Laure Beccuaud said they had "carried out arrests on Saturday evening".

"One of the men arrested was about to leave the country" from Paris-Charles de Gaulle airport, Beccuaud said.

A source close to the case told AFP the man was about to board a plane for Algeria.