



ROCKET FIRING CONTINUES

Ukraine
A Russian TOS-1A multiple rocket launcher fires toward Ukrainian positions from an undisclosed location in Ukraine. The TOS-1A, a heavy flamethrower system mounted on a tracked chassis, launches thermobaric rockets as fighting continues amid the ongoing conflict.

PTI



Prez Trump looks to rebuild critical mineral supply chains

They are needed for everything from jet engines to smartphones

WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump's administration is expected to unveil its grandest plan yet to rebuild supply chains of critical minerals needed for everything from jet engines to smartphones, likely through purchase agreements with partners on top of creating a USD 12 billion US strategic reserve to help counter China's dominance. Vice President JD Vance is set to deliver a keynote address Wednesday at a meeting that Secretary of State Marco Rubio is hosting with officials from several dozen European, Asian and African na-



tions. The US is expected to sign deals on supply chain logistics, though details have not been revealed. Rubio met Tuesday with foreign ministers from South Korea and India to discuss critical minerals mining and processing. The meeting and expected agreements will come just two days after Trump announced Project Vault, or a stockpile of critical minerals to be funded with a USD 10 billion loan from the US Export-Import Bank and nearly USD 1.67 billion in private capital.

Countering dominance on critical minerals

- Other countries might join with the Trump administration in buying up critical minerals and taking other steps to spur industry development because the trade war revealed how vulnerable Western countries are to China, said Pini Althaus, who founded Oklahoma rare earth miner USA Rare Earth in 2019.
- "They're looking at setting up sort of a buyers' club, if you will," said Althaus, who now is working to develop new mines in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan as CEO of Cove Capital.

The stockpile strategy

- Meanwhile, the US Export-Import Bank's board this week approved the USD 10 billion loan - the largest in its history - to help finance the setup of the US Strategic Critical Minerals Reserve.
- It is tasked with ensuring access to critical minerals and related products for manufacturers, including battery maker Clarios, energy equipment manufacturer GE Vernova, digital storage company Western Digital and aerospace giant Boeing, according to the policy bank.

Nepal deploys army to bolster security

Nepal on Wednesday started deploying thousands of army troops across the country to bolster security for the next month's general elections - the first since last year's deadly Gen-Z protests that toppled the K P Sharma Oli-led coalition government. The troops have been mobilised with a view to conducting the elections in a free, fair and fearless environment.

87

killed in unexploded ordnance incidents in Afghanistan over past year

87 people were killed in 193 incidents involving unexploded ordnance in Afghanistan over the past year, the ANDMA said the local media reported. ANDMA Information Department Head Hafiz Mohammad Yousof Hamad said that the Mine Clearance Coordination Department and demining organisations cleared 58 kilometres of land of unexploded ordnance in 2025 and found and neutralised 24,720 mines, Pajhwok Afghan News reported.



AROUND THE WORLD

NEW YORK

Indian national convicted for sexual assault in flight

An Indian national has been convicted on charges of abusive sexual contact and assault onboard a flight. Varun Arora, 38 is present in the United States without lawful status. He faces up to two years in prison when sentenced in May. According to court records and evidence presented at trial, in August 2024, during final approach on a flight from Rhode Island international airport to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, a passenger awoke to find Arora sexually groping her. Arora, who was wearing a sleep mask, pretended to be asleep as he continued to place his hand on the victim despite her repeatedly removing his hand. PTI

SINGAPORE

Indian national charged for falsifying invoices

An Indian national in Singapore on Wednesday was charged for multiple offences, including allegedly asking his staff to falsify company invoices claiming they had offered services worth millions of dollars to the health ministry, according to a media report. Rajput Kuldeep Singh Vithal Singh, the former chief executive of healthcare start-up Biofourmis Holdings, was handed seven charges in a district court. The charges include three counts of abetting the falsification of accounts, three charges of fraud by false representation or abetment of the offence, and one count of forgery for cheating, The Straits Times reported. Singh, 34, was also the former director of the company, it said. PTI

PAKISTAN

Pakistan, Kazakhstan aim to increase bilateral trade

Pakistan and Kazakhstan on Wednesday signed 37 MoUs and agreements across various sectors as they aim to increase bilateral trade to USD 1 billion over the next year during Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev's two-day visit to the country. The two sides also signed a joint declaration for the establishment of a strategic partnership between the two countries. The developments came during the meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Kazakhstan President Tokayev. The memorandums of understanding (MoUs) and agreements are related to petroleum, mining and geo-sciences. PTI



Direct bus launched between Nepal & India

KATHMANDU

A direct bus service connecting Nepal's Beni Municipality with India's capital New Delhi was launched on Wednesday to facilitate pilgrims travelling to the famous Hindu and Buddhist shrine of Muktinath in the Himalayan nation, officials said. Beni is the gateway of Muktinath, an ancient Vishnu temple located in the Mustang district of Gandaki province. The temple of Muktinath, known as 'the lord of liberation', is sacred to both Hindus and Bud-

dhists, who worship it as the abode of the Hindu deity Vishnu and the Buddhist deity Avalokitesvara, respectively. The Nepal-India Friendship Bus Service, jointly introduced by Modern Era Tours and Travels and Sristi Yatayat Pvt Ltd, was inaugurated by Beni Municipality Mayor Surat Kesi, according to Deputy Mayor Jyoti Lamichhane. The bus service starts from Beni Kalipul Syangja and passes through Syangja, Waling, Bhairahawa, Ayodhya, and Agra before reaching New Delhi, Lamichhane

said.

- The initiative aims to link religious sites in Myagdi and Mustang with India and promote tourism from India to Nepal, Modern Era Tours and Travels Chairperson Keshab Prasad Adhikari said.
- It will take around 27 hours to reach Beni from New Delhi. A bus will depart daily from Beni at 6:45 am and from New Delhi at 4:00 pm.
- The fare has been fixed at NPR 5,400 for the Beni-New Delhi route and INR 3,200 from New Delhi to

- Beni. The bus has a seating capacity of 45 passengers and covers a distance of about 1,400 km.
- From Beni, travellers can reach the Muktinath Temple in neighbouring Mustang district by jeep, taxi or local bus within three to four hours, Lamichhane said.
- Located at an altitude of 3,710 metres near the Thorong La Pass within the Annapurna Conservation Area, Muktinath is regarded as one of the world's highest-altitude temples.

Xi, Putin reinforce economic partnership in video call

BELING

Russian President Vladimir Putin hailed his country's growing economic cooperation with China in a video call with Chinese leader Xi Jinping on Wednesday. The virtual meeting came in the middle of a series of meetings between Xi and Western leaders who have sought to boost ties with China despite differences over Russia's war in Ukraine. European leaders have pressed China for years to end its support for Russia.



Xi Jinping



Vladimir Putin

China has continued to trade with Russia, providing some relief from Western economic sanctions. "I would like to once again assure you of firm support for our shared efforts to ensure the sovereignty and security of our

countries, our socio-economic welfare and the right to choose our own development path," Putin said in opening remarks that were broadcast by Russian state television. Many of America's closest partners are exploring opportunities with China following clashes with President Donald Trump over tariffs and his demands to take over Greenland from NATO ally Denmark. The Xi-Putin call followed visits by the British and Canadian prime ministers to Beijing last month. The German chancellor is also expected to visit later this month.

Movie poster for 'Udhapassun' featuring a man and a woman in a romantic pose. Text includes: 'तुझ्यासारखी नको... तूच पाहिजे!', 'Z स्टुडिओज', 'शादुर फकीर आहे', 'झणकर फिल्म्स निर्माण', 'निर्माण संजय झणकर आणि गौरी झणकर', 'सादरकृत उमेश कुमार बनसल आणि बघेश जानवलकर', 'उधापासून', 'आपल्या जवळच्या चित्रपटगृहात', 'तिकीट बुकिंगसाठी येथे स्कॅन करा', 'PVR INOX', 'MUKTA CINEMA', 'E-SQUARE ENTERTAINMENT ETC', 'Cinemark', 'आणि इतर चित्रपटगृहात'.

AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED (CIN:L65922RJ2011PLC034297) Regd. & Corp. Office: 201-202, 2nd Floor, South End Square, Mansarovar Industrial Area, Jaipur. 302020

AUCTION NOTICE

Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis. The details of the cases are as under.

Name of Borrowers/Co-Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors	Dues As on	Date & Amount of 13(2) Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Description of Property	Reserve Price For Property	Earnest Money For Property	Date & Time of Auction	Place of Tender Submission, Tender Open & Auction at Aavas Financiers Ltd.
Rameshwar Girjahari Aadhane, Manisha Bhagwan Pathade	Rs. 17,62,773.00/- Dues As On 04 Feb 2026	7 Nov 23 Rs. 1183020/- Dues As On 23 Nov 23	28 Mar 24	Row House No A-26 In Phase III Constructed On Gat No 232 In Situated At Sawangi, Tal And Dist Aurangabad Maharashtra Admeasuring 47.49 Sq. Mtr.	Rs. 941673.6/-	Rs. 94167/-	11.00 Am To 01.00 Pm 24 Feb 2026	Office No.3,1st Floor,Decent Enclave ,Opp.More Mall,Dargha Road,Aurangabad-431005, Maharashtra ra-India

Terms & Conditions: 1). The person, taking part in the tender, will have to deposit his offer in the tender form provided by the AFL which is to be collected from the above branch offices during working hours of any working day, super scribing "Tender Offer for name of the property" on the sealed envelope along with the Cheque/DD/pay order of 10% of the Reserve Price as Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in favour of AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED payable at Jaipur on/before time of auction during office hours at the above mentioned offices. The sealed envelopes will be opened in the presence of the available interested parties at above mentioned office of AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED The inter-se bidding, if necessary will also take place among the available bidders. The EMD is refundable if the bid is not successful. 2). The successful bidder will deposit 25% of the bidding amount adjusting the EMD amount as initial deposit immediately or within 24hrs after the fall of the hammer towards the purchase of the asset. The successful bidder failing to deposit the said 25% towards initial payment, the entire EMD deposited will be forfeited & balance amount of the sale price will have to be deposited within 15 days after the confirmation of the sale by the secured creditor; otherwise his initial payment deposited amount will be forfeited. 3). The Authorised officer has absolute right to accept or reject any bid or adjourn/postpone the sale process without assigning any reason therefor. If the date of tender depositing or the date of tender opening is declared as holiday by Government, then the auction will be held on next working day. 4). For inspection and interested parties who want to know about the procedure of tender may contact AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED 201,202, 1ind floor, South End Square, Mansarovar Industrial Area, Jaipur-302020 or Ugarsen Rinwa - 9875895867 or respective branch during office hours. Note: This is also a 15/30 days notice under Rule 9(1)(b)(6) to the Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagor of the above said loan accounts about tender inter se bidding sale on the above mentioned date. The property will be sold, if their out standing dues are not repaid in full.

Place : Maharashtra Date : 05-02-2026

Authorised Officer Aavas Financiers Limited