

Multi-car crash kills 21 in South Africa



AFP | Cape Town

At least 21 people were killed when two mini-bus taxis and an SUV collided on a highway in South Africa's Western Cape province, a government road safety partnership said yesterday.

The crash happened between Leeu-Gamka and Prince Albert, about 380 kilometres (236 miles) northeast of Cape Town, the Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC) said.

"According to the information 21 persons sustained fatal injuries," the RTMC said in a brief statement. Local media reported that the vehicles collided at around 2130 GMT on Sunday, forcing the closure of the highway.

China's spy chief warns of national security risks from AI

AFP | Beijing

The head of China's spy agency has warned that artificial intelligence endangers the country's national security, with foreign powers potentially using the technology to threaten social order.

"Hostile forces" were abusing generative AI technologies to "fabricate political rumours and spread harmful information", Minister of State Security Chen Yixin wrote in an article published online.

Beijing to ban drone possession, citing security

AFP | Beijing

Beijing will ban the possession of drones within city limits under new rules from November, further tightening regulations that already prohibited the sale of the devices.

The rules, announced on Sunday and due to take effect on November 15, forbid possessing or storing unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) in the Chinese capital and ban flights in its airspace.

Transporting drones or their components into Beijing will also be forbidden.

Airspace safety fears in the city of 22 million were raised in June when a small plane crashed into its tallest skyscraper, killing the pilot and injuring 13 others.

Trump **blasts** 'sick conspiracy' against AI

US president attacks Anthropic boss over calls to slow down AI development

● Trump rejects AI guardrails

● OpenAI backs calls for caution

● China warns of AI security risks

● UN warns of unprecedented AI risks

AFP | Washington

US President Donald Trump yesterday attacked what he called a "sick conspiracy" against artificial intelligence, dismissing calls for guardrails despite warnings that it threatens humankind.

Trump lashed out at the boss of AI giant Anthropic, who called on Saturday for a slowdown in the development of the technology. Trump said the United States needed to keep its AI lead over China.

Global tech stocks fell on the calls to hit the brakes on AI, which has fueled fears that superintelligent computer systems could go rogue and wipe out humanity by creating pathogens or triggering nuclear war.

"The only control or 'guardrails' that AI needs is a STRONG AND SMART (High IQ!) PRESIDENT, and the U.S.A. has that, in spades!" Trump said in a post on his Truth Social network yesterday.

"WHOEVER WINS AI, WINS! We are leading China, and all others, and will continue to do so. Conspiracy Theorists, Treasonists, Traitors, and Leakers, BEWARE!"

'Perfect little angel'

Trump has pushed back repeatedly in the past week against the warnings about AI,



US President Donald Trump speaks to the press aboard Air Force One

3 of the world's leading AI figures—Anthropic's Dario Amodei, OpenAI's Sam Altman, and Elon Musk—have called for slowing AI development

which reached fever pitch after Claude-maker Anthropic's CEO Amodei urged a halt in development.

Amodei's call to "slow the pace" was backed by OpenAI boss Sam Altman and Elon Musk, the SpaceX and Tesla boss who also owns xAI and was previously part of Trump's White House team.

But Trump trained his fire on Amodei, accusing him of playing both sides of the debate.

"The Trump Administration has stopped AI 'people' from doing bad, or potentially bad,

'things,' like Dario (Anthropic!), who is now pretending to be a 'perfect little angel'," the US president wrote.

Speaking on Air Force One on Sunday, Trump said he had heard directly from tech insiders the previous week on the issue.

Asked if he was downplaying their concerns, he said: "No, we are not downplaying, but you know it's going to be more good than bad by a lot."

Trump has long portrayed AI as crucial for maintaining America's technological, economic and security lead over China, whose President Xi Jinping is due to visit the White House next week.

China's spy chief warned on Sunday that artificial intelligence endangers the country's national security, saying foreign powers could use the technology to threaten social order.

Minister of State Security Chen Yixin wrote in an article that AI was now "the main battleground for global technological competition and a new track for

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major power strategic rivalry".

He singled out Anthropic's Claude Mythos and OpenAI's ChatGPT-5.5-Cyber for their advanced hacking capabilities that potentially "pose serious risks to China's critical information infrastructure".

Leaders urge EU to boost Arctic role to tackle Russia 'threat'

AFP | Rovaniemi

Twelve European countries meeting in Finland urged the European Union to beef up its presence in the Arctic, a geopolitical battleground caught between Russia and US President Donald Trump.

"We call for the European Union to take on a more strategic and proactive role in the European Arctic," the countries' leaders wrote in a joint statement following a European-Arctic Summit in the town of Rovaniemi in Finnish Lapland, attended by Denmark, France, Germany, Greece and Sweden, among others.

Trump's repeated threats to bring Greenland -- a vast, autonomous Danish territory -- under US control have triggered a diplomatic crisis among Washington's allies.

US blocks Iran nuclear chief from Vienna meeting

AFP | Vienna

Iran's nuclear chief was blocked from attending an annual conference yesterday at the headquarters of the UN's nuclear agency in Vienna after US pressure, both Washington and Tehran said.

US Energy Secretary Chris Wright confirmed to reporters that Washington had applied pressure to stop Mohammad Eslami from entering Austria, saying "he's a sanctioned individual and we don't want sanctioned individuals evading their sanctions."

Beds too short in 'worst-ever' Asian Games rooms, say South Korea

AFP | Tokyo

Accommodation at the Asian Games starting this week in Japan is the "worst ever", South Korean officials told AFP yesterday, also warning of "a serious shortage" of rooms.

Beds in shipping container-style huts are too short for players to stretch out, a South Korean basketball chief said, while officials from the Philippines resorted to Airbnb.

There is no dedicated athletes' village at the Games, with organisers instead relying on a cruise ship, temporary wooden cabins and hotels in a bid to cut costs.

The Games in the city of Nagoya and Aichi prefecture officially open on Saturday but



A view of the Nagoya City General Gymnasium Rainbow Hall

football and basketball is already under way.

Jung Jae-yong, vice president of the Korea Basketball Association, said he was deeply un-

happy with the cabins where the men's basketball team are staying.

"Based on my experience this is the worst it has ever been,"

he said.

"Athletes who are over two metres tall cannot even stretch their legs out on the beds. It's unreasonable."

Byeon Jun-hyeong, from the basketball team, posted a video on social media showing a leaking sink and soaked floor in his hut.

He posted the caption, "Please help us".

The huts are set to be home to 2,000 athletes and officials over the more than two weeks of the Games.

Indian sports chiefs are so worried about the cabins that they built replicas to help get their athletes used to them.

The vice president Jung accused organisers of failing to respond to South Korea's con-

cerns.

"The organisers have still not said anything," said Jung.

"We are very concerned and discussing extensively with the Korean Sport and Olympic Committee what to do about this."

Hundreds of athletes were briefly evacuated from their accommodation last week as record rainfall lashed Nagoya.

More rain has been forecast in the coming days. More than 17,000 athletes and officials are expected at the Games -- a bigger number than the Olympics.

Local organisers were initially expecting 15,000 and argued last month that they had "neither the manpower nor the budget" to deal with ballooning numbers.