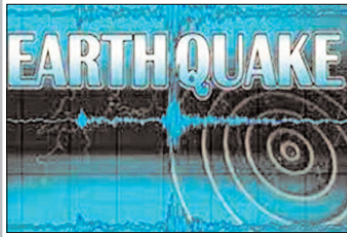


MUSTREAD



5.0-magnitude quake hits Hokkaido, Japan

Tokyo, (UNI): An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.0 jolted Hokkaido, Japan Region at 00:47:21 GMT on Saturday, the GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences said.

Nepal's rope-fixing team scales Mount Qomolangma

A team of Nepali Sherpa climbers fixed the rope to the peak of Mount Qomolangma on Friday evening, clearing the way for the season's expedition, said Nepal's Department of Tourism.

Three killed in Ukraine's missile strike on Lugansk oil depot

Lugansk, (UNI): Ukraine has launched a missile attack on an oil depot in the Lugansk city of Rovenky, killing three people and injuring eight others, a local official said on Saturday.

Russia's electronic warfare creates issues for US precision weaponry in Ukraine

Moscow, (UNI): Russia's electronic warfare has created problems for US-made precision weaponry in Ukraine, Business Insider reported.

Death toll from floods in Brazil rises to 126

Brasilia, (UNI): The death toll from floods in the southern Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul has risen to 126, the region's civil Defence authority said on Friday.

India votes in favour of resolution for full UN membership for Palestine

United Nations/New Delhi, (UNI)

India on Friday voted in favour of a draft UN General Assembly resolution for admitting Palestine as a full member of the United Nations and which also recommended that the Security Council should "reconsider" the matter "favourably".



Palestine's bid to become a full member of the United Nations would be reconsidered and its endeavour to become a member of the United Nations will get endorsed.

India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj said in a statement in the UN General Assembly on the Use of Veto.

While we have noted that Palestine's application for membership at the United Nations was not approved by the Security Council because of the aforesaid veto, I would like to state here at the very outset that in keeping with India's long-standing position, we hope that this would be reconsidered in due course and that Palestine's endeavour to become a member of the United Nations will get endorsed.

The 15-nation Council had voted on a draft resolution that would have recommended to the 193-member UN General Assembly "that the State of Palestine be admitted to membership in the United Nations".

Hamas leader in Gaza strip may remain in tunnels under Khan Younis



Gaza, (UNI)

The Hamas leader in the Gaza Strip, Yahya Sinwar, may be in tunnels under the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis, The Times of Israel reported, citing two Israeli officials.

The officials could not say for sure the exact location of Sinwar, but shared Israeli intelligence data that he could be in underground

tunnels in the Khan Younis area, about five miles north of Rafah.

In January, The Wall Street Journal, citing officials, reported that Israel had so far managed to damage or disable only 20% to 40% of Hamas' underground tunnels in the Gaza Strip, and there were also difficulties in estimating the extent of the underground network.

S Africa urges ICJ to adopt further measures against Israel over Rafah incursion

The Hague, (UNI)

South Africa has filed an urgent request with the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on Friday for additional provisional measures against Israel over its planned military operation in the Gaza city of Rafah.

"South Africa today filed an urgent request with the Court for the indication of additional provisional measures and the modification of provisional measures previously prescribed by the Court in the case concerning Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the eastern parts of Rafah and took control of the Gaza side of the Rafah crossing with Egypt.



well as modify the previously indicated ones, The Hague-based court said.

"The situation brought about by the Israeli assault on Rafah, and the extreme risk it poses to humanitarian supplies and basic services into Gaza, to the survival of the Palestinian medical system, and to the very survival of Palestinians in Gaza as a group, is not only an escalation of

Wildfire prompts emergency alert for 2 communities in Canada

Ottawa, (UNI): An evacuation alert was issued Friday night for two communities in Canada's western province of Alberta due to an out-of-control wildfire. The two communities were Fort McMurray and Sapræ Creek Estates. The fire is currently 25 kilometres southwest of Fort McMurray, and smoke could impact visibility on Highway 63 south of Fort McMurray.

WHO warns of food-borne diseases in Kenya amid flood crisis

Nairobi, (UNI)

The World Health Organization (WHO) has warned of a possible surge in food-borne diseases in Kenya due to the ongoing floods crisis. "There is a likelihood of increased illnesses associated with contaminated food diseases," WHO-Kenya said in an alert issued in Nairobi, Kenya's capital.

More than 260 people have been killed and over 378,000 others displaced by floods in Kenya as heavy rains of 200 mm a day pound different parts of the country, according to Kenyan authorities. The crisis has affected 41 out of the 47 counties, with most of those displaced living in congested camps in schools and churches.

WHO issued the alert due to the congestion in camps and the damage the floods have caused to sanitation infrastructure, including in Nairobi. Kenya has already reported a cholera outbreak, with 44 cases recorded in Tana River County in the coastal part of the country, one of the worst affected areas by



floods. To avoid contaminated food diseases, WHO-Kenya advised those affected by floods to ensure food safety through thorough cooking, proper storage and enhanced personal hygiene practices. The WHO said it will continue to support the health emergency response and remain vigilant for disease outbreaks that can easily spread if not quickly contained.

Train crash in Argentina, 30 injured



Buenos Aires, (UNI)

At least 30 people were injured and hospitalised after a train collision in Buenos Aires, Alberto Crescenti, director of the SAME emergency service, said.

On Friday, a passenger train crashed into a maintenance train

on a railway bridge in the suburb of Palermo on the San Martin line, which connects the Argentine capital with the province of Buenos Aires, media reported.

"We have assisted a total of 90 passengers, 30 of whom are in various city hospitals with code red," Crescenti told reporters at the scene.

The trains collided at slow speed, as the passenger train had just started moving and the empty boxcar, which was loaded with materials for repairing the railway track, was not moving at all, Argentine broadcaster TN said.

Many passengers left the train on their own, while others needed help from emergency response teams, the report said.

A train control error may have caused the incident.

Emir of Kuwait dissolves parliament elected just a month ago

Kuwait City, (UNI): Kuwaiti Emir Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Friday evening issued a decree dissolving the parliament elected in early April. "Proceeding from the highest interests of the state, we order the following: first, to dissolve parliament, and second, to suspend the operation of a number of clauses of the constitution for a period of no more than four years," the decree, read out on Kuwait Central Television, says. In addition, the emir decided that a number of parliamentary powers would be transferred to the emir and the government. As the Kuwaiti monarch stated in his speech after the dissolution of parliament, he "will not allow democracy to be used to destroy the country." Early elections to the Kuwaiti parliament were held on April 4 for the fifth time in two years amid a conflict between the country's executive and legislative branches.

Death toll from Afghanistan's floods rises to 160: Officials

Kabul, (UNI)

At least 160 people have been killed and 117 others injured as rainstorms and flash floods hit major parts of the provinces of Baghlan, Takhar, Badakhshan and Ghor of war-ravaged Afghanistan, local officials said on Saturday. "Recent flash floods hit most parts of the province including Gozargah-e-Noor, Jelgah, Nahrin, Dushi, Baghlan-e-Markazi, Dahna-e-Ghori, Tala-o-Bartak, and Barka districts, as well as the provincial capital of Pul-e-Khumri, leaving 130 dead and injuring 100 others," spokesman of Baghlan's governor Mullah Alam Majidi said on Saturday. The natural mishap mostly affected local people in Barka and Baghlan-e-



Markazi districts, said Majidi, adding that the number of casualties will be increased. Meanwhile, foreign media quoted the United Nation's International Organization for Migration as saying that over 200 people were

head of Takhar's disaster management authority, said Saturday. He added that 300 houses as well as electricity and communications facilities were seriously damaged. Seven people were killed and three others injured following flash floods lashed Chaharsada, Murghab, Saghar, Al-Farouq, Tewara districts, and Firoz Koh city, the provincial capital of western Ghor province, spokesman of Ghor's governor Abdul Wahid Hamas said.

Additionally, three people lost their lives and two others are missing due to rainstorms and floods in most parts of northern Badakhshan province, Mawlawi Mohammad Akram Akbari, head of Badakhshan's disaster management authority reported.

5 soldiers killed in clash with militants in NW Pakistan

Islamabad, (UNI): Five soldiers were killed in a clash with terrorists in Pakistan's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Saturday, official sources said.

The clash broke out at about 8:30 a.m. local time (GMT 0330) after a military vehicle carrying a bomb disposal party was hit by an improvised explosive device in the North Waziristan district of the province, the sources told Xinhua.

Following the blast, terrorists ambushing the vehicle opened fire at the troops, triggering an exchange of fire, the sources said.

Two troops and two terrorists were injured in the clash, while a soldier went missing following the incident. The identities of the attackers and their affiliations were not revealed.

US Army orders \$332mln more multiple launch rockets from Lockheed Martin

Washington, (UNI)

Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control was awarded a \$332,126,764 US Army modification contract for the Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System, the Department of Defense announced in a press release.

"Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control [of] Grand Prairie, Texas was awarded a \$332,126,764 modification ... contract for



the Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System," the release said on Friday.

Work on the contract will be carried out over the next three and a half years with an estimated completion date of October 20, 2027, the Defense Department said.

The US Army Contracting Command, Redstone Arsenal, Alabama will oversee work on the contract, the defense Department added.

Iceland, China agree to boost trade opportunities at CIIIE promotional event

Reykjavik, (UNI)

A memorandum of cooperation was signed on Friday between Business Iceland and the China International Import Expo Bureau, tapping the potential for a record number of Icelandic companies participating in this year's China International Import Expo (CIIIE). The memorandum was signed during a promotional event for the 7th CIIIE, which took place in the capital city of Reykjavik. The event was hosted jointly by the China International Import Expo Bureau, the National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai) Co., Ltd., and the Chinese Embassy in Iceland. In a speech, Dai Ke, counsellor of the Economic and Commercial Office of the Chinese Embassy in Iceland, said the two countries have enormous potential for cooperation in clean energy, digital economy and green development. He hoped Icelandic companies would seize opportunities at the CIIIE to further expand trade with China. Zhang Weimin, assistant president of the National Exhibition and Convention

Center (Shanghai), said the CIIIE has become an important platform for Icelandic products to enter the Chinese market and for Icelandic companies to explore the Chinese market. Iceland has participated in the CIIIE for six consecutive years.

After signing the memorandum of cooperation, Kristinn Bjornsson, project manager of Business Iceland, told Xinhua that several companies have reported outcomes worthwhile from participating in the exhibition. Business Iceland is responsible for promoting Icelandic exports. Bjornsson added that considering Iceland's small size and China's enormous market, more and more Icelandic companies are interested in participating in the CIIIE, a growing testament to the countries' relationship. China is Iceland's largest trading partner in Asia.

Staff from the China International Import Expo Bureau also introduced the exhibition areas of the 7th CIIIE to the Icelandic guests at the symposium and answered questions from Icelandic company representatives.