

MUSTREAD

Hungarian ruling alliance wins European Parliament elections in country

Budapest: Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban said that the ruling alliance Fidesz-Christian Democratic People's Party has won in the elections to the European Parliament and local elections in Hungary.

Russia expects no changes in EU's policy after parliamentary elections - Acting Envoy

Moscow: Russia's Acting Permanent Representative to the European Union Kirill Logvinov said on Monday that he does not expect any changes in the bloc's policy based on the results of the elections to the European Parliament.

Ruling civic platform wins in Poland's European Parliament elections

Moscow: The official results of the European Parliament elections on Monday showed Poland's ruling Civic Platform party's victory with a small advantage of less than 1 percentage point over the opposition Law and Justice party (PiS).

4 killed in road accident in northern Afghanistan

Faizabad: At least four people died, and seven others were injured as a passenger vehicle fell into a valley in northern Afghanistan's Badakhshan province, a local official said Monday.

Iraqi court sentences 7 drug dealers to death

Baghdad: An Iraqi court has issued death sentences to seven drug dealers, including a foreigner. "The Central Criminal Court issued a verdict to execute seven drug dealers, including a foreigner, who were convicted of trafficking narcotic substances," said a statement by the media office of the Supreme Judicial Council.

Belgian PM Alexander De Croo resigns after his party suffers massive defeat

Agencies, Brussels

Alexander De Croo, the prime minister of Belgium, has resigned following his party's crushing loss in Sunday's national and European parliamentary elections, according to CNN.

The 48-year-old found difficult to hold back tears while making the announcement in Brussels on Sunday night.

"I was the figurehead of this campaign. This is not the result I had hoped for, and I therefore take responsibility for this result, it was not meant to be," de Croo told media.

"As of tomorrow, I will be resigning as prime minister and I will fully concentrate on current affairs," he said, according to CNN.

Citing RTBF polling, CNN



reported De Croo's Open VLD party did not fare well in the European Parliament, receiving only 5.8 per cent of the vote

The RTBF poll showed that the far-right Vlaams Belang party and the Flemish nationalist N-VA

party were tied for the same percentage of the vote, 14.8 per cent and 14.2 per cent, respectively, the CNN report added.

In his resignation address, De Croo emphasised his continued belief that Belgium "needs a new government with full powers that can take on its tasks" and pledged to facilitate a "proper transfer" of power to his successor.

Meanwhile, voting across the European Union's 27 member states has now closed. The last votes were cast in Italy, according to CNN.

The EU elections represent the world's second-largest democratic exercise, trailing only behind India's elections in terms of scale. With almost 400 million voters across the EU, the

electorate will select 720 members of the European Parliament, spanning from the Arctic Circle to the borders of Africa and Asia.

The outcome of these elections will shape policies on global issues ranging from climate change and defence to migration and international relations with major players like China and the United States.

The invasion of Ukraine by Russia has brought conflict to the fringes of the EU, underscoring the importance of the union's role in maintaining peace and stability in the region. Ukraine, aspiring to join the EU, further underscores the geopolitical complexities at play.

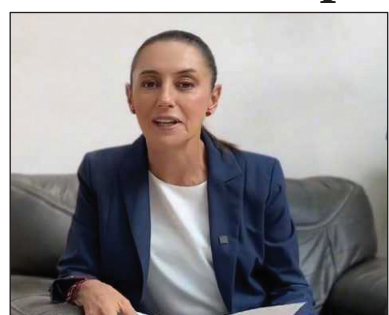
Seven soldiers killed in car bombing in NW Pakistan

Islamabad: Seven Pakistani soldiers were killed in a car bombing in the city of Lakki Marwat in the northwestern province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the press service of the Pakistani armed forces said.

"On 9th June 2024, an improvised explosive device (IED) exploded on vehicle of Security Forces in Lakki Marwat District. Resultantly, Captain Muhammad Faraz Ilyas (age: 26 years, resident of Kasur District) along with six other brave sons of soil ... made the ultimate sacrifice and embraced Shahadat," the press service said on X on Sunday.

On March 16, the press service said that at least seven Pakistani soldiers, including two officers, were killed in a terrorist attack on a security force post in North Waziristan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province bordering Afghanistan.

Mexico's electoral body confirms Sheinbaum's presidential win



Mexico City (UNI)

Mexico's electoral body on Sunday said it completed counting votes from general elections on June 2, confirming the presidential victory of ruling party candidate Claudia Sheinbaum.

The National Electoral Institute (INE) held an extraordinary session

to announce that Sheinbaum, who ran for the coalition led by the governing National Regeneration Movement (Morena), won with 59.75 per cent of the vote.

Head of INE's Executive Secretariat Office Claudia Edith Suarez said the next step is for the Electoral Tribunal of the Federation (TEPJF) to carry out the final count and endorse the outcome.

The runner-up, Xochitl Galvez of the opposition coalition Fuerza y Corazon por Mexico, obtained 27.45 per cent of the vote, while the third candidate, Jorge Alvarez of the Citizen Movement party, got 10.32 per cent.

According to the INE, 60,115,184 registered voters went to the polls, for a 61.04 per cent turnout.

Australian govt to utilize TikTok in anti-smoking, vaping campaign

Canberra (UNI)

The Australian government has launched a new campaign encouraging people to quit smoking and vaping.

Mark Butler, the minister for health, on Monday announced a 63.4 million Australian dollars (41.7 million U.S. dollars) advertising campaign to raise awareness about the health harms of smoking and vaping.

The campaign marked the first time that the federal government has advertised to the public about the risks and harms of vaping and its first national anti-smoking advertising campaign for almost 10 years.



The campaign will run across television, radio and social media. For the first time, TikTok will be used in a federal government advertising campaign.

"Nicotine is highly addictive and before you know it, what

starts as an occasional thing becomes something much more serious. But it's never too late to quit," Butler said in a statement.

According to NGO the Cancer Council, tobacco smoking is the leading cause of preventable death and disease in Australia, accounting for 24,000 deaths every year.

The government's National Drug Strategy Household Survey for 2022-23, which was released in February, found that 21 per cent of Australians aged 18-24 and 9.7 per cent of those aged 14-17 used an e-cigarette in the previous 12 months, up from 5.3 and 1.8 per cent in 2019, respectively.

Japanese govt says important to prevent escalation of tensions on Korean Peninsula

Tokyo: The Japanese government said on Monday that it is necessary to refrain from raising tensions on the Korean Peninsula after North Korea resumed sending trash-filled balloons to South Korea, with Seoul vowing to resume propaganda broadcasts.

"It is important that this [the conflict] does not lead to an increase in tensions between the two Koreas or an escalation of the situation. We intend to take all measures to collect and analyze relevant information, and will continue to be ready to respond as necessary in cooperation with various countries, including South Korea," Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi told a press conference.

Israeli minister Benny Gantz quits Netanyahu's war cabinet

Agencies, Tel Aviv

Amid the continued delay in the hostage deal, Israel's War Cabinet minister Benny Gantz announced his resignation from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's emergency government on Sunday, reported Al Jazeera. Gantz's decision comes at a time when the war between Israel and Hamas is in its eighth month, and the situation in West Asia remains fragile.

"Netanyahu is preventing us from advancing towards true victory. That is why we are leaving the emergency government today, with a heavy heart but with full confidence," Gantz said at a



televised news conference on Sunday. "There should be elections that will eventually establish a government that will win the trust

of the people and be able to face challenges," Gantz said, as he called for early polls in the country amid growing outrage among citizens due to the ongoing war.

"I call on Netanyahu: set an agreed election date," he added.

In response to Netanyahu's failure to present a post-war plan for the Gaza Strip, where Israel's ground offensive has claimed over 37,000 people since October 7, according to Gaza health officials, Gantz, last month threatened to resign from the emergency government, which was established last year to oversee the war in Gaza, according to Al Jazeera.

Missiles launched by Houthis damage 2 cargo ships in Gulf of Aden

Washington: Yemen's rebel Ansar Allah movement, also known as the Houthis, attacked two cargo ships in the Gulf of Aden with anti-ship missiles, the US Central Command (CENTCOM) said on Monday, adding that the ships stayed afloat after reporting damage. "In the past 24 hours, Iranian-backed Houthis launched two anti-ship ballistic missiles (ASBM) from Houthi controlled areas of Yemen into the Gulf of Aden. One ASBM struck M/V Tavishi, a Liberian-flagged, Swiss owned and operated container ship ... Separately, Iranian-backed Houthis launched one ASBM and one anti-ship cruise missile (ASCM) into the Gulf of Aden.

BRICS expansion confirms global shift to rise of multipolarity

Moscow (UNI)

The expansion of BRICS is a testament to the process of the formation of a multipolar world order where new political centers stand for equality and diversity, despite the US and its allies' efforts to cling on to their "elusive dominance," Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Monday. "The expansion of the BRICS is a clear confirmation of the process of formation of a multipolar world order. There is the emergence of new centers for making globally significant political decisions from among the states of the global south and east, from the world's majority states," Lavrov said at the BRICS ministerial meeting. These are the countries seeking a transition to a more equitable world order built on

the basis of "the sovereign equality of states and civilizational diversity" that "will take a whole historical epoch and will be thorny," he added.

He also said that recent international events have "unmasked those who until recently have been vocal in their claims to an almost exclusive right of defining universal values under the guise of a rule-based order." "The United States and its allies do not abandon their attempts to retain their elusive dominance and slow down the objective processes of multipolarity formation. Through sanctions pressure and financial blackmail, they are trying to influence the choice of development models and trade partners by sovereign states. Neither does the West disdain the use of force," the minister said.

Japanese gov't inspects Honda HQ over vehicle test fraud

Tokyo (UNI)

Japan's transport ministry conducted an on-site inspection of Honda Motor Co.'s headquarters in Tokyo on Monday after the company and other automakers admitted to carrying out improper tests for vehicle certifications required for mass production, local media reported.

After the inspections, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism will decide whether to impose administrative punishments to prevent a recurrence and determine if recalls are required by examining whether the affected vehicles meet its safety and environmental

performance standards, Kyodo News reported.

Honda said vehicle tests for 22 models were improperly conducted, including the reporting of falsified data. None of its current models are affected, the report said.

Honda became the fourth company to be inspected under the road transport vehicle law following Toyota Motor Corp., Yamaha Motor Co. and Suzuki Motor Corp., a week after five automakers unveiled safety tests were not conducted in line with government specifications.

A total of 38 models manufactured by the five

automakers are affected. Six of the affected models produced by Toyota, Mazda and Yamaha Motor are currently on the market and the ministry has ordered shipments to be halted, the report said.

The ministry will commence a probe into Mazda Motor Corp. soon, it added.

The latest misconduct was disclosed after the transport ministry instructed 85 automakers and parts suppliers to investigate whether certifications were acquired properly, following a series of similar scandals that hit Toyota group firms in 2022 and later.

South Korea resumes broadcasting via loudspeakers on border with N Korea

Seoul (UNI)

South Korea has resumed propaganda broadcasts through loudspeakers on the border with North Korea in response to Pyongyang's repeated sending of garbage balloons into the South, and North Korea has retaliated by sending an additional batch of balloons, South Korean news agency Yonhap reported on Sunday, citing the country's military.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the loudspeaker broadcasts resumed Sunday afternoon, without giving further details. The resumption of the loudspeaker broadcasts came after South Korea's National Security Council (NSC) approved the measure at an emergency meeting Sunday, the report said. This is the first time South Korea



has resumed propaganda broadcasts against Pyongyang near the border since January 2016, when the South Korean military used loudspeakers in response to North Korea's fourth nuclear test.

Meanwhile, Kim Yo Jong, the sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and the vice department director of the central committee of the Workers' Party, announced a new response in case South Korea

launches new propaganda leaflets and broadcasts.

"If South Korea chooses to engage in the leaflet-scattering and loudspeaker provocations across the border, without a doubt, they will witness our new response," she was quoted as saying by Yonhap.

Kim also said that Pyongyang sent 7.5 tonnes of non-propaganda paper in 1,400 balloons to South Korea on June 8 and 9 and wanted to stop the same day, but the "situation changed."

On Tuesday, the South Korean military said it would resume all military activities in the area of the demilitarized zone and islands near North Korea that were restricted by the inter-Korean military agreement, claiming that the full responsibility for the situation lies with North Korea.

6 killed as jeep plunges into river in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir

Islamabad (UNI)

At least six people were killed, 10 missing and two others injured when a jeep plunged into Neelum River in Neelum district of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, local authorities confirmed to Xinhua on Monday.

The accident happened on Sunday near Karimabad area of the district after the jeep skidded into the river while climbing a ramp on a damaged road, said rescue service.

Locals, along with Pakistan army personnel, carried out rescue operations. Six bodies were found while search for the missing people was still underway.



It took long time to conduct rescue operations as many of the victims flowed away, local media reported, adding that around 18 people were on the jeep when the accident happened.

Most of the passengers were tourists, and the rest were local residents of Neelum valley, according to local media.