

MUSTREAD



Russia, Egypt to conduct naval exercises in the Mediterranean

Moscow (UNI): Two warships of the Russian Pacific Fleet will participate in joint naval exercises with the Egyptian Navy in the Mediterranean Sea, the Russian Ministry of Defense announced on Saturday. According to the ministry, a group of combat ships from the Pacific Fleet, including the missile cruiser Varyag and the frigate Marshal Shaposhnikov, have left for the Egyptian port of Alexandria to engage in the joint exercise with the Egyptian Navy. The ministry further specified that the Egyptian Navy will be represented by the frigate ENS Al-Qadeer during the drills. The exercises will be conducted in the PASSEX format, which focuses on mastering combat coordination techniques between the fleets of different nations. The drills will include elements of joint maneuvering, communication training, and inspection actions.

Chinese premier arrives in Australia for official visit

Canberra: Chinese Premier Li Qiang arrived in Adelaide on Saturday for an official visit to Australia, the second leg of his three-nation tour. During his stay, Li and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese will co-chair the ninth China-Australia Annual Leaders' Meeting and jointly attend a China-Australia CEO Roundtable Meeting.

Russian aircraft allegedly violates Sweden's airspace

Moscow: The Swedish armed forces said that a Russian military aircraft allegedly violated Swedish airspace, Swedish newspaper Expressen reported on Saturday. The Swedish military said that the Russian aircraft did not deviate from its route despite calls from the Swedish side. The alleged presence of the aircraft in Swedish airspace was reportedly brief. The country's Defense Minister Paul Johnson was informed about the situation. On Friday, the Finnish Border Guard said it had suspected four Russian aircraft of violating Finland's airspace on June 10. The Russian Defense Ministry has repeatedly said that all flights by Russian air force aircraft are carried out in strict compliance with international rules on the use of airspace.

1 dead, 34 injured in road accident in central Philippines

Manila: A female bus passenger died and 34 others were injured, 11 critically, in a road accident in Negros Occidental province in the central Philippines, a local official said Saturday. Maria Laarni Porman, chief of the Bacolod City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, said the accident occurred at around 5:40 p.m. local time on Friday after the government bus, carrying 36 people, including the driver, lost control while negotiating a descending road. She added that the bus fell on its side, resulting in the death of a 40-year-old female teacher. Porman said the bus was transporting public school teachers and a student back to Bacolod City from a team-building activity in San Carlos City when the accident happened.

US wants to wage war with Russia until last Ukrainian - Kremlin

Moscow: The United States and some European countries want to wage war with Russia by hands of Ukrainians and until last Ukrainian, and that is why they have rejected Russian President Vladimir Putin's peace initiative, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Friday. "What the Americans are saying, what some particularly hawkish Europeans are saying — it's clear, they need to continue fighting Russia with the hands of Ukrainians, to the last Ukrainian," Peskov said. Putin has been informed of reactions from Ukraine and the West to his proposal, and the president called them "predictable," according to the spokesman.

Zelenskyy urges for "just and lasting peace" as world leaders gather in Switzerland without China, Russia

Agencies, Bern

To put pressure on Russia to end its war with Ukraine, world leaders have gathered in Switzerland to attend Ukraine's peace summit on Saturday. However, Russia and China abstained from the summit, reported The Kyiv Independent.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is hoping that the leaders gathered at the summit will try to pave the way for a future peace process that includes Russia.

"There are two days of active work ahead with countries from all corners of the world, with different peoples" who are united by the goal of bringing "a just and lasting peace for Ukraine closer," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on June 14 as he arrived in Switzerland. The peace summit began on June 15 and will conclude on June 16, bringing together representatives from 92 countries and organisations,



less than the 107 countries and international organisations that, according to Kyiv, have confirmed their attendance as of early June. Despite being invited, China skipped the summit after Russia

was frozen out of proceedings on the grounds it had dismissed Ukraine's summit as "futile" and expressed no interest in attending, Al Jazeera reported. With China's absence, Western

countries' hope of isolating Russia has faded, while recent military reverses on the battlefield have put Ukrainian forces on the back foot.

Hopefully, according to Ukraine, the Peace Summit will address several key issues, including energy security, the exchange of captives, the return of deported children, and global food security, among other topics, reported The Kyiv Independent. Zelenskyy added that the summit will

enable the global majority to take concrete steps in areas that are important to everyone in the world, including, nuclear and food security, the return of prisoners of war and all deported persons, including deported Ukrainian children. Meanwhile, US Vice President Kamala Harris and the leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan are among those expected to join Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the summit.

Pakistan's anti-narcotics force recovers around 784 kg of drugs

Islamabad: The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) of Pakistan has recovered about 784 kg of narcotics and arrested eight drug traffickers during separate operations in the country, the ANF said in a statement on Friday.

The force raided the airport in the capital city Peshawar of the north-western Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and recovered 4.6 kg of Ice and 99 grams of hash from a passenger, the statement said.

An estimated six kg of hash was recovered in two more operations near two universities in the city, the statement added.

About 501 kg of opium and 93 kg of Ice were recovered from two vehicles in the southwestern Balochistan province's Chagai and Chaman districts, respectively, the ANF said.

In another operation, 87.6 kg of opium and 80.4 kg of hash were recovered from a vehicle near the capital city of Islamabad, it added.

Philippines says 21 of 22 Filipino crew on attacked ship in Red Sea rescued, safe



Manila (UNI)

Twenty-one of the 22 Filipino seafarers on board a commercial ship attacked in the Red Sea earlier this week have been rescued and safe, the Philippines' Department of Migrant Workers chief said Saturday. Migrant Workers Secretary Hans Caccac told a forum that "combined international forces rescued and extracted the 21 Filipino

seafarers from the ship," referring to the Liberian-flagged, Greek-owned bulk carrier MV Tutor that was attacked on Wednesday. The ship "was immobilized but stable," Caccac said, adding that the 21 Filipino crew "were boarded on security forces ship and taken safer port," Caccac said rescuers are still searching for the remaining missing seafarer inside the ship. "We were assured they would not stop locating our missing seafarer, who is just within the ship," he said. "There will be a salvaging operation of the ship," he said. "Teams will go back to the ship to find the missing seafarer." Filipinos continue to take the risk of joining ships passing the Red Sea, despite the Philippine government's April ban on the deployment of Filipino seafarers on passenger and cruise ships transiting the waters due to geopolitical conflicts.

Bangladesh MP murdered in Kolkata to ensure party ticket for rival: Report

Dhaka (UNI)

Bangladesh's ruling Awami League (AL) MP Anwarul Azim Anar was murdered in Kolkata last month to clear the way for a party rival to contest from his seat in the by-election, one of the accused has confessed in court.

Accused Kazi Kamal Ahmed Babu, an Awami League activist, admitted to court that he was involved in the murder of the Jhenaidah-4 MP, Bangladesh news outlet The Daily Star reported on Saturday.

According to court sources quoted in the report, Babu said he was close to the general secretary of Jhenaidah district AL Saidul Karim Mintu, and wanted him to get the ticket from the Jhenaidah-4 parliamentary seat, from which Azim had won thrice in a row. The sources said Mintu, now on an eight-day remand



with the Detective Branch (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), tried to get the party ticket from the constituency in the last two national polls, but failed because of Azim.

In 2022, Azim also wanted to become district AL general secretary, which further intensified the rivalry between the two.

Babu, relief and social welfare affairs secretary of Jhenaidah district Awami League, said the plan to kill

Azim was made to clear Mintu's path to party nomination.

Babu also admitted to having communications on WhatsApp with Amanullah alias Shimul Bhuiyan, on May 16, a day after Amanullah returned to Bangladesh from Kolkata after the killing.

The duo then met in Amanullah's vehicle on the Bonga Expressway in Faridpur on May 17 to settle how the blood money will be paid, the report said.

The Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police disclosed the summary of Babu's interrogation in the investigation progress report to a Dhaka court yesterday.

DB Assistant Commissioner Mahfuzur Rahman, the investigation officer in the case, petitioned the court to record Babu's confessional statement.

Cuba rejects US naval presence in its territory

Havana (UNI)

Cuba has strongly condemned the presence of a U.S. nuclear submarine at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, located in the southeastern part of the island, which Cuba considers illegally occupied territory.

Cuban Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Carlos Fernandez de Cossio Dominguez told local media that, although his country was informed of the presence of the U.S. ship in accordance with procedures established some years ago between Havana and Washington, Cuba does not approve the naval presence in its territory without invitation.

"We do not like the presence in our territory of this nature," he said, stressing that visits by foreign naval ships to a country are usually the result of an invitation and "this is not the case."

The Southern Command of the



United States said the USS Helena, a nuclear-powered fast attack submarine, pulled into the waters near the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base on Thursday, a day after four Russian naval vessels arrived at the port of Havana for a visit that will last until Monday.

The Cuban vice foreign minister

also recalled the "illegal and unacceptable" nature of the U.S. occupation of a part of Cuban territory in the province of Guantanamo "against the will of the Cuban people."

"It is an illegitimate military occupation and that is what makes the difference," he is quoted.

Jaishankar to visit Colombo this month: Sri Lankan Foreign Minister

Colombo, (UNI): External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will visit Sri Lanka this month to prepare the ground for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's likely visit in August, the island nation's Foreign Minister said, according to media reports. Sri Lankan news portal EconomyNext reported that Jaishankar's visit was confirmed when President Ranil Wickremesinghe was in New Delhi last week at Modi's oath taking as the third term prime minister. Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Ali Sabry said Modi's invitation to Wickremesinghe at his swearing in is an indication that India wants to work closely with the neighbours. "We want to build on that momentum," Sabry told reporters at a media briefing in Colombo. "We feel that we want to continue to work with Indians in their investment area, people-to-people contact, tourism, and also connectivity like electricity as well as land and other connectivity areas of sea, air, and other modes of it."

'Melodi' moment again: Italian PM Meloni clicks selfie with PM Modi on sidelines of G7 Summit

Agencies, Apulia

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Italian counterpart, Giorgia Meloni, clicked a selfie on the sidelines of the G7 summit that concluded in Italy on Friday. The two leaders were seen smiling as Meloni clicked a selfie with Prime Minister Modi on the sidelines of the G7 Outreach Summit in Apulia. The camaraderie between the two leaders who met previously at the G20 Summit in Delhi last year and then at the COP 28 in Dubai have spawned several online memes. In December last year, the two leaders had clicked a selfie on the sidelines of the 28th



Conference of the Parties (COP28) in Dubai. While sharing the picture with PM Modi on X, Meloni had stated, "Good friends at COP28, #Melodi." Photographs of the two leaders together have been shared widely on online platforms with the

hashtags "Melodi" becoming a trending topic.

Meanwhile, PM Modi held a bilateral meeting with his Italian counterpart during the G7 Summit in Italy and discussed defence and security cooperation between the two countries.

"The two sides discussed bilateral defence and security cooperation and hoped for further enhancing the defence industrial collaboration. They welcomed the forthcoming visit of the Italian aircraft carrier ITS Cavour and training ship ITS Vespucci to India later this year," the Ministry of External Affairs said in an official release.

Moreover, PM Modi also thanked the Italian Government for recognising the Indian Army's contribution to the Italian Campaign during World War II and informed that "India will be upgrading the Yashwant Ghadge Memorial at Montone in Italy."

Armenia committed to bolstering cooperation with UK - Prime Minister

Moscow: Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan congratulated UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Saturday on the occasion of the public holiday and reiterated the commitment to enhancing cooperation between the two countries. "The Armenian government is committed to deepening bilateral cooperation in line with the spirit of the Armenia-United Kingdom strategic dialogue for the benefit of our countries and friendly peoples," Pashinyan said in his congratulatory message to Sunak. The Armenian leader added that bilateral relations had seen significant progress in recent years, based on the "fundamental principles of democracy, rule of law and protection of human rights," according to the message. "In this context, I attach particular importance to the support of the United Kingdom to the large-scale democratic reforms underway in Armenia," the message read.



Ramaphosa reelected as South African president

Cape Town (UNI)

Cyril Ramaphosa, leader of South Africa's ruling African National Congress (ANC), was re-elected by the National Assembly on Friday as the nation's president for the next five years.

Chief Justice Raymond Zondo, who presided over the first sitting of the National Assembly, announced that Ramaphosa gained 283 votes to win the presidential election, while the other nominee, Julius Malema of the Economic Freedom Fighters, received 44 votes.

Earlier Friday, the ANC and the main opposition party, the Democratic Alliance (DA), reached a deal to form a government of national unity and as part of the agreement, Ramaphosa was expected to be reelected with the support of the DA, according to local media reports.

In the general elections on May 29, the ANC secured 159 out of the 400 seats in the National Assembly, for the first time falling below the 50 percent needed to maintain its 30-year-old outright majority in the lower house of parliament.

Philippines tallies 197 dengue deaths since January

Manila (UNI)

The Philippines has tallied 197 deaths due to dengue from January to June 1 this year, the Department of Health (DOH) said Saturday.

The DOH said it recorded nearly 70,500 cases of mosquito-borne disease from January 1 to June 1.

The health department said it has closely monitored the number of new dengue cases per week as the previously declining trend "is now starting to plateau."

"This could be the start of a rise in cases nationwide, if we will not search and destroy 'mosquito water', stagnant water in any areas or containers that may breed dengue mosquitos," the DOH warned. The DOH noted that seven re-



gions in northern part of the main Luzon island and southern Philippines showed dengue case increases in recent three to four weeks.

On May 29, the weather bureau declared start of rainy season in the Philippines.

"More water means more mosquito breeding grounds," Health Secretary Teodoro Herbosa said, urging people to "search and destroy stagnant water."

Dengue is endemic in the Philippines. Water-borne infectious diseases, including dengue, usually peak at the start of rainy season due to fluctuating weather conditions, flooding and accumulation of contaminated water.



Ukrainian shelling kills 4 people in Russia

Moscow: Ukrainian shelling has killed four people and injured another seven in Shebekino, a town within Russia's Belgorod region, local authorities said on Saturday. Belgorod Governor Vyacheslav Gladkov said the shelling led to the collapse of the entrance to a five-story residential building and damaged approximately 20 apartments. Rescue teams from the Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations are working to remove the debris at the site. As of the latest updates, four bodies have been recovered from the rubble.

China renews yellow alert for high temp

Beijing (UNI)

China's National Meteorological Center on Saturday morning continued to issue a yellow alert for high temperatures as multiple regions are experiencing sweltering heat.

Saturday daytime will see some areas in Xinjiang, Shaanxi, Shanxi, Hebei, Shandong, Henan, Anhui, Jiangsu, Hubei, Hunan, Sichuan and Hainan experience temperatures reaching 35 to 36 degrees Celsius, according to the center.

The center forecasts maximum temperatures of 37 to 40 degrees Celsius in parts of Xinjiang, Shaanxi, Henan, Anhui, Hubei, Chongqing and Hainan.

Outdoor activities should be avoided during the high temperatures, and precautionary measures should be taken to protect vulnerable groups such as children and older people, the center said.

China has a three-tier warning system for high temperatures, with red representing the most severe warning, followed by orange and yellow.

