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Bolivia issues "orange alert" for forest fires in 74 towns

La Paz: Bolivia has declared an "orange alert" in 74 towns due to the growing risk of forest fires caused by arson or clearing for crops...

Wildfire breaks out near Greek capital, settlements evacuated

Athens: A wildfire broke out at the outskirts of Koropi, a suburban town in east Attica region, near Athens, forcing the evacuation of at least two settlements...

2 presumed dead in small plane crash in U.S. Alaska

San Francisco: Two men were presumed dead after a small plane crashed Tuesday afternoon into Crescent Lake on the Kenai Peninsula, U.S. state of Alaska...

7 injured in North Philadelphia shooting

New York: Seven people were wounded in a shooting in North Philadelphia in the U.S. state of Pennsylvania, local media reported. A 19-year-old man was injured on Wednesday evening by a gunshot to his leg...

1 dead as wildfires rage in U.S. New Mexico

San Francisco: One person was killed in the South Fork and Salt fires in the U.S. state of New Mexico as the blazes remained active and uncontained, officials said. The fire broke out Monday morning on the Mesalero Apache Reservation...

10 Palestinian security personnel of merchant trucks killed by Israeli army in Rafah: sources

Gaza (UNI)

At least 10 Palestinian security personnel of merchant trucks were killed by the Israeli army in Rafah City in the south of the Gaza Strip, Palestinian security and medical sources said.

Local sources and eyewitnesses told Xinhua that Israeli aircraft targeted a group of security personnel securing commercial goods in the east of Rafah.

Meanwhile, medical sources said that the bodies of the dead, as well as several others injured, were all transported to European Gaza Hospital on Wednesday.

The Israeli army has not yet commented on the incident.

Recently, Israeli authorities have allowed commercial goods



from the West Bank to enter the southern war-torn besieged enclave, following prior coordination, according to Palestinian security sources.

Bhutan to hire 100 Indian teachers in July: Report

Thimphu (UNI)

The Bhutan government will hire at least 100 teachers from India in July to address the shortages of STEM teachers in the country, as per a report in local media.



Education and Skill Development Minister Yeezang De Thapa shared this information on the government's strategy to address the STEM (an umbrella term used to group together Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics subjects) teacher shortage, Kuensel newspaper reported Wednesday.

According to the minister, the government will hire 35 Mathematics teachers, 18 Physics teachers, 19 Chemistry teachers, and 28 ICT expatriate teachers in July, the nation-

al newspaper said in the report. The report said as of June, there is an "immediate" shortage of 135 STEM teachers in Bhutanese schools, including 46 in Mathematics, 38 in ICT, 22 in Physics, and 29 in Chemistry. According to the minister, there was a shortage of 1,263 teachers in 2023. A total of 187 B.Ed teachers were recruited in January, reducing the shortage to 1,076. From March to June, 646 contract teachers were hired, bringing the teacher shortage to 430. However, 247 teachers resigned recently, increasing the shortage to 677 again.

The minister added that by July, with 121 new PGDE and 100 expatriate teachers, the shortage will be reduced to 456.

Male shooter charged after death of woman in Australia's Queensland

Canberra (UNI)

A male was charged on Thursday after he fatally shot a woman and seriously injured one man in the Australian state of Queensland.

Police were called to the Robb Place address in South Mackay just after 4:30 p.m. local time on Wednesday.

A woman was found deceased at the scene, and a man suffered non-life-threatening injuries.

According to Queensland Police, the 34-year-old South Mackay woman was sitting in a parked vehicle when she was approached by the 31-year-old South Mackay man armed with a firearm.

It was believed that the duo were not known to each other but resided on the same street.

There were two children inside



the vehicle when the incident occurred. They ran away from the scene on foot and were not physically harmed.

Police noted that a 66-year-old man who lived nearby approached the man a short time later and was also shot.

He sustained non-life-threatening wounds to the hand and sternum before being taken to a hospital in serious but stable condition.

Japan's oppn party submits no-confidence motion against Kishida

Tokyo: Japan's opposition Constitutional Democratic Party (CDP) submitted a no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Kishida's cabinet on Thursday, with the voting expected to take place later in the day, Japanese media reported, citing the draft resolution.

"Prime Minister Kishida has not shown leadership to clarify the truth about the political funds of the Liberal Democratic Party factions, and the problem of the emergence of the 'kickbacks' practice has not yet been explained," Japanese broadcaster NHK quoted the draft document as saying.

The draft resolution is expected to be put to a vote at the plenary session of the lower house of the Japanese parliament later on Thursday.

Ship sinks in Red Sea after attack by Iranian-backed Houthi rebels

Agencies, Sana'a (Yemen)

A Greek-owned ship sank in the Red Sea after being attacked by the Iranian-backed Houthi rebels on Wednesday, reported CBS News citing the UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO).



The ship, a Liberian-flagged bulk carrier, also known as MV Tutor, is believed to be the second ship sunk by Houthis since March when the British registered vessel Rubymar was downed after being struck by ballistic missiles fired from Houthi territory in Yemen. The Iranian-backed Houthi rebels have launched dozens of missile and drone attacks targeting ships in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden since Israel launched an invasion of Gaza

following the Hamas' attack on Southern Israel in October last year. Following the attacks by the Hamas terror group, tensions have boiled in the Middle East, with key regional actors condemning the humanitarian crises caused by the war, as reported by CNN.

However, the Tutor was first hit on June 12 by a smaller boat before being struck a second time by "an unknown airborne projectile," the UKMTO stated.

Meanwhile, one crew member has been reportedly missing after the attack, the US Central Command (CENTCOM) said last week. After the ship's entire crew were evacuated from the vessel, it began to drift before reportedly sinking on Tuesday, according to the UKMTO, reported CNN. Earlier, a Houthi spokesperson said that the ship had been attacked by a sea drone, ballistic missiles and other drones for violating their so-called "ban to the occupied Palestinian ports."

Forest fire in western Turkey contained

Ankara (UNI)

A forest fire in western Turkey's Canakkale province has been contained, said Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Ibrahim Yumakli on Thursday.

"We have crossed the entire area twice, and as of now, I can say that the Canakkale Eceabat fire is under control," Yumakli said in a briefing.

The first extensive forest fire of the summer season, which the minister said has affected 575 hectares, was ignited by stubble burning in the Eceabat district of the province on Tuesday afternoon.

"Approximately 340 hectares of the area are forested, and the rest is

rural land outside the forest," he said.

Nine planes, six helicopters, 94 water tankers, construction machinery, and 540 people were involved in the firefighting efforts, Yumakli was quoted by the semi-official Anadolu Agency as saying.

Meanwhile, local authorities issued continuous warnings about the high risk of wildfires due to the forecasted extreme heat and dry conditions during the week.

Türkiye is often subjected to forest fires during the summer months, especially in its western and southern regions, due to high humidity and extreme temperatures.

Canada to list Iran's IRGC as terrorist group

Ottawa (UNI)

The government of Canada is preparing to designate Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organisation, CBC News reported on Wednesday. The announcement is expected as soon as this week, the report said, citing several sources with knowledge of the matter. Talks are still ongoing, and details are yet to be finalised, it added. Once the IRGC is placed on the country's terror list, law enforcement will be able to charge anyone financially or materially supporting the group, the report said. Financial institutions will be allowed to freeze assets, it added. By going forward with the designation, the Trudeau cabinet will have finally caved in to pressure from several political and social actors, such as members of

the Iranian Canadian community as well as the Conservative and New Democratic parties that have long sought its listing. Calls for action against the IRGC increased following the crash of Flight PS752 and demands made by an association representing the victims' families.

On January 8, 2020, flight PS752 crashed shortly after takeoff from Tehran's international airport. The accident claimed the lives of all 167 passengers on board the aeroplane—mostly Canadian and Iranian citizens—and nine Ukrainian crew members. Iran admitted that the plane had been mistakenly shot down by its military, which mistook it for a cruise missile at a time when Iran's air defences were active following strikes on a US military base in Iraq.

US state orders every classroom to display Ten Commandments

Washington (UNI)

Louisiana became the first US state to order that every public school classroom up to university-level must display a poster of the Ten Commandments.

The Republican-backed measure signed into law by Governor Jeff Landry on Wednesday describes the commandments as "the foundational documents of our state and national government", a BBC report said.

The law is expected to be challenged by civil rights groups, which argue that it contravenes the separation between church and state enshrined in the First Amendment to the US Constitution, the so-called Establishment Clause.

It says: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."



The state law requires that a poster include the sacred text in "large, easily readable font" on a poster that is 11 inches by 14 inches (28cm by 35.5cm) and that the commandments are "the central focus" of the display.

It will also be shown alongside a four-paragraph "context statement" which will describe how the commandments "were a prominent part of American public education for almost three centuries".

Canada: India to hold memorial service for victims of Air India 'Kanishka' flight bombing in Toronto

Agencies, Toronto

The Consulate General of India, Toronto on Wednesday (local time) announced to organise a memorial service for victims of the Air India 'Kanishka' flight bombing in Toronto on June 23 from 12-1 pm at South Lawns, Queen's Park.

India has always been at the forefront of the fight against terrorism and opposed the justification and glorification of terrorism, India's Consulate General in Toronto said, as it reminded the world of the Kanishka bombing and termed it "one of the most heinous acts of terror in civil aviation."

The Consulate General of India in Toronto said that an annual memorial service is being held at South Lawns, Queen's Park, in Toronto to mark the 39th anniversary of the



bombing of Air India flight 182 (Kanishka), which claimed the lives of 329

people, including 82 children. In a statement shared on X, the

Consulate General of India in Toronto stated, "India has always been at the forefront of the fight against terrorism and has opposed justification and glorification of terrorism. 23 June 2024 marks the 39th anniversary of the bombing of Air India flight 182 (Kanishka), which resulted in death of 329 innocent victims, including 86 children, and remains one of the most heinous acts of terror in civil aviation."

"We have always stood firmly with the families of the victims. The annual memorial service is being held from 12-1 pm, 23 June 2024 at South Lawns, Queen's Park, Toronto. This event is open for public participation. The solemnity of the occasion may be respected during the memorial service at all times," it added.

China issues blue alert for rainstorms in various regions

Beijing: China's national observatory issued a blue alert for rainstorms on Thursday, expecting heavy rainfall in several regions of the country. Downpours are expected to hit parts of Chongqing, Guizhou, Hunan, Hubei, Henan, Anhui, Jiangxi, Zhejiang, Inner Mongolia and Heilongjiang on Thursday and Friday, the National Meteorological Center (NMC) forecast.

There are areas in Chongqing and Guizhou that will see up to 120 mm of rainfall, while some places in these regions are expected to encounter over 60 mm of hourly precipitation, accompanied by thunderstorms and gales, according to the NMC.

Local governments have been urged to implement appropriate preparations and fulfill their related responsibilities accordingly.