

MUSTREAD

Israeli FM calls for IRGC to be designated terrorist organisation

Jerusalem: Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz called for Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) to be included in the list of terrorist organisations following the presidential election held in Iran earlier this week.

500,000 stimulant tablets seized in Myanmar

Yangon: Myanmar police seized 500,000 stimulant tablets in eastern Myanmar's Shan State, according to the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control late Saturday.

3 trapped after N China coal mine accident

Beijing: Three people remain trapped after a water inrush occurred on Sunday morning at a coal mine in Taiyuan, the capital of north China's Shanxi Province.

Nigeria faces nationwide blackout

Abuja: Power outages occurred across Nigeria as a result of a power grid failure, the Daily Post newspaper reported, citing Enugu Electricity Distribution Company.

UK Gov't to nationalise railways 'as soon as possible'

London: The UK Labour Party, which has recently won the general election, has an intention to renationalise British railways "as soon as possible."

3 children dead in fatal house fire

Sydney: Police of Australia's State of New South Wales (NSW) said on Sunday that three children, one ten-month-old girl and two boys aged two and four, were dead in a fatal house fire in western Sydney.

Hamas says it's waiting for Israeli response on Gaza ceasefire proposal

Agencies, Cairo

Hamas is waiting for a response from Israel on its ceasefire proposal, two officials from the Palestinian group said on Sunday.

"We have left our response with the mediators and are waiting to hear the occupation's response," one of the two Hamas officials told Reuters.

The three-phase plan was put forward at the end of May by U.S. President Joe Biden and is being mediated by Qatar and Egypt.

Another Palestinian official, with knowledge of the ongoing ceasefire deliberations, said Israel was in talks



with the Qataris. "They have discussed with them Hamas' response and they promised to give them Israel's response within days," the official, who asked not to be named, told Reuters on Sunday.

Israel's government made no immediate comment on the timing of its deliberations.

Hamas, which controls Gaza, has dropped a key demand that Israel first commit to a permanent cease-

fire before signing an agreement.

Instead, it said it would allow negotiations to achieve that throughout the six-week first phase, a Hamas source told Reuters on Saturday on condition of anonymity because the talks are private.

A Palestinian official close to the peace efforts has said the proposal could lead to a framework agreement if embraced by Israel and would end the war.

U.S. Central Intelligence Agency Director William Burns will travel to Qatar next week for negotiations, a source familiar with the matter said.

The conflict, triggered by an Oct. 7 attack on Israel by Hamas fighters, has claimed the lives of more than 38,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza health officials.

White House sends list of questions to radio hosts for interview with Biden

Washington: Hosts of the WURD radio station in Philadelphia received a list of approved questions for the interview with US President Joe Biden from his team in advance.

"The questions were sent to me for approval; I approved of them ... I got several questions — eight of them. And the four that were chosen were the ones that I approved," she told CNN on Saturday.

When asked to confirm whether the list of questions was received from the White House, Lawful-Sanders answered in the affirmative.

On the same day, CivicMedia radio host Earl Ingram, who interviewed Biden this week, told ABC News that he was also given questions for the interview.

Ingram noted that he received a list of five questions from the US leader's team and ended up voicing four of them.

Heavy rains trigger landslides in Nepal, 11 killed

Agencies, Kathmandu

Heavy rains triggered landslides and flash floods killing at least 11 people in the last 36 hours in Nepal and blocking key highways and roads, officials said on Sunday.

Eight people were missing, either washed away by floods or buried in landslides, while 12 others were injured and being treated in hospitals, police spokesperson Dan Bahadur Karki said.

"Rescue workers are trying to clear the landslides and open the roads," Karki told Reuters, adding heavy equipment was being used to clear debris.

In southeastern Nepal, the Koshi River, which causes deadly floods in the eastern Indian state of Bihar almost every year, was flowing above the danger level, a district official said.



"The flow of Koshi is rising and we have asked residents to remain alert about possible floods," Bed Raj Phuyal, a senior official of Sunsari district where the river flows, told Reuters. He said at 0900 hours (0315 hours GMT) water flow in Koshi River was 369,000 cusecs per second, more than double its normal flow of 150,000 cusecs.

Cusec is the measurement of the

flow of water and one cusec is equal to one cubic foot per second.

Authorities said all 56 sluice gates of the Koshi Barrage had been opened to drain out water compared with about 10-12 during a normal situation.

Authorities said the flows of Narayani, Rapti and Mahakali rivers in the west were also rising.

In hill-ringed Kathmandu, several rivers have overflowed their banks, flooded roads and inundated many houses.

Local media showed people wading through waist-deep water or residents using buckets to empty their houses.

At least 50 people across Nepal have died in landslides, floods and lightning strikes since mid-June when annual monsoon rains started.

Hezbollah official killed in Israeli strike in Lebanon

Beirut (UNI)

A Hezbollah official was killed on Saturday in an Israeli air strike in the town of Shaath, north of the city of Baalbek in eastern Lebanon, Lebanese military sources told Xinhua.

The sources, who spoke anonymously, said that an Israeli drone fired two air-to-surface missiles at a car in Shaath, killing its driver.

"The dead man was called Maysam Al-Attar, a local Hezbollah official who carried out multiple military missions," said the sources.

Military sources said on Saturday that Israeli warplanes launched six air strikes on five villages and towns in southern and eastern Lebanon, and bombed seven border towns



and villages with about 30 artillery shells. Meanwhile, Hezbollah targeted several Israeli sites with drones and rockets, including the sites of Ruwaisat Al-Alam and the 403rd Battalion in Beit Hillel, Al-Samaqa, and Zebdine.

PNG minister arrested, charged with domestic assault in Sydney

Sydney: Papua New Guinea's Minister for Petroleum Jimmy Maladina was arrested in Australia's Sydney and charged with an alleged domestic assault offense, local media reported on Sunday.

Representatives from regional and international organisations also attended the conference, Egyptian Minister of Foreign, Emigration and Expatriates' Affairs Badr Abdelatty said in a statement upon opening the conference.

"Any real political solution to the crisis in Sudan must be based on a purely Sudanese vision emanating from the Sudanese themselves," he said.

The statement did not elaborate on which Sudanese parties or groups participated, but Abdalla

Egypt hosts conference to address Sudan crisis

Cairo (UNI)

Delegations of various Sudanese political parties and civil groups met here in the Egyptian capital on Saturday to find a political solution to the Sudan crisis.

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Hamdok, former Sudanese prime minister and now head of the Coordination of Civil and Democratic Forces, a Sudanese antiwar coalition involved in peace talks, attend-

ed the conference.

Abdelatty stressed that all parties in Sudan should be included in the peace-seeking process under the principles of respecting Sudan's sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity, as well as the rules of non-interference in its internal affairs.

He added that the conference is a continuation of Egypt's efforts to stop the war in Sudan in cooperation with regional and international partners, including Sudan's neighboring countries, the United Nations, the African Union, and the Arab League.

Sudan has been embroiled in a deadly conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces since mid-April 2023.

1st case of West Nile fever recorded in West Bank



Ramallah (UNI)

The first case of West Nile fever in the West Bank was recorded in the governorate of Jenin, the Palestinian Health Ministry said on Saturday.

Doctors identified symptoms

consistent with the disease, and subsequent tests confirmed the infection, the ministry stated.

The disease is transmitted through mosquitoes and its symptoms are very similar to those of the flu, including a high fever, the statement mentioned, noting that symptoms appear three days after the mosquito bite, with the elderly being the most vulnerable age group.

Primary healthcare and environmental health teams, along with the Jenin authorities, have been conducting a mosquito control campaign in the city and its camp since Saturday, the statement said, noting that the ministry's specialized teams will extend these efforts to all governorates.

4 dead after shooting at residence in Kentucky, US

Washington: Five people, including the suspect, were killed and three others injured in a shooting at a residence in U.S. state of Kentucky early Saturday, police said.

According to the Florence Police Department, four individuals were declared deceased at the location, while three others were taken to a nearby hospital and are currently in critical but stable condition.

Officers responded to the residence at nearly 3 a.m. (0700 GMT) Saturday and as they approached the home, they still heard shots being fired, Police Chief Jeff Mallery said at a press conference. People were attending a birthday pool party at that time.

The suspect, described as an adult male, fled the scene in a vehicle prior to police arrival, leading to a police chase. The suspect then drove off the road and crashed into a ditch.

Pezeshkian says helping Iran through challenges 'big test' ahead

Tehran (UNI)

Iran's President-elect Masoud Pezeshkian said on Saturday that helping the country pass through the "bottlenecks, challenges and crises" would be a "big test" ahead, according to the official news agency IRNA.

He made the remarks when speaking with supporters at Imam Khomeini's mausoleum in Tehran hours after being announced as the winner of the country's 14th presidential election in a runoff against principlist candidate Saeed Jalili.

Pezeshkian emphasized his readiness to serve the people of Iran and pledged to attentively listen to their concerns. He acknowledged the challenging circumstances facing his administration and expressed a commitment to working with the Iranian parliament to reduce ten-



sions and navigate through difficulties.

Pezeshkian underscored the authenticity of his campaign promises, affirming that he had made commitments he intended to fulfill.

Pezeshkian won the election runoff with 16,384,403 votes, while Jalili garnered 13,538,179 votes.

Biden digs in as pressure from fellow Democrats escalates

Agencies, Wilmington, Delaware Facing increasing calls from fellow Democrats to end his campaign for re-election, U.S. President Joe Biden on Saturday gave no hint that he was considering stepping aside after a pair of defiant public appearances a day earlier.

Biden, 81, is facing a slow-boil uprising from congressional Democrats and some influential donors who have grown concerned he lacks the capacity to defeat Republican Donald Trump, 78, in the Nov. 5 election. A much-anticipated interview the president gave to ABC News that aired Friday evening seemed to do little to temper those worries.

In that interview, Biden said only the "Lord Almighty" could persuade him to abandon his campaign, dismissing the possibility



that Democratic leaders could band together to try and talk him into standing down. He held a business-as-usual call with the national co-chairs of his campaign on Saturday, the White House said. Pressure from Congress seems only likely to ramp up in the coming days as lawmakers return to Washington from a holiday recess.

Anti-terrorism court reserves decision on Imran Khan's bail requests in May 9 cases

Agencies, Islamabad

An anti-terrorism court has reserved its decision on former Prime Minister Imran Khan's interim bail requests in cases associated with the May 9 incidents in 2023, including the Jinnah House and two other cases, Pakistan-based The Express Tribune reported.

During the hearing on Saturday, Imran lawyer, Barrister Salman Safdar, argued that the PTI founder was being targeted for political reasons.

"In my entire career, I have never seen so many cases against a single individual. Those who were actually inciting against institutions at the scene were not arrested," Safdar alleged.

"How could a case be filed against him when he was in custody at the time of the crime?" PTI chief's lawyer questioned.



In response, the government's lawyer argued that according to a special branch report, Imran Khan had asked his followers to target civil and military installations if he got arrested.

The prosecutor said, "The directive to attack military installations

across Pakistan resulted in the events that transpired." After hearing arguments from both sides, the court reserved its verdict on the PTI founder's interim bail requests, The Express Tribune reported.

On May 9 last year, violent clashes broke out across Pakistan after former prime minister Imran Khan was arrested. The protests were held in remote and major cities as the party workers were agitated due to Khan's arrest, with Balochistan, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Islamabad summoning the armed forces to ensure law and order, ARY News reported.

Army installations, including the Corps Commander's house in Lahore, had come under attack during the protests by PTI workers. Notably, the PTI founder was named as the main accused in all the May 9 riots cases.