

MUSTREAD

Small plane crashes at London's Southend airport

**London:** A small aircraft has reportedly crashed at Southend Airport in Essex, a county in south-east England, Essex Police said on Sunday. They were alerted shortly before 4 p.m. local time to reports of a collision involving a 12-meter-long plane and are currently working with emergency services at the scene, Xinhua reported. The East of England Ambulance Service said that four ambulances and four hazardous area response team vehicles have been dispatched to the site.

Int'l string competition opens in China's Harbin

**Harbin:** The 2025 Schoenfeld International String Competition opened in Harbin, capital city of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province on Sunday, drawing over 100 top international contestants from 22 countries. Xue Suli, president of the competition and the Schoenfeld International Music Society, said that the event helps promote global music culture and discover talented artists. Harbin boasts a century-old musical heritage, noted Wang Bo, vice mayor of the city, who added that the competition, which has been permanently held in Harbin since 2020, is a signature event of the long-running national Harbin Summer Music Concert, boosting string music and cultural exchanges. Founded in 2013 to honor musicians Alice and Eleonore Schoenfeld, the competition was introduced to Harbin in 2014 and has since held four editions.

3 killed, 3 injured in Kentucky shooting

**New York:** Two women one a 72-year-old and another a 32-year-old were killed in a shooting in Kentucky, officials said. The incident occurred yesterday around 11:35 a.m. ET (1535 GMT) near Blue Grass Airport, where a trooper pulled over a vehicle after receiving a license plate reader alert. The suspect in the vehicle shot the trooper, car-jacked another vehicle and fled the scene before arriving at Richmond Road Baptist Church, where he killed the two women, Lexington Police Chief Lawrence Weathers said at a news conference. The fleeing suspect wounded two men before being fatally shot by three responding officers and pronounced dead at the scene. The injured trooper is in stable condition. In a post on the social platform X, Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear called the incident "senseless acts of violence" and thanked the swift response by local police.

Former Nigerian president Buhari dies

**Abuja:** Former Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari died on Sunday in London at the age of 82, an official said. Buhari, who served as Nigerian president from 2015 to 2023, died in a clinic in the British capital where he had been receiving medical treatment. In a statement, Tinubu said he has directed Vice President Kashim Shettima to travel to London to accompany Buhari's body back to Nigeria. Born on Dec. 17, 1942, Buhari had a distinguished career in both the military and civilian governance. He spent years in political activism before successfully contesting the presidency in 2015, becoming the first opposition candidate to defeat an incumbent president in Nigeria's history, according to media reports. He was re-elected in 2019 and handed over power to Tinubu on May 29, 2023.

Leaked Treasury advice urges Australian gov't to raise taxes

**Canberra:** Australian Treasurer Jim Chalmers says he is not concerned about the accidental publication of advice that recommended the federal government raise taxes. The confidential advice, which was prepared by the independent Treasury and provided to the governing Labor Party following the May 3 general election, was mistakenly sent to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) and published on Monday. It advised the government that it must find additional taxation revenue and reduce spending in order to achieve a "sustainable" federal budget. Speaking at a press conference on Monday morning, Chalmers said that the documents were sent to the ABC in error and that he is "pretty relaxed" about the leak.

Trump greenlights weapons consignment

Including Patriot missiles, for Ukraine



**Washington (UNI)**  
US President Donald Trump has reportedly unveiled a new weapons package for Ukraine which will contain more offensive weapons, after earlier announcing that he has greenlit shipments for Kyiv which were stopped for a while due to domestic shortages and shifting strategic priorities.  
"We basically are going to send them various pieces of very sophisticated military. They're going to pay us 100% for them," Trump pointed out, adding that the issue would be discussed at his meeting with NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte in Washington today, reports Axios News.  
Regarding the supply of Patriot missiles which are at a critical low in Ukraine, Trump didn't say much, stating "I haven't agreed on the number yet, but they're going to have some because they do need protection. But the European Union is paying for it. We're not paying anything for it, but we will send it. It will be business for us, and we will send

them Patriots."  
The scheme was reportedly proposed by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky during the NATO summit two weeks ago. Trump and Zelensky, who met on the sidelines of the summit ended discussions on a positive note, with the White House stating that it was a

very productive meeting.  
US officials noted that the shipment was a strategic move from Washington's side to pressure Russian President Vladimir Putin to come to agreements on a peace proposal, after he declined an earlier settlement offer during a phone call with the US President.

France doubles military spending, targets 64 billion euros by 2027

**Paris:** In light of the NATO and the EU's decision to increase its military budget, citing security issues amid the Russia-Ukraine war and Moscow's increasing foothold into Ukrainian territory, French President Emmanuel Macron announced a significant increase in the country's military budget, stating that it will rise to 64 billion euros (\$74.8 billion) by 2027- double the level of 2017.  
"In 2017, the military budget was 32 billion Euros. According to our law on military planning, we agreed to double it by 2030. But we will do it by 2027. This will be a new historic effort. By 2027, our military budget will double to 64 billion euros," Macron said in his annual address to the French Armed Forces today on the eve of the national holiday, Bastille Day, which was broadcast on the official Elysee Palace account on X.

Germany will not send Taurus missiles to Ukraine: Defence Minister

**Moscow:** The German authorities will not send Taurus missiles or Patriot air defense systems to Ukraine, despite Ukraine's "renewed request", German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius said in an interview with the Financial Times. "We only have six [Patriot systems] left in Germany," Pistorius told the newspaper. "That's really too few, especially considering the NATO capability goals we have to meet. We definitely can't give any more."  
Germany already gave Ukraine three such systems, two others had been lent to Poland and at least one was always unavailable due to maintenance or training, he explained. The minister noted that he would meet with Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth in Washington today.

Over 30 killed, 100 injured in clashes in Syria's Suwayda



**Beirut (UNI)**  
More than 30 people have been killed in clashes in the mostly Druze-populated southernmost Syrian province of Suwayda over the past two days, while more than 100 others have been injured, the Syrian Defense Ministry said on Monday.  
"It is with deep sorrow and concern that we are following the tragic events in Suwayda province. Over the past two days, more than 30 people have been killed and more than a hundred injured in a number of districts and towns," the statement read. The ministry said that lack of effective government institutions on the ground had contributed to the chaos and prevented security forces and troops from intervening quickly to curb violence.  
The Ministry of Defence and the Interior Ministry sent troops to the south, the department said. Safe corridors for civilians were created. The government called on the sides to the conflict to cooperate with the army and exercise restraint, saying that further escalation would only increase the suffering of civilians.

Moscow, Damascus in talks on Russian military bases in Syria

**Moscow:** Russia and Syria remain in contact on the presence of Russian military bases in the Arab nation, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Vershinin said today.  
"I can confirm that our contacts with Damascus on all matters are indeed ongoing. We have traditionally long-standing friendly relations with the Syrian people. I emphasize 'with the Syrian people' because there is no need to speak about regimes in this case. We are maintaining these contacts to find a solution that would serve the interests of Russia, the interests of Damascus, and the interests of regional stability," he said.  
Former Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov said that the Foreign Ministry continue to engage with Syria on issues related to Russian military bases and hoped to come to an understanding.  
Syria's armed opposition led by Ahmed al-Sharaa captured Damascus on December 8, 2024.

Iranian President lightly injured in Israel's June 16 attack



**Tehran (UNI)**  
Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian sustained minor leg injuries during evacuation from a building in Tehran struck by Israel on June 16, the Fars news agency has reported.  
During the evacuation of the Supreme National Security Council meeting on June 16, following the Is-

raeli attack on a building in western Tehran, several officials, including the president, received minor leg injuries during the evacuation, the news agency reported on Saturday.  
The attack resembled the operation to assassinate Hezbollah Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah in September 2024, when Israel shelled the headquarters of the Lebanese Shiite military-political movement in the south of Beirut, according to Fars.  
Israel fired six bombs or missiles targeting the building's entrances and exits to block escape routes and cut off airflow, which led to power outage, but senior Iranian officials managed to evacuate through a pre-planned emergency exit. The accuracy of the information available to the Israeli military for carrying out this attack suggests there could be a spy involved in the operation.

Six Syrian security personnel killed after deploying to quell sectarian clashes

**Damascus:** Six members of Syria's security forces have been killed in the predominantly Druze city of Sweida, a security source told Reuters, after they deployed to halt deadly sectarian clashes that local media reported had resumed on Monday.  
Sunday's fighting between Druze militiamen and Bedouin tribal fighters was the first time that sectarian violence erupted inside the city of Sweida itself, following months of tensions in the broader province.  
The fighting left 30 people dead and prompted Syria's security forces to deploy units to the city to restore calm and guarantee safe passage for civilians looking to leave, the defence ministry said in a statement.

Eggs thrown at Indians celebrating Rath Yatra in Canada

**Agencies, Toronto**  
A peaceful Rath Yatra celebration by the Indian community in Toronto, Canada turned tense after eggs were allegedly hurled at the devotees participating in the religious procession. The incident, which occurred during the 53rd annual Rath Yatra organised by ISKCON, has drawn widespread condemnation and concern.  
The video was posted by an Instagram user Sangna Bajaj who was part of the Rath Yatra procession that was singing and chanting devotional songs on the streets of Canadian cities when she noticed eggs being hurled at them from above.  
In the footage, broken eggs were shown splattered on roads. She said that she saw that someone from



nearby was throwing eggs at the Rath Yatra participants. The caption read, "We were stunned. Hurt. But we didn't stop. Because hate can never overpower faith."

"Deeply disturbed": Naveen Patnaik

Former Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday expressed deep concern over reports of eggs being hurled at devotees during the Ratha Yatra celebrations in Toronto, Canada. "Deeply disturbed to know about the reports of eggs being hurled at devotees during Ratha Yatra celebrations in Toronto, Canada. Such incidents not only grievously hurt the sentiments of Lord Jagannatha's devotees worldwide, but also cause deep anguish to the people of Odisha, for whom this festival holds profound emotional and cultural significance," Patnaik said in a post on X.

Australia fires first HIMARS long-range rocket in war game with US



**Agencies, Rockhampton**  
Australia's army fired a truck-mounted long range rocket system that has become a priority for U.S. allies in the Indo-Pacific for the first time on Monday, alongside U.S. and Singapore forces firing the same system in joint war games.  
Armoured trucks with HIMARS - High Mobility Artillery Rocket Sys-

tems that can reach 400 km (250 miles) - are in high demand in the Ukraine conflict and are also being acquired by U.S. allies in the Indo-Pacific, including Australia, which is reshaping its forces to respond to China's military build-up.  
On the first day of Australia's largest war games, "Talisman Sabre", the U.S., Australia, Japan, France, South Korea and Singapore held a live-fire exercise in northern Queensland involving U.S. F-35B fighter jets and land-based long-range strike rockets and missiles.  
Up to 40,000 troops from 19 nations are taking part in Talisman Sabre, across thousands of kilometres from Australia's Indian Ocean territory of Christmas Island to the Coral Sea on Australia's east coast.

Report on Trump assassination attempt faults Secret Service discipline

**New York (UNI)**  
A U.S. Senate report on the assassination attempt targeting U.S. President Donald Trump last year has revealed "multiple, unacceptable failures" in the Secret Service's discipline. The report came a year after Trump, then a presidential candidate, was grazed by a bullet as a 20-year-old gunman fired eight shots at him at a campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania.  
The gunman was killed by a sniper subsequently. But the shooting, killing one attendee and injuring two, exposed the Secret Service's negligence in planning and response, said the report, calling for more severe disciplinary action.  
"What happened was inexcusable, and the consequences imposed for the failures so far do not reflect



the severity of the situation," said the report by the Senate's Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.  
"This was not a single lapse in judgment. It was a complete breakdown of security at every level — fueled by bureaucratic indifference, a lack of clear protocols and a shocking refusal to act on direct threats," said Rand Paul.

Six dead, 27 injured as bus falls into ravine near Chakri

**Islamabad:** Six people, including four women, were killed and 27 others were left injured after a Multan-bound passenger bus overturned and fell into a ravine near the Chakri Interchange, Dawn reported.  
As per Dawn, citing National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) and Rescue 1122, the bus—operated by Haji Abdul Sattar Company—was travelling from Rawalpindi to Multan with 41 passengers on board. Rescue teams from Chakwal and Rawalpindi, along with NHMP and the Frontier Works Organisation (FWO), quickly responded and transported the injured to hospitals in Chakwal, Rawalpindi, and Islamabad.

Rescued crew of Greek ship sank by Houthis taken to Saudi Arabia

**Agencies, Athens**  
Ten mariners rescued after Houthi militants sank a Greek ship last week have arrived in Saudi Arabia, maritime security sources said on Monday, after rescuers ended their search for the remaining crew.  
The rescue mission began on Wednesday when the Iran-aligned group sank the Liberia-flagged Eternity C cargo ship, with 22 crew and three armed guards on board, after attacking the vessel with sea drones and rocket-propelled grenades over two consecutive days.  
Eight crew members and two security guards were rescued. All the crew were Filipino, except for one Russian.  
On Sunday, maritime risk management firm Diaplous and British security firm Ambrey said in a joint



statement that the vessel's owner had decided to end the privately-run search for the remaining crew.  
"The decision to end the search has been taken by the vessel's owner reluctantly, but it believes that, in all the circumstances, the priority must now be to get the 10 souls safely recovered alive ashore," they said.

The ship carrying the rescued crew has arrived in Jizan, a Diaplous official said.  
The remaining 15 people who were on board are considered missing, according to the vessel's Greece-based manager, Cosmoship. Five of them are believed to have died before the vessel sank, according to

maritime security sources.  
The Houthis said last week that they picked up some of the crew after the vessel went down. Cosmoship said that it was trying to verify the claim.  
Before attacking Eternity C the Houthis had sunk another Greek ship, the Magic Seas. Its crew were rescued by a passing ship.  
The EU's naval mission Aspides, which protects shipping in the Red Sea, has said that it had no naval assets in the area at the time of the attacks. No international naval force was present, according to maritime security sources.  
The Houthis have attacked more than 100 ships since November 2023 in what they say is an act of solidarity with the Palestinians over the Gaza war.