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40 injured in fire at commercial complex in N Iran

Tehran: At least 40 people were injured in a fire that erupted on Tuesday at a large commercial complex in Iran's northern port city of Bandar-e Anzali, state-run IRIB news agency reported. Of those injured, five were transferred to the hospital and the rest were discharged after receiving primary treatment at the scene, IRIB quoted Jamshid Mohammadi, head of Gilan province's emergency medical services organisation, as saying. He noted that 12 of the wounded were firefighters, who had suffered gas poisoning while trying to extinguish the fire, adding they were treated at the scene.

France regrets US decision to withdraw from UNESCO: official

Paris: France, as the host country and a founding member of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), regrets the US decision to quit UNESCO, the spokesperson of the country's foreign ministry said today. France supports UNESCO with regard to access to education for all, the protection of endangered heritage, the preservation of the oceans, the responsible development of artificial intelligence, and the fight against anti-Semitism and hate speech, the spokesperson said in a press release. Earlier Tuesday afternoon, French President Emmanuel Macron expressed on his X account France's "unwavering support" for UNESCO. He called UNESCO a "universal guardian of science, the ocean, education, culture, and world heritage."

Zelenskyy fears probe into his coterie: Reports

Moscow: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's hasty signing of the law on restricting anti-corruption bodies may be due to the fact that the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU) has launched an investigation against members of his inner circle, The Economist magazine reported, citing sources. On Tuesday, the Ukrainian parliament passed a bill that limits the autonomy of the NABU and the Special Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office (SAP). Several lawmakers criticized the government for trying to terminate the anti-corruption watchdogs. Later, Zelenskyy signed the bill into law. The law, aimed at undermining the most influential anti-corruption reforms in Ukraine, casts a shadow on the country's future course, the report said on Tuesday.

Russia-Yemen intergovernmental commission to hold first Meeting in September

Moscow: The first meeting of the Russian-Yemeni Intergovernmental Commission will take place in September in the Russian city of Makhachkala, the Russian Energy Ministry said today. "Russian Deputy Minister of Energy Roman Marshavin has held a business meeting with ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Yemen, Ahmed Salem Al-Wahishi. The main topic of the meeting was the preparation for the first meeting of the Russian-Yemeni Intergovernmental Commission, which will take place in September 2025 in Makhachkala," the ministry said in a statement.

Japan's PM Ishiba may resign in August

Moscow: Japan's embattled Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba may announce his resignation by the end of August, Japanese newspaper The Mainichi reported today. The reports came shortly after US President Donald Trump announced that he had reached a "massive Deal" with Japan, and days after Ishiba's governing coalition lost its majority in the country's upper house. Meanwhile, the Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper reported that Ishiba plans to announce his resignation already by the end of July to take responsibility for the ruling coalition's defeat in the recent upper house elections. On Sunday, the Japanese ruling coalition of the Liberal Democratic Party and the Komeito party failed to secure the 50 seats they needed for parliamentary majority in the upper house.

'It was back and forth' Trump repeats ceasefire claim between India, Pakistan

Washington: US President Donald Trump on Tuesday (local time) again claimed credit for stopping a war between India and Pakistan, saying both countries were close to a nuclear conflict after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 civilians. In his remarks, Trump said jets were being shot down repeatedly and he had to step in to deescalate the situation. "We have stopped wars between India and Pakistan. They were probably going to end up in a nuclear war. They shot down five planes in the last attack. It was back and forth, back and forth. I called them and I said no more trade if you do this. They are both powerful nuclear nations. Who knows where that would have ended up, and I stopped it..." Trump said.

The statement comes a day after the White House credited Trump's intervention with helping reach a ceasefire between India and Pakistan following India's Operation Sindoor, which targeted terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir (PoK) on May 7. White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters that President Trump's



foreign policy efforts have helped reduce global conflicts. "Look at what the president has done on the world stage. He has ended wars, like India and Pakistan. He continues to work aggressively to end the war in Russia

and Ukraine. He completely obliterated Iran's nuclear sites. He has continued to hopefully negotiate a ceasefire between Israel and Gaza, to end that conflict and release all of the hostages," Leavitt said.

Trump has made similar claims at least 25 times since May 10, stating that it was his pressure that led to peace between the two nuclear-armed neighbours. However, India has consistently denied any third-party involvement, maintaining that peace was brokered directly between the two countries.

According to Indian officials, it was Pakistan's Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) who contacted his Indian counterpart on May 10 to request an end to hostilities.

The ceasefire was then agreed upon. The conflict erupted after India launched airstrikes under Operation Sindoor, targeting terrorist infrastructure in PoK in response to the April 22 Pahalgam attack, which killed 26 civilians. The Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy of Lashkar-e-Tayyiba, claimed responsibility.

Trump announces 'massive' trade agreement with Japan

Washington: US President Donald Trump has announced a long-awaited trade agreement with Japan, a framework between allies and major trading partners that appeared elusive just weeks ago. "We just completed a massive Deal with Japan, perhaps the largest Deal ever made," Trump said on Truth Social last night. As part of the deal, US importers will pay 15 percent "reciprocal" tariffs on Japanese goods exported to the United States. Also, Japan will invest US\$550 billion dollars into the United States, the president said. Trump noted that the US "will receive 90 percent of the profits", without elaborating on how those investments would work or how profits would be calculated, reported CNN. "This Deal will create Hundred of Thousands of Jobs — There has never been anything like it. Perhaps most importantly, Japan will open their Country to Trade including Cars and Trucks, Rice and certain other Agricultural Products, and other things. Japan will pay Reciprocal Tariffs to the United States of 15 percent," Trump posted. The Japan agreement was the third such trade-related news Trump announced yesterday. This comes after months of negotiations with key trading partners like the European Union, South Korea, India and dozens of others at a standstill as Trump's latest August one deadline for higher tariffs looms.

Hungary announces construction of oil pipeline with Russia and Serbia

Budapest (UNI)

In a move that could potentially upset the ties between Hungary and the EU, Budapest has announced progress on a new pipeline with Serbia to transport Russian oil. Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijarto, taking to X wrote "We're moving forward with Serbian and Russian partners to build a new oil pipeline between Hungary and Serbia."

"While Brussels is banning Russian energy, cutting links and blocking routes, we need more sources, more routes. Hungary won't fall victim to these disastrous decisions."

Szizjarto made the announcement yesterday after meeting with Russian Deputy Energy Minister Pavel Sorokin and Serbian Minister of Mining and Energy Dubravka De-

dovic-Handanovic.

Szizjarto said all sides support the project, which could be operational by 2027, and have reviewed investment and construction details, reports RT News. He further accused Brussels of seeking "to cut us off from Russian oil and gas, forcing Hungarian families to pay two to four times more." "We won't allow that. We are building new sources, not shutting them down."

While the Hungarian FM did not disclose Moscow's exact role in the venture, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak said at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum last month that the country was ready to both aid in construction and supply oil to the planned pipeline.

"PM Modi's visit will further boost Indian tourist arrivals to Maldives": Former Maldives President Mohamed Nasheed

Male (Maldives): Former Maldives President Mohamed Nasheed on Wednesday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to the island nation will significantly boost tourism from India and reaffirm bilateral ties.

"When relations are strong, everyone benefits. I believe that the Prime Minister's visit will further boost Indian tourist arrivals to the Maldives," Nasheed told ANI in an exclusive conversation ahead of PM Modi's two-day visit for the Maldives' 60th Independence Day celebrations.

Nasheed also highlighted that the Hanimadu Airport project, being built with Indian financial assistance, is nearing completion and will improve air connectivity between



southern Indian cities and northern Maldives. "Hanimadu Airport would be just a little over an hour from most of the southern Indian cities. There is a big opportunity for both countries to benefit," he said.

Speaking on the broader economic partnership, Nasheed credit-

Indian man brutally attacked in Adelaide, left to die in suspected racist assault

Adelaide: A 23-year-old Indian man, Charanpreet Singh, was brutally assaulted and left unconscious on a street in Adelaide after a group of men allegedly hurled racist abuse and attacked him over a car parking dispute. Singh was allegedly told to "f— off, Indian" before being punched repeatedly and left to die on the roadside, 9News reported.

The incident took place on Saturday night (local time) near Kintore Avenue in the heart of the city. Singh, who was in his car, said a group of men approached him, hurled racial slurs and launched a vicious physical attack without any provocation.

"They just said 'f— off, Indian', and after that they just started punching," 9News quoted him as saying. "I tried to fight back, but they beat me until I was unconscious."



He sustained severe injuries, including brain trauma and multiple facial fractures. He was rushed to the hospital, where he remained under medical care overnight.

South Australia Police arrested a 20-year-old man from Enfield on Sunday and charged him with assault causing harm. However, the rest of the attackers fled the scene and are yet to be identified. Police have appealed for public assistance in tracking them down.

The assault has sparked outrage among Adelaide's Indian community and raised concerns about the safety of international students and immigrants in Australia. Support for Singh has poured in online, with many calling for stronger action against racially motivated violence.

Baloch families enter 7th day of Islamabad sit-in, demand release of BYC leaders

Islamabad: Baloch families have entered the seventh day of a peaceful sit-in protest, demanding the release of Baloch Yakjehti Committee leaders and an end to enforced disappearances in Balochistan in Islamabad.

"Today marks the seventh consecutive day of the Islamabad sit-in by Baloch families demanding the release of Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) leaders and an end to enforced disappearances in Balochistan," stated the post on X.

"Despite yesterday's heavy rain, the families, many of whom are women, elderly, and children, are still not being allowed to set up a camp. The road to the Islamabad Press Club remains sealed, and now, additional roads around the protest site have been blocked by Pakistani authorities. Buses have been strategically placed to hide the families from public view,



denying citizens of Islamabad to witness this peaceful struggle for justice. The state's response remains rooted in intimidation, erasure, and silencing," the post stated.

The Baloch Yakjehti Committee urges all aware citizens, journal-

ists, and advocates for human rights to unite with the families who have come from Balochistan to the capital in search of justice through nonviolent protest.

In a prior announcement, the Baloch Yakjehti Committee affirmed that, despite the persistent

rain and police barriers leading to the Islamabad Press Club, the families remain determined in their peaceful demonstration. They are calling for the release of BYC leaders and an end to the enforced disappearances happening in Balochistan, as reported by TBP. A large number of police officers have arrived at the protest site today.

The BYC has asserted that the police and Islamabad authorities are intimidating demonstrators under the pretext of conducting identification checks, which the organisation strongly denounces.

The BYC warned that any harm incurred by protesters will be entirely the responsibility of the Islamabad police and the Pakistani government. The demonstrators vow to persist in amplifying their voices despite the rain and harassment tactics.

Cloudburst in Pakistan's Gilgit-Baltistan kills 5 tourists, rescue ops underway

Gilgit-Baltistan: Rescue teams retrieved the bodies of five tourists who were swept away by flash floods triggered by a cloudburst at Babusar Top in Gilgit-Baltistan, ARY News reported on Tuesday.

The floods, caused by torrential rains in Chilas, swept away more than 15 tourist vehicles, according to ARY News. While five bodies have been recovered and four people rescued so far, the search operation for the remaining missing tourists is still underway. Spokesperson for the



Gilgit-Baltistan government, Faizullah Faraq, confirmed that efforts to locate those missing continue. He noted that rescue activities were ham-

pered due to nightfall, ARY News reported.

Authorities and local residents have jointly rescued over 200 stranded tourists. Residents of

ed India with preventing a financial crisis in the Maldives during difficult times. "If not for India, we would have gone default," he said, stressing that Indian assistance had played a critical role in ensuring economic stability.

"Indian assistance and partnership in the Maldives are deeply valued and have played a critical role during our challenging times. With mounting financial difficulties and substantial debt repayment obligations, India's timely support helped us avoid default and maintain stability," Nasheed added.

He said the India-Maldives economic partnership is built on trust and regional solidarity, which reinforces resilience between neighbouring countries.

"Hands, feet of deceased had melted": Students recall horror after Bangladesh Air Force plane crashes into Dhaka school



Dhaka: At least 27 people were killed after a Bangladesh Air Force training aircraft crashed into the premises of Milestone School and College in Dhaka on Monday, triggering widespread panic and out-

rage among students and residents in the densely populated area.

Students from the school, located near the crash site, recounted scenes of devastation. Adol Hos-sain Seaim, a Class 11 student of Milestone School & College, said, "We are students of the main campus of Milestone School and College. When we received the news of the plane crash, we saw that the hands and feet of the deceased had melted away. Many of the bodies were burnt."

Echoing similar concerns, eye-witness accounts also raised questions over the safety protocols and the condition of the aircraft. Sanjida Akter Smriti, another Class 11 student, questioned the official death toll and the rationale behind conducting training flights over populated areas. "I saw the mutilated bodies of 10-12 people.

Conrad interacts with Meghalaya nurses in Japanese hospitals

Shillong: Chief Minister Conrad Sangma has visited Japan to meet a group of nurses from Meghalaya who are now working in different hospitals there, an official said today.

Twenty-seven nurses from Meghalaya are currently working in different hospitals and care homes in Japan's Kobe.

These nurses were selected to work in Japan under "Mission Moon" an ambitious overseas healthcare employment initiative of the Meghalaya government.

The programme, launched in March 2023 by the Meghalaya State Skills Development Society, aims to send at least 100 trained professionals from Meghalaya to countries facing acute shortages of skilled caregivers and nurses.

Thak Babusar have provided shelter to more than 100 individuals in their homes, ARY News stated.

Additionally, all hotels and guesthouses in the city have been made available free of charge to tourists as part of the emergency response.

In the Diamer region, about 20 locations on the Babusar Road and Silk Route have been rendered impassable due to flood damage. Authorities reported that approximately eight kilometres of road infrastructure has been severely affected.