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3 taken to hospital after residential fire in central Singapore

Singapore: Three people were taken to hospital for smoke inhalation and burn injuries following a fire in a residential building in central Singapore on Tuesday, the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) said. The SCDF was alerted to the incident in the Toa Payoh area around noon. Upon arrival, firefighters found a unit on the 10th floor on fire. The fire was brought under control using two water jets, according to the SCDF's latest update.

15 injured as passenger bus overturns

Manila: A passenger bus rolled off a highway in Bohol province in central Philippines on Tuesday morning, injuring 15 Filipinos, police said. Police said the crash occurred before 9 a.m. local time while the bus was negotiating a sharp curve along a highway in Bilar town. Emergency workers rushed to the scene and transported the injured to local hospitals. The cause of the crash remains under investigation.

Death toll rises to 8, 4 still missing in north China landslide

Shijiazhuang: Rescuers have recovered eight bodies and are continuing the search for four others still missing after a landslide struck a village in north China's Hebei Province early Monday, local authorities said on Tuesday. The landslide, triggered by heavy rainfall, hit the village located in Luanping County, Chengde City. Rescue efforts are still underway. The local meteorological service has forecast more rain for Tuesday evening in the already water-logged area.

8 killed, 41 injured in road accidents

Ulan Bator: At least eight people were killed and 41 others got injured in road accidents in Mongolia during the holiday of the traditional Naadam Festival, according to the country's National Police Agency (NPA) on Tuesday. During the July 10-16 period, over-speeding, unpermitted overtaking, and driver fatigue were the main causes of the accidents, the NPA said in a statement. Road accidents in Mongolia happen more often during summer and vacation seasons due to a dramatically increasing number of people who travel to the countryside, said the NPA, urging drivers to strictly comply with road traffic regulations to protect themselves and their loved ones.

Measles death toll reaches 10 in Mongolia

Ulan Bator: Mongolia's measles death toll has reached ten after two more related deaths were registered, according to the country's National Center for Communicable Diseases (NC-CD). Meanwhile, 109 people remained in hospital, including six critically ill children, the NCCD said in a statement on Monday. The NCCD advised parents to protect their children from a potentially severe disease by getting them two doses of the measles vaccine. Measles is a highly contagious viral disease transmitted by respiratory droplets and direct contact.

Explosive drone crashes in N. Iraq

Baghdad: An unidentified explosive-laden drone crashed on Monday in Erbil province in the semi-autonomous Kurdistan region, northern Iraq, local authorities said. The crash occurred at 5:50 a.m. local time (0250 GMT) near the town of Khabat west of the namesake provincial capital Erbil, without causing any casualties, the regional Directorate General of Counter Terrorism said in a brief statement.

Putin calls Israeli PM Netanyahu

Moscow/Jerusalem: Amid the IDF's bombing of Syria following the violence between Druze and Bedouin communities in the southern region of Suwayda, Russian President Vladimir Putin held phone call with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, during which he emphasised the importance of supporting the unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Syria, the Kremlin announced yesterday.

Trump gives new ultimatum to Putin for Ukraine ceasefire



London (UNI)

Frustrated with Russian President Vladimir Putin for not agreeing to the terms of ceasefire with Ukraine, US Donald Trump has presented a new, shorter deadline of "10 or 12 days" for Russia to agree to a cease-

fire over the war in Ukraine from Monday, which Ukrainian President Volodymr Zelensky has called "extremely significant".

The US president said there was "no reason" in waiting any longer as no progress towards peace had been

made, reports BBC. Two weeks ago, Trump said President Putin had 50 days to end the war or Russia would face severe tariffs.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting with UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer in Scotland yesterday, Trump again expressed his disapproval at Putin's actions in Ukraine, where war rages on three and a half years into Russia's full-scale invasion.

Without saying whether he felt Putin had been "lying" to him, Trump highlighted the contrast between the Russian president's rhetoric during their one-on-one conversations and the missiles "lobbed" on Ukrainian cities on a near-nightly basis. "We were going to have a ceasefire and maybe peace... and all of a sudden you have missiles flying into Kyiv and other places," Trump lamented.

Thirty die in heavy rains in Beijing

Beijing: Thirty people died in heavy rains in Beijing, state-run news agency Xinhua reported, citing local authorities. Earlier, Chinese President Xi Jinping called on the authorities to carry out serious work to prevent floods and deal with the consequences of natural disasters.

The Chinese authorities launched the highest level of emergency response to combat floods in Beijing. According to a statement by city authorities, heavy rains will occur in most areas of the capital by 10:00 (02:00 GMT) today.

Xinhua previously reported that heavy and torrential rains have fallen in the Chaobai River basin in northern China since July 24, resulting in a sharp increase in the water inflow into the Miyun Reservoir, which is located in the northeastern suburbs of Beijing.

Shooting in New York office building leaves 5 dead, 6 injured



New York (UNI)

A gunman killed four people and injured six others on early Monday evening before shooting himself dead inside an office building in Manhattan, New York City.

The 27-year-old gunman named Shane Tamura opened fire around 6

p.m. (2200 GMT) and died from "an apparently self-inflicted injury," CNN reported. The information was later confirmed by Mayor Eric Adams.

Earlier, New York Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch said on X, "At this time, the scene has been contained and the lone shooter has been neutralized."

One of the victims was an off-duty New York Police Department officer, while the other three were civilians, local media reported.

The gunman reportedly came from Las Vegas as authorities found a vehicle with Nevada plates registered to Tamura at the scene, with a rifle case inside, according to the New York Post.

The shooter's motive is unclear until now.

S-Korea remains 'enemy' for N-Korea: Kim Jong Un's sister

Seoul (UNI)

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's powerful sister has told the state media that their neighbour South Korea remains "the enemy" of the country despite recent moves by Seoul to ease tensions along the 38th parallel.

North Korea has "no interest" in talks with the South no matter what proposal is offered, Kim Yo Jong said in a statement released by the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) yesterday.

Kim's comments mark North Korea's first official response since the new South Korean government took office on June four, following months of political turmoil over the disgraced former leader Yoon Suk Yeol's martial law declaration in December, reports CNN.

Yoon further said the martial law



declaration, which the National Assembly rescinded after six hours, was necessary to fight North Korean influence among opponents to his leadership in the South Korean government.

SC adjourns hearing on Imran Khan's bail pleas

Islamabad: The Supreme Court today adjourned the hearing of an appeal filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan against the rejection of his bail pleas in cases related to the May 9 mayhem by the Lahore High Court (LHC).

A two-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Yahya Afridi heard the plea today, Geo news reported.

However, the court adjourned the hearing till August 12 at the request of Khan's lawyer Salman Akram Raja.

Khan, on Thursday, had moved the SC against the LHC's last month's verdict of rejecting his bail petitions in eight separate cases related to the May 9 riots, including the attack on Jinnah House in Lahore.

Direct flights between Pyongyang and Moscow resume after years

Pyongyang/Moscow: After years of hiatus, direct flights between Pyongyang and Moscow have resumed due to demand from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and Russia, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported on Tuesday.

The first passenger plane flying from Moscow arrived at Pyongyang International Airport on Monday about eight hours after taking off from Russia's Sheremetyevo International Airport. The flight was greeted by a ceremonial water salute at the DPRK airport, said the KCNA report.

Addressing a welcome ceremony, Yun Jong Ho, the DPRK minister of external economic relations, said resuming direct flights between the two capitals marks a rapid development of bilateral ties, the report said.

Regional army commanders confirm ceasefire on border areas



Bangkok/Phnom Penh (UNI)

Regional army commanders of Thailand and Cambodia met today morning in border areas, discussing the implementation of the ceasefire reached a day earlier, both sides confirmed.

Thai army spokesperson Winthai Suvaree confirmed today that regional army commanders of both

countries held meetings earlier in the day and agreed to a ceasefire and a freeze on troop movements ahead of the General Border Committee (GBC) meeting scheduled for August 5.

The spokesperson added that a ceasefire had already been in effect along the Thai-Cambodian border before the meetings.

Meanwhile, Cambodian Ministry of National Defence's Spokesperson, Lieutenant General Maly Socheata, in a press briefing today said that the commanders of Cambodian military region 5 and the Thai military region 1 held a meeting for more than 10 minutes.

"Both sides agreed to respect the ceasefire and stop increasing the number of troops in order to avoid confrontation and tension," she said.

Syrian interim authorities must act with discipline: UN envoy

United Nations (UNI)

UN Special Envoy for Syria Geir Pedersen said Monday that the Syrian interim authorities must act professionally and with discipline.

"A sovereign Syria must ultimately hold the monopoly on the legitimate use of force and operate under the rule of law," he told the UN Security Council.

Pedersen expressed concern about credible reports of widespread violations and abuses in Sweida, including summary executions and arbitrary killings, kidnappings, destruction of private property and looting of homes. He noted that among the reported perpetrators were members of the Syrian security forces and individuals affiliated with the interim authorities.

"Sectarian incitement and abu-



sive conduct particularly during security operations is simply inexcusable. The state has a clear duty to act professionally and with discipline, even when under attack. It must take

control of its forces and ensure visible accountability — key to rebuilding trust, enhancing security, and promoting unity," he said.

Syrians must feel that the state and its forces exist only to protect them, as is the stated policy of the interim president, Pedersen said, adding that "the gap between that policy and reality on the ground must close."

Loyalty to the state "must be earned through a genuine process that builds a representative state, protects the rights of all, and embraces all segments of society as equal," he added.

Referring to the inclusiveness of the political transition, Pedersen said that "many Syrians express concern about centralized power, limited transparency, weak checks and



30 Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes on Gaza

Gaza (UNI)

At least 30 Palestinians were killed Tuesday in a series of Israeli airstrikes targeting residential homes in al-Nuseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip, said a local hospital.

The victims, mostly women and children, were killed in a heavy aerial bombardment in the "New Camp" area north of Nuseirat, one of the most densely populated zones in central Gaza, said Al-Awda Hospital in the refugee camp.

"The majority of the victims arrived in pieces due to the severity of the explosions," the hospital said in a press statement, adding that the casualties followed several strikes that began in the early hours of the morning and targeted multiple civilian homes.

Australian PM slams Israeli claims of 'zero' starvation in Gaza

Canberra/Jerusalem: Australian Prime Minister (PM) Anthony Albanese has described Israel's denial of starvation in Gaza as "beyond comprehension." Addressing a meeting of his governing Labour Party in Canberra today, Albanese criticised claims by Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu and Israel's deputy Ambassador to Australia, Amir Meron, that there is no starvation in Gaza.

While there is a caveat on any information provided by Hamas, it is Israel that has prevented any journalists from getting in, Albanese said.

"Those claims that there is no starvation in Gaza are beyond comprehension." In a post on social media on yesterday, Netanyahu said that there is no starvation in Gaza, nor a policy of starvation in Gaza.

Over 2,200 people evacuated amid flooding in eastern Myanmar

Yangon: A total of 2,267 people from 461 households were evacuated in four townships of eastern Myanmar's Shan state due to flooding, according to the Myanmar Fire Services Department on Tuesday.

The flooding, caused by mountain runoff triggered by heavy rain early Monday morning, affected Yatsauk, Aungban, Kalaw, and Pindaya townships, an official from the department told Xinhua.

In Pindaya township, six people were killed and three injured as of Tuesday morning, he said.

Rescue teams from the Myanmar Fire Services Department transferred affected residents to monasteries and playgrounds, he said, adding that rescue operations are ongoing.

US blocks Taiwanese President's New York stop after China's objections



Washington (UNI)

The administration of US President Donald Trump barred Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te from stopping in New York during his planned August visit to Paraguay, Guatemala and Belize over China's objections,

the Financial Times newspaper reported on Monday, citing three sources.

Lai's office said he had no immediate plans for overseas travel due to typhoon relief efforts and trade talks with Washington, though the sources reportedly indicated that the decision followed a US refusal to allow a New York stop.

The report said that Lai had intended to stop in Dallas, but it remains unclear whether the US blocked only the New York visit or barred his transit through the country entirely.

The White House did not respond to a request for comment, while Taiwan's de facto embassy in Washington cited Lai's statement that he had no immediate plans for foreign travel, the report read.

Russian Space Agency chief Bakanov arrives in United States

Moscow: Roscosmos CEO Dmitry Bakanov has arrived in the United States to meet with NASA management and the crew of the Crew Dragon spacecraft, which includes Russian Oleg Platonov, the state corporation told journalists.

"Dmitry Bakanov arrived in Houston as the head of the Roscosmos delegation to meet with NASA management. This is the first face-to-face meeting of the heads of Russian and US space agencies in eight years," the statement said.

It is noted that first, he and the leadership of the US space agency will visit the structural divisions of the Johnson Space Center and get acquainted with their work.

