Death toll from Russian strikes on Ukrainian capital rises to 28

Kiev: The death toll from Thursday's Russian missile and drone including three children, ausaid on Friday. Ukraine's State Emergency Service reported that 159 people were injured in the attack. The heaviest casualties occurred in the Sviatoshinskyi district, where part of a nine-story apartment building was destroyed. Search and rescue efforts are ongoing at the scene.

1 killed, 5 missing after mine collapses in Chile

Santiago: One worker was killed, five missing and nine injured after a Chilean mine collapsed on Thursday, local authorities said. The collapse occurred in the central region of O'Higgins, said the National Copper Corporation of Chile, a state-owned mining company, in a statement.
"Nine people have been identified with injuries not considered life-threatening. In addition, the search for five other workers continues," the company said. The collapse followed a 4.2magnitude earthquake recorded in the central area of the country at 5:34 p.m. local time (2134 GMT) on Thursday, authorities

Guterres to visit Kazakhstan on August 3 at President's invitation

Almaty: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will visit Kazakhstan on August 3 at the invita-Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, the president's office announced on Friday. "On August 3, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will visit Kazakhstan at the invitation of President Tokayev," the office said on X. The parties will hold talks in Almaty and will jointly visit the UN Regional Center for the Sustainable Development Goals for Central Asia and Afghanistan established by a UN resolution in

US dentist jailed for murder of his wife

Denver: A dentist has been sentenced to life in prison without parole for poisoning his wife, after a jury in Colorado of US found him guilty of murder and other charges. James Craig had been having an affair when he plotted to kill his wife Angela Craig in March 2023, reports BBC. After lacing his wife's protein shakes with arsenic, the 47year-old gave her a fatal dose of cyanide while she lay ill in hospital, prosecutors said. During a two-week trial, prosecutors told the court that the dentist felt trapped in his marriage but did not want a divorce due to financial troubles.

UK economic confidence index falls to lowest level since 2016 – Poll

London: The economic confidence index, which measures business owners' optimism about the UK economy, has fallen to its lowest level since 2016, according to a survey published on Friday by the UK's Institute of Directors (IoD). "The IoD Directors' Economic Confidence Index, which measures business leader optimism about the prospects for the UK economy, fell to -72 in July 2025 from -53 in June. This exceeds the previous record low of -69 in April 2020 and marks the lowest reading of the Index since its introduction in July 2016," the IoD, a body representing the country's business leaders, said in a statement.

23 injured as fairground ride snaps mid-air

Riyadh: At least 23 people were injured, three of them critically, after a fairground ride gave way mid-air in Saudi Arabia, sending passengers crashing to the ground, state media reported Thursday. The "360 Big Pendulum" ride collapsed while in use, causing the passenger-bearing circular carousel to smash into the other end of the pendulum before hitting the floor. The accident occurred Wednesday evening at an amusement park in the Al-Hada area of Taif, near the city of Jeddah, stated CNN citing a state media Arab News report.

Trump sets new tariffs on many countries' exports

35% tariff rate on Canada, 25% on India

Washington (UNI)

US President Donald Trump signed a sweeping executive order imposing sharply higher tariffs on dozens of trading countries potentially upending the global trade system and signaling a renewed push toward a protectionist era.

India continues to face a 25 per cent tariff on its goods under the new order. However, the "additional penalties" Trump had threatened over India's ongoing imports of Russian oil remain unspecified.

Trade negotiations Washington and New Delhi have been taking place but are now re-portedly stalled particularly over agricultural market access.

Pakistan, meanwhile, received a more favourable outcome. Having recently finalized a deal with the US on oil reserves, Islamabad's tariff rate has been reduced to 19 per cent,



down from the 29 per cent reciprocal tariff imposed in April. Bangladesh's tariff has also been cut from 35 per cent to 20 per cent.

Among the most significant changes, Trump announced that tariffs on Canadian imports would in-

cent starting tomorrow. However, the White House clarified that goods compliant with the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USM-CA) would be exempt, softening the broader economic impact.

Disappointed by Trump's decision to raise tariffs: Canada PM

Moscow: The Canadian government is disappointed by US President Donald Trump's decision to raise tariffs on Canadian goods from 25 per cent to 35 per cent starting from August 1, but remains committed to the CUSMA trade agreement between the US, Canada and Mexico, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said. 'President Trump has announced that the United States will increase its tariffs to 35% on those Canadian exports that are not covered under the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement, or CUSMA. While the Canadian government is disappointed by this action, we remain committed to CUSMA, which is the world's second-largest free trade agreement by trading volume.

US and NATO allies warn of increasing Iranian threats in **Europe, North America**

Washington: The United Kingdom and 13 allied nations, including the United States and France issued a strong condemnation of Iran's intel ligence services, accusing them of orchestrating a growing campaign of assassinations, kidnappings, and ha-rassment targeting individuals across Europe and North America.

In a joint statement, the govern ments described the alleged actions as a "clear violation" of national sovereignty and urged Tehran to immediately cease such extraterritoria operations.

"We are united in our opposition

to the attempts of Iranian intelli gence services to kill, kidnap, and harass people in Europe and North America," the statement read. "We are committed to working together to prevent these actions from hap pening and call on the Iranian au thorities to immediately put an end to such illegal activities in our re-

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio slams India over Russian oil purchases, calls it "point of irritation" in ties

Agencies, Washington

United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio has expressed sharp disappointment over India's continued oil imports from Russia, calling it a "point of irritation" in the bilateral relationship and noting that such purchases are "helping to fund the war effort" in Ukraine.

Speaking to Fox Radio's Brian Kilmeade, Rubio said, "India is an ally. It's a strategic partner. Like anything in foreign policy, you're not going to align a hundred percent of the time on everything.

"India has huge energy needs and that includes the ability to buy oil and coal and gas and things that it needs to power its economy like every country does, and it buys it from Russia, because Russian oil is sanctioned and cheap and - mean-



ing they have to - in many cases, they're selling it under the global price because of the sanctions," he

The US State Secreatary underlined the impact of this trade on the ongoing war in Ukraine. "That - unfortunately that is helping to sustain

"We are emphasizing this travel

warning given our understanding

that terrorist organizations (the Iranians, Hamas, Hezbollah and Global

Jihad) are increasing their efforts to

harm Israel", the Israel's National Se-

It is being reported that the NSC

has cautioned its citizens of possible

attempts to target Israeli and Jewish

individuals in the UAE, especially

around Jewish holidays and Shab-

bat. The Israeli embassy in Abu

Dhabi and the consulate general in Dubai are subject to evacuation, the

hanom Ghebreyesus said on July 23

that WHO was observing a rapid in-

deaths in Gaza. He added that acute

malnutrition affects over 10 per cent

of Gaza's population, with more than

20 per cent of screened pregnant and

breastfeeding women suffering from

malnutrition, often severely. He em-

phasized that the hunger crisis is

worsening due to halted humanitar-

ian aid deliveries and access restric-

World Health Organization

in malnutrition-related

report noted.

curity Council said in a statement.

the Russian war effort. So it is most certainly a point of irritation in our relationship with India - not the only point of irritation. We also have many other points of cooperation with them," he said.

"But I think what you're seeing the President express is the very clear frustration that with so many other oil vendors available, India continues to buy so much from Russia, which in essence is helping to fund the war effort — and allowing this war to continue in Ukraine," he added.

Rubio's comments came in the backdrop of President Donald Trump's post on Truth Social, where he announced a 25% tariff and additional penalties on India starting August 1, citing its Russian oil imports making up 35% of its overall supply in the first half of the year.

Pentagon spent \$51.6mln on Ukraine patriot tech support since 2023

The Pentagon has committed \$51.6 million for technical assistance for Patriot air defense systems sent to Ukraine since as early as February 2023, with such services extended to at least 2026, a Sputnik correspondent's analysis of public US government contracts revealed.

The United States has so far provided three Patriot air defense batteries to Ukraine. All three deliveries were announced by former US President Joe Biden. Biden's successor Donald Trump, alongside NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte, announced a plan earlier this month to provide Ukraine with additional Patriot air defense missiles. This initiative involves European allies purchasing billions of dollars' worth of US military equipment, including



Patriot missile systems, for transfe

The \$51.6 million contract with sile system, began in February 2023 as part of the Pentagon's efforts to provide technical support for the missile systems provided to Ukraine according to details from USAspending.gov, a US government website that tracks federal contracts.

Israel orders partial evacuation of diplomats from UAE



The Israeli Foreign Ministry has ordered the evacuation of most of the diplomatic staff and their families from the United Arab Emirates, the Ynet news portal reported.

The order for partial evacuation followed a warning against travel to the UAE, which was published by the Israeli National Security Council, the report said on Thursday.

The warning speaks of the increased activity of terrorist groups seeking to "take revenge" on Israel amid an information campaign about the famine in the Gaza Strip.

US intensifies cyberattacks on China's military universities

have intensified cyberattacks on China's high-tech military universities and scientific research institutes in recent years with the aim of stealing classified information, the Cybersecurity Association of China

(CSAC) said Friday.

"In recent years, US intelligence services have concentrated their cyberattacks on China's high-tech military universities, scientific research institutes, and enterprises," the CSAC said in a statement on social

US intelligence agencies have been attempting to steal confidential information, such as military-purpose scientific research data or core production data from design, research and development and production departments, the statement

"These attacks have become more targeted and their methods more covert, posing a serious threat to the security of research and production, as well as to the national security of China's defense and military industry," the statement said.



New York, New Jersey declare state of emergency

The U.S. states of New York and New Jersey on Thursday declared a state of emergency for areas under flash flood warnings, as heavy rain slammed the East Coast, threatened roads and disrupted air travel.

The National Weather Service said that heavy to excessive rainfall and potentially severe thunderstorms were expected along the Washington-Philadelphia-New York City corridor later Thursday afternoon and

Some areas in the southern part of the region could see rainfall rates of 2 inches (5.08 cm) per hour.

"I am urging all New Yorkers to stay vigilant, stay informed, and use caution as we expect excessive rainfall with the potential for flash flooding," New York Governor Kathy Hochul said in a statement.

New York City Mayor Eric Adams and other local officials called on people to stay off the roads and urged residents in basement apartments to move to higher locations.

Belarusian president vows to enhance cooperation with China

Minsk: Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko called for expanding practical cooperation with China.

China is Belarus' key trade partner, with current bilateral trade reaching nearly 8.5 billion U.S. dollars, exceeding Belarus' trade with the entire European Union by 1 billion dollars, Lukashenko said as he met with heads of Belarus' diplomatic missions.

He stressed Belarus' commitment to advancing joint technological development and attracting cuttingedge Chinese innovations, saying priority sectors for collaboration include machine tools, microelectronics, petrochemicals, and pharma-

Chinese envoy rejects US accusations over Ukraine crisis **United Nations (UNI)**

A Chinese envoy rejected U.S. accu-

sations against China over its role in the Russia-Ukraine conflict. At a Security Council meeting on

Ukraine, the U.S. representative accused China of being "the most important supplier" of Russia's war ef-In response, Geng Shuang, Chi-

na's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, dismissed the false and slanderous narratives against China from the U.S. side as completely unacceptable.

China did not start the Ukraine crisis and is not a party to it. China has never supplied lethal weapons to either side of the conflict and has strictly controlled the export of dualuse goods, including drones, said



"The parties to the conflict are not under Security Council sanctions. China has normal trade relations with Russia and Ukraine. By doing so, it does not violate international law or breach its international obligations. China's legitimate rights and interests must not be infringed up on," he said.

"In fact, till now, the United States has maintained its trade with Russia. If the United States is doing that itself, why doesn't it allow others to do the same?

The Ukraine crisis is at a critical juncture where there are prospects and hopes for a political solution. It is not right for the United States, on the one hand, to expect China to play a role in putting an early end to the conflict, and on the other hand, to keep on smearing and pressurizing China, said Geng.

China, once again, urges the United States to stop its pointless blame game, stop shifting responsibilities, and play a constructive role in ending the fighting and promoting peace talks, he said.

Putin, Lukashenko to discuss bilateral relations, Int'l issues

Moscow: Russian President Vladimir Putin and Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko will discuss the entire spectrum of bilateral relations and international issues at an informal meeting on Friday, Kremlin

spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. Earlier in the day, the Pul Pervogo Telegram channel, close to the Belarusian presidential press service, reported that Lukashenko will pay a working visit to Russia on Friday and is expected to hold a meeting with

There will be an informal meeting between Putin and Lukashenko, during which the entire range of bilaterrelations will be discussed, naturally, trade and economic ties.

WHO extends global travel restrictions on Pakistan over polio concerns

Agencies, Islamabad

The World Health Organization (WHO) has extended conditional international travel restrictions on Pakistan for another three months, citing persistent concerns about the transmission of wild poliovirus type

1 (WPV1), ARY News reported. The decision was made during the 42nd meeting of the WHO Emergency Committee for Polio, held virtually on June 18. The meeting included officials from polio-affected nations and focused on the global spread of WPV1, particularly in Pak-

istan and Afghanistan, which were

transmission risks, ARY News stated.

The WHO expressed concern over continued WPV1 transmission through cross-border movement, especially in regions such as southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Quetta Block, southern Afghanistan, Karachi, and Peshawar — areas where the virus

remains prevalent. According to ARY News, the WHO noted that "the spread of WPV1 is facilitated by cross-border travel and the movement of displaced populations," and highlighted the rise in polio-positive sewage samples



across Pakistan. Sensitive areas including KP, Sindh, Balochistan, and central parts of the country remain

polio hotspots, with Karachi, Peshawar, and Quetta Block serving as strongholds for the virus.

The committee also raised concerns about a new polio case reported in Gilgit-Baltistan and the growing number of children missing vaccinations, which further complicates

eradication efforts. While acknowledging that the 2025 polio eradication target is unlikely to be met under current conditions, the WHO commended Pakistan's ongoing efforts. "The organization expressed satisfaction with Pakistan's polio eradication efforts and confidence in the quality of its vaccination campaigns," ARY News reported. Pakistan's Prime Minister and his team were praised for their commitment, with effective provincial and regional campaigns underway.

The WHO urged continued bilat eral cooperation between Pakistan and Afghanistan to combat the virus, calling for sustained joint vaccination drives and stronger surveillance systems. Pakistan's polio surveillance will continue for another three months, during which mandatory vaccinations will remain in place for all outbound travelers.















