

MUSTREAD

Helicopter crashes into lake while fighting wildfires in Canada

Ottawa: A helicopter fighting wildfires in Canada's southeastern province of Nova Scotia crashed into a lake Friday afternoon and the pilot was rescued, local media reported. Citing the provincial Department of Natural Resources, CBC News said the helicopter crashed into shallow water while fighting the blaze in Annapolis County. The pilot was conscious and taken for medical assessment, said the report. The fire, which started on Wednesday, was caused by a lightning strike, according to the provincial authorities. Transport Canada, which investigates aircraft incidents, has been informed about the crash and is expected to carry out a probe.

Air Defenses shot down 29 Ukrainian drones at night

Moscow: Russian air defense systems shot down 29 Ukrainian drones at night, the Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement. "This past night from 00:00 to 03:30 Moscow time on August 16, air defense systems on duty intercepted and destroyed 29 Ukrainian aircraft-type unmanned aerial vehicles," it said. The ministry said 10 drones were shot down over the territory of the Rostov Region, nine over the Stavropol Territory, four over the Kursk Region, one drone was shot down over the territories of the Belgorod, Bryansk regions and the Krasnodar Territory each, three over the Sea of Azov.

Poland marks Armed Forces Day

Warsaw: Poland celebrated its Armed Forces Day on Friday with a grand parade along the Vistula River in Warsaw, featuring more than 4,000 soldiers. The event was attended by President Karol Nawrocki, Prime Minister Donald Tusk, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defense Wladyslaw Kosiniak-Kamysz, and senior military commanders. Nearly 50 aircraft and a wide range of military equipment joined the parade.

Death toll rises to 9 after Cape Verde storm

Praia: The death toll from floods caused by a storm on Cape Verde's island of Sao Vicente has risen to nine, local authorities said Friday. Cape Verde's government has declared two days of national mourning and a six-month state of emergency on three islands after the storm struck Monday night, leaving widespread destruction. Heavy rainfall could hit parts of the archipelago from Saturday, with the southern islands of Maio, Santiago, Fogo and Brava expected to be most affected, the National Institute of Meteorology and Geophysics (INMG) warned.

Iranian President to visit Armenia, Belarus next week

Tehran: Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian will pay official visits to Armenia and Belarus, with the trip starting on the evening of August 18, the Iranian president's deputy chief of staff for political affairs and former Iranian ambassador to Russia, Mehdi Sanaei, said on Saturday. "Mr. Pezeshkian will embark on a two-day trip to Armenia and Belarus starting from the afternoon of Monday, August 18," Sanaei wrote on X. The purpose of Pezeshkian's trip is to strengthen relations between Tehran, Yerevan, and Minsk, particularly in the trade sector, as well as to sign several documents, Sanaei said.

Belarus acquires new batch of Russian Su-30SM2 aircraft

Minsk: The Belarusian army has acquired a new batch of Su-30SM2, a modern multi-role military aircraft from Russia, the country's defence ministry said Thursday. The aircraft are being delivered as part of military-technical cooperation between Minsk and Moscow, the ministry said. Andrei Rachkov, Chief of Staff of Belarus' Air Force, said the modernised Su-30SM features nearly triple the target detection range of its predecessor, new avionics, navigation tools and enhanced weaponry, including guided missiles and bombs.

May not impose 25 percent secondary Tariff against India: Donald Trump

New York (UNI)

US President Donald Trump has said he may not impose 25 percent secondary tariff on India for buying Russian oil.

Ahead of the talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin at Alaska yesterday, Trump said Russia had lost oil client India which was doing about 40 percent of the oil and China is doing a lot.

He said that if he imposed a secondary tariff, it would be "devastating." He, however, said if he has to he will or may be he won't.

"...if I did a secondary tariff, it would be devastating...If I have to I will, may be I won't have to..., " he said.

Trump had announced 25 percent additional Tariff against India taking the total to 50 percent.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent had also warned that the secondary tariffs might go up de-



pending on the outcome of the Alaska Summit.

"I think everyone has been frustrated with President Putin...we put secondary tariffs on the Indians for buying Russian oil. I could see, if things don't go well, then sanctions or secondary tariffs could go up," Bessent had said in an interview with Bloomberg on Wednesday.

Hopes Ukraine has a future marked by peace, progress and prosperity: PM Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has hoped that Ukraine has a future marked by peace, progress and prosperity. In a message to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy the Prime Minister said he deeply values the joint commitment to forging even closer ties between India and Ukraine.

"We earnestly wish our friends in Ukraine a future marked by peace, progress and prosperity," Prime Minister Modi said while replying to the congratulatory message sent by the Ukrainian President on India's 79th Independence Day.

Bus plunges off bridge in Algeria, killing at least 18

Algiers: At least 18 people were killed and nine injured on Friday when a passenger bus veered off a bridge and plunged into a streambed in El Harrach, east of Algiers, Algeria's Civil Protection agency said.

The accident occurred at around 5:45 p.m. (1645 GMT), the agency said. Two of the injured were in critical condition.

Victims were taken to a local hospital, while the bodies of the dead were transferred to a morgue. Civil Protection deployed 25 ambulances, 16 divers, and four semi-rigid boats to the scene.

Videos on social media showed civilians wading into the water to pull victims from the partially submerged bus before rescue teams arrived.

Indian envoy Kwatra holds talks with Virginia Senator Warner on India-US bilateral ties

Agencies, Washington

Ambassador of India to the US, Vinay Mohan Kwatra, on Friday (local time) met US Senator from Virginia, Mark Warner, to discuss the India-US bilateral relationship.

Kwatra briefed the senator on India's ongoing efforts for a fair and balanced trade engagement grounded in mutual respect.

In a post on X, he wrote, "Had a good discussion with Senator Mark Warner on the India-US bilateral relationship. Briefed him on our continuing efforts for a fair and balanced trade engagement grounded in mutual respect ensuring our economic partnership is a source of shared prosperity. We also discussed energy security perspectives of India and growing hydrocarbon trade be-



tween India and the US."

Earlier on August 13, Kwatra held talks on various topics, including The Resistance Front (TRF) being designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organisation by the Department of

Trump to meet Zelenskyy at White House on August 18



Washington (UNI)

US President Donald Trump said that he will meet with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in the Oval Office on Monday.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Trump held narrow-format talks in Anchorage, Alaska on Friday. The talks were held in a three-on-three format and lasted 2 hours and 45

minutes. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and presidential aide Yuri Ushakov took part in the meeting on the Russian side. The United States was represented by Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Special Envoy Steve Witkoff.

"President Zelenskyy will be coming to D.C., the Oval Office, on Monday afternoon," Trump said on social media. Trump said there was general agreement during his talks with Putin that the best path to ending the conflict in Ukraine is a peace deal rather than just a ceasefire.

"The head of the European Commission is currently holding discussions with the leaders of France, Germany, Italy, Finland, the United Kingdom, and Poland. The President of the European Council and the NATO Secretary General are also participating," the source said.

23 dead, 21 injured following heavy rains in Niger

Niamey: Up to 23 people were killed and 21 others injured in the torrential rains across Niger this year, the commander of the national fire brigade group said at a press briefing.

The rains also caused the collapse of 3,615 houses and displaced 5,855 households — affecting a total of 42,559 people, Lieutenant-Colonel Ali Abdoul Azize added.

He reminded people to avoid crossing waterways during or after rainfall, blocking drainage passages, staying in potentially dangerous areas and occupying makeshift shelters.

In 2024, heavy rains in Niger resulted in 396 deaths, displaced 206,474 households — affecting 1,526,653 people — and destroyed 158,767 houses.

Melania Trump sends letter to Putin about abducted children

Agencies, Anchorage, Alaska

U.S. President Donald Trump's wife, Melania Trump, raised the plight of children in Ukraine and Russia in a personal letter to Russian President Vladimir Putin, two White House officials said on Friday.

President Trump hand-delivered the letter to Putin during their summit talks in Alaska, the officials told Reuters.

Slovenian-born Melania Trump was not on the trip to Alaska.

The officials would not divulge the contents of the letter other than to say it mentioned the abductions of children resulting from the war in Ukraine.

The existence of the letter was not previously reported.

Russia's seizure of Ukrainian children has been a deeply sensitive one



for Ukraine.

Ukraine has called the abductions of tens of thousands of its children taken to Russia or Russian-occupied territory without the consent of family or guardians a war crime that

Indian Tricolor hoisted on Seattle's Space Needle for the first time



Seattle (UNI)

In a historic and landmark event, the Indian national flag was hoisted atop Seattle's iconic Space Needle for the first time ever, in celebration of India's 79th Independence Day, the Consulate General of India in Seattle said in an official statement.

The Consul General of India in Seattle, along with Bruce Harrell, Mayor of Seattle, and other select dignitaries from Seattle city leadership, joined in the historic occasion and acknowledged the contributions of the Indian American diaspora in

shaping Seattle's journey as a tech hub in the US Pacific Northwest, the release added.

The flag hoisting marked a proud moment for the Indian American community, reflecting the deepening ties between India and the region. The ceremonial event was attended by the Consul General of India in Seattle, along with Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell and several senior members of the city's leadership.

Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell acknowledged the contributions of the Indian American diaspora in shaping Seattle's emergence as a major technology hub.

Following the hoisting, a large community reception was held at the scenic Kerry Park, offering panoramic views of the Seattle skyline—with the Indian Tricolor flying high on the Space Needle in the background. A significant number of Indian American community members gathered at the park to witness and celebrate this momentous occasion.

Blast at factory in Russia's Ryazan kills 11, injures 130

Moscow: A blast at a factory in the Russian region of Ryazan on Friday killed 11 people and left 130 injured, Russia's emergencies ministry said on Saturday.

In a statement on Telegram, the ministry said rescuers were continuing to search through rubble at the scene of the blast, 320km (198 miles) southeast of Moscow.

Ryazan region governor Pavel Malkov said on Friday that the incident had been triggered by a fire breaking out inside a workshop at the factory.

There was no cause given for the fire, nor was it clear what the factory produced. Ukrainian drones have previously targeted military and economic infrastructure in Ryazan region.

Brazil health minister blasts U.S. over family visa cancellations

Sao Paulo: Brazilian Health Minister Alexandre Padilha on Friday called the U.S. government's decision to revoke tourist visas for his wife and 10-year-old daughter "cowardly," saying it was an attempt to intimidate those who refuse to bow to Washington.

According to Padilha, the move was part of U.S. sanctions over Brazil's continued prosecution of former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, who is under house arrest on charges of attempting a coup.

In an interview with GloboNews, Padilha said Bolsonaro's camp was behind the measure, mocking the idea that a 10-year-old could pose a threat to the United States.

Earlier this month, the U.S. administration imposed 50 percent tariffs on Brazilian goods, while pressing the Brazilian Supreme Federal Court to drop the Bolsonaro case.

46 killed in Israeli attacks across Gaza: Civil defence

Gaza (UNI)

At least 46 Palestinians were killed in Israeli attacks across the Gaza Strip on Friday, the Civil Defence said.

Mahmoud Basal, a spokesperson for the Civil Defence Authority, told Xinhua seven people were killed in an airstrike that targeted a tent housing displaced persons in the Al-Rimal neighborhood in western Gaza City.

He said that six others, including two children, were killed in an Israeli airstrike that targeted a school housing displaced people in the al-Daraj neighborhood, east of Gaza City.

At least 24 people, including a woman and two children, were killed by Israeli army while waiting to receive food in front of aid distribution centers north of Rafah, south of the Gaza Strip, at the Netzarim junction in the center of the Strip, and the



Zikim crossing in the north, according to Basal.

He added that four people, including a girl, were killed in Israeli shelling that targeted Palestinian gatherings and a residential house in the Zeitoun and Tuffah neighborhoods in eastern Gaza City.



been hit hard by heavy rains, flooding and other rain-related incidents over the past week.

Buner district, a three-and-a-half

hour drive north from Pakistan's capital Islamabad in normal times, was among the country's worst-hit, with 184 killed and widespread damage to

Lebanon PM condemns Hezbollah leader's "civil war" threat

Beirut (UNI)

Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam on Friday condemned what he called the "underlying threat of civil war" made by Hezbollah leader Naim Qassem over the government's decision to disarm the group.

In a video posted on his account on the social media platform X, Salam said Qassem's speech "contained a veiled threat of civil war," stressing that "threats and intimidation of civil war are completely unacceptable."

He also rejected claims that the Lebanese government is carrying out "an American-Israeli project" as unfounded, saying, "Our decisions are purely Lebanese, made within our Council of Ministers, and no one



imposes them on us."

Earlier Friday, Qassem said Hezbollah would not relinquish its weapons and was prepared to go to war if necessary, in response to what it describes as ongoing Israeli aggression and occupation.

