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Death toll from gunpowder blast at factory rises to 25

Moscow: The death toll from a gunpowder explosion at a factory in the Rûssian region of Ryazan has increased to 25, the Russian Emergencies Ministry (EMERCOM) said on Tuesday. Ryazan Region Governor Pavel Malkov said that a fire broke out in a production workshop at an enterprise in the Shilovsky district on Friday morning, leaving five dead and more than 100 others injured. "Another victim's body was recovered at the site of the emergency rescue operation in the village of Lesnoy. The total number of the injured is 158, of whom 25 have died," the statement read. The Russian Investigative Committee for the Ryazan Region said on Friday that a criminal probe had been opened into the blast on suspicion of violations of the industrial safety code.

China activates emergency response for flood control

Beijing: China's State Flood Control and Drought Relief Head-quarters on Tuesday initiated a Level-IV emergency response for flood control in Beijing and neighboring Tianjin Municipality and Hebei Province, in anticipation of heavy rainfall. Two working groups have been dispatched to Beijing and Hebei to assist with flood prevention and disaster relief efforts, the Ministry of Emergency Management said. According to meteorological forecasts, parts of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region will experience heavy to torrential rain starting Tuesday, with some areas in Beijing and Tianjin as well as central and northeastern Hebei expecting heavy downpours.

3 dead, 3 missing after heavy rains lash Inner Mongolia's Ordos

Hohhot: Three people were found dead and three others went missing after torrential rains starting from Monday hit Ordos, a city in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, local authorities con-firmed on Tuesday. These figures are based on tallies as of 10:30 a.m. Tuesday. Three people were found dead in floodwaters in the early morning of Tuesday, in the Dongsheng District of Ordos, where a downpour with a maximum rainfall of 214 mm lasted from Monday afternoon to early

2 police officers killed in shooting

Los Angeles: Two police officers were killed and another was injured in a shooting in the U.S. state of Utah Sunday night, local media reported. Officers from the Tremonton Garland Police Department responded to an apparent case of domestic violence in the city of Tremonton, after someone called 911 multiple times and hung up, the neighboring Brigham City Police Department said Monday in a news release, according to local media. A man came out with a firearm and shot the first officer, killing him. A second officer, responding to help the first one, was also struck and killed by the man's gunfire, according to reports. The man fired several rounds into the vehicle of a deputy from the Box Elder County Sheriff's Office who had been dispatched to assist the Tremonton police, injuring him and his service dog.

Russia to launch 2 Iranian satellites into space in autumn 2025

Moscow: Iranian satellites Zafar and Paya will be launched into space this autumn by the Russian Soyuz launch vehicle, the head of the Iranian Space Agency, Hassan Salarieh, said. The launch of these two satellites will be carried out in 2025. The Soyuz launch vehicle has been selected for this purpose,' Salarieh was quoted as saying by the Tasnim news agency on Monday. Salarieh noted that both satellites are designed for remote sensing of the earth, as well as color and black-andwhite photography. He said that the satellites were presented two years ago, and their launch was supposed to be carried out last year, but was postponed. In late July, the Soyuz-2.1b rocket with

the Fregat upper stage launched 18 small satellites into orbit. One

of the satellites was Iranian

telecommunications satellite

Lavrov says Alaska talks reflect US sincere desire to end war

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov today praised Friday's Alaska summit and said it highlighted a genuine desire by the US to end the war with Ukraine, as noted by his meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The Russian President has also praised the meeting and called it very constructive.'

"President Trump and his team, especially after the meeting in Alaska, began to take a much deeper approach to resolving this crisis, realising that it is necessary to eliminate the root causes, which we, (Russia) President Putin, have constantly talked about.'

Lavrov remarked that the atmosphere for the talks in Anchorage was "very good," which was further reflected in the statements of both Putin and Trump.



Trump administration by admonishing Europe, which he accused of wanting to continue with the hostilities, amid their constant demands for a ceasefire - even though it was an unsustainable measure post his meeting with Putin – and their calls for militarisation.

'It was clear that the head of the US and his team, firstly, sincerely wanted to achieve a result that would be long-term, sustainable, reliable, unlike the Europeans, who at that time were saying on every corner that only a ceasefire, and after that they would continue to supply that they would continue to supply weapons to Ukraine," Lavrov told the country's state media Rossiya 24 broadcaster.

The Russian FM claimed that the Kremlin has no desire for territorial conquest, but merely seeks to protect the interests of Russians, referring to Moscow's capture of the Ukrainian territories of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia, Sumy, and Mykolaiv – with Crimea taken in 2014.

Pakistan designates "safe zones" in major cities Restricts undocumented migrants

Agencies, Islamabad

Pakistan has declared Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Attock, Murree, and Haripur as "safe zones," barring undocumented migrants, tightening visa enforcement, and prohibiting SIM issuance and property transactions for those without legal status, Khaama Press reported.

According to Khaama Press, the decision was made during a meeting at the Capital Development Authority, attended by officials from the Interior Ministry, the National Database and Registration Authority, the Federal Investigation Agency, and counterterrorism

"These cities have been classified as protected areas. Only foreigners with valid visas will be permitted to stay," officials said, Khaama Press added. Authorities warned that vio-

Israel studying Hamas reply to Gaza ceasefire proposal

lations would face strict security ac-

A joint database is being developed to track foreign residents, with access provided to multiple state

agencies, the report said.

Additionally, SIM cards will not be issued to people without valid visas, and real estate transactions involving undocumented migrants will be

Khaama Press noted that in re cent months, Pakistan has intensi fied its crackdown on migrants, particularly Afghans, with thousands detained and many deport-

International organizations have expressed concern over the humanitarian consequences of these measures, urging Islamabad to respect human rights while enforcing migra-

Palestinian death toll from Israeli attacks surpasses 62,000 in Gaza

Gaza-based health authorities announced that the death toll from ongoing Israeli attacks on the coastal enclave since Oct. 7, 2023, has risen to more than 62,000, amid worsening humanitarian and health condi-

In a press statement, the health authorities reported that 60 people were killed and 344 others injured over the past 24 hours.

It added that many victims remain trapped under the rubble, as ambulance and civil defense crews face difficulties reaching them due to continued bombardment and limited resources

The health authorities on Monday noted that among the casualties, 27 people were killed and 281 others injured while trying to obtain humani-

According to the statement, the total number of deaths since the onset of the conflict has reached 62,004, with 156,230 individuals in-

Meanwhile, five people, including two children, died in past 24 hours as a result of starvation and malnutrition, raising the total number of such deaths to 263, including 112 children, since October 2023.

The health authorities stressed that hospitals in Gaza are operating under extremely difficult conditions due to shortages of fuel, medicines, and medical supplies, warning that the continued deterioration of the humanitarian situation could lead to

Agencies, Jerusalem/Cairo

Israel is studying Hamas' response to a Gaza ceasefire proposal, two officials said on Tuesday of a potential deal for a 60-day truce and the release of half the Israeli hostages still held in the battered enclave.

Efforts to pause the fighting gained new momentum over the past week after Israel announced plans for a new offensive to seize control of Gaza City, and Egypt and Qatar have been pushing to restart indirect talks between the sides on a U.S.-backed ceasefire plan.

The proposal includes the release

of 200 Palestinian convicts jailed in Israel and an unspecified number of imprisoned women and minors, in return for 10 living and 18 deceased hostages from Gaza, according to a

Two Egyptian security sources confirmed the details, and added



that Hamas has requested the release of hundreds of Gaza detainees

The proposal includes a partial withdrawal of Israeli forces, which presently control 75% of Gaza and the entry of more humanitarian aid into the enclave, where a population of 2.2 million people is increasingly facing famine.

The last round of indirect talks between the sides ended in deadlock in July, with the sides trading blame for the collapse. Israel had previously agreed to the outline, advanced by Ú.S. special Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff, but negotiations faltered over some of its details.

Israel's plans to seize control of Gaza City in the heart of the Palestinian enclave have since stirred alarm abroad and among the estimated one million people presently living

On the ground, there were no signs of a ceasefire nearing as Israeli gunfire, tank shelling and airstrikes killed at least 20 Palestinians on Tuesday, according to Gaza health

China gets recklessly violent in the South China Sea

Hong Kong: Two Chinese warships collided in the South China Sea on 11 August, as the country worryingly ramps up pressure on and bullying of the Philippines. The incident occurred within 10 nautical miles of Scarborough Shoal, which lies within the Philippine exclusive economic zone (EEZ) but which China illegally seized in 2012.

The embarrassing incident saw the Type 056 corvette '3104' from the China Coast Guard (CCG) ram bowfirst into the side of the People's Liberation Army Navy's (PLÂN) Type 052D destroyer Guilin ('164').

The collision completely stove in the bow of the CCG corvette, and several Chinese coastguardsmen had been standing on the bow of the vessel just before the accident.

Russian attack hit energy facilities in central Ukraine

Agencies, Kyiv

Ukraine's energy ministry said on Tuesday an overnight Russian attack hit energy facilities in the central Ukrainian region of Poltava, causing The ministry said a gas transport

facility was targeted by several dozen drones, which caused damage. "Russian occupation forces

launched another massive attack on energy infrastructure facilities in the Poltava region, using cruise missiles and strike drones simultaneously. The attack resulted in large-scale fires," the ministry said on Telegram.

The ministry did not specify what other facilities besides gas infrastructure were attacked. Russia's Interfax news agency re-

orted that the defence m carried out a strike on an oil refinery that was supplying fuel to Ukrainian



The Poltava region is home to Ukraine's only oil refinery, Kremenchuk, which has been repeatedly attacked by both drones and mis-

Local media and Kremenchuk's neighbourhoods against a smoke-

Debris of Ukrainian drones sparks fires at hospital, oil refinery

Moscow: Debris from downed Ukrainian drones sparked fires at a hospital and an oil refinery in the southwestern Russian city of Volgograd, regional governor Andrey Bocharov said Tuesday.

"Russian Defence Ministry "Russian Defence Ministry forces repelled a massive drone attack on Volgograd. In the southern part of the city, fragments of the drones sparked fires on the roof of a Hospital No. 16 building and at a local oil refinery," Bocharov said

"Firefighters are on the scene working to contain and extinguish the blazes," he added.

Blast rips through cargo ship near US Port of Baltimore

Moscow: An explosion aboard a coal-carrying cargo ship near the port of Baltimore in the United States sparked a brief fire and sent a plume of smoke into the sky, the NBC News broadcaster reported.

The blast was reported on Monday evening. No one was injured.

The vessel was transiting near the site of the 2024 collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge at the time of the blast. The fire was quickly extinguished, according to NBC.

In March 2024, a commercial Singapore-flagged cargo ship, Dali, hit the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore soon after its scheduled departure for Asia. The collision caused the bridge to collapse, resulting in the deaths of six people.

Canada opposition leader Poilievre wins seat

Agencies, Ottawa

The leader of Canada's official opposition Conservatives, Pierre Poilievre, secured a return to Parliament and a chance to grill Prime Minister Mark Čarney over U.S. tariffs, staging a comeback after unexpectedly losing his seat in an April election.

Unofficial results from Elections Canada on Tuesday showed Poilievre had easily won a special election on Monday in the parliamentary constituency of Battle River-Crowfoot in the western Canadian province of Alberta, a Conservative stronghold.

Poilievre, who accuses the Liberal government of botching its handling

of U.S. relations, will be able to confront Carney when the House of Commons returns on September 15.

April's federal election, while Poilievre lost the Ottawa-area

seat he had held for 21 years. Carney won on a promise to stand up to U.S. President Donald

posed more tariffs. "Mark Carney has been failing. He's failed, he's backed down, he's

Carney, who took over as prime minister in March, secured a strong minority government in

Trump but has since moderated his approach even as Washington im-

made concession after concession vis-a-vis the Americans.

Agencies, Peshawar

Rescue workers on Tuesday recovered more bodies from a mountain village in northwest Pakistan where flash floods triggered by a cloudburst brought down homes and buildings, bringing the death toll there to at least 20, the local district commis-

sioner said. The toll contributed to a total of 358 deaths in the floods in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province since Friday - more than 200 of them in the worst hit district of Buner.

The Provincial Disaster Management Authority says 30 children are among the dead.

A cloudburst is a rare phenomenon where more than 100 mm (4 inches) of rain falls within an hour in a small area, officials say. Authorities have warned of more rains to come in two spells of monsoon until Sep-



In Buner, there was more than 150 mm of rain within an hour on Friday morning. A massive downpour from another cloudburst struck near Gadoon in the mountains of Swabi district, also in Pakhtunkhwa, on Monday. Khyber

Twenty bodies found in Pakistan mountain village District Commissioner Nisar Khan said that as well as the death toll there increasing from 11 on Monday, several residents remained

missing from the remote village. "We are utilising all available resources, including heavy machinery such as excavators, to recover the

missing bodies," he said. The raging flood water came down from the mountains and swept

away the houses, he said. The intense rain has claimed lives and spread destruction in several northwestern districts, with most people killed in flash floods, according to the National Disaster Manage-

ment Authority. More relief equipment including tents, blankets, electric generators, pumps, medicine and rations have been sent to the flood-affected areas,

the National Disaster Management Authority said on Tuesday.

Israeli army establishes new military post

Beirut: The Israeli army established on Monday a new military post in the border region of southern Lebanon, as an Israeli drone strike wounded four people, according to Lebanese security and health

A Lebanese security source told Xinhua that the newly established post was set up at the northern entrance of Kafr Kila village, about 15 meters from the UN-demarcated Blue Line.

It is "surrounded by an earthen barrier, equipped with surveillance devices and heavy machine guns, and houses a Merkava tank," the source said.

The move comes a week after Israel established a post near the Israeli settlement of Misgav Am, which a Lebanese source claimed lies roughly 800 meters inside Lebanese

Shameful indictment of international inaction" UN says 383 aid workers killed last year

United Nations humanitarian chief Tom Fletcher has described the killings of aid workers worldwide as a 'shameful indictment of international inaction and apathy," Al Jazeera reported.

Marking World Humanitarian Day on Tuesday, Fletcher said the number of humanitarian workers killed rose by 31 percent from the previous year, "driven by the relentless conflicts in Gaza, where 181 humanitarian workers were killed, and in Sudan, where 60 lost their lives." According to Al Jazeera, Fletcher noted that 383 aid workers were killed last year, nearly half of them in Gaza.

'Even one attack against a humanitarian colleague is an attack on all of us and on the people we serve," Fletcher said. "Attacks on this scale with zero accountability are a shameful indictment of internation-



al inaction and apathy."

Al Jazeera, citing the UN, reported that most of those killed were local staff who were either attacked in the line of duty or in their homes. "As the humanitarian community, we demand - again - that those with power

and influence act for humanity, protect civilians and aid workers and hold perpetrators to account,"

Fletcher said. The Aid Worker Security Database, which has compiled UN reports since 1997, recorded 293 killings in 2023. Provisional figures for this year show that 265 aid workers have been killed as of August 14,

according to Al Jazeera. One of the deadliest incidents this year occurred in the southern Gaza city of Rafah on March 23 when Israeli troops opened fire before dawn, killing 15 medics and emergency responders travelling in clearly marked vehicles. The Israeli army then drove bulldozers over the bodies and vehicles and buried them in a mass grave. UN and rescue workers reportedly reached the site only a week later, Al Jazeera reported.

The UN reiterated that such at tacks violate international humanitarian law and undermine operations sustaining millions of people in war and disaster zones. "Violence against aid workers is not inevitable.

It must end," Fletcher said. Al Jazeera reported that Lebanon, which faced a war between Israel and Hezbollah last year, recorded 20 aid worker deaths compared to none in 2023. Ethiopia and Syria each saw 14 killings, about double their previous year's toll, while Ukraine reported 13 deaths in 2024, up from six in

Meanwhile, the World Health Or ganization (WHO) said it had verified more than 800 attacks on healthcare in 16 territories this year, resulting in over 1,110 health workers and patients killed and hundreds more injured.