

MUSTREAD

Hyrbyair Marri alleges Pakistani aggression

London: Baloch nationalist leader Hyrbyair Marri has levelled strong allegations against Pakistan, accusing it of repeated military aggression against Afghanistan and continued occupation of Balochistan...

Pakistan faces deepening youth crisis as drug abuse, suicides surge

Islamabad: Pakistan is grappling with a worsening crisis of youth drug abuse and rising suicide rates, according to local media reports citing a 2025 systematic review of rehabilitation cases.

BNP govt faces uphill task of rebuilding trust in Bangladesh's judiciary

Dhaka: Backed by a two-thirds parliamentary majority, the Rahman-led Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) government has assumed office amid high public expectations...

UN raises alarm over 40 Uyghur men deported from Thailand

Geneva: United Nations experts expressed serious concern over 40 Uyghur men who were forcibly deported to China by Thai authorities a year ago under pressure from Beijing...

US Senators seeks \$130 billion tariff refund from Trump

Washington: Top Senate Democrats have demanded that the Trump administration return more than \$130 billion in tariffs declared illegal by the Supreme Court...

Harvard University apologises over Sanskrit post

Washington: Harvard University's Department of South Asian Studies has apologised for posting what it described as an "insensitive image" related to its Sanskrit programme...

Global reaction to Israeli, US attacks on Iran

Israel and the United States launched strikes on Iran on Saturday, plunging the Middle East into a renewed military confrontation as President Donald Trump vowed to destroy Tehran's missile arsenal...

Below is international reaction to the attacks: Dmitry Medvedev, Deputy Chairman Of Russia's Security Council... "The peace-maker once again showed his face..."



end of their enemy. The USA is only 249 years old. The Persian Empire was founded more than 2,500 years ago. Let's see in 100 years..."

European Union Foreign Policy Chief Kaja Kallas

European Union foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said on Saturday that "the latest developments across the Middle East are perilous" and



that the bloc was coordinating with Arab partners to explore diplomatic paths. Kallas also said she has spoken with Israel's Foreign Minister Gideon Saar and that Europe's consular network is

engaged in facilitating departures for EU citizens. "Non-essential EU personnel are being withdrawn from the region", she said.

Ukraine's Foreign Ministry

"The cause of the current events is precisely the violence and impunity of the Iranian regime, in particular the killings and repression of peaceful protesters, which have become particularly widespread in recent months..."

Kuwait condemns 'heinous Iranian attack'

Kuwait on Saturday strongly condemned the "heinous Iranian attack" that targeted the Kuwaiti territory, calling it a "flagrant violation" of the country's sovereignty and airspace.



In a statement, Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that the country will take all necessary measures to protect its territory.

Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam

"I reiterate that we will not accept anyone dragging the country into adventures that threaten its security and unity."



Norwegian Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide

"The attack is described by Israel as a preventive strike, but it is not in line with international law. Preventive attacks require an immediately imminent threat."



Trump warns some Americans may die amid US strikes in Iran

Agencies, Washington

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Saturday that the United States had begun "major combat operations" in Iran, warning that there may be U.S. casualties.

The strikes, which Trump said were aimed at destroying Iranian missiles and annihilating its navy, follow repeated U.S.-Israeli warnings that they would strike Iran again if it pressed ahead with its nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

"My administration has taken every possible step to minimise the risk to U.S. personnel in the region. Even so, and I do not make this statement lightly, the Iranian regime seeks to kill," Trump said in a video



shared on Truth Social. "The lives of courageous American heroes may be lost and we may

have casualties that often happens in war, but we're doing this, not for now. We're doing this for the future, and it is a noble mission."

This is the second time the U.S. has carried out strikes on Iran since Trump returned to the White House last year.

The first was in June when Washington carried out a series of attacks on Iranian nuclear sites.

The Israeli military said that Tehran had launched missiles towards Israel in response.

In his message, Trump told the members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard, Iran's armed forces, to lay down their weapons, promising that they would be granted immunity.

Airlines suspend Middle East flights after US, Israel strikes on Iran

Agencies, Dubai

Global airlines suspended flights across the Middle East on Saturday after the United States and Israel launched strikes on Iran, plunging the region into a renewed military confrontation.

Flight maps showed the airspace over Iran virtually empty as Israel said it struck Iran and the U.S. military initiated a series of strikes against targets in the country. Iran retaliated with a salvo of missiles.

The escalation dimmed hopes for a diplomatic solution to Tehran's nuclear dispute with the West and reignited conflict after weeks of U.S. military buildup in the region.

It marks the latest upheaval for air travel in the usually busy region amid escalating tensions in the Middle East. With Russian and Ukrainian



airspace closed to most airlines due to years of war, the Middle East has become a more important route for flights between Europe and Asia.

Conflict zones are an increasing operational burden on airlines as aerial attacks raise worries about accidental or deliberate shoot-downs of commercial air traffic.

Several areas of Bangladesh jolted by 5.4 tremor quake

Dhaka: Several areas of Bangladesh were jolted by a 5.4 magnitude earthquake on Friday at around 1:52pm local time, with tremors being felt in Dhaka, Chattogram, Khulna, Jashore, Gazipur, along with other rural and urban districts.

According to Assistant Meteorologist Farzana Sultana of the Bangladesh Meteorological Department, the earthquake's epicentre was in Sathkira, 188 km southwest of the capital, with noticeable panic being felt in public, as residents reportedly felt the ground shaking for several seconds.

The epicentre was confirmed by Zulfikar Ali, acting officer at Sathkira's weather office, to be located near Assasuni upazila, due to Sathkira's proximity to the area.

Pakistan, Afghan Taliban forces clash as diplomatic efforts intensify

Agencies, Kabul

Fighting between Pakistan and Afghanistan's Taliban military entered its third day on Saturday, following overnight clashes as the international community expressed increasing concern about the conflict and called for urgent talks.

Pakistan's strikes on Friday hit Taliban military installations and posts, including in Kabul and Kandahar, in one of the deepest Pakistani incursions into its western neighbour in years, officials said.

Islamabad accuses the Taliban of harbouring Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) militants, who it claims are waging an insurgency inside Pakistan, a charge the Taliban denies.



Pakistan described its actions as a response to cross-border assaults, while Kabul denounced them as a breach of its sovereignty, saying it remained open to dialogue but warned any wider conflict would result in serious consequences.

The fighting has raised the risk of

Lebanon's PM Salam warns against dragging country into 'adventures'



Agencies, Beirut Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam on Saturday said he would not accept anyone dragging "the country into adventures that threaten its security and unity", in an indirect mes-

sage to the Iran-backed Lebanese armed group Hezbollah.

In a statement released after Israel and the United States launched strikes on Iran, Salam noted the "serious developments" in the region and called on "all Lebanese to act with wisdom and patriotism, placing Lebanon and the Lebanese people's interests above any other consideration."

Hezbollah has fought numerous conflicts with Israel since it was established by Israel's Revolutionary Guards in 1982.

Reuters reported on Tuesday that Israel had warned Lebanon that it would strike the country hard, targeting civilian infrastructure including the airport, in the event that Hezbollah gets involved in any U.S.-Iran war.

Argentina Senate approves Milei-backed labor reform

Buenos Aires: Argentina's Senate on Friday approved a labor reform backed by President Javier Milei, giving it final clearance to become law and landing the libertarian leader one of his most significant legislative wins.

Milei's administration argues the reform, which passed with 42 votes in favor, 28 against, and two abstentions, will spur investment and create formal jobs, while labor unions contend it weakens worker protections, including the right to strike.

The reform is expected to bolster investor confidence in Milei's market-driven reforms.

Passage of the bill is seen by analysts as a signal that Milei has the political backing to advance his broader free-market agenda.

Chile denies onboard care by Chinese medical ship as US pressure mounts

Agencies, Santiago, Chile

Chile denied permission for a Chinese hospital ship to provide medical services onboard, saying the vessel lacked authorization to treat local residents, a decision that came amid heightened pressure from the U.S. over a proposed undersea cable project.

The medical ship Silk Road Ark is currently on a voyage to about a dozen countries and arrived in waters off the Chilean port city of Valparaiso on Wednesday.

Chile's Ministry of Health said through its regional office that it had been reviewing a request made through the foreign ministry at the end of 2025 that the ship offer medical services aboard for local people, but would not grant authorization.

"We determined that it is not ap-



propriate to authorize this health operation to function on the ship's facilities," the health ministry said, referring to a local health code that restricts such services to professionals accredited in the country.

China's embassy in Chile did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Chile has been navigating pressure from Washington over its ties to China.

Bolivian military plane crash death toll rises to 20

La Paz: The death toll has risen to 20 in the crash on Friday evening of a Bolivian Air Force Hercules aircraft during bad weather in the city of El Alto, near Bolivia's capital La Paz, AFP reported citing police.

The plane was carrying new banknotes from the country's central bank.

The military aircraft had departed from the city of Santa Cruz and crashed after landing and skidding off the runway onto a neighboring avenue, according to local authorities.

Social media footage showed chaotic scenes of people flocking to the scene of the crash, appearing to pick up money that lay strewn on the ground following the accident.

Local authorities on the scene were warding off people using water hoses and tear gas.

North Korean leader presents new sniper rifles to party officials

Agencies, Seoul

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has presented new sniper rifles as ceremonial gifts to party and military officials, calling them a "wonderful weapon" and a sign of his trust, state media KCNA news agency said on Saturday.

KCNA reported Kim met leading cadres and commanding officers at the headquarters of the Workers' Party of Korea on Friday and handed each a new-generation rifle developed by the country's Academy of Defence Science.

"As was already made public, this new-generation sniper's rifle our Academy of Defence Science developed and produced is really a wonderful weapon," Kim was quoted as saying.

The gifts were presented to mark the Ninth Congress of the party. Recipients included members of



the party's Central Military Commission, senior commanders of the Korean People's Army and guard units, as well as Kim's sister Kim Yo Jong, whom KCNA for the first time identified as director of the General Affairs

Department of the party's Central Committee.

Photographs published by KCNA showed Kim's teenage daughter, known as Ju Ae, attending the gift ceremony and aiming a rifle at a fir-

ing range.

Ju Ae, believed to be in her early teens, has been increasingly prominent in state media, accompanying her father on field guidance including inspections of weapons projects amid speculation by analysts that she is being groomed as the country's fourth-generation leader.

South Korea's National Intelligence Agency (NIS) believes the public role indicates she has started to provide policy input and that she is being treated as the de facto second-highest leader.

KCNA also released a photograph of Kim Yo Jong holding a rifle alongside Hyon Song Wol, an aide to the North Korean leader who is known to be close to his wife.

North Korea wrapped up its week-long Ninth Congress with a military parade.