

MUSTREAD

Indian American among two killed in Texas shooting

Texas: An Indian American has been identified as one of the victims of the shooting outside a bar in Austin, Texas, on Sunday, when a gunman opened fire, killing 2 and injuring 14 others. The Officials have identified the victims as Indian American Savitha Shan (21) and Ryder Harrington (19). The gunman was also killed in an exchange of fire with police. In a press conference on Monday, Police Chief Lisa Davis said that she did not know if Shan and Harrington attended any local colleges, but several online reports indicated that Shan was a student at the University of Texas at Austin and Harrington was a student at Texas Tech University in Lubbock.

6.2 magnitude earthquake strikes Indonesia

Jakarta: A strong earthquake of magnitude 6.2 struck Indonesia on Tuesday, as reported by the National Center for Seismology (NCS). Sharing the details in a post on X, the NCS said that the earthquake occurred at depth of 20 kilometres at 10:26 AM IST.

Quake of 4.3 magnitude hits Iran's Gerash

Teheran: A magnitude 4.3 earthquake occurred near the city of Gerash in southern Iran on Tuesday, according to data released by the United States Geological Survey (USGS). The earthquake comes in the midst of an ongoing war between US-led forces and Iran, with both sides using missiles, fighter jets and drones to attack each other, since Saturday. The seismic event originated at a relatively shallow depth of approximately 10 kilometres, which is characteristically associated with naturally occurring tectonic activity in this geologically active area. No confirmed casualties or damage to building have been reported as yet.

At least 30,000 displaced people in shelters in Lebanon

Geneva: At least 30,000 displaced people have sought protection in shelters in Lebanon since hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah began on Monday, the United Nations refugee agency said on Tuesday. "Conservative estimates suggest that nearly 30,000 people were hosted and registered at collective shelters," said UNHCR spokesperson Babar Baloch. "Many more slept in their cars on the side of roads or were still stuck in traffic jams on the roads," he added.

US Consulate in Peshawar suspends operations amid security concerns

Islamabad: The US Consulate General in Peshawar has temporarily suspended its operations effective March 2 due to security concerns, the US Embassy in Islamabad said. In the meantime, the Embassy will continue to provide all routine and emergency consular services for US citizens. The move comes amid ongoing disruptions and traffic diversions around the US Consulate General offices in Karachi and Lahore in view of the prevailing security situation due to countrywide protests over the killing of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in the US-Israeli attacks against Iran.

Bangladesh expresses deep sorrow over the death of Khamenei

Dhaka: Bangladesh on Monday expressed deep sorrow over the death of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, condemning the nature of his demise. "The Government is saddened to learn that Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was assassinated in a targeted attack, which is a violation of international law and norms. It extends heartfelt condolences to the brotherly people of Iran," the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry said in a statement. Emphasising a call for restraint, the ministry added, "Bangladesh believes that conflict brings no solution and that only dialogue, mutual respect and adherence to international law can resolve disputes."

No evidence that Iran was developing nuclear weapons: Sergey Lavrov

Agencies, Moscow

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Tuesday that Moscow had still not seen any evidence that Iran was developing nuclear weapons, amid what he said was "essentially a war" ongoing in the Middle East. Lavrov told Brunei's foreign minister during talks in Moscow: "We still see no evidence that Iran was developing nuclear weapons, which was the main, if not the only, justification for the war."

U.S. President Donald Trump has offered various reasons for going to war with Iran. On Monday, in his most extensive public comments so far, he said he had ordered the attack to thwart Tehran's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes.

Lavrov told Brunei's foreign minister during talks in Moscow: "We still see no evidence that Iran was developing nuclear weapons, which



was the main, if not the only, justification for the war." He said the consequences of the

attack on Iran were being felt throughout the region, and that Arab countries were bearing economic costs and suffering casualties.

He reiterated Russia's call for an immediate cessation of hostilities by all parties:

"As an unconditional first step, we must do everything possible to stop any actions that result in civilian casualties."

He pointed to the reported bombing of a school in Iran.

Iranian state media have accused Israel and the U.S. of a strike on a girls' primary school in the southern Iranian town that Tehran said had killed more than 160 people.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said U.S. forces would not deliberately attack a school.

US orders some diplomatic staff to leave Middle East



Agencies, Dubai

The U.S. on Tuesday ordered non-emergency government personnel and their family members to leave the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Iraq and Jordan and closed several diplomatic missions across the region as tensions with Iran escalated.

The U.S. Mission to Saudi Arabia

was closed following a drone attack, with Americans in Jeddah, Riyadh and Dhahran told to continue sheltering in place.

The U.S. Embassy in Kuwait said it would remain closed until further notice, and all regular and emergency consular appointments were cancelled.

In Israel, the U.S. Embassy said it was not in a position to evacuate or directly assist Americans seeking to leave the country and advised citizens to make their own security plans.

The measures come as the conflict involving the U.S., Israel and Iran widens across the region, prompting heightened security precautions at U.S. diplomatic facilities and restrictions on non-essential travel to military installations.

Thousands take to the streets after US-Israeli strikes kill over 150 schoolgirls

Agencies, Minab, Iran

Iranian state media Press TV reported on Tuesday that thousands of people took to streets in a solemn funeral procession after over 150 schoolgirls were killed in Iran on Saturday following US-Israeli strikes in the country. Visuals shared by Press TV showed a sea of people, protesting against the killing of innocent young students who perished in the missile strike.

In a post on X, Press TV said, "Another perspective of the funeral procession for the martyrs of the US and Israeli regime's terrorist attack on Minab Elementary School."

In another post it added, "A huge crowd of people is attending the funeral procession for over 165 innocent Iranian schoolgirls who were



killed by the US and Israel on Saturday."

As per UN News, the death toll now stands at around 150, with almost 100 wounded after the US-Israeli strikes in Iran hit Minab Girls Primary School in the country's Hor-

mozgan province.

The wide scale protests comes as a full-scale conflict erupted in West Asia involving the United States, Israel, and Iran, following a major "military offensive" launched on February 28.

CBSE postpones Class X, XII exams in Kuwait amid US-Iran conflict

Kuwait City (UNI)

The Embassy of India in Kuwait on Tuesday said the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has postponed Class X and XII examinations scheduled for March 5 and 6 in the country due to the ongoing regional situation in the Gulf.

In a press release, the embassy said the decision was taken as a precautionary measure in view of prevailing developments in the region. Fresh dates for the postponed examinations will be announced later.

The statement added that CBSE will review the situation on March 5 and take an appropriate decision



regarding examinations scheduled from March 7 onwards.

Students have been advised to remain in contact with their respective schools for further updates and to follow official announcements closely.

Earlier, the board had postponed Class X and XII exams scheduled for March 2 in several West Asian countries, including Bahrain, Iran, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. In an official circular, CBSE stated that revised dates for these exams will be announced later and urged students to remain in touch with their schools for updates.

Melania Trump chairs UN meeting, promotes peace through education

New York: United States First Lady Melania Trump presided over a United Nations Security Council meeting on children and education in conflict, in New York on Monday (local time), even as the military action on Iran conducted by the US and Israel continued.

This is the first time that the spouse of any world leader has presided over the meeting of the 15-member UNSC, which Melania did on behalf of the US as it assumed the rotating presidency of the UN council this month.

Further, it said that the message of tolerance is rooted in the concept of "democratizing knowledge" for everyone, during the new "age of imagination" when artificial intelligence provides the global community with access to learn about each other's cultural norms.

Pakistani and Afghan troops clash, UN says 42 Afghan civilians killed

Kabul/Islamabad: Pakistani and Afghan troops clashed at multiple points along their expansive border on Tuesday as the United Nations mission for Afghanistan warned that 42 civilians in the country had been killed so far in the six-day conflict.

The South Asian allies-turned-foes have engaged in their worst fighting in years following Pakistani air strikes on major Afghan cities last week, raising fears of another protracted conflict in a region also contending with U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran. Islamabad has launched air-to-ground missiles at Taliban military sites over the last week, and even directly targeted the Taliban government in unprecedented, sustained strikes over allegations it harbours militants executing attacks on Pakistan from its soil.

US inflicting heavy damage on Iran as 'big wave' of strikes looms: Trump

Washington/Tehran (UNI)

US President Donald Trump on Tuesday said American forces are dealing significant blows on Iran but signaled that the most intense phase of operations has not yet begun.

"We're knocking the crap out of them," Trump said in a nine-minute phone interview with CNN. "I think it's going very well. It's very powerful. We've got the greatest military in the world and we're using it."

Trump described the campaign as highly targeted, claiming that initial strikes have eliminated 49 Iranian leaders, including key political and military figures. "They got a little bit arrogant by meeting all in one place. They thought they were undetectable. We were shocked by it," he



said. He warned that the next phase, which he called the "big wave," is imminent. "We haven't even started hitting them hard. The big wave hasn't even happened. The big one is coming soon," he said.

US embassy in Riyadh suspends services after attack; Iran says Strait of Hormuz closed

Riyadh/Tehran (UNI)

The US Embassy in Riyadh said it had suspended services at its missions in Saudi Arabia after it was attacked by drones, as tensions across the Middle East escalated further. Meanwhile, the Strait of Hormuz, through which about 20% of the world's oil passes, has been closed, and Iran has warned that vessels attempting to transit the waterway would be targeted.

In a statement posted on X, the embassy said all routine and emergency consular appointments were cancelled on Tuesday and that "shelter in place" measures were in effect at its missions in Riyadh, Jeddah and Dhahran.

"Avail the Embassy until further notice due to an attack on the facili-



ty," the statement said. "We advise all U.S. citizens to maintain a personal safety plan," it added. There was no immediate official comment from Saudi authorities on the reported incident.

The US Embassy in Riyadh was targeted by drones early this morn-

ing causing minor fire but no casualties, Saudi Arabia's Defence Ministry spokesperson Maj. Gen. Turki Al-Maliki said.

"The US Embassy in Riyadh was targeted by drones, according to preliminary assessments. The incident resulted in a limited fire and minor material damage to the building," the spokesperson said, according to Saudi Gazette.

The spokesperson said five drones were intercepted and destroyed near Prince Sultan Air Base, south of Riyadh, in addition to two drones that attempted to attack the Ras Tanura oil refinery in the Eastern Province. A small fire broke out at the refinery due to debris falling near civilian areas during the interception, but no injuries were reported.

Drone strikes hit Gulf energy facilities, trigger global gas price surge

Muscat (UNI)

An oil storage facility in the Omani port of Duqm was damaged on Tuesday after a UAV attack, the state-run ONA news agency reported on Tuesday, citing a security source.

There are no casualties, the damage to the storage is under control, the news agency added.

Qatar's state-run energy giant QatarEnergy has suspended liquefied natural gas (LNG) production following drone attacks blamed on Iran, triggering a sharp spike in global gas prices across Europe and Asia.

The move came as Saudi Arabia confirmed it had temporarily shut down some units at the Ras Tanura oil refinery after a fire broke out in the wake of a separate drone strike.

In a statement, QatarEnergy said it had ceased production of LNG and associated products after its facilities



in Ras Laffan Industrial City and Mesaieed Industrial City were targeted.

"Due to military attacks on QatarEnergy's operating facilities in Ras Laffan Industrial City and Mesaieed Industrial City in the State of Qatar, QatarEnergy has ceased production of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and associated products," the company said.

Trump criticises UK PM Starmer for not joining strikes against Iran

Washington: US President Donald Trump, on Monday in a telephonic interview with the British Newspaper The Sun, expressed his disappointment over the decision by the United Kingdom not to join the US in strikes against Iran, alleging that Starmer's decision comes so as to back the voters of Islamic faith in the country.

The US President suggested to the Sun that Keir Starmer is pandering to Muslim voters by not backing the American strikes in Iran, adding that Britain is "not such a recognisable country" anymore.

Referring to Starmer, Trump was quoted as saying, "He has not been helpful. I never thought I'd see that. I never thought I'd see that from the UK. We love the UK".

Israeli authorities eliminate Hezbollah intelligence chief Hussein Makled

Tel Aviv/Beirut (UNI)

Israel announced that it had eliminated the intelligence arm of Hezbollah in an overnight strike in south Lebanon, following the Iran-backed group's rocket attack on Israel.

Hours after Hezbollah had conducted its attack, Beirut declared that it will impose an all-out ban on the Islamist militia's military activities, noting that its activities put the country's interests in jeopardy.

The IDF confirmed that the overnight strike in the Lebanese capital killed Hussein Makled, whom it called "the head of Hezbollah's intelligence headquarters."

According to the IDF, Makled

was key in "forming the intelligence picture" of Hezbollah, by overseeing the collection and analysis of intelligence on Israeli troop movements and was closely involved with senior Hezbollah commanders in planning attacks against Israel.

"He also closely cooperated with senior commanders in Hezbollah who planned and advanced terror attacks against Israel and its citizens," the military said.

The group's attack on Israel came as "revenge for the blood of (Iranian) supreme leader Ali Khamenei" following the joint Israeli-US strikes on Iran on Saturday, which led to the elimination of a massive chunk of the Islamic Republic's command structure.