



Firefighters recover the belongings of victims of the earthquake from damaged buildings that house government servants in Naypyitaw, Myanmar



A girl who has health problems because of exposure to Agent Orange practice sewing at a special school in Da Nang, Vietnam



Vietnamese PM Minh Chinh (C), poses for a group photo with Vietnamese students at the Govt Office in Hanoi, Vietnam



Workers harvest cabbage on a field less than ten miles from the border with Mexico, in Holtville, California

# Putin orders 3-day Ukraine truce; Kyiv demands immediate ceasefire

AFP, MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday ordered a truce with Ukraine on May 8-10 to coincide with Moscow's World War II commemorations, drawing ire from Ukraine which demanded Moscow pause hostilities immediately.

The announcement came as the United States scaled up efforts to broker an end to the three-year conflict, warning this week would be "critical" for determining whether peace was possible.

Putin last month rejected a US proposal for a full and unconditional 30-day ceasefire while US President Donald Trump has threatened to "pass" on peace talks if he does not see progress soon.

Trump's spokeswoman said Monday that he wanted to see "a permanent ceasefire" and that the White House chief was becoming "increasingly frustrated" with the leaders of both Russia and Ukraine.

"The Russian side is declaring a ceasefire during the 80th anniversary of Victory Day, from midnight on May 7-8 to midnight on May 10-11. All combat op-



A car burns against the background of a damaged private house following Russia's air raid in the Donetsk region, Ukraine

erations will be suspended during this period," the Kremlin said in a statement.

The Kremlin said it expected Kyiv to issue a similar order and that it stood ready to respond to any violations of the possible halt in fighting.

Putin made a similar order to stop combat over Easter -- a truce that both

sides accused the other of violating hundreds of times but did lead to a temporary reduction in fighting.

Ukraine said that it wanted an immediate truce with Russia for "at least 30 days", asking why Moscow would delay a three-day pause in hostilities to May.

"If Russia truly wants peace, it must cease fire im-

mediately. Why wait until May 8th?" Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andriy Sybiga wrote on X.

Since launching its Ukraine offensive in February 2022, Russia has seized large parts of four Ukrainian regions and claimed them as its own, in addition to Crimea, which it annexed in 2014. - "Tapping me along" -

Putin's order of a ceasefire comes at the beginning of what the United States indicated would be a crucial week that could determine how long Washington keeps trying to broker a deal.

After a meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky at Pope Francis's funeral on Saturday, Trump questioned whether the Russian leader was serious about peace.

"There was no reason for Putin to be shooting missiles into civilian areas, cities and towns, over the last few days. It makes me think that maybe he doesn't want to stop the war, he's just tapping me along," Trump had said on Truth Social.

Russian missiles have killed dozens of civilians over the last month in large-scale strikes on Zelensky's home city of Kyiv, the northeastern city of Sumy and the capital Kyiv.

Russia had earlier on Monday said it was ready to negotiate directly with Ukraine but that recognition of its claims over five Ukrainian regions including Crimea were "imperative" to resolving the conflict.

# Over 1,000 Indians leave Pak for home after Pahalgam terror attack via Wagah border

PTI, LAHORE: More than 1,000 Indians have left Pakistan for their home via the Wagah border over the last six days after they were forced to cut short their visits because of the cancellation of visas in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack, an official said on Monday. "Over 1,000 Indians have left Pakistan for their home via the Wagah border over the last six days. Similarly, more than 800 Pakistanis have returned home by Monday," a government official told PTI.

He added that those possessing long-term visas from both countries are facing problems in repatriation. On Sunday, 236 Pakistanis returned home and 115 Indians crossed into their homeland. At Wagah, Pakistan Rangers and India's Border Security Force thoroughly checked the papers of the repatriated citizens before allowing them to proceed with immigration.

On April 22, terrorists opened fire in Kashmir's Pahalgam killing 26 people, in the deadliest attack in the Valley since the Pulwama strike in 2019.

The Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy of the

**INDIAN DIASPORA PROTESTS AGAINST PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACKS OUTSIDE PAKISTAN CONSULATE IN NEW YORK**  
 PTI, NEW YORK: Members of the Indian diaspora gathered outside the Pakistan Consulate and at Times Square here to protest against the Pahalgam terror attacks. The protestors waved the Indian tricolour and held banners that read 'Declare Islamic Republic of Pakistan a Terrorist State - Pahalgam Hindu massacre'. They also held a long banner that had the photos of the 26 victims of the terror attack, with the caption 'CNN, NBC, NYT, WAPQ, UN - Please share their names, show their faces' along with the hashtag 'Hindu Lives Matter', 'End Terrorism Now', 'Islamic Terror - End Today', 'Enough is Enough'. The protests were held on April 27 and an interfaith-vigil against Jihadist terror was also held outside the Pakistani Consulate in New York, where members from diaspora communities waved the Indian and Israeli flags, jointly condemning terrorism and calling on the world to send a strong message to collectively combat terrorism.

banned Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), claimed responsibility for the attack. In New Delhi, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) on Wednesday decided, among other things, to close the Integrated Check Post at Attari with immediate effect.

The Attari-Wagah border is located near Amritsar in India and Lahore in Pakistan.

New Delhi cancelled SAARC visa privileges to visiting respective nation-

als, a step soon followed by Islamabad.

Pakistani nationals will not be permitted to travel to India under the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme (SVES) and any such visas issued in the past to Pakistani nationals are deemed cancelled.

In Pakistan, individuals holding long-term visas, Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) and those with 'No Objection to Return to India' stamps were denied border crossing.

# Windows smashed at Pakistan High Commission in London

PTI, LONDON: An Indian-origin man has been arrested for allegedly smashing the windows of the High Commission of Pakistan in the UK capital, police said.

The incident comes amid tension in India-Pakistan relations following the terror attack in Pahalgam that killed 26 people. There have been demonstrations over it by the Indian and Pakistani diaspora in London.

Ankit Love, 41, was arrested on Sunday and charged with criminal damage, the Metropolitan Police said. The force said its officers were called to reports of a man allegedly smashing the windows of the diplomatic mission in the early hours of Sunday.

Love was remanded in custody to appear at Westminster Magistrates' Court on Monday. "Ankit Love, 41 (07.08.83) of no fixed address was charged with criminal damage on Sunday, 27 April," a Metropolitan Police spokesperson said.

"He was remanded in custody to appear at Westminster Magistrates' Court on Monday, 28 April. The charge follows an incident at around 05:00hrs on Sunday, 27 April when police were called to reports of a



Officers were called after reports that a man was smashing windows at the diplomatic mission

## RUSSIAN, CHINESE SENIOR DIPLOMATS DISCUSS COUNTER-TERRORISM

PTI, MOSCOW: Senior diplomats from Russia and China met here to discuss counter-terrorism, amid mounting heightened tensions between India and Pakistan over the Pahalgam attack that killed 26 people last week. The Russian Foreign Ministry did not directly mention the Pahalgam attack, but indicated that the situation in South Asia was discussed at the meeting on Saturday. According to the statement the two sides discussed regional and global terrorist threats, the situation in the Middle East, Central and South Asia, and shared national experiences in countering terrorist ideology, radicalisation, and extremism.

man allegedly smashing the windows of the Pakistani High Commission in Lowndes Square, Kensington and Chelsea," the spokesperson said.

The incident follows a

heated demonstration on Friday organised by Indian community organisations to protest against Pakistan's alleged support for cross-border terrorism in the wake of the Pahalgam attack.

# Former PM Nawaz Sharif all for diplomatic dialogue to ease India-Pakistan tensions

PTI, LAHORE: As Pakistan's former prime minister Nawaz Sharif has not yet condemned the Pahalgam terror attack, local media says he wants diplomatic channel to be used to deescalate tensions between Pakistan and India. The 75-year-old three-time former premier is the chief of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N). His younger brother Shehbaz Sharif is prime minister while his daughter Maryam Nawaz is chief minister of Punjab province.

Neither Nawaz and Maryam have condemned the Pahalgam terror attack nor issued any statement over the incident so far.

However, The Express Tribune newspaper quoting sources in the PML-N said: "Nawaz Sharif wants his government to utilise all the available diplomatic resources to restore peace between the two nuclear armed states. Nawaz is not keen on taking an aggressive position."

It said that Shehbaz Sharif briefed Nawaz during a meeting in Lahore on Sunday on the decisions taken by the National Security

## 17 TERRORISTS KILLED BY SECURITY FORCES IN PAKISTAN

PTI, PESHAWAR: Pakistani security forces on Monday killed 17 more terrorists belonging to the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan in a follow-up operation along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, bringing the number of foreign militants killed over the past three days to 71. According to the Pakistan Army's Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the terrorists were killed in an operation conducted in the North Waziristan district of the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Seventeen foreign terrorists were killed and weapons, bullets and explosives were recovered from them, the military's media wing said. Over the past two days, 54 terrorists belonging to the banned TTP were killed while trying to infiltrate from Afghanistan into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Monday's operation brings the number of foreigners killed in security forces operations in the last three days to 71.

Committee (NSC) meeting in the wake of the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) by India following the Pahalgam terror attack.

"India's unilateral decision to suspend the water treaty has heightened the risk of a war in the region," Shehbaz said.

Earlier on his return to Lahore from London, journalists sought Nawaz's comment on the Pahalgam attack, but he refused.

Opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader and former foreign minister Moonis Elahi lambasted the elder Sharif to keep mum over the Pahalgam incident.

"There has been a mysterious silence of Nawaz Sharif after India suspended the IWT and took other extreme measures against Pakistan. Is Nawaz-Modi interests being above Pakistan's interests," he said in a post on X.

# Iran port explosion death toll climbs to 65 amid ongoing fires



Thick black smoke billowing at the scene of a massive explosion at the Shahid Rajaei port dock southwest of Bandar Abbas in the Iranian province of Hormozgan

AP, DUBAI: Satellite images analysed by The Associated Press on Monday showed the devastation of an explosion that rocked one of Iran's main ports as the death toll rose to 46 people with over 1,000 injured.

The photos from Planet Labs PBC came as local news reports from the site raised more questions about the cause of the blast Saturday at the Shahid Rajaei port near Bandar Abbas.

The port reportedly took in a chemical component needed for solid fuel for ballistic missiles — something denied by authorities though they've not explained the source of the power that caused such destruction.

The blast Saturday disintegrated a building next to the blast site, which appeared to be in a row where other containers once stood, the satellite photos showed. It also shredded the majority of another building just to the west.

The force of the blast also could be seen, with what appeared to be two craters measure some 50 metres across. Other containers nearby appeared smashed and dented by the explosion and the intense fire that followed.

The fire still burned at the site Monday, some two days after the initial explosion that happened just as Iran began a third round of negotiations with the United States over its rapidly advancing nuclear programme.

Authorities still haven't offered an explanation for

the explosion. Private security firm Amvrey says the port received missile fuel chemical in March. It was part of a shipment of ammonium perchlorate from China by two vessels to Iran, first reported in January by the Financial Times.

The chemical used to make solid propellant for rockets was going to be used to replenish Iran's missile stocks, which had been depleted by its direct attacks on Israel during the war with Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

The Iranian military denied receiving the chemical shipment.

Social media footage of the explosion saw reddish-hued smoke rising from the fire just before the detonation. That suggests a chemical compound being involved in the blast, like in the 2020 Beirut port explosion.

Late Sunday, Iran's semi-official ILNA news agency quoted Saeed Jafari, the CEO of marine services company working at the port, as saying there were false statements about the cargo that detonated, which he called "very dangerous."

"The incident happened following a false statement about the dangerous goods and delivering it without documents and tags," Jafari said.

Another report by the semi-official ISNA news agency claimed the cargo that caused the blast was not reported to customs authorities as well.

## CLASSIFIED CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

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# As Canada votes, Trump pushes US takeover plan again

AFP, OTTAWA: Canada was voting Monday for a new government to confront a trade war and annexation threats by President Donald Trump, who pushed for its neighbour as polling stations opened.

The Liberal Party, led by new Prime Minister Mark Carney, looked set to lose to the Conservatives' Pierre Poilievre until the US president's attacks on the country sparked a sudden reversal in poll forecasts.

Trump forcefully inserted himself into Canadian politics on election day with a Truth Social post saying Canada would face "ZERO TARIFFS" if it "becomes the cherished 51st state."

"IT WAS MEANT TO BE!" he said.

Carney, 60, has never held elected office and only replaced Justin Trudeau as



A voter casts her ballot at a polling station on election day, in Ottawa, Canada

prime minister last month. He had a lucrative career as an investment banker before serving as the central bank governor in both Canada and Britain.

Carney has argued his global financial experience has prepared him to guide Canada's response to Trump's tariffs.

He has also promised to revitalize internal trade and expand Canada's economic opportunities abroad to cut reliance on the United States, a country Carney says "we can no longer trust."

The United States under Trump "wants to break us, so they can own us," he has warned repeatedly.