



Britain's King Charles III at a reception in Buckingham Palace, in celebration of community-based initiatives raising awareness about cancer, in London



Former member of Australia's elite Special Air Service regiment Ben Roberts-Smith leaves the Federal Court in Sydney



Member of Belgium's Parti Socialiste Ahmed Laaouej during the French-speaking political party's meeting on May Day, in Brussels



World Liberty Financial co-founder Zach Witkoff participates in a session during the Token 2049 crypto conference, in Dubai

allovertheworld



Cuba's former President Raul Castro holds a Cuban national flag during the commemoration of May Day (Labour Day), marking International Workers' Day, at Havana's Revolution Square, on Thursday

Pak FM stations stop airing Indian songs amid rising tensions

LAHORE: Pakistani FM radio stations on Thursday stopped airing Indian songs following tensions between the two countries over the Pahalgam terror attack, in which 26 people were killed. "The Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA) has stopped airing Indian songs on Pakistani FM radio stations across the country with immediate effect," PBA Secretary General Shakeel Masood said. Indian songs, especially from greats like Lata Mangeshkar, Mohammed Rafi, Kishore Kumar, and Mukesh, are popular among Pakistanis and are played by FM radio stations here daily. Pakistan Information Minister Atta Tarar commended the PBA decision amid speculations that the government had directed the association to immediately stop airing Indian songs on all FM radio stations given the current situation between the two countries. Tensions between India and Pakistan escalated after terrorists killed 26 people, mostly tourists, in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam on April 22. The attack drew swift and widespread condemnation from global leaders, who expressed solidarity with India and denounced terrorism.

US, Ukraine sign deal on mineral wealth

AP, WASHINGTON: The US and Ukraine on Wednesday signed an agreement granting American access to Ukraine's vast mineral resources, finalising a deal months in the making that could enable continued military aid to Kyiv amid concerns that President Donald Trump might scale back support in ongoing peace negotiations with Russia. The two sides offered only bare-bone details about the structure of the deal, which they called the United States-Ukraine Reinvestment Fund. But it is expected to give the US access to Ukraine's valuable rare earth minerals while providing Kyiv a measure of assurance about continued American support in its grinding war with Russia.

Zelensky hails deal as 'truly equal'

AFP, KYIV, UKRAINE: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Thursday hailed a minerals deal that Kyiv had signed with Washington, saying the reworked agreement was "truly equal". During the negotiations, "the agreement changed significantly", Zelensky said in his daily address. "Now it is a truly equal agreement that creates an opportunity for quite significant investment in Ukraine."

"There is no debt in the deal, and a fund - a recovery fund - will be created that will invest in Ukraine and earn money here," he added. Kyiv and Washington planned to sign the agreement weeks ago, but a fiery clash between Trump and Zelensky in the White House temporarily derailed talks. Ukraine had been pushing for long-term security guarantees as part of any deal.

ment to lasting peace and prosperity in Ukraine." The announcement comes at a critical moment in the three-year war as Trump has grown increasingly frustrated with both sides. The signing comes two months after a different but similar agreement was nearly signed before being derailed in a tense Oval Office meeting involving President Donald Trump, Vice President JD Vance and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

Trump has long criticised Zelensky, saying he didn't "have the cards" to win the war and blaming him for prolonging the killing by not giving up Crimea, but in recent days has rebuked Russian President Vladimir Putin as well, saying he was complicating negotiations with "very bad timing" in launching deadly strikes on Kyiv. Trump said Wednesday night on NewsNation that the deal, "in theory," means that the US will get more from Ukraine than it contributed. "I wanted to be protected," he said, adding that he didn't want to be looking "foolish" by not getting money back for the investment.

ISRAEL WILDFIRE

Several countries send firefighting planes to Israel



A helicopter drops water to douse a forest fire near Latrun Monastery in central Israel, on Thursday

AP, JERUSALEM: Several countries were sending firefighting aircraft to Israel on Thursday as crews battled for a second day to extinguish a wildfire that had shut down a major highway linking Tel Aviv and Jerusalem and sent drivers scrambling from their cars. The fire broke out around midday in the hills outside Jerusalem on Wednesday, fuelled by hot, dry conditions and fanned by strong winds that quickly whipped up the flames burning through pine forests. Several communities were evacuated as a precaution as the smoke turned the skies over Jerusalem gray. Many of the country's independence day celebrations were cancelled as security forces were diverted towards the fire.

authority warned the public to stay away from parks or forests, and to be exceptionally careful while lighting barbecues. Thursday is Israel's Independence Day, which is typically marked with large family cookouts in parks and forests. At least 12 people were treated in hospitals on Wednesday, mainly due to smoke inhalation, while another 10 people were treated in the field, Magen David Adom Ambulance services said. Twenty firefighters have been lightly injured, Volovitch said.

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Israel's fire and rescue authority lifted the evacuation order on approximately a dozen towns in the Jerusalem hills on Thursday. Italy, Croatia, Spain, France, Ukraine, and Romania were sending planes to help battle the flames, while several other countries, including North Macedonia and Cyprus, were also sending water-dropping aircraft. Israeli authorities said 10 firefighting planes were operating on Thursday morning, with another eight aircraft to arrive during the course of the day. Israel's fire and rescue authority lifted the evacuation order on approximately a dozen towns in the Jerusalem hills on Thursday.

Weekend round of US, Iran nuke talks has been postponed

AP, DUBAI: Planned negotiations between Iran and the United States this weekend over Tehran's rapidly advancing nuclear program have been postponed, Oman announced Thursday. Omani Foreign Minister Badr al-Busaidi made the announcement in a post on the social platform X. "For logistical reasons we are rescheduling the US-Iran meeting provisionally planned for Saturday May 3rd," he wrote. "New dates will be announced when mutually agreed."

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei issued a statement describing the talks as being "postponed at the request of Oman's foreign minister." He said Iran remain committed to reaching "a fair and lasting agreement." Meanwhile, a person familiar with the US negotiators said that America "had never confirmed its participation" in a fourth round of talks in Rome. However, the person said the US expected the talks to occur "in the near future." The person spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the closed-door negotiations. Rome soon will see the Vatican begin the conclave on Wednesday to pick a new pope after the death of Pope Francis. Two other rounds of talks have been held in Muscat, the capital of Oman. The talks seek to limit Iran's nuclear program in exchange for the lifting of some of the crushing economic sanctions the US has imposed on the Islamic Republic closing in on a half-century of enmity. The negotiations have been led by Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and US Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff.

CLASSIFIED CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Multiple classified advertisements including: SITUATIONS VACANT (Urgently needed young kitchen helper, Wanted Cook for home in Nuvem), THANKSGIVING (many thanks to st. jude for the favours granted), TOURS & TRAVELS (Special Package Bangkok+ Pataya, Required full time Househelp), VEHICLES AVAILABLE (3 yr old Electric 3 wheeler Mahindra, Swift White Colour 2014 Model), and VEHICLES WANTED (We buy all Car's & Bike's).

FROM PAGE 1 & 2

LIQUOR TRADER WHISKED OFF BY GUJARAT POLICE

"We had to intervene and demand a warrant," Naik said, accusing out-of-state police of unfairly targeting local traders based solely on bootleggers' statements. Following the latest incident, a delegation from the association met with Chief Minister Pramod Sawant. North Goa Superintendent of Police, Akshat Kaushal (IPS), subsequently contacted his Gujarat counterpart and briefed the delegation. According to Naik, Gujarat Police acted after arresting a known bootlegger who was allegedly involved in multiple cases. In a show of solidarity, a team from the association has travelled to Gujarat to offer legal support to Sawant. SP Kaushal has reportedly assured the traders that a circular will be issued to all states, requiring them to notify the Goa Excise Department and police before initiating any such actions within the state.

ATM USAGE CHARGE HIKED BY RS 2

The RBI has, from time to time, issued various instructions on the number of free ATM transactions and maximum charges that can be levied on a customer beyond the mandatory free transactions. Instructions have also been issued by the RBI on interchange fee structure for ATM transactions. The circular also said the ATM interchange fee will be as decided by the ATM network. The current interchange fee per transaction is Rs 17 for financial transactions and Rs 6 for non-financial transactions in all centres. There were 2,55,885 bank ATMs, cash recycler machines (CRMs) and white label ATMs (WLAs) at the end-March 2025.

A MONTH LATER, PWD STILL CLUELESS, TALEIGAO LOCALS GET 'SEWAGE WATER'

Speaking to O Heraldo, Libereta Fernandes, a resident of one of affected wards, said, "Our problem has not been solved as yet. We visited the PWD with bottles of the bad quality of water we receive. The PWD officials visited us and went by just stating that work is in progress. The water we receive is dirty and stinking." "It has been 10 days since we visited the PWD office and what we have been hearing from the officials is that the work is in progress. It's over a month and the problem is yet to be resolved. I am managing by fetching water from my relative's house but for me it is difficult as I am suffering from a spinal problem. We receive water between 6 am and 7 am but that's not enough to meet the requirements of two families. Water supply should be at least for two hours," she said. Victor Cardinho, another resident, said, "The problem has not been solved yet. Though the PWD officials are trying to find out the exact location, in the process, they have dug up the road at several places. We do not know for sure where the drinking water is getting mixed with sewage." On condition of anonymity, a resident said, "The elected representatives should meet their constituents to under-

SECOND STUDENT SUICIDE IN 2 MONTHS AT BITS GOA CAMPUS

Both deaths are being independently investigated by police, and the institute had formed an internal inquiry committee following Desai's death. While no direct link has been officially established between the two cases, the close timing and similarities have intensified calls for improved mental health support on campus. "We are deeply saddened by this loss and are extending all necessary support to the families," said a BITS Goa spokesperson. "We are committed to student well-being and will continue to enhance our support systems." The twin tragedies have sent shockwaves through the academic community and reignited conversations about the pressures faced by students in India's premier institutions.

GREEN PANEL POLLUTION LENS ON VELSALO FISH MORTALITY

The Board had collected samples of beach water, upstream of rivulet, downstream of rivulet and final treated water of ETP (effluent treatment plant) and thereafter, the same were analysed, wherein the values of the Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN) and Potassium were found remarkably higher in the samples of beach water and creek water compared to the samples collected during non-monsoon period. It was noted that Nitrogen and Potassium were constituents of the final product of M/s Paradeep Phosphate Ltd and the sample of puddle water also indicated high concentration of Nitrogen, Potassium and Phosphate indicating spillages mixing with storm water runoff. After the second inspection, the GSPCB issued a show cause notice asking M/s Paradeep Phosphates Ltd as to why the unit should not pay an environmental compensation of Rs 12,37,500 to the Board. Later, the fertiliser company was granted valid Consent to Operate, under Section 25/26 of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, for the production of Urea and Complex Fertilisers, Carbon Dioxide as byproduct, intermediate product Ammonia and power plants. The Board had also stipulated various conditions including Rs 25 lakh bank guarantee in the Consent Order for the prevention and control of water pollution. During the inspection on August 16, 2024, the Board verified that the unit had dismantled the emergency discharge

stand what they are going through. We have no idea as to how many people have fallen sick. The residents are visiting hospitals having no clue as to what's the reason for their sufferings. The roads dug up at various places are not barricaded and could prove fatal for motorists especially at night and during monsoon."

However, when contacted a senior PWD official said, "The work of replacing the pipeline will start tomorrow. Preliminaries have been done today. Health officer has issued notices to some buildings for letting sewage into the open drains. Water supply to Borbhat and Voldem Bhat has been stopped temporarily and tankers have been pressed into service to ensure supply to these areas."

US SECY OF STATE TELLS INDIA, PAK TO DE-ESCALATE

Singh told Heggesth that Pakistan has been "exposed" as a "rogue" State fuelling global terrorism, and "destabilising" the region, adding the world can no longer turn a "blind eye" to terrorism. In his phone conversation with Jaishankar, Rubio expressed his "sorrow" for the lives lost in the "horrific" terror attack and reaffirmed the US' commitment to cooperation with India against terrorism, according to the US State Department. "Discussed the Pahalgam terrorist attack with US @SecRubio yesterday. Its perpetrators, backers and planners must be brought to justice," the external affairs minister said on X.

GREEN PANEL POLLUTION LENS ON VELSALO FISH MORTALITY

The Secretary expressed his sorrow for the lives lost in the horrific terrorist attack in Pahalgam, and reaffirmed the United States' commitment to cooperation with India against terrorism. "He also encouraged India to work with Pakistan to de-escalate tensions and maintain peace and security in South Asia," she said. On Rubio's phone talks with Sharif, Bruce said the Secretary encouraged Pakistan to work with India to de-escalate "tensions, re-establish direct communications, and maintain peace and security in South Asia."

GREEN PANEL POLLUTION LENS ON VELSALO FISH MORTALITY

"The Secretary spoke of the need to condemn the terror attack on April 22 in Pahalgam. Both leaders reaffirmed their continued commitment to holding terrorists accountable for their heinous acts of violence," she said. "The secretary urged Pakistani officials' cooperation in investigating this unconscionable attack," Bruce added. During the phone call, Sharif rejected "India's attempt to link Pakistan" to the Pahalgam attack and reiterated Islamabad's call for an impartial investigation into it, according to a Pakistani readout. Citing "cross-border linkages" to the horrific attack, India has promised severe punishment to those involved in the strike. In a high-level meeting with the top defence brass, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday asserted that the armed forces have "complete operational freedom" to decide on the mode, targets and timing of India's response to the terror attack, according to government sources. The prime minister affirmed that it is a national resolve to deal a crushing blow to terrorism, they said after the meeting. India on April 23 announced a raft of punitive measures against Pakistan including suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty, shutting down of the only operation land border crossing at Attari and downgrading of diplomatic ties in view of cross-border links to the attack. In response, Pakistan shut its airspace to Indian airliners and suspended all trade with India, including through third countries. Pakistan rejected India's suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty and said any move to stop the flow of water will be seen as an "act of war".