



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan (L) with Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) President Ersin Tatar (R) in Lefkosia



Environmentalists protest against planned natural gas drilling approved by the Bavarian state government



Australian Liberal Party leader Peter Dutton stands with his sons, Tom and Harry and his wife Kirilly as he votes in his electorate in Brisbane, Australia



People gather at an annual steam festival at the Belgian Maldegem-Eeklo Steam Railway, in Maldegem, in Belgium

allovertheworld



Cardinal Francis Xavier Kriengsak Kovithavanij arrives at the Vatican, to attend the General Congregation of cardinals in the New Synod Hall where they are preparing for the upcoming conclave starting on May 7, to elect the 267th Roman pontiff

Sierra Leone faces rise in mpox cases

FREETOWN: Sierra Leone has seen a new surge in mpox infections, recording 1,140 cases and nine deaths since the start of the year, the health ministry said. The west African country, which in January declared a public health emergency to combat mpox, last week said the death toll stood at six, with 763 cases. The capital Freetown has the highest number of detected cases, according to the latest figures sent to AFP late Thursday. The country began vaccinating children from the age of 12, high-risk people and exposed healthcare workers in early April after receiving 61,300 doses from the World Health Organization

Major offshore quake causes tsunami scare in Chile, Argentina

USHUAIA: A strong offshore earthquake caused a tsunami scare in the far south of Chile and Argentina on Friday, with authorities evacuating residents of coastal areas for hours before scaling back the threat level. The US Geological Survey (USGS) said the quake struck in the Drake Passage between the southern tip of South America and Antarctica at a shallow depth of 10 kilometers (6.2 miles). The USGS put the magnitude at 7.4, slightly below the 7.5 reported by Chile's National Seismological Center. It struck at 9:58 am local time (1258 GMT), and several smaller aftershocks were also recorded, but there were no reports of injuries or material damage. The epicenter was 219 kilometers from the city of Ushuaia in Argentina and a similar distance from the Chilean town of Puerto Williams.

At least 27 dead in town taken by Sudan paramilitaries: monitor

KHARTOUM: Sudanese paramilitary forces killed at least 27 civilians after taking a strategic town in central Sudan, a rights monitoring group said Friday. The Emergency Lawyers group said the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), battling the army for more than two years in the country's devastating civil war, "arrested dozens of young people and executed more than 27, accusing them of collaborating with the army". The toll could not be independently checked by AFP. Emergency Lawyers said in a statement that the killings took place in En Nahud, a transit point in West Kordofan state used by the army to send troops to Darfur in western Sudan.

Brazil minister resigns over suspected pensions fraud

BRASILIA: Brazil's minister for social security resigned on Friday over a scandal concerning an alleged scheme to defraud retirees of part of their pensions. Carlos Lupi had been at the center of a storm over revelations that unions and other associations skimmed off part of people's pensions, with the possible collusion of officials from the National Social Security Institute. The head of the INSS, which administers pensions, was removed from his post last week over the allegations. Four other INSS officials and a federal police officer were also suspended. The office of the comptroller, which combats state corruption, said it detected unauthorized deductions from pensions for services such as legal assistance that many retirees said they never signed up for or received. The investigation is focusing on 6.3 billion reais (about \$1.1 billion) in deductions between 2019 and 2024.

Gunman kills three in Thailand's conflict-hit south

BANGKOK: A gunman has shot dead three people including a child in Thailand's insurgency-hit south, police said Saturday, as authorities pursued the suspect. The attacker opened fire late Friday in a residential area of Tak Bai district in Narathiwat province, one of three Muslim-majority provinces in Thailand's far south gripped by a decades-long separatist insurgency. Three people were killed, including a nine-year-old girl and a 75-year-old man, police said. "One victim died at the scene, and two others succumbed to their injuries at the hospital," local police officer Watthana Thurarat told AFP, adding that two more people were wounded. Police believe the suspect, who remains at large, is linked to a rebel group, Watthana said.

Two new arrests in Swedish triple murder probe

STOCKHOLM: Swedish authorities have arrested two young men for suspected complicity in a triple murder that shocked the country, the prosecutor in charge of the investigation announced Saturday. The latest arrests leave six people currently in custody, with no decision yet made on whether they should be remanded, prosecutor Andreas Nyberg said in a statement. The prosecutor's office announced Friday the arrest of four men, one on suspicion of murder and the other three of incitement to murder. Three young men aged 15 to 20 were killed late Tuesday in broad daylight at a hair salon in central Uppsala, a university town north of Stockholm.

Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese wins second 3-year term

AP, MELBOURNE: Anthony Albanese claimed victory as the first Australian prime minister to clinch a second consecutive three-year term in 21 years on Saturday and suggested his government had increased its majority in the next Parliament by not modelling itself on US President Donald Trump's administration.

"Australians have chosen to face global challenges the Australian way, looking after each other while building for the future," Albanese told supporters in a victory speech in Sydney.

"We do not need to beg or borrow or copy from anywhere else. We do not seek our inspiration overseas. We find it right here in our values and in our people," he added.

His centre-left Labour Party had branded Albanese's rival Peter Dutton, the opposition leader, "DOGE-y Dutton" and accused his conservative Liberal Party of mimicking Trump and his Department of Government Efficiency.



Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese reacts as he addresses the party faithful after winning a second term following the general election in Sydney

Dutton had earlier conceded his alliance of conservative parties had been defeated at the election and that he had lost his own parliamentary seat that he had held for 24 years.

Labour had held a narrow majority of 78 seats in the 151-seat house House of Representatives, the lower

chamber where parties form governments.

Australian governments are usually elected for at least a second term, but are expected to lose seats at the second election. But Labour is on track to increase its majority in its second term.

High prices are a major election issue

Energy policy and inflation have been major issues in the campaign, with both sides agreeing the country faces a cost of living crisis.

The Liberal Party blames government waste for fueling inflation and increasing interest rates, and has pledged to axe more than one in five public service

jobs to reduce government spending.

While both say the country should reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, Dutton argues that relying on nuclear power instead of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind turbines would deliver less expensive electricity.

Labor argues Dutton's administration would slash services to pay for its ambitions to build seven government-funded nuclear generators. Australia currently has no nuclear power. The election took place against a backdrop of what both sides of politics describe as a cost of living crisis.

Foodbank Australia, the nation's largest food relief charity, reported 3.4 million households in the country of 27 million people experienced food insecurity last year. That meant Australians were skipping meals, eating less or worrying about running out of food before they could afford to buy more.

Saudi Arabia executed 100 people in 2025 so far

AFP, DUBAI: Saudi Arabia executed two people convicted of terrorism related charges, the interior ministry said Saturday, bringing the total number of executions carried out this year to at least 100, according to an AFP tally.

The ministry's announcement posted on social media said the two Saudi nationals had been executed for their involvement in "terrorism", including joining a terrorist organisation and attending training camps abroad, where they learned to produce explosives.

"After they were referred to the competent court, a ruling was issued confirming the charges against them and ordering their execution as a punishment," read the statement.

According to an AFP tally, of the 100 people executed this year, 59 were individuals convicted of drug-related crimes, 43 of whom were foreign nationals.

PM Wong's PAP wins two-third majority in Singapore General Election

PTI, SINGAPORE: Prime Minister Lawrence Wong and his People's Action Party (PAP) has secured two-third seats or the 65 required from 97 contested in the general election held on Saturday to form the next government in Singapore.

The opposition Workers' Party has won six seats and is leading in four seats.

As results are coming in, the PAP is leading in the rest of the seats.

Wong and the PAP had sought a new mandate from the general election in the midst of uncertainties caused by the US trade tariff to global economies.

The PAP, Singapore's oldest and largest political party that has ruled the city-state ever since independence, has secured absolute majority to rule the

prosperous country for the next five years.

About 2.6 million Singaporeans voted on Saturday for 92 contested seats as PAP's Group Representation Constituency for Marine Parade-Braddell Heights had a walkover on nomination day on April 23.

This was Wong's first election as prime minister of the global-business focused Singapore which now faces navigating through strong headwinds caused by President Donald Trump-imposed tariffs.

Speaking after the result for Marsiling-Yew Tee Group Representation Constituency (GRC) was announced, Wong said the election was his first and a "humbling experience". He pledged to work hard for the voters.

DERBY DOWNPOUR



Guests huddle under a large plastic bag for cover as they watch the races ahead of the 151st running of the Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs, in Louisville, Kentucky

Russia downs 170 drones, 8 Western-supplied missiles over Crimea, other regions

PTI, MOSCOW: Russia on Saturday said it has downed 170 drones and more than 10 guided missiles overnight over Crimea and several border regions with Ukraine.

In a press release on its Telegram channel, the defence ministry said between 2200 hours Friday and 0500 hours Saturday, Russian air defence units have destroyed 96 fixed wing drones over Crimea, 47 over Krasnodar territory, 9 over Rostov, 8 each over Bryansk and Kursk regions in South West of Moscow. Two UAVs were also downed over the Belgorod region.

Besides these, 8 Britain-supplied Storm Shad-



ow cruise missiles and 3 Ukraine-developed Neptune-MD guided missiles were destroyed over the Black Sea.

In the early hours on Saturday, 14 Ukrainian naval drones were destroyed in the Black Sea, the ministry said.

Meanwhile, governors of some regions have reported civilian damage from Ukrainian drone strikes.

"Two adults and two children were evacuated after fragments from a downed UAV caused a fire on the roof of a house in the village of Tselina. A non-residential building was also damaged," RT.com news portal reported, quoting Rostov Governor Yuri Slyusar.

Slyusar said the drones were intercepted over several areas, including the mining towns of Novoshakhtinsk and Kamensk-Shakhtinsky.

In the Krasnodar region, officials said "drone fragments" damaged three houses in Anapa, a resort town on the Black Sea coast. Telegram channels reported drone attacks in the port cities of Novorossiysk and Taman near Crimea, with UAV debris found scattered on the streets.

2 women shot on campus of small technical college near Los Angeles

AP, INGLEWOOD (US): Two female employees of a Southern California technical college were shot on campus and taken to the hospital in an incident that authorities were attributing to workplace violence.

The shooting occurred around 4 pm Friday in an office at the Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology Campus in Inglewood, where Mayor James Butts said the suspect was believed to be a former employee.

Aerial TV video showed a heavy police presence outside the campus in the city, which abuts Los Angeles to the southwest.

One of the victims was in critical condition, Butts said. The Los Angeles County Fire Department confirmed on the social platform X that two people were taken to the hospital. The school went on lockdown for at least an hour after the shooting.

Chris Becker, president and chief administrator of the campus, told KABC-TV that the campus is patrolled regularly and that as an aviation school, safety is one of the things it focuses on the most.

"It's a peaceful campus," Becker said. "It's a nice community of students and teachers and staff."

FROM PAGE 1

BITS GOA STUDENTS TALK ABOUT PRESSURE-COOKER ENVIRONMENT

He said, "Hence difficult to find friends as language and many other factors act as a barrier and if you do not have good friendships, it's tough to survive in this pressure."

He elaborated saying, "The college's mental health initiative, Mpower cell, has made therapy available 24/7, which was previously appointment-based. Despite this tragic incident, exams are going on. But we are given an option to not take the exam and attend a makeup test for those exams towards the end of July."

Information from the BITS Goa Reddit platform. Rigorous conversations are happening on the BITS Pilani Reddit group. Through these posts, students are substantially discussing many factors that constantly pressure them. A post read, "The intolerable pressure from the demanding dual-degree curriculum, combined with overly harsh professors and unfair grading practices

(particularly in some departments), is taking a toll. The administration must recognise this. The Director can send as many condolence or awareness emails as they like, but unless real, structural changes are made, nothing will truly improve."

All the posts seem to imply that students have become numb to suicides at this point. Another post read, "Not getting enough holidays as IIT's is the realiest thing ever. We don't get enough leaves either (capped at 12), nor do we get to go home earlier compared to other colleges. On top of that, even weekends are occupied by quizzes, extra lectures, and labs. There is no breathing space at all."

COLOMBO FLIGHT SEARCHED FOR PAHALGAM TERROR SUSPECT

"No one has been arrested by the Katunayake police after the search was conducted at the airport," police spokesperson and Senior Superintendent Buddhika Ma-

natunga told PTI.

Katunayake police station is the local police point covering the general area of the international airport.

Terrorists killed 26 people, mostly tourists, in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam on April 22.

Initially, Indian authorities identified five terrorists — including three Pakistani nationals — behind the massacre in Pahalgam. Citing "cross-border linkages" to the horrific attack, India has promised severe punishment to those involved in the strike.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 24 vowed to punish the terrorists behind the Pahalgam terror attack and those part of the conspiracy beyond their imagination, asserting that the country's enemies targeted not merely unarmed tourists but dared to attack India's soul.

In a high-level meeting with the top defence brass on April 29, Modi 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.