



US Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth salutes during a Second World War memorial ceremony, at the American Cemetery of north western France



Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te attends the "Sea Safety No.12" exercise, overseeing live demonstrations of interceptions in Kaohsiung



Costa Rica's Prez Rodrigo Chaves Robles delivers a speech during the Blue Economy and Finance Forum ahead of the Unoc3, at The Grimaldi Forum in Monaco



Muhammad Yunus, chief adviser of Bangladesh's interim government, speaks as he attends the Nikkei Forum 30th Future of Asia in Tokyo

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A woman dressed up in a gothic style holds an owl during the so-called "Victorian Picnic" in Clara Zetkin park on the first day of the annual "Wave-Gotik-Treffen" (WGT) festival in Leipzig, eastern Germany

Salvadoran lawyer arrested on money laundering charges

SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR: A Salvadoran lawyer and fierce critic of President Nayib Bukele was arrested Saturday on charges of money laundering, the prosecutor's office said, a move branded by human rights organizations as an offensive to silence those who question the government. Bukele's hardline approach to El Salvador's powerful gangs has made him one of the world's most domestically popular leaders, even as human rights defenders raise alarm over arbitrary arrests and eroding civil liberties. Enrique Anaya, a constitutional lawyer, who has called Nayib a "dictator" and criticized his reelection, was arrested at his home in the city of Santa Tecla.

Spain condemns Colombian assassination attempt

MADRID, SPAIN: Spain on Sunday condemned the attempted assassination of a Colombian right-wing opposition senator and candidate in next year's presidential election, saying "violence has no place in our societies". "Spain conveys its best wishes for a speedy recovery to the victim and all its solidarity to his family and friends, as well as to the Colombian people," the Spanish foreign ministry added in a statement. Colombian senator Miguel Uribe was speaking to supporters in the capital when a gunman shot him twice in the head and once in the knee. A security guard managed to detain the suspected attacker, a minor believed to be 15 years old.

Money, mining and marine parks: The big issues at UN ocean summit

NICE, FRANCE: France is hosting world leaders this week to confront what the United Nations calls a global "emergency" in the oceans - but what is expected, and can the summit make a difference? There is pressure on the UN Ocean Conference starting Monday in Nice to show that countries can unite and deliver more than just talk for the world's ailing and neglected seas. Several countries are expected to announce the creation of new marine conservation zones within their national waters, though how protected they really are will come under scrutiny. Some countries impose next to no rules on what is forbidden or permitted in marine zones. France and other EU states, for example, allow bottom trawling, a damaging fishing practice, in protected waters.

World leaders head to France for UN summit on ocean threats

NICE, FRANCE: World leaders descend on the French Riviera on Sunday ahead of a high-level summit to tackle a deepening crisis in the oceans driven by overfishing, climate change and pollution. The United Nations says oceans face an "emergency" and leaders gathering in Nice will be under pressure to commit much-needed money and stronger protections for the ailing seas and the people that depend on them. The UN Ocean Conference must try to turn a corner as nations feud over deep-sea mining, plastic litter and exploitative fishing, against a backdrop of wider geopolitical tensions. Some 50 heads of state and government are expected to attend, including Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and his Argentine counterpart Javier Milei.

26 arrests in new Venezuela crackdown on dollar black market

CARACAS, VENEZUELA: Venezuelan authorities have detained 26 people in a fresh crackdown on the dollar black market, bringing the total number of arrests in recent days to 50, the country's top prosecutor said Saturday. "The total number of detainees for economic crimes and illegal sale of foreign currency... is 50," Attorney General Tarek William Saab told AFP. The arrests come as Venezuela's government seeks to rein in a foreign exchange black market that developed after a 2018 decision to allow the use of US dollars to pay for goods and services in the country. That decision aimed to deal with the effects of runaway inflation that rendered the domestic currency, the bolivar, essentially worthless. The dollar has since then become the de facto currency in Venezuela. Caracas never opted for formal dollarization, and has instead pegged the value of the local currency to the greenback.

Trump sends National Guard to LA over immigration protests

AFP, LOS ANGELES, UNITED STATES: US President Donald Trump ordered National Guard troops to Los Angeles, a rare deployment expected Sunday against the state governor's wishes after sometimes-violent protests against immigration enforcement raids.

Trump took federal control of California's state military to push soldiers into the country's second-biggest city, a decision deemed "purposefully inflammatory" by California Governor Gavin Newsom and of a kind not seen for decades according to US media.

The development came after two days of confrontations during which federal agents fired flash-bang grenades and tear gas toward crowds angry at the arrests of dozens of migrants in a city with a large Latino population.

"It's up to us to stand up for our people," said a Los



Law enforcement clashes with demonstrators during a protest following federal immigration operations, in the Compton neighborhood of Los Angeles, California

Angeles resident whose parents are immigrants, declining to give her name.

"Whether we get hurt, whether they gas us, whatever they're throwing at us. They're never going to stop us. All we have left is our voice," she told AFP as

emergency services lights flashed in the distance.

An AFP photographer saw fires and fireworks light up the streets during clashes, while a protester holding a Mexican flag stood in front of a burnt-out car that had been sprayed

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said, blaming what she called California's "feckless" Democratic leaders.

"The Trump Administration has a zero tolerance policy for criminal behaviour and violence, especially when that violence is aimed at law enforcement officers trying to do their jobs."

Trump congratulated the National Guard for "a job well done" shortly before midnight on Saturday in a post on Truth Social.

However, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass said on social media platform X the troops had not yet been deployed, while AFP journalists have so far not seen them on the ground.

Trump took a swipe at Bass and Newsom, saying in his post they were "unable to handle the task," drawing a comparison with deadly fires that hit the city in January.

New disputes emerge ahead of US-China trade talks in London

AP, BEIJING: US-China trade talks in London this week are expected to take up a series of fresh disputes that have buffeted relations, threatening a fragile truce over tariffs.

Both sides agreed in Geneva last month to a 90-day suspension of most of the 100%-plus tariffs they had imposed on each other in an escalating trade war that had sparked fears of recession.

Since then, the US and China have exchanged angry words over advanced semiconductors that power artificial intelligence, "rare earths" that are vital to carmakers and other industries, and visas for Chinese students at American universities.

President Donald Trump spoke at length with Chinese leader Xi Jinping by phone last Thursday in an attempt to put relations back on track. Trump announced on social media the next day that trade talks would be held on Monday in London.

KITE FEST



A scene from the Kite Show at the historical complex "Fort Konstantin" in city of Kronstadt outside Saint Petersburg

Australia seeks stronger trade ties after 'unjustified' US tariffs

AFP, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA: Australia will push to expand free trade agreements with other countries to reduce its reliance on the United States, Trade Minister Don Farrell said Sunday, slamming President Donald Trump's "unjustified" tariffs.

Australia is a close US ally but has been slugged with a blanket 10 percent tariff on goods exported to the United States, rising to 50 percent on steel and aluminium, as part of Trump's sweeping global duties.

"I'm hopeful that those countries around the world who do believe in free and fair trade can reach an agreement to extend free trade agreements across the globe, so that irrespective of what the Americans might chose to do, we have a greater diversity of trading partners," Farrell told Sky News.

He was speaking after talks last week in Paris with the World Trade Organization, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and other countries which he said had focused on preventing "protectionism" and encouraging free and fair trade.

The address marked a



month since the former Robert Prevost from Chicago was elected pope, and came during a Sunday mass to celebrate Pentecost held under sunny skies in St Peter's Square.

Before mass, the 69-year-old pontiff made a turn around the sprawling Baroque square in his pope-mobile to the enthusiastic cheers of the crowd, estimated by the Vatican at around 80,000 people.

Palestinians say Israeli fire kills 5; Israel says it fired only warning shots

AP, DEIR AL-BALAH: Israeli fire killed at least five people and wounded others as they headed toward two aid distribution points in Gaza run by an Israeli and US-backed group, Palestinian health officials and witnesses said Sunday. Israel's military said it fired warning shots at people who approached its forces.

The past two weeks have seen frequent shootings near the new hubs where thousands of Palestinians - desperate after 20 months of war - are being directed to collect food. Witnesses say nearby Israeli troops have opened fire, and more than 80 people have been killed, according to Gaza hospital officials.

In all, at least 108 bodies were brought to hospitals in Gaza over the past 48 hours, the territory's Health Ministry said. Israel's military said it struck

ISRAEL VOWS TO PREVENT AID BOAT CARRYING GRETA THUNBERG

AP, TEL AVIV: Israel's government on Sunday vowed to prevent an aid boat carrying Greta Thunberg and other activists from reaching the Gaza Strip. Defence Minister Israel Katz said that Israel wouldn't allow anyone to break its naval blockade of the Palestinian territory, which he said was aimed at preventing Hamas from importing arms. "To the antisemitic Greta and her fellow Hamas propagandists - I will say this clearly: You should turn back, because you will not make it to Gaza," he said in a statement. Thunberg, a climate campaigner, is among 12 activists aboard the Madleen, which is operated by the Freedom Flotilla Coalition. The vessel departed Sicily last Sunday on a mission that aims to break the sea blockade of Gaza and deliver humanitarian aid, while raising awareness over the growing humanitarian crisis 20 months into the Israel-Hamas war.

dozens of militant targets throughout Gaza over the past day.

Four of the latest bodies were brought to Nasser Hospital in the southern city of Khan Younis. Palestinian witnesses said Israeli forces fired on them at a roundabout around a kilo-

metre from a site run by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation in nearby Rafah.

Israel's military said it fired warning shots at "suspects" who had advanced toward its forces and ignored warnings to turn away. It said the shooting occurred in an area that is

considered an active combat zone at night.

Al-Awda Hospital said it received the body of a 42-year-old man and 29 people who were wounded near another GHF aid distribution point in central Gaza. The military said it fired warning shots in the area at around 6:40 am but did not see any casualties.

A GHF official said there was no violence in or around its distribution sites, all three of which delivered aid on Sunday. The group closed them temporarily last week to discuss safety measures with Israel's military and has warned people to stay on designated access routes. The official spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

The new aid hubs are set up inside Israeli military zones where independent media have no access.

Pope Leo condemns 'exclusionary mindset' in Pentecost address

AFP, VATICAN CITY, HOLY SEE: Pope Leo XIV exhorted the faithful on Sunday to reject an "exclusionary mindset" he said had led to nationalism around the world.

Leo's homily did not call out current events and conflicts nor identify individual leaders. But his choice of language was significant, encouraging people to "open borders" within their hearts and minds.

The address marked a month since the former Robert Prevost from Chicago was elected pope, and came during a Sunday mass to celebrate Pentecost held under sunny skies in St Peter's Square.

Before mass, the 69-year-old pontiff made a turn around the sprawling Baroque square in his pope-mobile to the enthusiastic cheers of the crowd, estimated by the Vatican at around 80,000 people.

Leo said the Church "must open the borders between peoples and break down the barriers between class and race."

People must move "beyond our fear of those who are different," he said, noting that the Holy Spirit "breaks down barriers and tears down the walls of indifference and hatred..."

"Where there is love, there is no room for prejudice, for 'security' zones

separating us from our neighbours, for the exclusionary mindset that, tragically, we now see emerging also in political nationalisms."

Leo did not speak of physical borders but his focus on barriers and walls evoked the politics of US President Donald Trump, who has vowed to stem illegal immigration into the United States.

The pope also said the

Holy Spirit was an antidote to toxic relationships marked by "suspicion, prejudice or the desire to manipulate others".

"With great pain," Leo cited "cases where relationships are marked by an unhealthy desire for domination, an attitude that often leads to violence, as is shown, tragically, by numerous recent cases of femicide".

In Italy, a slew of femi-

cides have become front-page news over the last month, including the killing of a 14-year girl by her boyfriend last week.

Leo also cited the dangers of social media, saying it risked making people "ever more alone" within a "vortex of individualism."

"Constantly connected, yet incapable of 'networking'. Always immersed in a crowd, yet confused and solitary travellers," he said.