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US actress Sydney Sweeney poses on the red carpet for the "Echo Valley" European Premier, in London

Nvidia trumpets European AI infrastructure push

PARIS, FRANCE: US chip giant Nvidia on Wednesday announced a broad infrastructure push into Europe, partnering with local companies to help build the continent's "own ecosystem" for AI, chief executive Jensen Huang said in Paris. "In just two years we will increase the amount of AI computing capacity in Europe by a factor of 10," Huang told attendees at the French capital's annual Vivattech trade fair, striding around the stage wearing his trademark leather jacket. California-based Nvidia is by far the largest producer of chips for AI - notably the Graphics Processing Units (GPUs) originally developed for high-end gaming. Nvidia's chips have proved uniquely suited for generative AI, whether powering robots, software or self-driving cars.

Kenya president says death in police custody 'unacceptable'

NAIROBI, KENYA: Kenyan President William Ruto on Wednesday condemned the death of a man while in police custody that has sparked widespread anger. Police had initially said that Albert Ojwang, arrested over social media posts accusing a police deputy inspector-general of corruption, had died in his cell after hitting his own head against the wall. But medical examiners said on Tuesday that suicide was unlikely. "This tragic occurrence, at the hands of police, is heartbreaking and unacceptable," Ruto said. He urged the police to cooperate fully to facilitate a "swift, transparent and credible investigation".

Estonia sentences journalist to six years in prison for treason

TALLINN, ESTONIA: An Estonian court on Wednesday said it had sentenced a journalist who used to work for Russian state media to six years in prison for treason. The court found that Svetlana Burceva had worked with a reserve officer of Russia's FSB security service in "activities against the independence and sovereignty" of Estonia. "The sentence was six years in prison," the Harju county district court said in a statement. Burceva, referred to as Burtseva by Russian media, has 30 days to appeal. The court said that she and FSB reserve officer Roman Romachev planned "to publish a variety of writings aimed at implementing the Russian Federation's foreign and security policy activities".

Kuwait to require employer okay for foreign staff to leave

KUWAIT CITY, KUWAIT: It is to require foreigners working in the private sector to obtain their employer's permission before leaving the country, authorities said Wednesday, adding further restrictions on workers bound by the kafala sponsorship system. Human rights groups have long criticised the kafala system, which is widely prevalent in the oil-rich Gulf states and ties migrant workers' visas to their employers, often preventing them from changing jobs or sometimes leaving the country. First Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef issued a ministerial circular "requiring expatriate workers in the private sector to obtain an 'exit permit' from their registered employer before leaving the country," the Public Authority of Manpower said in a statement on its X account.

Turkey to export 48 fighter jets to Indonesia: Erdogan

ANKARA, TURKEY: Ankara has agreed a deal to export 48 Turkish-made fighter jets to Indonesia, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced on Wednesday. Turkey's defence sector, including the famous Bayraktar drones, accounts for a significant share of the country's export revenues. "As part of the agreement signed with our friendly and brotherly country, Indonesia, 48 Kaan (fighter jets) will be produced in Turkey and exported to Indonesia," Erdogan wrote on X. The fifth-generation fighter jet Kaan is produced by state-run Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI).

France eyes social media ban for under-15s after school stabbing

PARIS, FRANCE: French authorities have announced plans to ban social media for under-15s and the sale of knives to minors after the murder of a teaching assistant by a 14-year-old boy plunged the country into shock. A secondary school pupil was arrested on Tuesday after killing a 51-year-old school assistant with a knife during a bag search in Nogent in eastern France. Friends and well-wishers left flowers and messages of support in front of the secondary school struck by the tragedy.

36 Palestinians killed while trying to access desperately needed aid in Gaza

AP, DEIR AL-BALAH: Palestinians desperately trying to access aid in Gaza came under fire again on Tuesday, killing 36 people and wounding 207, the Palestinian Health Ministry said.

Experts and humanitarian aid workers say Israel's blockade and 20-month military campaign have pushed Gaza to the brink of famine.

At least 163 people have been killed and 1,495 wounded in a number of shootings near aid sites run by the Israeli and US-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, which are in military zones that are off-limits to independent media. The Israeli military has acknowledged firing warning shots on previous occasions at people who it says approached its forces in a suspicious manner.

The foundation says there has been no violence in or around the distribution points themselves. But it has warned people to



Palestinian children wait for food at a distribution point in Nuseirat, in the central Gaza Strip

stay on designated access routes and it paused delivery last week while it held talks with the military on improving safety.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Tuesday there is "meaningful progress" on a possible ceasefire deal that would also return some of the 55 hostages still

being held in Gaza, but said it was "too early to hope." Foreign Minister Gideon Saar also mentioned on Tuesday that there was progress in ceasefire negotiations.

Netanyahu was meeting with the Israeli negotiating team and the defence minister on Tuesday evening to discuss next steps.

In southern Gaza, at least eight people were killed while trying to obtain aid around Rafah, according to Nasser Hospital.

In northern Gaza, two men and a child were killed and at least 130 were wounded on Tuesday, according to Nader Garghoun, a spokesperson for the

OVER 55,000 PALESTINIANS KILLED IN ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR, GAZA

AP, DEIR AL-BALAH (GAZA STRIP): The Palestinian death toll from the 20-month Israel-Hamas war has climbed past 55,000, the Gaza Health Ministry said Wednesday. The ministry doesn't distinguish between civilians and combatants, but has said that women and children make up more than half the dead. It's a grim milestone in the war that began with Hamas' attack into southern Israel on Oct 7, 2023, and shows no sign of ending. Israel says it only targets militants and blames civilian deaths on Hamas, accusing the militants of hiding among civilians, because they operate in populated areas. The ministry says 55,104 people have been killed since the start of the war and 127,394 wounded. Many more are believed to be buried under the rubble or in areas that are inaccessible to local medics. The Health Ministry is part of Gaza's Hamas-run government, but staffed by medical professionals who maintain and publish detailed records. Its tolls from previous conflicts have largely aligned with those of independent experts, though Israel has questioned the ministry's figures.

al-Awda Hospital, which received the casualties. He said most were being treated for gunshot wounds.

Witnesses told The Associated Press that Israeli forces opened fire at around 2

am, several hundred metres from the aid site in central Gaza. Crowds of Palestinians seeking desperately needed food often head to the sites hours before dawn, hoping to beat the crowds.

Yunus not interested in joining next of Bangladesh govt

PTI, DHAKA: Bangladesh interim government Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus on Wednesday said he would not be interested in being part of the next elected government, according to a media report.

The 84-year-old Nobel Laureate, who took over as the head of the interim government in August last year after the ouster of then prime minister Sheikh Hasina, announced last week that national elections will be held by the first half of April 2026.

Yunus, during a question-and-answer session at the Royal Institute of International Affairs in Chatham House, London, said that the interim government's job was to ensure a well-managed transition to hand over power to an elected government, state-run Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha reported.

"No way, no way. I think no one of our cabinet members (Council of Advisers) would like to do that," he said, responding to a question whether he

has any desire to become part of the next democratically elected government.

"We want to make sure that the election is right. This is a very critical factor for us," he said.

Replying to another question about Hasina's Awami League, Yunus said there is a debate over whether the party can truly be called a political party when it is accused of killing young people, making citizens disappear and stealing public money.

Ousted on August 5 last

year after a massive student-led agitation, Hasina faces multiple cases in Bangladesh.

Yunus, who is in the UK from June 10-13, will meet King Charles and Prime Minister Keir Starmer during his visit.

Earlier, former prime minister Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) said people are "disappointed" by Yunus's announcement to hold elections in April 2026. The party reiterated its demand for polls by December this year.

MOB VANDALISES RABINDRANATH TAGORE'S ANCESTRAL HOME IN BANGLADESH, PROBE COMMITTEE FORMED

PTI, DHAKA: A mob attacked and vandalised the ancestral home of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore in Bangladesh's Sirajganj district, leading authorities to constitute a three-member committee to investigate the incident, according to media reports on Wednesday. On Jun 8, a visitor went to the Kachharibari, also known as Rabindra Kachharibari or Rabindra Memorial Museum, located in Sirajganj district, with his family. There, he got into an altercation with an employee at the entrance over the motorcycle parking fee, bdnews24.com reported. Later, the visitor was allegedly confined in an office room and physically assaulted. Agitated over the incident, locals held a protest by forming a human chain on Tuesday.

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TWO MINORS SEXUALLY ASSAULTED IN CALANGUTE HOTEL; 2 SUSPECTS ARRESTED

Pinho demanded, "Mandate the display of stickers or posters promoting child safety within hotel premises. Initiate process of closure of such premises where children are sexually exploited. Strict legal action against those responsible in abetting the crime. (Owners as well as those providing access to the rooms.)"

In a related development, Calangute Police arrested Rajat Chauhan, 31, and Mansoor Peer, 35, the owner and receptionist of Krishna Mahadev Hotel in Calangute, for allegedly allowing room bookings without verifying identities or obtaining parental consent for the minors, thereby facilitating the crime. Said North Goa SP Rahul Gupta: "We are sealing the hotel and moving for cancellation of its licence. Hotel management and owners will not be spared if they gave a room to a child in the absence of any family or relatives accompanying him/her. This is in violation of the Goa Children Act. If any such violation is noticed in future too, strict action will be taken."

The incident has sparked outrage among activists, who called the assaults "shocking and shattering."

Criminal lawyer Adv Caroline Collasso advocated for stronger measures, stating, "The police should use modern methods like forensic science to strengthen the case of the prosecution so as to serve as a deterrent for criminals in future who will have to think twice before committing a crime. The cyber cell of the Goa Police should closely monitor online sites."

This case highlights the urgent need for stricter oversight in the hospitality industry and robust measures to protect vulnerable children from exploitation.

GROWING RIFT AMONG ST LEADERS MAY IMPACT BJP PROSPECTS: OBSERVERS

"The BJP's unfulfilled promises turned into gains for Congress. People are now aware and better informed, especially through social media. Our issues have been pending since the Balli agitation in 2011, despite the ST community's earlier support for the BJP-MGP alliance," Fernandes said.

Fernandes has also voiced discontent with the UTAA leadership, alleging that its president Prakash Velip has overstayed his term in violation of the organisation's by-laws, which restrict an individual from holding executive posts for more than two consecutive terms. Velip, who once served as chairman of the Goa Commission for SC and ST, has largely dominated the UTAA leadership for years.

In response, Velip declined to engage directly with the allegations. "I don't want to comment on the accusations. The people of Goa know our work since 2004. UTAA is a people's movement. Let the authorities take a decision on Shirodkar's petition. I welcome criticism positively," he said.

Velip also revealed that the State government is preparing to notify at least 25 areas as Scheduled Areas to help protect the identity, culture, and ethos of ST communities in Goa.

MUSK BACKS OFF FROM FEUD WITH TRUMP

Meanwhile, other posts that irritated Trump, including ones in which Musk called the spending bill an "abomination" and claimed credit for Trump's election victory, remained live.

On Sunday, Trump told NBC's Kristen Welker that he

has no desire to repair their relationship and warned that Musk could face "serious consequences" if he tries to help Democrats in upcoming elections.

100% SURE MY SISTER BEHIND HER HUBBY'S MURDER: SONAM'S BROTHER

Sonam surfaced in Uttar Pradesh's Ghazipur on Sunday night where she surrendered after her accomplices and suspected contract killers, Akash Rajput (19), Vishal Singh Chauhan (22), and Anand Kurmi, were arrested for their alleged role in conspiring and killing Raja, a businessman. Raj Singh Kushwaha (21), an alleged conspirator romantically linked to Sonam, was arrested later.

After meeting the family members of Raja Raghuvanshi at the latter's house, Govind addressed the media.

Asked if Sonam should be given the capital punishment if charges against her were proved, he replied, "Absolutely, if Sonam is found guilty, she should be hanged straight away. I will appoint a lawyer myself to represent Raja Raghuvanshi's family in the court."

"I am with the truth. Raja Raghuvanshi's family has lost a son. I have apologised to his family. Our family has broken ties with Sonam," he said.

Govind Raghuvanshi said he now considered himself a member of Raja's family, and announced to fight a legal battle to get his killers punished.

"I do not know whether my sister Sonam has confessed her crime in the Raja Raghuvanshi murder case or not, but from the evidence that is coming out, I know 100 per cent that she is the one who executed this crime," he emphasised.

The Meghalaya police are likely to bring Sonam to her hometown Indore, where the conspiracy of the crime was hatched, police official said.

The Meghalaya police have named their investigation in the Raja Raghuvanshi murder case as 'Operation Honey-moon'.

A Madhya Pradesh police official said Sonam could be brought to Indore in the next few days as part of investigation into the case.

"We have received information that Sonam came to Indore from Meghalaya (after Raja's murder) and stayed in a rented flat in the city's Dewas Naka area between May 25 and 27," he said.

A police official associated with the investigations said in Shillong that Raja Raghuvanshi was told by his wife Sonam that she would let him consummate the marriage only after making an offering at the Kamakhya Temple in Guwahati.

Accordingly, Raja planned their trip to Guwahati and adjacent Meghalaya for the honeymoon, while his wife and her boyfriend Raj Kushwaha allegedly plotted to kill him in the jungles of the north-eastern state, considering its perceived remoteness, he said.

"Sonam coerced her husband to take her to the deep jungles of Nongriat with the belief that the hitmen she hired would have a better chance of killing him somewhere on the route, considering it is secluded. But, since there were too many tourists trekking to Nongriat on May 22 and May 23, they couldn't kill him there," the officer said.

"They finally killed him near Weisawdong Falls, and dumped his body into a deep gorge," he said.

East Khasi Hills SP Syiem, overseeing the investigation, said the contract killers arrived in Guwahati on May 21, a day after the couple reached the Northeast.

The killers procured a machete from outside their hotel in Guwahati, and then travelled by road to Shillong, he said.

"We have gathered CCTV evidence, making this investigation a very tight-knit one," the SP said.

Sonam was in touch with her boyfriend Raj throughout

the day of the murder, while Raj coordinated with the three contract killers, he said.

"Sonam was present when Raja was killed," the officer said.

The Meghalaya Police SIT is working across locations to piece together the entire chain of events, another officer said.

"We are also verifying Sonam's claim that she had never been to Meghalaya before. The SIT is committed to filing a watertight chargesheet," he said.

POPE LEO NAMES FIRST CHINESE BISHOP

It had been the most divisive issue in Vatican-China relations since diplomatic ties were severed when the Communists came to power.

The Vatican said in a statement that Lin taking possession of the diocese and the civic recognition of his appointment "constitutes a further fruit of the dialogue between the Holy See and the Chinese authorities and is a significant step in the diocese's communal journey."

China had insisted on an exclusive right to name bishops as a matter of national sovereignty, while the Vatican asserted the pope's exclusive right to name the successors of the original Apostles.

China's estimated 12 million Catholics have been divided between an official, state-controlled church that didn't recognise papal authority and an underground church that remained loyal to Rome through decades of persecution.

ROW OVER FILTHY TRAIN SENT FOR BSF JAWANS

As the videos depicting the unacceptable state of the coaches went viral, the railways faced backlash from various quarters, leading senior railway authorities to take notice.

Taking to X, Congress spokesperson Shama Mohamed said, "This is what happens when the government's entire focus is on PR for a few flashy trains, while the masses are forced to travel like animals."

"Shame on @narendramodi and @AshwiniVaishnaw for providing a filthy train - full of dirt, cockroaches, and broken seats - for our BSF soldiers heading for Amarnath Yatra duty."

Three senior section engineers and a coaching depot officer of Alipurduar Rail Division have been suspended by the Railway Minister, the press note from the Railway Ministry said.

"The Railway Minister said that the dignity of the security forces is paramount and such negligence will not be tolerated at any level. An enquiry has also been ordered so that such incidents shouldn't take place in future," it said.

The ministry said that a special train with all facilities has been arranged for smooth and comfortable movement of the security personnel.

The troops were part of the additional deployment of central forces being done by the Union government for the annual Amarnath Yatra scheduled to take place from July 3 in Jammu and Kashmir.

On June 10, the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) Zone under which the Alipurduar Rail Division comes dismissed the allegations of providing rickety coaches while responding to a social media post that showed a video of the train.

"The allegation that BSF was provided such kind of coach for travel is incorrect. Coaches are provided for travel only after necessary maintenance, repairs and cleaning. This video is of an unexamined coach which was being sent for repair and was not meant for travel of BSF forces," the NFR had posted.