



Japan's Princess Kako during a session of Deputies in honour of the 130th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Brazil and Japan in Brasilia



Brussels' King's Prosecutor Julien Moinil looks on during a press conference regarding a recent police action in the Peterbos in Brussels



Britain's King Charles III welcomes Chief Advisor of Bangladesh's Interim Government Muhammad Yunus, for an audience at Buckingham Palace, London



German Economy and Energy Minister Katherina Reiche speaks during a press conference at the Economy Ministry in Berlin

allovertheworld

AFP



Lili Reinhart attends "Hal & Harper" premiere during the 2025 Tribeca Festival at Spring Studio in New York City

Ryanair says will fine 'disruptive passengers' 500 euros

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM: Irish no-frills airline Ryanair said Thursday it will fine "disruptive passengers whose unruly behaviour" results in their removal from aircraft 500 euros (\$580). Europe's biggest airline by passenger numbers has previously hit out at "unruly" behaviour caused by travellers consuming excessive amounts of alcohol while waiting to board delayed flights. "Ryanair is committed to tackling unruly passenger behaviour for the benefit of its passengers and crew, and will continue to pursue disruptive passengers for civil damages, but at a minimum, they will now be issued with a 500-euro fine," Ryanair said in a statement Thursday.

Sri Lanka counts seven million crop-busting monkeys

COLOMBO, SRI LANKA: Sri Lanka counted more than seven million monkeys during a census of crop-destroying wildlife, authorities said Thursday, after a government minister called the figure "unbelievable." Agrarian Research and Training Institute (ARTI) Chief Executive A. L. Sandika said that the refined data was in line with a previous survey "a few years ago", but did not elaborate. "Initially, we had some issues with the data on monkeys. We had to check again to arrive at the final result," Sandika told reporters in Colombo. Deputy Environment Minister Anton Jayakodi announced last week that the census conducted on 15 March – the first of its kind – had turned up "unbelievable" data that required verification.

Disasters loom over South Asia with forecast of a hotter, wetter monsoon

KATHMANDU, NEPAL: Communities across Asia's Himalayan Hindu Kush region face heightened disaster risks this monsoon season with temperatures and rainfall expected to exceed normal levels, experts warned on Thursday. Temperatures are expected to be up to two degrees Celsius hotter than average across the region, with forecasts for above-average rains, according to a monsoon outlook released by Kathmandu-based International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) on Wednesday.

Chinese woman detained over BTS Jungkook attempted break-in

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA: A Chinese woman was briefly detained in Seoul for allegedly attempting to enter the home of BTS idol Jungkook, who was released from his military service a day before, police said Thursday. The septuplet BTS, South Korea's most lucrative musical act, has been on a self-described hiatus since 2022 while its members separately completed their military service, which is mandatory in the South for all men under 30. Thousands of fans of the K-pop supergroup have been gathering in Seoul this week, as four members of the band wrapped up their mandatory army duties and reentered civilian life, triggering a fan frenzy as the idols vowed to get back to performing.

Ethiopia's vast lake being pumped dry

ZIWAY, ETHIOPIA: There is a constant hum around Ethiopia's enormous Lake Dembel – the sound of its water steadily being sucked out by pumps. The pumps irrigate farms all around the lake, which is four times the size of Manhattan, and are vital for hundreds of thousands of people. Ethiopia has already lost at least one large lake – Haramaya, in the east of the country – to over-pumping. Now it risks losing another. Lake Dembel's depth has halved since 1990 from four metres to two (13 feet to over six), according to Wetlands International, an NGO. "If things continue like this, the lake could disappear," s

Panama banana workers end protests, seek to reverse mass layoffs

PANAMA CITY, PANAMA: Panamanian workers for US banana giant Chiquita Brands agreed Wednesday to end their protests and roadblocks after a breakthrough in a pension dispute that led to thousands of layoffs. Chiquita employees in the Caribbean province of Bocas del Toro went on strike on April 28 because of pension reforms, prompting the company to announce it was dismissing more than 6,500 workers. The unions agreed to immediately end roadblocks and "guarantee free movement" in the region bordering Costa Rica, National Assembly President Dana Castaneda said after two days of negotiations.

Trump hails troop deployment as California gears for legal battle

AFP, LOS ANGELES, UNITED STATES: US President Donald Trump said Thursday that Los Angeles was "safe and sound" for the past two nights, crediting his deployment of thousands of troops to quell anti-deportation protests, as California prepared for a legal showdown over his unprecedented move.

With protests spreading across the United States, a night-time curfew has been in place in its second-largest city with authorities tackling vandalism and looting that scarred a few city blocks.

"Our great National Guard, with a little help from the Marines, put the L.A. Police in a position to effectively do their job," Trump said on Truth Social, adding that without the military the city "would be a crime scene like we haven't seen in years."

The mostly peaceful protests ignited last



Police officers surround arrested protesters following a demonstration against federal immigration operations near Los Angeles City Hall in Los Angeles

week over an escalation in efforts to apprehend migrants in the country illegally, but there were also pockets of violence, including the burning of self-driving taxis and hurling stones at police.

Trump deployed several thousand National Guard troops and 700 active-duty marines over the objections

of Democratic California governor Gavin Newsom, the first such action by a US president in decades.

Trump charged that the governor "had totally lost control of the situation."

"He should be saying THANK YOU for saving his ass, instead of trying to justify his mistakes and incompetence," Trump added.

In Spokane, in the northwest state of Washington, another night curfew was declared after police arrested more than 30 protesters and fired pepper balls to disperse crowds, officials said.

In Seattle, Washington state's biggest city, police arrested eight people after a dumpster was set on fire and projectiles were

thrown. Three people were arrested in Tucson, Arizona, following clashes with police, the Arizona Republic reported.

Protests also took place in Las Vegas, Dallas, Austin, San Antonio, Milwaukee, Chicago, Atlanta, and Boston, according to CNN.

Trump won the election last year partly on promises to combat what he claims is an "invasion" by undocumented migrants.

"If I wasn't there... Los Angeles would have been burning to the ground," he told reporters Wednesday.

Around 1,000 of the 4,700 troops Trump deployed were actively guarding facilities and working alongside ICE agents, said Scott Sherman, Deputy Commanding General Army North, who is leading operations.

The rest – including 700 active duty Marines – were mustering or undergoing training to deal with civil disturbances, he said.

Critical minerals give China an edge in trade negotiations

AP, GANZHOU: China's dominance over critical minerals in global supply chains was a powerful bargaining chip in trade talks between Beijing and Washington that concluded with both sides saying they have a framework to pursue a deal.

China has spent decades building the world's main industrial chain for mining and processing such materials, which are used in many industries such as electronics, advanced manufacturing, defense and health care.

Mines and factories in and around Ganzhou, a key production hub for rare earths, underpin China's control over the minerals. Many residents grew up collecting rocks containing the valuable minerals from the forested hills surrounding the southern city and today make a living from mining, trading or processing them.

Netanyahu survives opposition bid to dissolve parliament

AFP, JERUSALEM, UNDEFINED: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's hard-right government survived an opposition bid to dissolve parliament on Thursday, as lawmakers rejected a bill that could have paved the way for snap elections.

Out of the Knesset's 120 members, 61 voted against the proposal, with 53 in favour.

The opposition had introduced the bill hoping to force elections with the help of ultra-Orthodox parties in the governing coalition angry at Netanyahu over the contentious issue of exemptions from military service for their community.

While the opposition is



Russian President Vladimir Putin chairs a meeting on state arms program in Moscow, Russia

composed mainly of centrist and leftist groups, ultra-Orthodox parties that are proping up Netanyahu's government had earlier threatened to back the motion.

The results of the vote Thursday morning, however, showed that most ultra-Or-

thodox lawmakers ultimately did not back the opposition bill, with just a small number voting in favour.

The opposition will now have to wait six months before it can try again.

Before the vote, Yuli Edelstein, a lawmaker from Ne-

tanyahu's right-wing Likud party, announced that after lengthy discussions, parties had agreed on the "principles on which the draft conscription law will be based".

Edelstein, who chairs the foreign affairs and defence committee, did not specify the terms of the agreement.

"As I said all along -- only a real, effective bill that leads to an expansion of the (Israeli military's) recruitment base will emerge from the committee I chair," he wrote on social media platform X.

"This is historic news, and we are on the path to real reform in Israeli society and strengthening the security of the State of Israel."

Nepalese FM calls for 'green energy cooperation' with India

PTI, KATHMANDU: Green energy cooperation will foster mutual interdependence between New Delhi and Kathmandu, Nepal's Foreign Minister Arzoo Rana Deuba said on Thursday, adding that it can be done by promoting clean and sustainable energy sources.

"India's commitment to import 10,000 MW electricity over the next decade reflects the growing momentum in Nepal-India energy cooperation," Deuba said while speaking at the Nepal-India Strategic Dialogue organised by think tanks Ananta Aspen Centre and Centre for Innovative Foreign Policy in Kathmandu.

Nepal and India had signed a long-term agreement in January 2024 to

facilitate the export of 10,000 MW of electricity to India in the next 10 years.

The foremost priority in Nepal-India relations is the "need to advance our economic partnership by intensifying cooperation in trade, transit and investment," Deuba asserted.

Nepal's enormous hydro-potential offers a clean climate resilient and renewable energy source that can be harnessed for generations to come, she added.

India has helped Nepal develop multiple hydropower projects on these high-volume rivers and more projects are in the pipeline; and the power export agreement comes as the next step in the bilateral relations.

Japan's 400,000-follower 'Insta-gran' dies at 97

AFP, TOKYO, JAPAN: A Japanese great-grandmother with 400,000 Instagram followers who shot to fame for her goofy self-portraits after taking up photography aged 72 has died, her son said on Thursday.

Kimiko Nishimoto, who died this week at the age of 97, told AFP in a 2018 interview that "you can take photos no matter how old you get".

"Wherever it is, in your house, outside, or in your bed, you can do it. That is

the nice thing about a camera," she said.

Dubbed the "selfie queen" by Japanese media, Nishimoto's posts showed her in various candid poses -- from riding a broom like Harry Potter to imitating an off-duty sumo wrestler on their fifth beer of the night.

"Our mother always created her work with a smile," a post from her son Kazutami Nishimoto said on her Instagram account.

"We are deeply grateful to everyone who visited her



Kimiko Nishimoto, dressed in a dog costume, gesturing during a self photo shoot outside her house in Kumamoto

photography exhibitions held across the country, to those who shared warm

words of encouragement through Instagram... and to all who supported her

warmly throughout her journey."

Nishimoto's son teaches photography classes, which his mother started taking in retirement.

"Though she began photography at the age of 72, she was blessed with countless encounters, which enriched this third chapter of her life tremendously," he said.

Nishimoto appeared on national television as her online following grew and was interviewed by major

news outlets.

But her more out-there visual scenarios were also the cause of some confusion over the years.

One snap -- showing her wrapped in a garbage bag, as if she had been discarded -- drew criticism from people who didn't know she was involved in its set-up.

"It's not like ideas just suddenly pop into my head but wherever I go I think about what it would be fun to dress up as in that place," she said in 2018.

FROM PAGE 1

265 DEAD IN AIR INDIA DISASTER

Noting that the aircraft with a full fuel load for a long trip climbed just about 600-800 feet before plummeting to the ground almost immediately, Aviation experts said that going by the available visuals lack of thrust in both engines and a bird hit could be among the probable causes. TV footage showed the aircraft making a slow descent shortly after taking off, with its landing gear still extended.

"The aircraft departed from Ahmedabad at 1339 IST from Runway 23. It gave a MAYDAY Call to ATC, but thereafter no response was given by the aircraft to the calls made by ATC," according to a statement from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

Visuals from the wreckage area showed bodies being pulled out and the injured, many with burns, wheeled into the city civil hospital close by.

Eyewitnesses in Ahmedabad said the blaze was so intense that it led to several multi-storey buildings being burnt, trees singed and cars damaged. One image showed the snout of the plane crashing through the top floor of a building that appeared to be a dining area of the hostel of nurses and doctors.

Elsewhere too, there were scenes of complete devastation with mangled metal of the wreckage, snarls of tangled wire and smoke rising from burning embers.

This is the first crash involving the Boeing Dreamliner, feted for its advanced features. It is also India's second

biggest air disaster since 2020 when an Air India Express flight skidded off a wet runway while landing at Kozhikode in Kerala and split into two. Of the 190 people on board, 21, including two pilots, lost their lives.

Airport operations in Ahmedabad were temporarily suspended and resumed towards the evening.

The shock of the disaster echoed through political corridors in India and abroad with heads of states and others offering their condolences.

The ill-fated flight was under the command of Capt Sumeet Sabharwal along with First Officer Clive Kunder. While Sabharwal has 8,200 hours of flying experience, Kunder 1,100 hours, the DGCA said in a statement.

Immediately after departure from Runway 23, the aircraft fell on the ground outside the airport perimeter, it said.

"On Jun 12, 2025, Air India B787 Aircraft VT-ANB while operating flight AI-171 from (Ahmedabad to Gatwick) has crashed immediately after takeoff from Ahmedabad," the statement said.

Several eyewitnesses on the busy, everyday afternoon described the horror of what they had seen.

"The plane was flying very low and it crashed into the residential quarters of doctors and nursing staff of civil hospital and BJ Medical college," Hareesh Shah told PTI.

"There are several five floor buildings which are residential quarters of doctors and nursing staff. Many people in those apartments were injured as along with the plane the buildings also caught fire," he said.

Another said several cars and vehicles parked in the

premises also caught fire.

Expressing his profound sorrow, Air India chairperson N Chandrasekaran said an emergency centre has been activated and support teams set up for families seeking information.

Air India CEO and Managing Director Campbell Wilson also expressed "deep sorrow" at the crash saying this is a "difficult day" for all at the airline.

"The injured passengers have been taken by local authorities to the nearest hospitals. We are actively working with the authorities on all emergency response efforts," he said in a statement.

DNA tests will be carried out to ascertain the identities of those in the crash, a senior Gujarat health department official said even as he refused to give the death toll. There were reports that over 200 bodies were recovered from the wreckage. The bodies were reported to be charred beyond recognition.

Aircraft maker Boeing said in a statement that it is in contact with Air India and stands ready to offer any support to the Tata-owned airline.

PASSENGER SURVIVES

Ramesh was admitted to the trauma ward of the Ahmedabad civil hospital, Dr Shriq M told PTI. The lucky passenger was travelling to London with his brother.

Shah later told reporters, "The good news is that one person survived the crash and I am coming here after meeting him."