



South Korea's President Lee Jae-myung waves as he boards his plane at Seoul Air Base in Seongnam, before departing for Canada to attend the G7 summit



The new Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Justice, Hugo Aguilar Ortiz, speaks after receiving his certificate in Mexico City



French energy group TotalEnergies CEO Patrick Pouyane speaks during the Energy Asia conference in Kuala Lumpur



Iran's Reza Najafi attends the IAEA's Board of Governors meeting at the agency's headquarters in Vienna, Austria

allovertheworld



US actress Blu Hunt poses during a photocall for the TV series 'Sherlock and Daughter' as part of the 64th Monte-Carlo Television Festival in the principality of Monaco

World faces new nuclear arms race, researchers warn

STOCKHOLM: Most of the world's nuclear-armed states continued to modernise their arsenals last year, setting the stage for a new nuclear arms race, researchers warned Monday. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said nuclear powers including the United States and Russia - which account for around 90 percent of the world's stockpile - had spent time last year "upgrading existing weapons and adding newer versions". Since the end of the Cold War, old warheads have generally been dismantled quicker than new ones have been deployed, resulting in a decrease in the overall number of warheads. But SIPRI warned that the trend was likely to be reversed in the coming years.

Cambodia imports threatens to ban Thai fruit and veg over border row

PHNOM PENH: Cambodia's influential former leader Hun Sen Monday issued an ultimatum to Thailand to lift border crossing restrictions or his country will ban all Thai fruit and vegetable imports in the latest round of the border spat between the two countries. One Cambodian soldier was killed on May 28 as troops exchanged fire in a disputed area known as the Emerald Triangle, where the borders of Cambodia, Thailand and Laos meet. The Thai and Cambodian armies both said they acted in self-defence.

Guinea sets up new election body ahead of September referendum

CONAKRY: Guinea's military leader has set up a new elections authority ahead of a constitutional referendum due on September 21, a move denounced by one senior lawyer Sunday. The presidential decree from General Mamadi Doumbouya was read out on state television late Saturday. It said the new agency would operate under the interior ministry and enjoy financial autonomy. The body will organise political votes and referendums and manage the biometric voter roll, using national civil and population registries. It would also set up a "special force to secure the elections", said the decree.

Nine killed in Niger jihadist attack: local sources

NIAMEY: Suspected jihadists have killed nine travellers, including a teacher, in an attack in southwestern Niger, near the border with Burkina Faso, local sources said Sunday. "A terrorist attack targeted passenger vehicles on Friday June 13, killing nine civilians," a teachers' union said in a statement. One of its members had been among the dead, it added. The union said the attack happened around 10:00 am (0900 GMT) on the road linking Makalondi and Torodi near the border with Burkina Faso. A second teacher was wounded and evacuated to Niamey for treatment, said the union, denouncing the attack as a "despicable act". A Torodi resident confirmed the incident, saying there had been "civilian casualties".

Drone strike kills woman in western Syria: monitor

DAMASCUS: A civilian woman was killed Sunday in Syria's western Tartus province when a drone struck her home, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. It marked the first reported casualty on Syrian soil since the latest escalation between Iran and Israel began. The Britain-based war monitor reported the death of "a woman after a drone fell on her house" in a village in rural Tartus, suggesting the drone was likely Iranian. Since the start of the Iran-Israel escalation, AFP correspondents and residents across Syria have observed dozens of missiles flying overhead, several of them intercepted. They have exploded in various regions, fuelling concerns over a broader regional conflict.

Abu Dhabi state oil firm makes US \$18.7 billion bid for Australia's Santos

SYDNEY: Abu Dhabi's state-owned oil company is leading a takeover bid for Australian energy group Santos, valuing it at US\$18.7 billion, Santos said Monday. Santos's board said it plans to unanimously recommend the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company's offer to shareholders if it can agree on the takeover terms. Adelaide-based Santos has energy operations in Australia, Papua New Guinea, East Timor and the United States, and is a major supplier of liquefied natural gas in Australia and Asia. The Abu Dhabi National Oil Company's all-cash takeover offer amounts to \$5.76 for each Santos share, equivalent to \$18.72 billion for the entire company.

Iran missile attack kills 5 in Israel

Israel claims aerial superiority over Tehran, asks residents to evacuate

AP, TEL AVIV: Iran fired a new wave of missile attacks on Israel early Monday, killing at least eight people, while Israel warned residents of part of Tehran to evacuate ahead of new strikes.

The warning came on the fourth day of the conflict, when the Israeli military claimed it had achieved air superiority over the Iranian capital and could fly over the city without facing major threats. The military has issued similar evacuation warnings for civilians in parts of Gaza and Lebanon ahead of strikes.

"At this time, we can say that we have achieved full aerial superiority over Tehran's skies," said military spokesperson Brig Gen Effie Defrin. The military said it had destroyed more than 120 surface-to-surface missile launchers in central Iran, a third of Iran's total.

It also said fighter jets had struck 10 command centres in Tehran belonging to Iran's Quds Force, an



An explosion is seen during a missile attack in Tel Aviv, Israel

elite arm of its Revolutionary Guard that conducts military and intelligence operations outside Iran.

Israeli strikes "amount to a deep and comprehensive blow to the Iranian threat," Defrin said.

Iran, meanwhile, announced it had launched some 100 missiles and vowed further retaliation for sweeping attacks on its military and nuclear infrastructure that have killed at least 224 people in the

country since Friday.

One missile fell near the American consulate in Tel Aviv, with its blast waves causing minor damage, US Ambassador Mike Huckabee said on X. He added that no American personnel were injured.

Israel said so far 24 people have been killed and more than 500 injured as Iran launched more than 370 missiles and hundreds of drones.

The latest conflict began when Israel launched an

ISRAEL CONTROLS TEHRAN'S SKIES, 'ON THE WAY' TO ACHIEVE TWIN GOALS IN IRAN: NETANYAHU

PTI, JERUSALEM: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday claimed that Israel "controls the skies over Tehran" and said his country is "on the way" to achieving its goals of destroying the Iranian nuclear and ballistic missile threats. Referring to freedom of movement in Tehran's airspace, a point Israel Defence Forces (IDF) spokesperson Effie Defrin also made earlier in the day, Netanyahu, during a visit to the Tel Nof airbase in central Israel, said that "this is a change in the entire campaign". The Israeli military has said that it had destroyed over 120 surface-to-surface missile launchers that had been fired from Iran in overnight missions, and its aircraft now control the skies of Tehran. Defence Minister Israel Katz and IDF Chief of Staff Lt Gen Eyal Zamir accompanied Netanyahu during the visit. "The Air Force controls the skies of Tehran. We are on our way to achieving our two objectives: eliminating the nuclear threat and eliminating the missile threat," the Prime Minister said. "We are on the path to victory, and this is being achieved. Thanks to our heroic pilots and our wonderful ground crews, who are also doing amazing work," he said.

assault on Iran's top military leaders, uranium enrichment sites and nuclear scientists that it said was necessary to prevent its longtime adversary from getting any closer to building an atomic weapon.

Iran has retaliated by firing waves of ballistic missiles at Israel. The back-and-forth has raised concerns about all-out war between the countries and propelled the region, already on edge, into even greater upheaval.

Family members scared, say Kashmiri students studying in Iran

PTI, NEW DELHI: Faizan Ali, a 21-year-old student of Kerman University of Medical Sciences in Iran, has never got so many calls from family members as much as he is receiving these days.

Ali, who hails from Srinagar, told PTI that his family members are scared for his safety amid the Iran-Israel conflict.

"I have been in boarding school since class 7 and I am not used to talking to my family members daily. But ever since Israel launched attack on Iran, my family has been calling me 10 times a day enquiring about my well-being," he said over a WhatsApp call.

Ali, who is in first year of the medical college, said their exams were ending on Tuesday, but the university has announced cancellation of exams and closure of the varsity till October.

The 21-year-old said that the internet services are also affected in the country.

HISTORIC LANDING



The first direct scheduled flight from US Newark airport to Nuuk's airport is landing in Nuuk, Greenland. United Airlines flight from the US has been in transit for four hours to the new international airport in Nuuk

UK gets first female MI6 chief

PTI, LONDON: Prime Minister Keir Starmer has announced the "historic" appointment of Blaise Metreweli as the first female chief of the UK's Secret Intelligence Service, commonly known as MI6, in the 116-year history of the organisation.

Commonly referred to as 'C', the international spy agency's chief has operational responsibility for MI6 and is the only publicly named member of the organisation, accountable to Foreign Secretary David Lammy.

Metreweli, 47, has been promoted from current role as Director General, or 'Q', responsible for technology and innovation in MI6 and has previously held a director-level role at MI5 -



the UK's domestic security service.

"The historic appointment of Blaise Metreweli comes at a time when the work of our intelligence services has never been more vital," Starmer said on Sunday.

Metreweli will succeed Sir Richard Moore, who leaves the service in the autumn later this year.

PM Modi to arrive in Canada for G7 Summit

PTI, CALGARY: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will arrive here on Monday to attend the G7 summit in Kananaskis, marking his first visit to Canada in a decade.

PM Modi is on a four-day, three-nation tour to Cyprus, Canada and Croatia. He will arrive in Canada from Cyprus on the second leg of his visit, at the invitation of Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney.

The Kananaskis gathering on June 16-17 is the Prime Minister's 6th consecutive participation in the G7 Summit.

During PM Modi's last visit in 2015, bilateral ties were elevated to the level of a strategic partnership.

Bangladesh orders ex-leader Hasina to return to face trial

AFP, DHAKA, BANGLADESH: Bangladesh's war crimes court ordered fugitive ex-leader Sheikh Hasina on Monday to return to face trial on charges amounting to crimes against humanity.

Hasina, 77, fled Dhaka by helicopter to India in August 2024 at the culmination of a student-led mass uprising. She has defied an extradition order to return to Bangladesh.

Up to 1,400 people were killed between July and August 2024 when Hasina's government launched a crackdown in a failed bid to cling to power, according to the United Nations.

Hasina and former senior figures connected to her ousted government

prosecution team to issue a notice as soon as possible summoning them to appear before the court - Muhammad Tajul Islam, Chief prosecutor

and her now-banned party, the Awami League, are being prosecuted in Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT).

Prosecutors have filed five charges against Hasina, including abetment, incitement, complicity, facilitation, conspiracy and failure to prevent mass murder - charges that amount to crimes against humanity under Bangladeshi law.

"The court directed the

prosecution team to issue a notice as soon as possible summoning them to appear before the court," chief prosecutor Muhammad Tajul Islam said on Monday. The trial will resume on June 24 without her if she fails to return.

The prosecution argues that Hasina ordered security forces, through directives from the interior ministry and police, to crush the protests.

Hasina is on trial with two other officials.

One of them, former interior minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, who faces similar charges, is also a fugitive.

The second, ex-police chief Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun, is in custody and was in court on Monday.

Ireland prepares to excavate 'mass grave' at mothers baby home

AFP, TUAM, IRELAND: Over a decade since a historian discovered an unmarked mass burial site for children at a former mother and baby home in western Ireland, workers finally began on Monday to prepare for extensive excavations.

A crew sealed off the site in Tuam, 135 miles (220 kilometres) west of Dublin, in preparation for beginning to dig for any remains next month.

In 2014, local historian Catherine Corless produced evidence that 796 children, from newborns to a nine-

year-old, died at Tuam's mother and baby home.

Her research pointed to the children's likely final resting place -- a disused septic tank discovered in 1975.

Significant quantities of baby remains were discovered in an apparently makeshift crypt at the site during test excavations between 2016 and 2017.

The home was run by Catholic nuns between 1925 and 1961, and the site was left largely untouched after the institution was knocked down in 1972.



It was Corless's discovery of the unmarked mass burial site that led to an Irish Commission of Investigation into the so-called

mother and baby home.

In findings published in 2021, the commission said there had been "disquieting" levels of infant mortality

ty at the institutions.

"It's been a fierce battle. When I started this nobody wanted to listen. At last we are righting the wrongs," Corless, 71, told AFP last month in Tuam.

"I was just begging 'Take the babies out of this sewage system and give them the decent Christian burial that they were denied'," she said.

Women who became pregnant out of wedlock were siloed in the so-called mother and baby homes by Irish society, the state and the Catholic church,

which has historically held an iron grip on Irish social attitudes.

After giving birth at the homes, mothers were then separated from their newborn children, who were often given up for adoption.

The state-backed enquiries sparked by the discoveries in Tuam found that 56,000 unmarried women and 57,000 children passed through 18 such homes over the space of 76 years.

The commission's report concluded that 9,000 children had died in the homes across Ireland.