



Canada's PM Mark Carney holds a soccer ball with beaded Huichol art on it after being gifted it by Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum in Kananaskis



Bali Regional Police Chief Daniel Adityajaya speaks to journalists during a press conference at the Badung district police station in Badung regency



German Finance Minister rings the bell as he leads the weekly meeting of the German cabinet at the Chancellery in Berlin



Ali Bahreini, Iran's ambassador speaks to journalists during a press conference at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva

allovertheworld



US actress Scarlett Johansson poses on the red carpet for the World premiere of the film "Jurassic World Rebirth" in central London

New Zealand approves medicinal use of 'magic mushrooms'

WELLINGTON: New Zealand on Wednesday approved the medicinal use of psilocybin, a hallucinogenic compound notably found in so-called "magic mushrooms". Deputy Prime Minister David Seymour said rules had been relaxed so psilocybin could be used to treat certain types of depression. Psilocybin is a naturally occurring psychedelic compound found in some species of mushroom and can cause hallucinations and an altered state of mind. "Psilocybin remains an unapproved medicine, but a highly experienced psychiatrist has been granted authority to prescribe it to patients with treatment-resistant depression," Seymour said.

Brazil sells rights to oil blocks near Amazon river mouth

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazil sold extraction rights to 19 oil and gas blocks near the mouth of the Amazon river Tuesday, at an auction slammed by environmentalists months before the country is to host a UN climate summit. Two consortiums – one comprising Brazil's state-owned Petrobras and US giant ExxonMobil, the other US multinational Chevron and China's CNPC – spent \$153 million on exploration and production concessions for 19 blocks on offer in an area considered vulnerable to environmental harm. They are among 172 blocks, most of them offshore, that went on auction Tuesday as dozens of protesters gathered outside the venue under a banner reading: "Stop the doomsday auctions."

Norway launches flagship large-scale carbon capture and storage project

OSLO: Norway launched Tuesday a flagship carbon capture and storage (CCS) project, a technology seen as crucial to curbing climate change but which is struggling to find a viable economic model. Bearing the English name for the Vikings' wooden ships, the Longship project involves capturing carbon dioxide emitted from a cement plant, and later from an incineration plant. The CO2 will be transported by ship to a terminal on Norway's west coast, and then injected beneath the seabed for storage.

Second Mexico mayor gunned down in two days

MEXICO CITY: A Mexican woman mayor was shot dead on Tuesday in the western state of Michoacan, two days after the female mayor of a town in the country's south was gunned down in her office. Martha Laura Mendoza, mayor of the town of Tepalcatepec, was murdered together with her husband, Michoacan public prosecutor's office wrote on X. Mendoza was a member of President Claudia Sheinbaum's left-wing Morena party. The prosecutor's office gave no details of the attack, which it termed a femicide, saying only that it took place in the town. Former Tepalcatepec mayor Guillermo Valencia, leader of the opposition PRI party in Michoacan, said on X his sources told him that Mendoza and her husband were attacked "as they were leaving their home."

Australia sanctions Russia's oil tanker 'shadow fleet'

SYDNEY: Australia has for the first time imposed sanctions on Russia's "shadow fleet" of oil tankers, the government said Wednesday. It targeted 60 vessels linked to the fleet, which has already been sanctioned by Australian partners including Britain, Canada and the European Union. "Russia uses these vessels to circumvent international sanctions and sustain its illegal and immoral war against Ukraine," Australia's department of foreign affairs said in a statement. "Operating under deceptive practices, including flag-hopping, disabling tracking systems, and operating with inadequate insurance, the shadow fleet enables the illicit trade of Russian oil and other sanctioned goods."

Taiwan starts sea tests of first domestically built submarine

TAIPEI: Taiwan has started sea trials of its first domestically built submarine, as it upgrades its military capabilities to defend against a potential Chinese attack. The vessel is part of a submarine programme launched in 2016 that aims to deliver a fleet of eight vessels. China claims Taiwan as part of its territory and has threatened to use force to annex the self-ruled island, which insists it is a sovereign nation and not subordinate to Beijing. Shipbuilder CSBC Corp said Tuesday that sea trials of the submarine began in the southern port of Kaohsiung on Saturday, nearly two years after the vessel was unveiled.

Iran says hypersonic missiles fired at Israel

AFP, TEHRAN: Iran said early Wednesday it fired hypersonic missiles at Israel in the latest round of overnight strikes between the archfoes, hours after Donald Trump demanded the Islamic republic's "unconditional surrender".

Israeli warplanes targeted the Iranian capital before dawn Wednesday after the military issued a warning for civilians to leave one district for their safety.

The Israeli military later said it struck weapons manufacturing sites and a facility used to make centrifuges in Tehran.

Iran told residents of Tel Aviv to prepare for an attack, with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps claiming its hypersonic Fattah-1 missiles were "repeatedly shaking the shelters" in the commercial hub.

"The 11th wave of the proud Operation Honest Promise 3 using Fattah-1 missiles" was carried out, the Guards said in a statement broadcast on state television.

Hypersonic missiles travel at more than five times the speed of sound and



Israeli air defence systems are activated to intercept Iranian missiles over the Israeli city of Tel Aviv

can manoeuvre mid-flight, making them harder to track and intercept.

Iran also sent a "swarm of drones" towards Israel, where the army said it intercepted two over the Dead Sea area.

World powers have scrambled for an off ramp, hoping to prevent the conflict from spiralling into a region-engulfing war.

In separate phone calls

with his Iranian counterpart and US envoy Steve Witkoff on Tuesday night, Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelaty urged a diplomatic solution.

Trump fuelled speculation about American intervention when he made a hasty exit from the G7 summit in Canada, where the leaders of the club of wealthy democracies jointly called for a ceasefire.

Back in Washington on Tuesday, Trump demanded the Islamic republic's "unconditional surrender". He also boasted that the United States could easily assassinate Iran's supreme leader.

"We know exactly where the so-called 'Supreme Leader' is hiding. He is an easy target, but is safe there – We are not going to take him out (kill!), at least not for now," Trump wrote on

Musk's X sues to block New York social media transparency law

AFP, WASHINGTON: Elon Musk's X Corp has filed a lawsuit challenging a New York state law that requires social media companies to report how they moderate hate speech and disinformation.

The complaint, filed in a federal court in Manhattan, seeks to halt the law, which X argues violates the First Amendment by forcing platforms to disclose sensitive information about their content moderation practices.

"Today, @X filed a First Amendment lawsuit against a New York law, NY S895B," X's Global Government Affairs team posted Tuesday, adding that it had successfully challenged a similar law in California.

"X is the only platform fighting for its users by challenging the law, and we are confident we will prevail in this case as well," the company said.

The New York law re-

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quires social media companies with over \$100 million in annual revenue to submit semiannual reports detailing how they define and moderate hate speech, racism, extremism, disinformation and harassment.

Companies face fines of \$15,000 per day for violations, which can be sought by the attorney general's office.

X says the law is "an impermissible attempt by the State to inject itself into the content-moderation editorial process" and seeks to pressure platforms into restricting constitutionally protected speech.

The lawsuit comes after X successfully challenged a nearly identical California law last year, according to the filing. New York's law is "a carbon copy" of the California provisions that were struck down, the filing adds.

X claims New York lawmakers refused to discuss changes to the bill after the California ruling, with sponsors saying they declined to meet because of content on X promoted by owner Musk that "threatens the foundations of our democracy."

The company argues this indicated "viewpoint discriminatory motives" behind the law's passage.

Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal and Assembly member Grace Lee – who introduced the law – said in a statement that their act "does not infringe upon the First Amendment rights of social media companies, nor does it conflict with federal law".

Need to be careful about further commentary: Canadian PM Carney on Nijjar case

PTI, KANANASKIS (CANADA): Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney has said he needs to be "careful" about pro-Khalistani Sikh separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar's killing as there is a judicial process underway in the case.

Carney was asked if he spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi during their talks on Tuesday on the sidelines of the G7 Summit about the killing of a Nijjar on the country's soil.

"We have had a discussion, the prime minister and I, about the importance of having the law enforcement to law enforcement... cooperation directly, the importance of addressing transnational repression, as I noted including when we met," he said.

"And obviously there is a judicial process that's underway and I need to be careful about further com-

mentary," Carney said.

The ties between India and Canada were strained after the then prime minister Justin Trudeau's allegations in September 2023 of a "potential" involvement of Indian agents in Nijjar's killing outside a gurdwara in Surrey city on June 18, 2023.

India, which had designated Nijjar as a terrorist in 2020, had strongly rejected Trudeau's allegations as "absurd" and "motivated."

In April 2024, Trudeau asserted that his government stood up to defend the rights and freedoms of all Canadians. He was testifying at a high-profile public inquiry looking into foreign interference in Canada's electoral process.

India had accused the Trudeau government of allowing pro-Khalistani elements to operate from Canadian soil.

In October 2024, India recalled its high commissioner and five other diplomats after Ottawa attempted to link them to Nijjar's killing. India also expelled an equal number of Canadian diplomats.

Carney, an economist and political newcomer, took charge as Canada's new prime minister in March this year following Trudeau's exit from the top office.

New Delhi had then said it hoped to rebuild ties with Canada.

After Prime Minister Modi and his Canadian counterpart Carney had a "very positive and constructive meeting" on the sidelines of the G7 Summit here in Kananaskis on Tuesday, India and Canada have agreed to restore High Commissioners to each other's capitals at an early date.

Venezuela's El Dorado, where gold is the currency of the poor

AFP, EL DORADO: In the Venezuelan mining community of El Dorado, the majority of residents carry around gold instead of cards or cash to pay for groceries.

They live in a town named after the mythical City of Gold and untold riches – but most of them are poor.

Merchants use scales to carefully weigh the flecks people guard in plastic pill bottles or wrapped in pieces of paper, and market goods are priced in weight of gold.

For 0.02 grams, you can get a small packet of maize meal, for one gram a pre-packaged bag of groceries that includes flour, pasta, oil, margarine, ketchup and milk powder.

A gram of gold can purchase between \$85 and \$100 worth of goods, but takes hours of back-breaking work to amass. If you're in luck.

"Gold is a blessing given to us so we can buy what we want, but you have to work hard," 48-year-old Jose Tobias Tranquini told AFP in the town of



A man pays at a store with grams of gold, which is the main means of payment in the mining town of El Dorado, Bolivar state, Venezuela

5,000 residents mostly employed in mining – legal and illegal.

"One day at the mine you might find nothing; there are lucky people who have

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NOW, EC TO DELIVER VOTER IDENTITY CARD WITHIN 15 DAYS

The new IT platform will replace the existing process by re-engineering the current system and streamlining the workflow.

The DoP's Application Programme Interface (API) will be integrated with the ECINet for seamless delivery, the EC said.

This initiative aims to enhance service delivery while maintaining data security. In the past four months, the Commission has taken various initiatives for the benefit of electors and other stakeholders.

KHAMENEI REJECTS CALL TO SURRENDER

"I may do it, I may not do it. I mean, nobody knows what I'm going to do," Trump told reporters on the South Lawn when asked if he had decided whether to launch US air strikes.

"I can tell you that Iran's got a lot of trouble, and they want to negotiate."

Trump said Iran had even suggested sending officials to the White House for talks on Tehran's nuclear programme in a bid to end Israel's air assault, but added that it was "very late".

"I said it's very late to be talking. We may meet. There's a big difference between now and a week ago, right? Big difference," Trump added.

"They've suggested that they come to the White House. That's, you know, courageous, but it's, like, not easy for them to do."

When asked if it was too late for negotiations, he said: "Nothing is too late."

Earlier, Khamenei dismissed the "threatening and absurd statements" by Trump.

"Wise individuals who know Iran, its people, and its history never speak to this nation with the language of threats, because the Iranian nation is not one to surrender," he said in the low-resolution video, his voice echoing. "Americans should know that any military involvement by the US will undoubtedly result in irreparable damage to them."

AI PLANE CRASH SURVIVOR ATTENDS BROTHER'S CREMATION IN DIU

In an interview to Doordarshan earlier, Vishwas said the aircraft had stalled within seconds of taking off from Ahmedabad on its nine-hour journey to London's Gatwick Airport.

According to Vishwas, his seat, 11A, was close to the emergency door on the left side of the plane. "Luckily, the portion of the plane where I was seated fell on the ground floor of the hostel premises after the plane crash landed. When I saw that the door of the plane was broken, I told myself that I can try and get out. Eventually, I came out of the plane," he had told reporters.

In a viral video shot by a local immediately after the crash, Kumar can be seen walking towards the ambulance after getting hurt in the crash.

The Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner with 242 persons on board crashed into a medical college complex in Ahmedabad moments after taking off from the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport at 1.39 pm on June 12.

