



Thailand's Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra gestures during a press conference at Government House in Bangkok



France's Delegate Minister after a meeting with European partners to suggest a negotiated solution to end the conflict between Iran and Israel in Paris



Russia's Central Bank Governor Elvira Nabiullina attends the Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) in Saint Petersburg



US negotiator Thomas Barrack speaks to reporters after his meeting with Lebanon's parliament speaker in Beirut

# Israeli strikes on Iran have killed over 639 people

AP, DUBAI: Israeli strikes on Iran have killed at least 639 people and wounded 1,329 others, a human rights group said Thursday.

The Washington-based group Human Rights Activists released the figures, which covers the entirety of Iran. It said of those dead, it identified 263 civilians and 154 security force personnel being killed.

Human Rights Activists, which also provided detailed casualty figures during the 2022 protests over the death of MahsaAmini, crosschecks local reports in the Islamic Republic against a network of sources it has developed in the country.

Iran has not given regular death tolls during the conflict and has minimized casualties in the past. Its last update, issued Monday, put the death toll at 224 people being killed and 1,277 others being wounded.

Iran's supreme leader



The heavily damaged building of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) after it was hit a few days earlier in an Israeli strike, in Tehran

on Wednesday rejected US calls for surrender in the face of more Israeli strikes and warned that any military involvement by the Americans would cause "irreparable damage to them." European diplomats prepared to hold talks with Iran on Friday.

The second public ap-

pearance by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei since the Israeli strikes began six days ago came as Israel lifted some restrictions on daily life, suggesting that the missile threat from Iran was easing.

Khamenei spoke a day after U.S. President Donald Trump demanded in a social media post that Iran

surrender without conditions and warned Khamenei that the US knows where he is but has no plans to kill him, "at least not for now."

Trump initially distanced himself from Israel's surprise attack aimed at Iran's nuclear program, but in recent days he has hinted at greater American in-

## ISRAEL'S MILITARY WARNS PEOPLE TO EVACUATE AREA AROUND IRAN'S ARAK HEAVY WATER REACTOR

AP, DUBAI: Israel's military warned people Thursday to evacuate the area around Iran's Arak heavy water reactor. The warning came in a social media post on X. It included a satellite image of the plant in a red circle like other warnings that proceeded strikes. The Arak heavy water reactor is 250 kilometers (155 miles) southwest of Tehran. Heavy water helps cool nuclear reactors, but it produces plutonium as a byproduct that can potentially be used in nuclear weapons. That would provide Iran another path to the bomb beyond enriched uranium, should it choose to pursue the weapon. Iran had agreed under its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers to redesign the facility to relieve proliferation concerns. In 2019, Iran started up the heavy water reactor's secondary circuit, which at the time did not violate Tehran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers. Britain at the time was helping Iran redesign the Arak reactor to limit the amount of plutonium it produces, stepping in for the U.S., which had withdrawn from the project after President Donald Trump's decision in 2018 to unilaterally withdraw America from the nuclear deal.

volvement, saying he wants something "much bigger" than a ceasefire. The U.S. has also sent more military aircraft and warships to the region.

Senior European diplomats were set to hold nuclear talks with Iran on Friday in Geneva, according to a European official familiar with the matter.

## Russia warns US

Against 'military intervention' in Iran-Israel war

AFP, MOSCOW: Russia on Thursday warned the United States not to take military action against Iran, amid speculation over whether Washington will enter the war alongside Israel.

Israel launched an unprecedented wave of strikes at Iran last week, to which Tehran responded with missile and drone attacks.

Moscow is one of Iran's most important allies and has deepened military cooperation and inked a strategic partnership agreement just months ago.

But the Kremlin has not provided military support to Iran in the face of Israeli air strikes, and Putin is pitching himself as a possible mediator even as he condemns Israel.

"We would like to particularly warn Washington against military intervention in the situation," Russian foreign ministry's spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told reporters.

US President Donald Trump had said Wednesday he was considering join Israel's strikes on Iran. "I may do it, I may not do

it," he said.

Zakharova warned any US military action "would be an extremely dangerous step with truly unpredictable negative consequences".

Moscow issued its warning after Putin spoke with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping, with the pair blasting Israel. Putin and Xi "strongly condemn Israel's actions," the Kremlin said after the call.

Putin aide Yuri Ushakov told reporters that Moscow and Beijing believed the end to the hostilities "should be achieved exclusively by political and diplomatic means".

Russia has for years been a key actor in the Middle East, managing to maintain warm relations with all major players in the region.

But the fall of key ally Bashar al-Assad in Syria last year, and Israel's war in Gaza – which Putin has repeatedly raised concerns about – have threatened to dent that position.

Despite their close military ties, Putin said Iran had not requested military help in the week since Israel launched its attacks.

## Pakistan Supreme Court rejects petition against transfer of judges to Islamabad HC

PTI, ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Supreme Court on Thursday rejected petitions against the transfer of three

high court judges, which would ensure continuity of one of them as the chief justice of the Islamabad High

Court. Five judges of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) had challenged in February the

transfer of Justices SarfrazDogar, Muhammad Asif, and Khadim Hussain Soomro to their court, which, in their opinion compromised the principle of seniority in the court and that the transfer was against the law.

Later, Justice Dogar was made the chief justice of the IHC, much to the chagrin of the five petitioner judges Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kiyani, Justice Tariq Mehmood-Jahangiri, Justice Babar Sattar, Justice SardarEjazshah Khan and Justice SamanRiffatmtiaz.

Former prime minister Imran Khan and the Karachi Bar Association too had filed petitions against the judges' transfers and seniority issues.

## Huge methane gas reserve found in western Nepal

PTI, KATHMANDU: A preliminary report published on Thursday has revealed that the total methane gas reserves in western Nepal could reach approximately 430 billion cubic metres, enough to possibly meet the Himalayan nation's demand for gas for around 50 years.

The report, prepared by the China Geological Survey (CGS), presented initial findings from just one of the four targeted wells in Jaljale area of Dailekh district, raising the possibility of the Himalayan nation tapping into domestic sources of energy, according to government daily Gorkhapatra.

## Kyiv says Russia has been rejecting ceasefire calls for 100 days

AFP, KYIV: Ukraine said on Thursday that Russia has for more than three months been refusing a US and Ukrainian proposal to halt some three years of fighting without any preconditions.

The inauguration of US leader Donald Trump earlier this year has spurred a flurry of meetings between US, Russian and Ukrainian officials with the aim of halting Moscow's invasion, without success.

"It has been exactly 100 days since Ukraine unconditionally accepted the US peace proposal to completely cease fire, put an end to the killing, and move forward with a genuine peace process," Foreign Minister Andriy Sybiga said in a statement, adding that a ceasefire was a "basic first step towards peace."

## RUSSIA, UKRAINE SAY NEW POW EXCHANGE COMPLETED

AFP, KYIV: Russia and Ukraine said Thursday that they had completed another exchange of captured soldiers, part of a deal reached earlier in June at peace talks in Istanbul. During the talks, the first direct negotiations between the sides in three years, both countries agreed to free more than 1,000 prisoners of war from each side – all wounded, ill or under 25 years old. But neither side said how many soldiers had been freed in Thursday's exchange, the latest in several swaps since the June 2 talks. "Our people are returning home from Russian captivity," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on social media. The Ukrainian government agency overseeing the exchanges said it involved "seriously ill and wounded" soldiers.

During several rounds of face-to-face talks in Turkey, Russia has issued terms to initiate peace talks that Kyiv has described as "ultimatums."

The Kremlin is seeking territorial control over four regions it claims to have annexed since 2022 when it

launched its invasion, and wants to replace Volodymyr Zelensky as leader of Ukraine.

"Ukraine remains committed to peace. Unfortunately, Russia continues to choose war, disregarding the US efforts to end the killing," Sybiga said.

### CLASSIFIED CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

#### SITUATIONS VACANT

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To the most revered Miraculous Cross of Bambolim, I thank you Lord Jesus for securing 1st class for my daughter, Jeanelle J. Pais in her SSC Exams in 2025 for it is known that a petition made to you never goes unanswered. Thank you Fulancho Khuris/Bambolim Cross for answering my prayers and in thanksgiving I publish this advertisement.

Jean Fernandes, Sodiem

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furnished to him in August 2021.

## MORE OBITS ON PG 12

### MONTH'S MIND



In Everloving Memory of  
**AGOSTINHO JOSE CUSTODIO de QUADROS**

-: VANXEM, LOUTOLIM :-

There will be a Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved Agostinho on Saturday, 21st June 2025 at 4:00 pm at Saviour of the World Church, Loutolim, followed by prayers & blessing at the grave. Offered by his sorrowful Wife Lisa, Sisters Gracinda, Vera and their families.

Relatives, neighbours & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.  
Rebello Publicity & Funeral Services Margao 9822383992



### MONTH'S MIND

**Joao Da Cruz Cardoso**

Forever in Our Hearts

Saipem, Candolim

There will be Eucharistic celebration for the soul of our beloved Joao da cruz Cardoso on Saturday, 21st June, 2025 at 7.00 a.m., at Our Lady of Hope Church, Candolim followed by prayers at the grave. Offered by his wife Cecilia, children Jeanine, Jeanpaul/Karishma, Jyoti/Godwin & grandchildren.

Relatives & Friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.