



National secretary for Social Protection of the CFE-CGC Confederation union Christelle Thieffine arrives prior to a meeting with France's PM in Paris



Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer arrives at schiphol airport ahead of the two-day NATO's Heads of State and Government summit in The Hague



German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius addresses the press outside the plenary hall at the Bundestag (lower house of parliament) in Berlin



Qatar's PM Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani speaks during a press conference with Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam (not pictured) in Doha

allovertheworld



US actor and producer Brad Pitt on the red carpet upon arrival for the European Premier of F1 The Movie, at Cineworld Leicester Square, central London

Leeds sign Slovenia defender Bijol from Udinese

LONDON: Leeds have bolstered their defence ahead of a return to the Premier League with the signing of Slovenian international centre-back Jaka Bijol from Udinese. The 26-year-old, who reportedly cost £15 million (\$20 million), becomes Leeds' second signing of the close season after the arrival of German striker Lukas Nmecha on a free transfer. Bijol arrives at Leeds with a wealth of experience for club and country. He has made 63 appearances for Slovenia and played a key role at Euro 2024, where they held England to a goalless draw in the group stage before losing on penalties to Portugal in the last 16. "Maybe the biggest (day) of my career so far, but I'm ready for it," Bijol told the club's website.

Serbia's president announces halt to ammunition exports

BELGRADE: Serbia on Monday announced a halt in all exports of ammunition, after renewed Russian criticism of sales and the ongoing conflict between Israel and Iran. President Aleksandar Vucic said the exports, which were reportedly worth over \$1.6 billion in 2023, had been redirected to the national military stockpile. "We have now stopped literally everything and are sending it to our army," he told reporters. "We're not exporting anything. Everything is stopped. Everything is stopped, and from now on, there must be special decisions for anything to go forward," he added.

France's Macron holds Norway talks on eve of NATO summit

OSLO: French President Emmanuel Macron held talks Monday with Norwegian officials during a brief trip on the eve of a crucial NATO summit, as tensions rise in the resource-rich Arctic region. Last week, the French leader paid a visit to Greenland, where he criticised US counterpart Donald Trump for threatening to annex the Danish territory. During the Norway trip, Macron's office said he would once again underline "France's commitment to the Nordic and Arctic region, particularly with security". Trump has repeatedly said America needs to take Greenland for security reasons – and he has refused to rule out the use of force.

Virgin Australia surges in market comeback

SYDNEY: Virgin Australia climbed sharply as it re-entered the local share market Tuesday, a dramatic comeback from near bankruptcy more than four years ago. A 30-per cent chunk of Virgin Australia, one of the few domestic rivals to Qantas, was sold in an initial public offering this month at Aus\$2.90 a share to raise Aus\$685 million (US\$444 million). The price values the entire airline at Aus\$2.3 billion. The stock, which listed on the Australian Securities Exchange at noon, climbed 8.6 percent from the offer price in the first five minutes of trade. US private equity giant Bain Capital came to the airline's rescue in late 2020 after the Australian government refused to bail it out as the Covid-19 pandemic brought international travel to a standstill.

Indonesia rescuers try to reach Brazilian after fall at volcano

JAKARTA: Indonesian rescuers tried Tuesday to reach a Brazilian tourist who fell down a ravine at a volcano popular with hikers after spotting her unmoving body, authorities said. The woman identified by relatives and media reports as Juliana Marins, 26, went missing on Saturday at Mount Rinjani on Lombok island, which neighbours Bali. Authorities think Marins fell and believe they sighted her on Monday but rescuers were held back because of bad weather. "Yesterday morning we detected the victim. We deployed a team to the location but we were hampered by the very steep terrain and the foggy weather," Muhammad Hariyati, head of Lombok's Mataram Search and Rescue Office, told AFP on Tuesday.

Vietnam puts 41 on trial in \$45 mn corruption case

HANOI: A \$45 million corruption trial against 41 people including state officials began in Vietnam on Tuesday, part of the communist state's wide-ranging anti-graft drive. The so-called "burning furnace" campaign against corruption has swept up dozens of senior government figures, including two presidents and three deputy prime ministers, as well as top business leaders. In the latest case, a court in Hanoi began proceedings against 30 former officials of northern Vinh Phuc, Phu Tho and central Quang Ngai provinces.

# Trump affirms he isn't looking for regime change in Iran

## China wants a 'genuine ceasefire' to bring normalcy to Iran people

AFP, Washington/Beijing: Trump said Tuesday that he wasn't seeking regime change in Iran, two days after floating the idea himself in a social media post.

"I don't want it," Trump told reporters on Air Force One. "Regime change takes chaos and, ideally, we don't want to see much chaos."

China's foreign minister Wang Yi said on Tuesday that Beijing supports Iran in achieving a 'genuine ceasefire', as Israel accused Tehran of violating a fragile truce.

Meanwhile, "China supports Iran in safeguarding its national sovereignty and security, and, on that basis, achieving a genuine ceasefire so that people can return to normal life," Wang told his Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi in a phone call, according to a Chinese foreign ministry statement.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said the country "refrained" from further strikes on Iran on Tuesday after a call with US President Donald Trump.



President Xi and President Trump on Israel-Iran cease-fire

Wang, in his call with Araghchi, said that China had immediately "voiced condemnation" after US strikes on key nuclear facilities in Iran on Saturday.

Israel after Iranian missiles targeted an American base near Doha, a source with knowledge of the talks said on Tuesday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani spoke to the Iranians at Washington's request following Monday's unprecedented attack on Qatari soil, the source told AFP.

Qatar has good ties with both Iran and the United States and had been pushing, alongside other Gulf states including Oman, for a diplomatic solution to the conflict.

"In the aftermath of the strikes on Al Udeid (military base), President (Donald) Trump told the Emir of Qatar Israel had signed off on an American ceasefire proposal," the source said.

"The US president then asked that Qatar help get Iran to agree to a deal," the source added, requesting anonymity to discuss sensitive matters.

US Vice President JD Vance spoke to the Qatari prime minister "who persuaded Iran to agree to the proposal in a call with the Iranians," the source said.

Qatar's foreign ministry welcomed the ceasefire, calling it a "meaningful step toward adopting dialogue and diplomacy to resolve conflicts in the region".

### Functioning not impacted by India, China frictions: AIIB

PTI, BEIJING: Frictions between India and China have not affected the functioning and growth of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), where both countries are the top two investors, the bank's Vice President of Investment Solutions Ajay Bhushan Pandey has said.

In a detailed interview with PTI Videos here, Pandey, a former finance secretary and CEO of Aadhaar, sought to dispel the impression that the AIIB was a Chinese bank and said it truly emerged as a multilateral development bank (MDB) with well-established governing structures.

According to the bank's official data, China is the largest shareholder of the AIIB with 26.54 per cent voting shares. India is the second-largest shareholder with 7.58 per cent, followed by Russia with 5.9 per cent and Germany with 4.1 per cent.

### Pak court rejects Imran Khan's bail plea in May 9 cases

PTI, LAHORE: A Pakistani court on Tuesday rejected former prime minister Imran Khan's petitions seeking post-arrest bail in eight terrorism cases related to the May 9 riots.

Khan, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder, is booked in several cases in Lahore in connection with the May 9, 2023, violence, including for allegedly inciting his supporters to attack government and military buildings, which erupted after his arrest by paramilitary Rangers from the Islamabad High Court premises.

"The Lahore High Court (LHC) has rejected all bail petitions filed by the founder of PTI in connection with eight cases related to the

May 9, 2023 cases, including Jinnah House/Lahore Corps Commander House attack and arson incidents," a court official told PTI.

A two-member bench of the LHC headed by Justice Shehbaz Rizvi announced the verdict on the bail petitions filed by Khan in eight cases.

The bench reserved its judgment on Monday after concluding the hearing. The eight cases include the Jinnah House attack, the Askari Tower attack, the burning of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PTI-N) office, the setting of Shadman police station on fire, the burning of police vehicles near Jinnah House, and arson at Sherpao Bridge.

### Finland completes new segment of Russian border fence

AFP, KUUSMO: Finland on Tuesday unveiled a new segment of a 200-kilometre fence it is building along its eastern border with Russia, aimed at preventing Moscow from conducting what Helsinki calls "instrumentalised migration".

The Nordic country shut its 1,340-kilometre (830-mile) border with Russia in December 2023 after the arrival of around 1,000 migrants without visas.

Finland claimed the surge was deliberately orchestrated by Russia to destabilise its neighbour – a charge the Kremlin has denied.

### Extremist group claims responsibility for Damascus attack

AFP, BEIRUT: A little-known Sunni Muslim extremist group on Tuesday claimed responsibility for a suicide attack on a Damascus church over the weekend that authorities have blamed on the Islamic State group.

Sunday's attack killed 25 and wounded dozens of others, striking terror into Syria's Christian community and other minorities.

A statement from Saraya Ansar al-Sunna said a group operative "blew up the Saint Elias church in the Dwelaa neighbourhood of Damascus", saying it came after unspecified "provocation".

The Islamist authorities who took power after ousting longtime ruler Bashar al-Assad in December had quickly blamed the attack on IS and announced several arrests on Monday in a

### POPE 'DEEPLY SADDENED' BY DAMASCUS CHURCH ATTACK

AFP, VATICAN CITY: Pope Leo XIV said on Tuesday he was deeply saddened by a suicide attack on a Greek Orthodox church in Syria at the weekend. A little-known Sunni Muslim extremist group has claimed responsibility for the attack on Sunday, which killed 25 and wounded more than 60 others. The authorities had initially blamed the Islamic State group for the shooting and suicide bombing at the Saint Elias church in the Syrian capital. "His Holiness Pope Leo XIV was deeply saddened to learn of the loss of life and destruction caused by the attack on the Greek Orthodox church of Mar Elias in Damascus," said Vatican Secretary of State Pietro Parolin. "He expresses heartfelt solidarity with all those affected by this tragedy," said the Italian cardinal, who is the second-highest official in the Catholic Church after the pope.

security operation against IS-affiliated cells.

But the Saraya Ansar al-Sunna statement on messaging app Telegram, where it counts several hundred followers, said the government's version of events

was "untrue, fabricated".

The group, which was formed after Assad's ouster, vowed that "what is coming will not give you respite" warning that "our soldiers... are fully prepared".

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### SCRAPPED ODPs HELPED CONVERT 17 LAKH SQM

Further, low-lying paddy fields were converted into development zones, commercial zones were allotted to properties lacking proper access, and sloped lands in No Development Zones (NDZ) under RP 2021 were reclassified as settlement zones. These actions contributed to increased traffic congestion and environmental degradation.

The committee recommended that all such changes be reversed and the affected areas restored to their original designations under RP 2021.

### DGCA FINDS MULTIPLE SAFETY LAPSES AT AIRPORTS, AIRCRAFT

Two teams led by the Joint Director General carried out the surveillance during night and early morning hours at major airports, including Delhi and Mumbai airports.

In a detailed statement about the surveillance findings, DGCA listed multiple cases wherein the reported defects reappeared many times on the aircraft indicating ineffective monitoring and inadequate rectification.

"Ground handling equipment such as baggage trolleys... were found unserviceable; Line maintenance stores, tool control procedures were not followed," it said.

During maintenance of aircraft, the work order was not followed, DGCA said and added that the unserviceable thrust reverser system and flap slat lever were not locked.

"During maintenance, safety precautions found not (to have been) taken by AME (Aircraft Maintenance Engineer) as per AMM (Aircraft Maintenance Manual); at places, AME was not attending to the snag rectification; defect reports generated by the aircraft system, were not found recorded in the technical logbook," the statement said.

Also, DGCA found that several life vests were not properly secured beneath their designated seats in aircraft and the corrosion-resistant tape on the right-hand side winglet's lower blade was found to be damaged.

At an airport, centre line marking of a runway was observed faded and the rapid exit taxiway, green centre light were not unidirectional. The obstruction limitation data was found to have not been updated for last three years and no survey has been performed despite many new construction around the vicinity of aerodrome, DGCA said.

However, names of the airports were not disclosed. "A number of vehicles in the ramp area were found without speed governors. These vehicles were withdrawn by cancelling their AVP and drivers ADP were suspended," the statement said.

Further, the regulator said a simulator was found not matching with the aircraft configuration and that the software was not updated to the current version.

Besides, a domestic flight of a scheduled carrier was held up due to worn tyres and it was released only after the required rectification was done, it added.

DGCA emphasised that it has initiated a focused assessment of the aviation ecosystem to strengthen safety measures across the sector.

"Throughout the surveillance, ground activities and aircraft movements were closely monitored to check the compliance of regulatory requirements and to identify weak areas for improvement," the statement said.

In the wake of the crash of the London-bound Air India Boeing 787-8 plane soon after take off from Ahmedabad on June 12, DGCA has also put in place a special audit framework for a "360-degree" evaluation of the country's aviation ecosystem and transcend the current practice of siloed assessment.

### PASSENGERS, CREW FALL ILL ON LONDON-MUMBAI AIR INDIA FLIGHT

Upon arrival, two passengers and two cabin crew who continued to feel unwell were taken to the airport medical facility for examination and later discharged after receiving treatment, the airline said.

While the airline has not confirmed the exact cause of the illness, an internal source indicated that food poisoning was the most probable reason. The source also clarified that symptoms such as dizziness could stem from cabin depressurisation, but there were no signs of such an event on this flight.

### NO IMMUNITY FOR PARTICIPANTS IN OP SINDOOR: SC

Observing that the petitioner was convicted for a serious offence, the bench felt it wasn't a fit case to grant him exemption.

The top court, however, issued notice in the matter and sought the reply of respondents in six weeks.

A trial court in Amritsar on July 2004 had convicted petitioner Baljinder Singh under Section 304-B (dowry death) of IPC for the death of his wife within two years of marriage.

The police alleged the woman was subjected to harassment and cruelty in her matrimonial home for dowry.

### WATER POLLUTION THREATENS THE FESTIVE SPIRIT OF SAO JOAO

This shift is more than a cultural adaptation; it's a stark indicator of environmental degradation. Locals point to poor waste management, unchecked chemical runoff, and general neglect as key reasons behind the pollution of traditional water sources.

"We're losing more than just a tradition. We're losing a connection to our land and our environment," said Vitorino Fernandes of Nuvem. "São João is a celebration of water, of life. If the water isn't safe, what are we celebrating?"

While artificial setups may help keep the festive spirit alive, many Goans fear the core of São João is being diluted. Community members are calling on the government to prioritize the cleaning and preservation of these heritage wells and ponds. Many advocate for systematic maintenance, stricter pollution control, and educational efforts around environmental stewardship.

### ISRAEL-IRAN CEASEFIRE IS IN EFFECT: TRUMP

Indeed, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said he held off on tougher strike against Iran after speaking to Trump.

The conflict, now in its 12th day, began with Israel targeting Iranian nuclear and military sites, saying it could not allow Tehran to develop atomic weapons and that it feared the Islamic Republic was close. Iran has long maintained that its programme is peaceful.

Many worried the war might widen after the US joined the attacks by dropping bunker-buster bombs over the weekend and Israel expanded the kinds of targets it was hitting. But after Tehran launched a limited retaliatory strike on a US military base in Qatar on Monday, Trump announced the ceasefire. The deal got off to a rocky start.

An Israeli military official who spoke on the condition of anonymity in line with military regulations said Iran launched two missiles at Israel hours into the tenuous ceasefire. Both were intercepted, the official said.

Iranian state television reported that the military denied firing missiles after the start of the ceasefire — while condemning Israel for predawn strikes of its own.

One of those attacks killed a high-profile nuclear scientist, Mohammad Reza Sedighi Saber, at his father-in-law's residence in northern Iran, Iranian state TV reported.

As Trump spoke to reporters at the White House before departing for the NATO summit, he expressed disappointment with both sides.

Iran "violated it, but Israel violated it too," Trump said. "I'm not happy with Israel."

Trump's frustration was palpable, using an expletive to hammer home his point.