



President of France's National Assembly Yael Braun-Pivet speaks during the foundation stone laying ceremony in China, Shanghai



Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) Air Chief Marshal AP Singh with the Ambassador of India to Greece Rudendra Tandon during a reception in Greece



Senior member of Germany's Social Democratic Party Franz Muentefering attends on the second day of the German Social Democratic Party Congress in Berlin



President of the Senate and President of Cambodian People's Party Hun Sen (L) speaks to Cambodia's PM Hun Manet (R) during a ceremony in Phnom Penh

allovertheworld



Daniella Pineda attends the 'Dora And The Search For Sol Dorado' Premiere Event in Los Angeles, California

Child labourers among 19 dead in Egypt road accident: State media

CAIRO: A road accident in northern Egypt killed 19 people on Friday, most of them teenage girls working as day labourers, state media reported. A truck collided with the minibus carrying the labourers to their place of work from their home village of Kafr al-Sanabsa in the Nile Delta, some 100 kilometres (60 miles) north of Cairo, state-owned newspaper Akhbar al-Youm reported. According to a list of the names and ages of the dead published by another state-owned daily, Al-Ahram, most of the workers were teenagers -- two of them just 14. Egyptian media dubbed the girls "martyrs for their daily bread". Road accidents are common in Egypt, where traffic rules are unevenly enforced and many roads are in poor repair.

Four French policemen to stand trial for beating black musician

PARIS: Four French policemen will stand trial for beating a black musician and producer five years ago -- an attack condemned by France's president -- but prosecutors did not seek hate-crime charges. On the evening of November 21, 2020, Michel Zecler was beaten up in his Parisian music studio after police confronted him for a supposed "strong smell of cannabis" and for not wearing a mask, as required at the time because of Covid. The four-minute ordeal ruptured his left biceps tendon. The policemen's accusations of "violence" and "rebellion" against Zecler were quickly dismissed, and video footage released five days later contradicted the initial police account.

Kenya protests left 19 dead, 15 missing: Rights body

NAIROBI: The death toll from protests in Kenya to mark the anniversary of a massive crackdown on anti-tax demonstrations has risen to 19, with another 15 people missing, the national human-rights commission said Friday. Wednesday's anniversary protests drew thousands of people into the streets across Kenya, descending into chaos when young men battled police and destroyed thousands of businesses. "The Commission strongly condemns all human rights violations and urges accountability from all responsible parties," the Kenyan National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) said in a statement.

California governor files \$787 mn defamation suit against Fox News

LOS ANGELES: California Governor Gavin Newsom filed a lawsuit Friday against broadcaster Fox News, claiming defamation after alleged purposeful misrepresentation of details of a phone call with US President Donald Trump earlier this month. The suit seeks \$787 million in damages and was filed in a Delaware court, where Fox News is registered as a corporation. Trump and Newsom spoke on the phone in the early hours of June 7 Washington time, but the pair did not address protests against Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids occurring throughout Los Angeles, according to the lawsuit.

6.1-magnitude quake hits off southern Philippines

MANILA: A magnitude-6.1 earthquake struck deep off the coast of the southern Philippines on Saturday, the United States Geological Survey said. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage from the quake, which the USGS reported occurred at a depth of 101 kilometres (63 miles) about 70 kilometres from the nearest areas of Davao Occidental province. "The shake was not that strong, but the tables and computers here at the office shook for (about five seconds)," Marlawin Fuentes, a provincial rescuer from the tiny island of Sarangani, told AFP. No tsunami alert was triggered.

Thai PM visits flood-hit region as 3,700 homes inundated

BANGKOK: Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra made an emergency visit on Saturday to the country's flood-hit north, where the military is evacuating residents after monsoon rains inundated thousands of homes. The Royal Thai Army says more than 3,700 homes were flooded across five districts in Chiang Rai province, alongside 80 hectares (200 acres) of agricultural land, with roads made impassable in three areas. Heavy rains are forecast to continue in the coming days, while the military has deployed rafts to ferry residents from their homes engulfed by muddy brown water, according to images shared on their Facebook page.

Israeli strikes kill 72 in Gaza

Attacks continue amid reports of imminent truce

AP, DEIR AL-BALAH: Israeli strikes killed at least 72 people across Gaza overnight and into Saturday, health workers said, as ceasefire prospects were said to be improving after 21 months of war.

Three children and their parents were killed in an Israeli strike on a tent camp in Muwasi near the southern city of Khan Younis. They were struck while sleeping, relatives said.

"What did these children do to them? What is their fault?" said the children's grandmother, Suad Abu Teima, as others knelt to kiss their bloodied faces and wept. Some placed red flowers into the body bags.

Also among the dead were 12 people near the Palestine Stadium in Gaza City, which was sheltering displaced people, and



Smoke billows following Israeli strikes west of Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip

eight more in apartments, according to staff at Shifa Hospital. More than 20 bodies were taken to Nasser Hospital, according to health officials.

A midday strike killed 11 people on a street in eastern Gaza City, and their bodies were taken to Al-Ahli Hospital. Another

strike on a gathering in eastern Gaza City killed eight including five children, the hospital said. A strike on a gathering at the entrance to the Bureij refugee camp in central Gaza killed two, according to Al-Awda Hospital.

US President Donald Trump says there could

YEMEN'S HUTHI REBELS SAY FIRED MISSILE AT ISRAEL

AFP, SANAA: Yemen's Iran-backed Huthi rebels said they fired a ballistic missile towards Israel on Saturday, in response to Israel's conduct towards Palestinians during the Gaza war. In Israel, warning sirens sounded in several areas, before the army announced the "missile was most likely successfully intercepted". It was the first missile launch against Israel announced by the Huthis since the June 24 ceasefire between Israel and Iran which followed their 12-day war. In a statement, rebel military spokesman Yahya Saree said the Huthis had fired at a "sensitive Israeli enemy target in the occupied area of Beersheba using a Dhu al-Fiqar ballistic missile". The attack was in "response to the crimes of the criminal Zionist enemy against civilians in the Gaza Strip", Saree added.

be a ceasefire agreement within the next week. Taking questions from reporters on Friday, he said, "We're working on Gaza and trying to get it taken care of."

An official with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press that

Israeli Minister for Strategic Affairs Ron Dermer will arrive in Washington next week for talks on a Gaza ceasefire, Iran and other subjects. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak to the media.

13 killed in Pakistan suicide attack

PTI, PESHAWAR: At least 13 security personnel were killed and 24 others injured in a suicide attack on Saturday in Pakistan's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, security sources said.

A suicide bomber rammed an explosives-laden vehicle into a Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle belonging to the Bomb Disposal Unit early this morning in Khaddi area of North Waziristan district, the sources added.

Among the 24 injured are 14 civilians, including women and children, with several said to be in critical condition.

A curfew was imposed in the area at the time of the incident due to ongoing military movement, the sources said.

Security agencies launched a rescue operation following the explosion.

2 killed, 14 wounded in Russian strike on Ukraine

AFP, KYIV: A Russian drone strike on Ukraine's southern port city of Odesa killed two people and wounded 14, including children, local authorities said on Saturday.

Moscow has stepped up drone and missile attacks on Ukraine and peace talks initiated by the United States to end the three-year conflict have stalled.

"Rescuers pulled the bodies of two people from the rubble who died as a result of a hostile drone strike on a residential building," Odesa Governor Oleg Kiper said on Telegram.

The night-time strike wounded 14 people, Kiper said, adding that "three of them children."

Separately, authorities in Ukraine's southern Kherson region said one person was killed and three others were wounded in Russian

strikes over the past day.

"Russian troops targeted critical and social infrastructure and residential areas in the region," the Kherson's governor, Oleksandr Prokudin, said on Telegram early on Saturday.

Tens of thousands of people have been killed in Russia's offensive, which has forced millions from their homes and devastated much of eastern Ukraine.

Ukraine has launched retaliatory strikes on Russia throughout the war.

The Russian defence ministry said on Saturday its air defence had shot down 31 Ukrainian drones overnight.

Moscow also said it had captured another village in the Donetsk region, which the Kremlin has claimed as part of Russia since late 2022.

BURNING PATH



A reveller carries a girl on his back while walking on burning embers during the night of San Juan in San Pedro Manrique, Soria province in northern Spain

Trump says he's ending trade talks with Canada

To impose new tariffs within a week in retaliation for Canada's tech tax

AP, WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump said Friday that he's suspending trade talks with Canada over its plans to continue with its tax on technology firms, which he called "a direct and blatant attack on our country."

Trump, in a post on his social media network, said Canada had just informed the US that it was sticking to its plan to impose the digital services tax, which applies to Canadian and foreign businesses that engage with online users in Canada. The tax is set to go into effect Monday.

"Based on this egregious Tax, we are hereby terminating ALL discussions on Trade with Canada, effective immediately. We will let Canada know the Tariff that they will be paying to do business with the United States of America within the next seven day period,"



US President Donald Trump and Canada's PM Mark Carney

Trump said in his post. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said his country would "continue to conduct these complex negotiations in the best interests of Canadians. It's a negotiation."

Trump's announcement was the latest swerve in the trade war he's launched since taking office for a second term in January. Progress with Canada has been

set a 30-day deadline for trade talks.

The digital services tax will hit companies including Amazon, Google, Meta, Uber and Airbnb with a 3 per cent levy on revenue from Canadian users. It will apply retroactively, leaving US companies with a USD 2 billion US bill due at the end of the month.

Canada and the US have been discussing easing a series of steep tariffs Trump imposed on goods from America's neighbour.

The Republican president earlier told reporters that the US was soon preparing to send letters to different countries, informing them of the new tariff rate his administration would impose on them.

Trump has imposed 50 per cent tariffs on steel and aluminum as well as 25 per cent tariffs on autos.

Bangladesh reaffirms commitment to minority rights

PTI, DHAKA: Bangladesh has said that it remains firmly committed to safeguarding the rights of all communities and protecting places of worship but building religious structures on public land is not permissible "under any circumstance".

The Foreign Ministry's statement on Friday came a day after India denounced the reported destruction of a Durga temple in Dhaka and stressed the responsibility of Bangladesh's interim government to protect Hindus as well as religious institutions.

The ministry claimed that the temple in Dhaka's Khilkhet area was built on land owned by Bangladesh Railways, and its removal was carried out following due process to recover public land, the state-run BSS news agency reported.

It alleged that the temple started as a makeshift pavilion, with organisers attempting to make the temporary structure permanent despite repeated reminders.

On June 26, Bangladesh Railways proceeded with the "peaceful eviction of all unauthorised structures along the rail track in Khilkhet area," it said.

"While the laws of the land ensure full protection to all places of worship without discriminating against any built-in conformity with law, it is not permissible for any to build any religious structure encroaching public land under any circumstances," the ministry said.

"Bangladesh remains firmly committed to safeguarding the rights of all communities, including protection of the places of worship," it added.

France to ban smoking in parks, beaches, near schools

AP, PARIS: France has struggled to kick its smoking habit. A new public health decree published Saturday aims to change that.

In the coming days, smoking will be banned in all French parks and sports venues, at beaches and bus stops, in a perimeter around all schools, and anywhere children could gather in public.

In a country where smoking has for generations



been glamorised in cinema and intertwined with the national image, government crackdowns on tobacco use have met resistance. "In France, we still have

this mindset of saying, this is a law that restricts freedom," Philippe Bergerot, president of the French League Against Cancer, told the Associated Press.

The ban aims "to promote what we call denormalisation. In people's minds, smoking is normal," he said. "We aren't banning smoking; we are banning smoking in certain places where it could potentially affect people's health and... young people."

It's been illegal to smoke in restaurants, bars and public buildings since a series of bans in 2007 and 2008. Ever-higher taxes mean a pack now costs upwards of 12 euros (\$14).

Yet more than 30% of French adults still smoke cigarettes, most of them daily, one of the higher rates in Europe and globally. The Health Ministry is particularly concerned that tobacco remains pop-

ular among young people, citing public health statistics showing that 15% of 17-year-olds smoke.

Black market cigarette trading is common.

More than 200 people in France die each day of tobacco-related illness, Health Minister Catherine Vautrin said in a statement Saturday. That adds up to some 75,000 deaths per year.

In a Paris park as the ban

loomed, views were mixed.

Parisian Natacha Uzan welcomed the end of smoking in restaurants. But she said: "Now outside, in parks, I find it becoming a bit repressive."

The broader ban is a 'good thing' for Anabelle Cermell, mother of a 3-month-old boy. "I tell myself, oh, it's really not ideal for him, but there's not much I can do about it, or I would have to... not take the bus, not go to parks," she said.