

MUSTREAD

At least 18 killed, 24 injured in central Peru road accident

Lima: At least 18 people died and 24 others were injured in a road accident in the central Peruvian region of Junin, according to local media La Republica. The accident occurred on Friday when a double-decker bus from the Expreso Molina Lider Internacional company fell into an abyss on a central highway near the Talca district in Tarma province. Members of the Tarma Fire Department, the National Police, and health personnel arrived to rescue the injured, several of whom were trapped between the twisted iron, according to the state-run TV Peru.

Philippine cyclones death toll rises to 30

Manila: At least 30 Filipinos are now known to have died in the southwest monsoon enhanced by three tropical cyclones that triggered flash floods and landslides in the Philippines since last week, a Philippine government agency said on Saturday. In a report, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) reported that seven others are missing, either swept away by flash floods or buried in landslides. It added that the massive flooding and landslides also resulted in 10 injuries.

Quake measuring 6.1 hits northern Molucca Sea

Jakarta: An earthquake with a magnitude of 6.1 jolted the northern Molucca Sea in the western Pacific Ocean at 21:30:01 GMT on Friday, the GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences said. The epicenter, with a depth of 131.4 km, was initially determined to be at 1.98 degrees north latitude and 126.87 degrees east longitude.

China issues yellow alert for heavy rainfall

Beijing: China's national observatory on Saturday continued to issue a yellow alert for rainstorms as heavy rainfall is expected in several regions across the country over the next 24 hours. The National Meteorological Center (NMC) forecast that from 2 p.m. Saturday to 2 p.m. Sunday, heavy to torrential rain is expected to hit regions including Inner Mongolia, Shaanxi, Shanxi, Hebei, Beijing, Liaoning and Jilin. Some parts in Inner Mongolia, Hebei, Jilin, Fujian and Yunnan are likely to experience heavy rainfall of up to 180 mm during the period, with thunderstorms and strong winds also possible in some areas, according to NMC. It advised local authorities to make appropriate preparations and inspect the drainage systems in cities, farmlands and fishponds.

African Union-Somalian troops jointly thwart Al-Shabaab attack

Addis Ababa/Mogadishu: African Union (AU) troops backed by Somali security forces thwarted an attack on military bases by the extremist Al-Shabaab group in Sibiid-Anole town, located southwest of the capital Mogadishu. The AU Support and Stabilisation Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM) said Al-Shabab fighters had launched a coordinated attack on military bases manned by AU troops and Somali National Armed Forces in the early hours of the day yesterday. "The joint forces successfully repelled the terrorists, forcing them to retreat swiftly," AUSSOM said in a statement. Eyewitnesses said the assault erupted with a series of explosions in the nearby villages before the two sides exchanged gunfire.

Police investigating separate shootings at 2 western Sydney homes

Sydney: Sydney police are investigating separate shootings at two residences in the city's western suburbs on Friday night. Police in the state of New South Wales (NSW) said on Saturday that officers were called to reports of gunshots being fired into the first home in Croydon Park, 10 km west of central Sydney, around 8 p.m. on Friday. One man, three women and two children were inside the premises at the time but there were no reported injuries. Officers were told that a man was seen on foot firing two shots from a pistol into the home before entering a nearby vehicle and fleeing the scene.

Australia-UK sign 50-year AUKUS defence treaty amid US review

Canberra/London (UNI)

Australia and the United Kingdom (UK) signed a 50-year commitment to the AUKUS defence treaty today, despite the United States' ongoing review of the pact.

Australia's Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Richard Marles and UK Defence Secretary John Healey signed the bilateral Nuclear-Powered Submarine Partnership and Collaboration Treaty (the Geelong Treaty) at their meeting in Geelong, Victoria.

"The Geelong Treaty is a historic agreement, the commitment for the next 50 years of UK-Australian bilateral defence cooperation under AUKUS Pillar 1," Marles and Healey said in a joint statement.

The Geelong Treaty will enable comprehensive cooperation on the design, build, operation, sustainment, and disposal of their SSN-



AUKUS submarines, according to the statement.

It will support the development of the personnel, workforce, infrastructure and regulatory systems required for Australia's SSN-AUKUS program, as well as support port visits and the rotational presence of a UK Astute-class submarine at HMAS Stirling under Submarine Rotational Force -

West.

The signing of the treaty came as the United States wavers on its role in the AUKUS alliance. The U.S. Department of Defence has announced a review of the trilateral security partnership to determine whether the agreement aligns with the "America First" agenda.

Marles and Healey's joint state-

Russia lifts lid on secretive drone factory

Moscow (UNI)

In the first official glimpse inside the production facility of Russia's main attack drone factory, Moscow has now chosen to publicize the factory and its contribution to Russia's war effort. Standing at the Alabuga factory amid rows of the distinctive black, triangular Iranian-designed attack drones (known as "Geran" in Russian), Timur Shagivaleev, the man behind one of the country's biggest drone factories, has every reason to feel emboldened.

Instead of shying away from discussing details of the plant, he shows off the construction facility at the site in southern Russia.

Dozens of new buildings, believed to be new dormitories and production facilities, have been rapidly taking shape since the winter snow melted this year, reports CNN.

This is Russia's main attack drone factory, a key part of the Kremlin's es-



calating drone offensive on Ukrainian cities.

To fuel this effort, there's also now evidence that the site is drafting teenagers, not only into drone assembly at Alabuga but also into construction work, Shagivaleev, Alabuga's director general, suggests that Alabuga, which has been churning out Iranian-designed Shahed drones for almost three years, has now fully shifted from being an Iran-

ian franchise to a fully localized production line.

David Albright, a former UN weapons inspector, who is head of the Institute for Science and International Security (ISIS), told CNN that Moscow's decision to lift the lid on the factory shows "the Russian authorities are feeling more confident about their ability to make drones."

Alabuga began producing Shahed drones in 2023 and it now also churns out cheaper versions designed to act as decoys (known as "Gerbera"). The site was already expanding as Russian drone attacks on Ukraine started to ramp up last August and recent satellite images reveal even faster growth over the past few months.

A July 12 image shows at least 104 identical rectangular buildings either fully or partially built, with a similar footprint to existing structures known to be worker dormitories.

Border clashes between Cambodia, Thailand enter third day

Phnom Penh/Bangkok (UNI)

At least 13 Cambodian people died and 71 others were injured in border clashes with Thailand, a Cambodian defence spokesperson said Saturday. According to Thai media, the border clashes started for the third day on Saturday morning after the Cambodian side opened fire against Thai troops.

"Five Cambodian soldiers were killed and 21 others were wounded," Cambodian Defence Ministry's Undersecretary of State and Spokesperson Maly Socheata told a press briefing. "Also, eight civilians died and 50 others were injured in Oddar Meanchey province."

In the latest development, the Cambodian Ministry of National Defence said the Thai army on Saturday expanded its military attacks to another Cambodian province,



Pursat. Thai Public Broadcasting Service reported that the border clashes between Thailand and Cambodia started for the third day on Saturday, after the Cambodian side opened fire in the early morning against Thai troops in Thailand's Trat province and the Thai side responded.

Senior Pakistani officer among 23 killed as BLA expands guerrilla warfare across Balochistan

Balochistan, Pakistan: The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) has asserted responsibility for a series of simultaneous armed operations throughout various areas of Balochistan, claiming that its fighters killed a minimum of 23 members of the Pakistani military, including a high-ranking officer, and caused substantial damage to military facilities and assets linked to intelligence, The Balochistan post reported.

As per The Balochistan Post, BLA spokesperson Jeeyand Baloch indicated that the group's fighters targeted Pakistani forces in locations such as Mastung, Kalat, Zamuran, Buleda, and Quetta, also conducting assaults in Nushki, Dalbandin, and Panjgur.

ment insisted that the Geelong Treaty "builds on the strong foundation of trilateral cooperation between Australia, the UK and the United States," advancing the shared objectives of the AUKUS partnership. It will enable the development of SSN-AUKUS and resilient trilateral supply chains, it said.

In September 2021, the United States, the UK, and Australia jointly announced the establishment of a trilateral security partnership and cooperation on nuclear-powered submarines.

As a non-nuclear-weapon state, Australia's involvement in a project with high risks of nuclear proliferation has raised serious concerns within the international community about the deepening of military alliances among the three countries and the potential undermining of regional peace and stability.

Taiwan holds controversial vote targeting 'pro-China' lawmakers



Taipei (UNI)

Thousands of Taiwanese are heading to the polls in an unprecedented and controversial vote aimed at ousting lawmakers accused of being too close to China.

More than 30 lawmakers have been targeted in the "dabamian", or Great Recall vote, initiated by a civic movement.

10 soldiers killed as Yemeni forces clash with Houthis in Saada

Aden, Yemen: Yemen's pro-government forces said they had repelled a large-scale attack launched by Houthi militia targeting military positions in the northern province of Saada.

In a statement posted on social media platform X, the forces on Friday said they "thwarted a large-scale attack" by Houthis on the Aleb military front, north of Saada province.

The statement said 10 government soldiers were killed in the confrontation, while "dozens of enemy fighters" were killed or wounded. It added that bodies of Houthi militants were found scattered across valleys in the area, and three Houthi military vehicles were destroyed.

No immediate response was available from the Houthi group regarding the reported confrontation.

Yemen has remained in a fragile state of calm since the collapse of a UN-brokered truce at the end of 2022, with both sides failing to agree on its renewal or expansion.

The vote has the potential to alter the balance of power in Taiwan, which has seen months of political deadlock between the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) government and the legislature dominated by the opposition Kuomintang and its allies, reports BBC.

The issue has deeply divided Taiwanese society, which has seen large rallies and fierce debate.

Both pro-recall and anti-recall activists claim to be fighting for Taiwan's democracy.

The movement around the recall vote began with elections in January 2024, when voters chose the Democratic Progressive Party's William Lai as their president but gave the opposition the dominant presence in the parliamentary Legislative Yuan.

US to review, reduce number of its troops in Europe

Washington: The United States is reviewing the positions of its troops on a global scale, the presence of US forces in the European region will decrease, Estonian Defense Minister Hanno Pevkur said.

On Friday, during a visit to Washington, Pevkur, with counterparts from Latvia and Lithuania, met with US Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth to discuss cooperation aimed at enhancing transatlantic ties, the ERR broadcaster reported.

"As for the position of the US troops on a global scale, it is now under review... This process is being carried out in cooperation with the Supreme Commander of Forces in Europe and NATO headquarters. It is possible that more precise figures will be announced in the autumn," Pevkur told the ERR.

Cambodia bans flights over conflict zones near Thailand

Cambodia's State Secretariat of Civil Aviation (SSCA) today prohibited all flights from flying across fighting zones with Thailand, a spokesperson said.

Sinn Chanserey Vutha, who is also the SSCA's secretary of state, said all airlines had been informed to avoid flying over conflict zones and the scope of prohibition had been expanded to Poipet City, Pailin province and part of Siem Reap province. "All flights have been instructed to avoid flying over these airspace, and the planes must not fly lower than 1,200 meters above sea level."

At least 8 killed, 13 wounded in "terror" attack in SE Iran

Tehran (UNI)

At least eight people, namely five civilians and three assailants, were killed and 13 others were injured in a "terrorist" attack Saturday morning on the building of the justice department in Iran's southeastern city of Zahedan, the capital of Sistan and Baluchestan province, the semi-official Tasnim news agency reported.

Responsibility for the attack has been claimed by Jaish al-Zulm, designated by Iran as a terrorist group, the report said.

It added that upon entering the justice department's premises, the "terrorists" opened fire on the people there, stressing that the casualties could further increase.

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said in a statement published on its official news outlet



Sepah News that its ground forces managed to kill three of the "terrorists."

The IRGC added that some of those injured in the attack were in critical condition, giving the assurance that security forces had the situation under control.

Israeli army says killed Hamas counter-intelligence commander in Gaza

Jerusalem: The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) said on Friday that it had killed a Hamas counter-intelligence commander in a strike in the northern Gaza Strip.

Amjad Muhammad Hassan Shaer, head of the counter-intelligence directorate in Hamas' General Security Apparatus, was killed on Wednesday, the IDF said in a statement.

According to the Israeli army, the directorate is responsible for thwarting espionage and securing senior Hamas officials.

The statement added that over the past day, in cooperation with ground forces, the Israeli Air Force struck dozens of military targets in the Gaza Strip.

