



10,000 prisoners, including foreigners to be released from jails in Vietnam, to mark its recent parliamentary elections



Belling	25	17	SNY	Los Angeles	20	12	SNY
Colombo	31	26	SNY	Melbourne	26	15	LC
Dhaka	31	19	SNY	Moscow	14	13	SNY
Dubai	26	21	SNY	New York	22	17	SNY
Houston	31	19	TDS	Singapore	28	25	TDS
Istanbul	26	19	SNY	Toronto	21	12	SNY
London	30	19	SNY	Washington	23	18	SNY

Supreme Leader's adviser accuses US president of betraying democracy

White House indicates Trump is close to deciding on a deal; final pact yet to be reached, says Iran

DUBAI
AN adviser to Iran's Supreme Leader on Saturday accused US President Donald Trump of "betraying democracy", as uncertainty persisted over a possible agreement between Washington and Tehran to end their conflict. Mohsen Rezaei, a former commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, said Trump was "betraying diplomacy for the third time" by maintaining a naval blockade and imposing conditions on negotiations. "By continuing the naval blockade and making excessive demands in negotiations, he has once again proven that he is not inclined toward negotiation and

is pursuing other objectives," Rezaei wrote on X. His remarks came as the United States reiterated that it was prepared to resume military action if necessary. Speaking at a defence summit in Singapore, US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said Washington was "more than capable" of restarting the war, while US Central Command said American forces remained "present and vigilant" across the region. The White House has signalled that a proposed framework for a deal. However, Tehran denied that a final agreement had been

reached. US sources told AFP that the framework was awaiting Trump's approval following a White House Situation Room meeting on Friday. Trump has said any agreement must meet his key conditions, including a commitment by Iran never to develop nuclear weapons and the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei rejected Washington's demands, saying the Islamic Republic had "said goodbye to the language of 'must' 47 years ago". While exchanges of messages between the two sides were continuing, "no final agreement has been

reached", he said. Trump has claimed that Tehran would remove mines from the Strait of Hormuz and reopen the vital shipping route without imposing tolls, while the United States would lift its blockade. However, Iranian media reports disputed those assertions, saying no such provisions were included in the proposed agreement and rejecting claims regarding the destruction of Iran's enriched uranium stockpiles. The negotiations follow US strikes on Iran's Bandar Abbas port and retaliatory attacks this week. Iran's state media said air defences had shot down a drone allegedly belonging to the "US-Zionist aggressor enemy". Agencies



(Top) Screen grab shows two men being hugged after they were rescued; (inset) a rescue team freeing a man trapped inside a semi-submerged cave in central Xaysomboun province, northeast of the capital Vientiane | AFP

10 DAYS ON, FIVE RESCUED FROM LAOS CAVE

VIENTIANE
FOUR more men trapped in a semi-submerged Laos cave for 10 days were freed on Saturday, rescuers said, after one was successfully brought to the surface a day earlier, but two remained missing.

flash floods stranded them as they searched for gold, early state media reports said. They were trapped after heavy rains triggered flash flooding that blocked the exit of the cavern. Five of the men were located alive on Wednesday, huddling in a narrow shaft around 984 feet from the cave mouth. Rescuers guided a bedraggled and muddy man over unsteady ground to safety on Friday.

Lee Kian Lie, a Malaysian rescue diver, told AFP via Messenger that the four were freed after water was pumped out of the cavern. A video he took from the scene showed teams under a makeshift tent attending to four people lying on stretchers and covered with thermal blankets. "Important they already out," Lee said. He declined to speculate on the condition of the two who remained unaccounted for. The Thailand Rescue Diver Facebook page said in a post that "rescue officials were able to bring out four more people trapped" at about 3.10 pm (0810 GMT) on Saturday. "A total of five people have now been rescued, while two remain missing," it said. Seven men had been trapped in the cavern in a remote mountainous area of central Xaysomboun province since May 20, when

Water pumped from cave
Rescue efforts had focused on pumping out the monsoon flood waters that trapped the men. Rescuers had expressed optimism earlier on Saturday about their chances of freeing the four. Lee, part of a specialist cave-diving team, said hopes were rising as water was pumped out and supplies sent in. There was no update on the two people still unaccounted for. The Lao Satchai Foundation posted a video to its Facebook page on Saturday of the man rescued the day before, identified only as Meud, who said the two missing men had gone about 500 metres deeper into the cave than he had. AFP

Israel pounds southern Lebanon, issues evacuation alerts despite talks

ADLOUN
ISRAEL'S air force and artillery struck areas close to a strategic mountain housing a Crusader-built castle in southern Lebanon on Saturday as fighting raged in villages close to the southern city of Nabatieh. Israel's military issued evacuation warnings for more than a dozen villages in southern Lebanon, a day after Lebanese and Israeli military officials held their first direct talks in decades at the Pentagon.



Smoke rising after an Israeli air strike on the village of Maifadoun | AFP

The situation in southern Lebanon was discussed during a meeting Saturday between Lebanon's president and prime minister who said in a statement later that they will intensify their contacts to make Israel stop demolition and bulldozing of homes and historical sites as well as its evacuation warnings. Lebanon's state-run National News Agency reported Israeli airstrikes and artillery shelling near the Crusader-built Beaufort castle that is about 15 kilometers (9 miles) from the Israeli border and overlooks wide parts of southern Lebanon. The strategic castle was held by Israeli troops for 18 years until they withdrew from Lebanon in May 2000.

Israeli troops have been advancing for days in villages close to the castle, including Yohmor and Zawtar al-Sharqieh near the city of Nabatieh where they crossed the strategic Litani River, which the Israeli military has used as a de facto boundary. Large areas to the south are under Israeli military control, despite an April 17, US-brokered ceasefire. NNA reported airstrikes on different parts of southern Lebanon including in the village of Ansar that killed three people. A drone strike on a road linking the village of Ebba with Nabatieh

wounded two Lebanese soldiers, the army said in a statement. Hezbollah, meanwhile, said its fighters fired rockets at northern Israel's largest city, Kiryat Shmona, on the border with Lebanon. The group said its attack was in retaliation for airstrikes that killed civilians in Lebanon. Hezbollah later said it also fired rockets toward the northern city of Safed. Among those killed in southern Lebanon on Friday were a Syrian family who died in an Israeli airstrike on the coastal village of Adloun, north of the city of Tyre. AP

Iran preparing 'grand' funeral for Khamenei

TEHRAN: Iranian authorities are preparing for a "grand" state funeral for slain supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, months after plans were delayed by the war with the United States and Israel, state media reported on Friday. A special headquarters has been set up to organise the ceremony, though no date has been announced. Officials said preparations were under way for a large public turnout once the funeral is formally scheduled.

Agencies warn of fuel crunch as shipping falters

WASHINGTON: The heads of the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and International Energy Agency warned of growing risks to global fuel security if oil shipping through the Strait of Hormuz does not return to normal. Global oil inventories depleting at record pace due to Iran war. The agencies also warned that rising energy and fertilizer prices were disproportionately affecting lower-income countries and threatening food security.

Hegseth backs Pacific allies, strikes softer tone on Beijing

SINGAPORE
US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth assured Pacific allies on Saturday that Washington remained committed to the region, but toned down previous comments calling China a threat. Speaking to a group of world leaders, diplomats and top security officials at the Shangri-La defense conference in Singapore, Hegseth said that the region "has profound implications for US security and prosperity" and that Washington's priority was to "achieve a lasting and favorable balance of power in the Pacific." It was his second time addressing the forum, hosted by the International Institute for Strategic Studies. Last year, he raised the ire of Beijing by warning of rapidly developing threats from China, particularly its aggressive stance toward Taiwan. He said China is actively training daily to take Taiwan. AP

WHO chief visits Ebola epicentre in DR Congo

BUNIA
THE head of the World Health Organisation (WHO) on Saturday visited eastern Congo's Bunia, a city at the heart of an outbreak of a rare type of Ebola, where the virus is spreading faster than the response. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is expected to visit a treatment centre and meet local authorities, health workers and affected families in Bunia. The best way to address this is to provide all the necessary support to fight the disease at its epicentre and to continue offering every assistance needed," the WHO's director-general told reporters late Friday. The health organisation said latest official figures showed 906 suspected cases and 223 suspected deaths. Neighbouring Uganda has confirmed nine cases and one death, the Ugandan ministry of health said Friday. AP

Gene test could help millions avoid chemo for breast cancer

LONDON
A DNA-based test could help thousands of breast cancer patients avoid chemotherapy each year by identifying those unlikely to benefit from the treatment, according to findings from an international study reported by the BBC. Researchers led by University College London (UCL) found that more than two-thirds of patients enrolled in the trial could be safely treated without chemotherapy, while maintaining survival rates comparable to those who underwent the treatment. The study involved more than 4,000 newly diagnosed breast cancer patients aged over 40 from the UK, Norway, Sweden, Australia, New Zealand and Thailand. Scientists used a genomic test known as Prosigna, which analyses the activity of 50 genes linked to breast cancer and estimates the risk of the disease returning. Patients classified as low risk did not receive chemotherapy. After five years, their survival rate stood at 93.7%, compared with 94.9% among patients who received chemotherapy as part of their

treatment. Breast cancer is typically treated with surgery, followed by chemotherapy to reduce the chances of recurrence. However, clinicians have increasingly questioned whether the treatment offers meaningful benefits to many patients with the most common form of the disease, UCL said. Chemotherapy can cause a range of side effects, including fatigue, nausea, hair loss, weakened immunity and fertility problems. According to the university, the findings could allow more than 5,000 National Health Service patients in the UK to avoid chemotherapy annually. Professor David Miles, a cancer specialist involved in the study, described the results as "practice-changing", saying doctors could now confidently identify patients who would gain little or no benefit from the treatment. The findings are scheduled to be presented at the American Society of Clinical Oncology's annual meeting in Chicago. Researchers said further studies are needed to determine whether the results also apply to patients under the age of 40.

22 dead as truck carrying refugees crashes in Eastern Afghanistan

KABUL
A truck carrying Afghan refugees returning from neighbouring Pakistan overturned on a highway in eastern Afghanistan on Saturday, killing at least 22 people and injuring about 36 others, most of them women and children, officials said. The accident occurred in Laghman province on the main highway linking Kabul, the Afghan capital, with Nangarhar province, said Abdul Malik Niazaei, the spokesperson for the provincial governor. He said among the dead were 10 children and five women. The provincial director of public health, Aminullah Sharif, said 22 people



A man carries an injured girl to a hospital in Jalalabad | AFP

since deported or pressured many to leave. Iran also intensified expulsions of Afghan migrants around the same time. Since then, millions of Afghans have returned home from the two countries, including many who were born in Pakistan and had spent decades living and working there. AP

SL suspends senior monk accused of child abuse

EXPRESS READ
COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's powerful Buddhist clergy has suspended senior monk Pallegama Hemarathana, 71, over child sexual abuse charges, after weeks of public pressure. He was arrested this month over allegations that he abused a 15-year-old girl at a temple in Anuradhapura. The Malwatta chapter suspended him and named an acting chief.

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, Pushpamangalam Estate, NH Bye Pass Road, Edappally, Cochin - 682024

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET
[See proviso to rule 8(6)]
Notice for sale of immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for the sale of immovable asset(s) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

This notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Limited will be sold on 'As is where is', 'As is what is' and 'Whatever there is' as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price/ Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of E-Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Mr. Arjun Warrier - Krishnan (Borrower) Loan Account No. LBTHR00006839398 TBTHR00006817442	Vacant Land With Land Area 9149 In 8.5 Ares (21 Cents) In Survey No. 362/ 6-1 Nonmanikara Village, Mukundapuram Taluk, Thrissur District - 680301. Bounded on The North: Pathway And Land South: Balance Land, 5m Private Road Access And Property of Chirayath Jlyon East: Property of Shyama West: Property of Avannal Vijayan	Rs. 55,48,211/- As on May 25, 2026	Rs. 35,00,000/- Rs. 3,50,000/-	June 17, 2026 From 10:00 AM To 12:00 PM	June 24, 2026 From 10:30 AM To 11:30 AM

The online auction will be conducted on the website (assets.matexauctions.com) of our auction agency <M/s Matexa Solutions Private Limited>. The Mortgagors/ Notices are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest by June 23, 2026, before 05:00 P.M., else the secured asset(s) will be sold as per schedule. The prospective bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank, Pushpamangalam Estate, NH Bye pass road, Edappally, Cochin - 682024 Branch on or before June 23, 2026, before 05:00 P.M. Thereafter, they have to submit their offer through the website mentioned above on or before June 23, 2026, before 05:00 P.M. along with the scanned image of the Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. In case the prospective bidder(s) is/are unable to submit his/ her/ their offer through the website, then the signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank, Pushpamangalam Estate, NH Bye pass road, Edappally, Cochin - 682024 Branch on or before June 23, 2026, before 05:00 P.M. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/ Scheduled Bank in favour of 'ICICI Bank Limited' payable to 'Cochin'. For any further clarifications in terms of Inspection, Terms and Conditions of the E-Auction or submission of tenders, contact ICICI Bank Employee number 9655225532/8129501439. The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed Terms and Conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/h4p4s Date : May 31, 2026 Place: Cochin & Thrissur Authorized Officer, ICICI Bank Limited

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE: SUNDARGARH
AT/PO-SANKARA, SUNDARGARH-770020, E-mail address-serw_sundargarh@yahoo.com

No. Tender Online - RWCCESNG - 09 of 2026-27, Letter No.3071 /Dtd. 25.05.2026
25001/273/2627

e-Procurement NOTICE
Roads (MMSY)
1. Type of the work: As specified in the column-6 of the Annexure
2. Class of Contractor: As specified in the column-5 of the Annexure
3. Time of completion: As per Annexure attached
4. Detail Projects: As specified in the column-4 of the Annexure
5. Estimated cost: As specified in the column-4 of the Annexure
6. Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh	RWC-CESNG-09 of 2026-27	03.06.2026	23.06.2026 5:00 PM	22.06.2026 5:00 PM	24.06.2026 11:00 AM	Will be intimated separately

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in
OIPR-25001/25131/126-27/0011 Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh