



bodies of Italians who died inside an underwater cave in the Maldives last week was recovered



Table with weather forecasts for various cities including Beijing, Colombo, Dhaka, Dubai, Houston, Istanbul, London, Los Angeles, Melbourne, Moscow, New York, Singapore, Toronto, and Washington.



Russian President Vladimir Putin and China's Xi Jinping tour a photo exhibition on Russia-China ties in Beijing on Wednesday | AFP

China, Russia hail 'unyielding' ties

CHINESE President Xi Jinping hailed China and Russia's "unyielding" ties in talks with Vladimir Putin on Wednesday as the pair met to underscore their alliance days after Donald Trump's own visit to Beijing.

In contrast to Trump's visit last week, which yielded little in the way of immediate concrete announcements, Putin and Xi signed a slew of agreements on Wednesday on trade, media and energy.

The two countries' ties have deepened since Moscow's 2022 invasion of Ukraine, as Russia has become increasingly dependent on China, its main oil customer. Putin was received by Xi outside Beijing's opulent Great Hall of the People in much the same fashion as Trump last week, complete with chanting children and military fanfare.

But the language was much warmer, with Xi telling the Russian leader Beijing and Moscow have "continuously deepened our political mutual trust and strategic coordination with a resilience that remains unyielding", Chinese state media said.

Opening talks, both were quick to laud their countries' special ties as they extended their treaty of "friendly cooperation".

Putin, quoting a Chinese phrase, told Xi: "A day apart feels like three autumns", adding that relations had reached an "unprecedentedly high level" despite "unfavourable external factors", Russian media footage showed.

In an apparent swipe at the United States, Xi warned of "unilateral and hegemonic counter-currents running rampant" in the world. AFP

China training Russian troops, says report

European intelligence agencies believe the Chinese military has trained hundreds of Russian soldiers for fighting in Ukraine, according to Germany's Die Welt newspaper which cited secret documents it had seen. The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) reportedly hosted covert training for several hundred Russian soldiers late last year at six military bases in China, the newspaper reported on Wednesday, citing the classified documents. The training, according to the report, focused primarily on the deployment of drones and electronic countermeasures, with many of the Russians sent to fight in Ukraine soon after.

The outbreak of the highly contagious haemorrhagic fever was declared in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo last Friday. Ebola has killed more than 15,000 people in Africa in the past half-century, and the UN health agency has declared the latest surge an international health emergency.

The 17th Ebola outbreak to hit the DRC is already suspected of having caused 139 deaths from around 600 probable cases. "We expect those numbers to keep



A Red Cross worker disinfects after transporting the bodies of people who died of Ebola from a health center in Rwampara, Congo on Wednesday | AFP

'DR CONGO EBOLA LOW RISK FOR WORLD'

increasing, given the amount of time the virus was circulating before the outbreak was detected," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters.

On Sunday, he declared the outbreak a public health emergency of international concern—the second-highest level of alarm under the legally-binding International Health Regulations. But, he said, it had been determined "the situation was not a pandemic emergency".

Tedros said the agency "assesses the risk of the epidemic as high at the national and regional levels, and low at the global level". AFP

Google unveils smart glasses, taking on Meta

View, California, headquarters: one from US eyewear brand Warby Parker and another from South Korean designer Gentle Monster.

Samsung handled the technical development. The glasses will be compatible with both Android and Apple phones. For Google, the launch marks a long-awaited return to a sector where it suffered one of its most high-profile failures: the Google Glass, released in 2013 with an integrated camera, which was shelved after sparking widespread concerns about privacy and surveillance.

This time, the company is betting on design to win consumers over. Google's camera-equipped model is likely to invite the same privacy questions that have followed Meta. AFP

Ahmadinejad as prez was US-Israel plan: NYT

Former Iranian leader, known for his hardline views, was consulted by US and Israel ahead of the start of war

WASHINGTON

THE US and Israel were considering installing hardliner Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as the president of Iran as part of the plans for regime change in the Persian Gulf nation in the early days of the war, according to a media report.

Former Iranian President Ahmadinejad, known for his anti-Israel, anti-America views, was consulted by the US and Israel as they drew up war plans targeting Iran, The New York Times reported.

However, Ahmadinejad was injured in an Israeli strike on the first day of the war and soon became disillusioned with the plan for regime change, the Times report said, quoting American officials.

It said the Israeli strike at Ahmadinejad's residence in Tehran was intended to free him from house arrest.

Known for his frequent calls to "wipe Israel off the map" during his presidency from 2005-13, Ahmadinejad had become critical of the Iranian rulers, accusing them of corruption. In 2005, it was Ahmadinejad who ended a freeze on uranium enrichment.

He has been placed under house arrest for the past few



Mahmoud Ahmadinejad

years and the Iranian rulers had even disqualified him from subsequent presidential elections. American officials told the Times that the strike—carried out by the Israeli Air Force—was meant to kill the guards watching over Ahmadinejad as part of a plan to release him from house arrest. The attack had killed his bodyguards.

That American and Israeli officials saw Ahmadinejad as a potential leader of a new government in Iran is further evidence that the war in February was launched with the hopes of installing more pliable leadership in Tehran, the report added.

An associate of Ahmadinejad confirmed to The New York Times that the former Iranian President saw the strike at his residence as an attempt to free

him. The associate said the Americans viewed Ahmadinejad as someone who could lead Iran, and had the capability to manage "Iran's political, social and military situation," the NYT reported.

Ahmadinejad would have been able to "play a very important role" in Iran in the near future, the associate said, suggesting that the United States saw him as similar to Delcy Rodriguez, who took power in Venezuela after American forces seized Nicolas Maduro and has since worked closely with the Trump administration, the associate said.

The report also said US and Israel officials believed that the regime would collapse under intense political pressure soon after the start of the war, allowing for what the Israelis referred to as an "alternative government" to be established.

Known for his hardline views against the US, Ahmadinejad appeared to make a U-turn in when he argued for a rapprochement between Iran and the United States. "Mr Trump is a man of action," Ahmadinejad had said. "He is a businessman and therefore he is capable of calculating cost-benefits and making a decision," he said. Agencies

US lost 42 aircraft in Iran war: report

WASHINGTON

AT least 42 US aircraft, including fighter jets and drones, were lost or damaged during Operation Epic Fury launched on February 28 targeting Iran, according to an official report.

The number of aircraft damaged or destroyed may remain subject to revision due to multiple factors, including classification, ongoing combat activity, and attribution, said the report by the Congressional Research Service (CRS).

The aircraft losses and dam-

ages include four F-15E Strike Eagle fighter jets, one F-35A Lightning II fighter aircraft, one A-10 Thunderbolt II ground-attack aircraft, seven KC-135 Stratotanker aerial refuelling aircraft, one E-3 Sentry AWACS aircraft, two MC-130J Commando II special operations aircraft, one HH-60W Jolly Green II helicopter, 24 MQ-9 Reaper drones and one MQ-4C Triton drone.

The CRS, which provides policy and legal analysis to the US Congress and committees,

compiled the losses by perusing news reports and statements by the Department of Defence and the US Central Command.

During a hearing on May 12, Acting Pentagon Comptroller Jules W Hurst III testified that the department's cost estimate for military operations in Iran has increased to nearly USD 30 billion.

"A lot of that increase comes from having a refined estimate on repair or replacement costs for equipment," he said. PTI

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War will expand beyond W Asia if US strikes: Iran

TEHRAN

IRAN'S Revolutionary Guards warned on Wednesday that the war would expand beyond the region if the United States and Israel resume attacks after President Donald Trump said he would strike again unless Tehran agreed a peace deal.

Iran's chief negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said on Wednesday that the United States was seeking to restart the war and hoping the Islamic republic would surrender.

"The enemy's movements, both overt and clandestine, show that despite economic and political pressure, it has not abandoned its military objectives and is seeking to start a new war," Ghalibaf said in an audio message on his official website.

Ghalibaf's remarks came as Tehran and Washington escalated threats while swapping proposals to end the war, which broke out on February 28. A ceasefire has been in place since April 8.

Ghalibaf said the US was still hoping Iran would surrender and respond favourably to Washington's "excessive demands", by maintaining economic pressure and a naval blockade in place since April 13. "We must strengthen our

preparations for an effective and forceful response to any potential attacks," he said, adding that "Iran will never give in to intimidation, under any circumstances".

Ghalibaf acknowledged the economic pressure on Iranians, while appealing for "national unity".

"Today it is clearer than ever that we are engaged in a war of wills. Whoever wins this war will write Iran's history and determine its future," he said.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan on Wednesday praised US President Donald Trump's decision to "give diplomacy a chance" after the US president announced earlier that he had called off planned strikes on Iran. AFP

Pakistan's interior minister travels to Tehran

Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi travelled to Tehran on Wednesday for the second time within a week for meetings with senior Iranian officials, amid Islamabad's efforts aimed at reviving the stalled Iran-US peace talks to end the war in West Asia. Naqvi has departed for Tehran to discuss the US-Iran peace talks with Iranian leaders, Geo News reported, citing sources. "His departure comes as Islamabad continues to lead mediation efforts between Washington and Tehran," it reported. Iranian official media has also reported the visit of Naqvi to Tehran. "Pakistan Interior Minister arrives in Tehran amid efforts to mediate talks between Iran, US," Iran's state-run Press TV said.

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Table with columns: Category of work, Estimate Amount, Start date / Last date & time for receipt of Bids, Name & Address of Officer Cell No.

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Auction Date: 23.06.2026

Table with columns: Ref. No., Customer Name, Branch Name, Gross weight, Net weight

Place : Chennai Date : 19.05.2026 AUTHORIZED OFFICER DBS BANK INDIA LIMITED

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[See proviso to Rule 8(6)] [Notice for sale of immovable asset(s)]

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:

Table with columns: Sr. No., Name of Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/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

The online auction will be conducted on the website (https://assets.mataxuctions.com) of our auction agency Matax Technologies Private Limited. The Mortgages/Notices are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest by June 24, 2026 before 05:00 PM 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 Ltd, Street No. 1, Begumpet, Hyderabad- 500016 on or before June 24, 2026 before 05:00 PM. Thereafter, they have to submit their offer through the website mentioned above on or before June 24, 2026 before 05:00 PM 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 offer through the website, then the signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank Ltd, Street No. 1, Begumpet, Hyderabad- 500016 on or before June 24, 2026 before 05:00 PM.

Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) should be from a Nationalised/ Scheduled Bank in favour of 'ICICI Bank Limited' payable at Hyderabad. For any further clarifications in terms of inspection, Terms and Conditions of the E-Auction or submission of tenders, contact ICICI Bank Employee Phone No. 9326713629/800899536

Please note that the marketing agencies 1. Matex Technologies Private Limited and 2. Cordekho has also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.

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/n4p4s.

Date: May 21, 2026 Place: Warangal

Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited