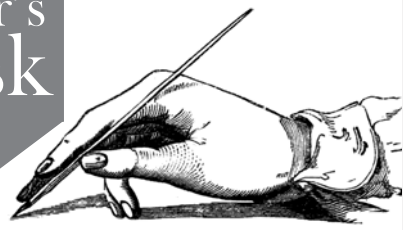


From Editor's Desk



After seven years, WHO updates antibiotic-resistant bacteria list

The new 'list is key to guiding investment and grappling with the antibiotics pipeline and access crisis.'

Geneva, May 17 (IANS) After a gap of seven years, the World Health Organization (WHO) on Friday released its updated list of antibiotic-resistant bacteria...

The new 'list is key to guiding investment and grappling with the antibiotics pipeline and access crisis,' said Dr. Yukiko Nakatani, WHO's Assistant Director-General for Antimicrobial Resistance...

In the BPPL 2024, the WHO removed five pathogen-antibiotic combinations that were included in 2017 and added four new combinations. The third-generation cephalosporin-resistant Enterobacteriales are now listed as a standalone item...

The BPPL 2024 also emphasises the need for a comprehensive public health approach to addressing AMR, including universal access to quality and affordable measures for prevention, diagnosis, and appropriate treatment of infections.



New Delhi, May 18 (IANS) Boeing Starliner's historic crewed mission has been delayed yet again over a helium leak detected in one of the capsule's thrusters...

Boeing Starliner's manned mission delayed again, likely to fly on May 25: NASA

targeting no earlier than 3:09 pm ET May 25 for the launch of the agency's Boeing Crew Flight Test mission. NASA said in a post on X.com 'Teams will use the additional time to finalise next steps that address a stable helium leak on the #Starliner service module.'

10, and later May 21, due to a helium leak. NASA officials performed a pressure testing on May 15 on the Starliner's helium system, which showed that 'the leak in the flange is stable and would not pose a risk at that level during the flight'.

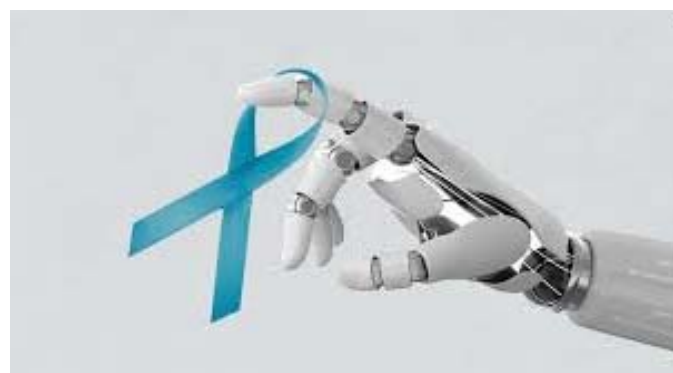
the flight". Meanwhile, the ULA Atlas V rocket and Boeing's Starliner that was rolled back from the launch pad, remain in the Vertical Integration Facility at Space Launch Complex-41 on Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida.

How AI is boosting cancer treatment

New Delhi, May 18 (IANS) Treatment of cancers is no longer just limited to traditional approaches like chemotherapy, radiation, and surgery. Artificial intelligence (AI) is making significant strides in cancer treatment...

Apollo Hospitals.Raj said that AI-enabled screening for breast cancer is also assisting in designing and personalising treatments. When it comes to radio diagnostics, machine-learning techniques in CT scans and MRIs improve imaging accuracy.

ment options like immunotherapy, and CAR T-cell therapy. 'Deep learning models for cancer stem cell detection aid in early diagnosis and customising treatment plans, making AI a reality across all facets of oncology, from diagnosis and research to treatment,' Raj said.



'As a surgical oncologist, I can confidently state that AI is no longer limited to surgery, chemotherapy, targeted therapy, or radiation. It has profound implications in radio diagnostics and biomedical cancer research as well. AI applications in biomedical cancer research are aiding in creating new medications and treatments. It facilitates early cancer detection through image analysis, a critical application we use for the early detection of oral cancers.'

puter-assisted surgery or robotic-assisted surgery are making procedures safer, more specific, and more comfortable for patients. Further, AI in chemotherapy refines and customises treatment options, analysing datasets to tailor treatment plans based on genetic and molecular characteristics.

'There are, however, risks involved in using AI for healthcare that need to be addressed before we can see a wider adoption of AI in care delivery. One of the key issues is data privacy, safety, and ethical use of patient data,' Roheet said. He also pointed out the bias in AI models, which is based on the training data used to generate these models.

Sex scandal: No objection to action against Prajwal; people know how HD Revanna's case is being dealt, says former PM Deve Gowda

Bengaluru, May 18 (IANS) In his first statement on the sex video scandal involving his grandson Prajwal Revanna, former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda stated on Saturday that there was no objection to initiating action against the fugitive JD(S) MP who is the prime accused in the case.

When asked whether there was an attempt to corner the Deve Gowda family, he replied, 'It is true. As the arrested BJP leader G Devaraje Gowda claimed, there are many developments happened.'



people involved. 'I don't want to take their names. Action has to be taken against all of them. The women who are in danger must be protected and compensation must be taken against all of them,' he said.

'I will speak to the media after June 4 regarding the matter. Until then, I won't speak,' he underlined. 'The trial of cases against Prajwal Revanna and HD Revanna is being conducted in court. I don't want to say much about it. Former CM HD Kumaraswamy, (his other son), has stated that action has to be initiated legally. Many are involved in the case, and Kumaraswamy has demanded that action must be taken against all of them,' he said.

government's responsibility to initiate action within the legal framework. I will also reiterate those words," Deve Gowda stated. When asked about BJP leader G Devaraje Gowda's allegation that Deputy CM DK Shivakumar made an offer of Rs 100 crore to malign his family, Deve Gowda maintained that Kumaraswamy was responding to developments and he did not want to make any comments.

Nine devotees burnt to death as bus catches fire in Haryana's Nuh

Gurugram, May 18 (IANS) At least nine people were burnt alive and more than 24 were injured when a moving bus caught fire on the Kundli-Manesar-Palwal Expressway near Tauru in Haryana's Nuh district in the wee hours on Saturday, police said.

Survivors said they smelled smoke at the back of the bus at around 1.30 a.m. on Saturday. A motorcycle rider noticed flames at the back of the bus and followed it. He finally caught up the bus and warned the driver who stopped the bus. After the bus stopped, locals informed the police and tried to douse the flame and rescue people.

US negotiator for defence cost-sharing talks arrives in Seoul

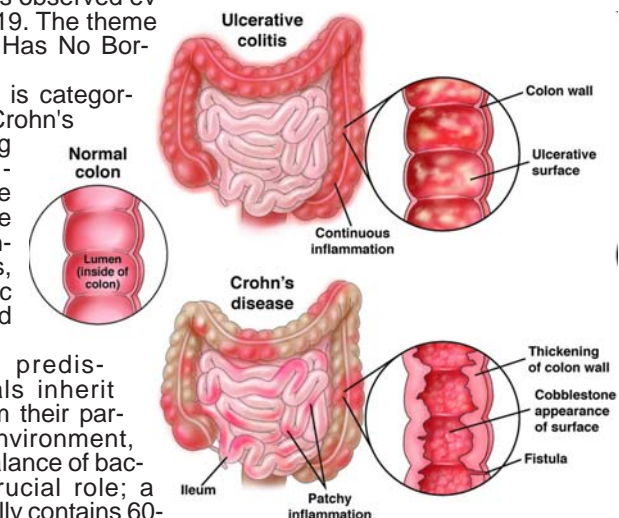
Seoul, May 18 (IANS) The US negotiator for defence cost-sharing talks with South Korea arrived here on Saturday, ahead of a new round of negotiations set for next week. The arrival of the delegation, led by Linda Specht, lead negotiator for security agreements at the US State Department, came as the allies are set to hold their second round of talks on determining how much Seoul should shoulder for the upkeep of the 28,500-strong US Forces Korea (USFK), Yonhap news agency reported.

gotiations for the latest deal, known as the Special Measures Agreement (SMA), as Washington under Trump's presidency had demanded more than a fivefold increase in Seoul's payment to \$5 billion. The negotiations had hit a deadlock, placing South Koreans working for the US military here under a temporary furlough amid the absence of an agreement. The current 11th SMA was signed soon after the launch of the Joe Biden administration. Under the six-year deal, due to expire at the end of 2025, South Korea agreed to raise the payment by 13.9 per cent from 2019 to \$1.03 billion for 2021. Seoul has called for a new deal to come at a 'reasonable level' to ensure the conditions for the 'stable stationing of the USFK and to strengthen the allies' combined defence posture'. Washington has said it seeks to pursue 'a fair and equitable' outcome in the talks, as most of Seoul's contributions to the SMA are expended in South Korea's domestic economy, representing a 'powerful investment' in the bilateral alliance. Since 1991, Seoul has partially shouldered costs under the SMA for Korean USFK workers; the construction of military installations, such as barracks, and training, educational, operational and communications facilities; and other logistical support. --IANS

What is Inflammatory bowel disease? Why is it rising in India?

New Delhi, May 18 (IANS) Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), which arises from a combination of genetic factors, gut environment, and immune responses, is seeing a significant rise in India, said health experts on Saturday. The IBD Day is observed every year on May 19. The theme this year is 'IBD Has No Borders'. The condition is categorised mainly into Crohn's disease (affecting the small intestine), ulcerative colitis (affecting the large intestine), indeterminate colitis, and microscopic colitis (diagnosed via biopsy). 'Genetically predisposed individuals inherit susceptibility from their parents. The gut environment, particularly the balance of bacteria, plays a crucial role; a healthy gut typically contains 60-70 per cent good bacteria and 30-40 per cent bad bacteria,' Mahesh Kumar Gupta, Senior Consultant -- Gastroenterology, Marengo Asia Hospital, Gurugram, told IANS. 'Disruption in this balance, often due to poor dietary habits, lack of sleep, or excessive consumption of

junk food and preservatives, can trigger inflammation. The immune system's interaction with genetic and bacterial factors further contributes to intestinal ulcerations seen in IBD,' he said. Common symptoms of IBD include bloody diarrhoea, weight loss, fever, fatigue, abdominal pain, anaemia, joint pain, and skin problems, among others. A 2023 study published in the journal Lancet showed that the rising urbanisation which comes with increased intake of ultra-processed



foods is leading to a surge in IBD among young adults and even adolescents in India. The study by AIG Hospitals in Hyderabad showed that about 15 lakh people in India suffer from IBD, but the true picture is not clear due to a lack of proper data. Anukalp Prakash, Lead Consultant -- Gastroenterology, CK Birla Hospital, Gurugram, told IANS that there is also an increase in paediatric cases of IBD. While the exact cause is not known, genetics may be at play, she said. 'The cause of inflammatory bowel disease is not known but genetics as an immunity. Alteration in immunity plays a very important role in the occurrence of inflammatory bowel disease. People who have a family history of inflammatory bowel disease are vulnerable to developing inflammatory bowel disease because this is a genetic disease and autoimmune disease,' Anukalp added. The Lancet study also blamed C-section deliveries that devoid the child of the essential gut microflora. Further, lack of breast feeding and excessive use of antibiotics also increase the risk of IBD. The health experts called for maintaining a healthy diet rich in fibre, staying hydrated, and avoiding preservatives. --IANS

Indian embassy in Kyrgyzstan urges students to stay indoors amid mob attacks

New Delhi, May 18 (IANS) The Indian Embassy in Kyrgyzstan, on Saturday, urged Indian students to remain indoors following a series of mob attacks on foreign students. This advisory came in the wake of several attacks on students from India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, sparked by videos of a fight between Kyrgyz and Egyptian students that surfaced online on May 13. The Embassy shared a message on its official X handle: 'We are in touch with our students. The situation is presently calm, but students are advised to stay indoors for the moment and get in touch with the Embassy in case of any issues. Our 24x7 contact number is 0555710041.' Following the advisory, Minister of External Affairs S. Jaishankar retweeted the message, saying: 'Monitoring the welfare of Indian students in Bishkek. Situa Strongly advise students to stay in regular touch with the Embassy.' The Embassy and the Ministry of External Affairs are closely monitoring the situation to ensure the safety and security of Indian students in Kyrgyzstan. --IANS

Efforts on to bring Prajwal Revanna back to India, says K'taka Home Minister

Bengaluru, May 18 (IANS) Karnataka Home Minister G. Parameshwara said on Friday that the attempts and procedures to bring Prajwal Revanna back to India are going on.

Delhi: Wanted gangster killed in encounter

New Delhi, May 18 (IANS) A notorious gangster, also a member of the Himanshu Bhau gang, was killed following an encounter with Delhi Police's Special Cell in the national capital.

Friend taken into custody after Kerala bridegroom accused of domestic violence flies out

Kozhikode, May 18 (IANS) The Kerala police on Friday took into custody the friend of a bridegroom accused of domestic violence after the intervention of Governor Arif Mohammed Khan.

Will resolve OCI card issue soon: Goa CM

Panaji, May 18 (IANS) After drawing flak over the Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) card issue, Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Friday said that it is under consideration of the Home Ministry and it will give a final decision to consider the revocation certificate.

IAF begins probe in 'brawl' at Kerala restaurant involving Southern Air Command personnel

Thiruvananthapuram, May 18 (IANS) Following reports about an altercation involving the personnel attached to the Southern Air Command and the staff of a restaurant here, the Indian Air Force (IAF) has begun its probe into the matter.

NFSU is helping 92 countries of the world in enhancing capacity building in the field of Forensic Sciences: Dr. J.M. Vyas

Gandhinagar, High Power Expert Group Meeting on Strengthening Criminal Justice System through Enhanced Forensic Efficiency was held at National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU)-Gandhinagar on 18th May, 2024.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday that Article 370, which was a contentious issue for several decades, was duly buried in 'kabristan' under his leadership and no power in the world can revoke it.

Infrastructure to efficiently implement the new criminal laws. Thus, there is a need to establish a Central Forensic Science Regulatory Authority and outsource some Forensic sciences activities to the private sector, which are accredited and certified by the Central Authority.

creation of new all-India service common to the Union and the States. He also stressed on the need for a deeper examination of the necessity and expediency of an exclusive all-India forensic service in the light of issues of reliability of private forensic labs.

The speaker enumerated the steps undertaken to further integrate the pillars of the criminal justice system. To efficiently meet the demand, the government has established more laboratories & forensic units including 700+ mobile forensic units, nearly one per district across the country.

In Mumbai, INDIA bloc leaders target PM Modi: 'He speaks to polarise'

INDIA bloc leaders, including Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, NCP-SP chief Sharad Pawar and Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, on Saturday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of inciting people and creating divisions in society through his speeches.

Buried Article 370 in 'kabristan', no power in world can restore it: Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday that Article 370, which was a contentious issue for several decades, was duly buried in 'kabristan' under his leadership and no power in the world can revoke it.

Recall of Indian spices abroad: Ethylene Oxide not pesticide, says spice federation

Ahmedabad, Following reports on recall of Indian spices from Singapore and Hong Kong and India mandating testing and sampling of spices exported to these countries for Ethylene Oxide (EtO) residue, the Federation of Indian Spice Stakeholders (FISS) on Friday assured that EtO was "not a pesticide".

ception that the use of Ethylene Oxide for sterilization of spices to reduce microbial contamination is harmful to consumer... Ethylene Oxide is not a pesticide, there are specialised plants and computerised systems for this treatment.

exports to Singapore and Hong Kong. The Board organised a stakeholder consultation involving over 130 exporters and associations such as All India Spices Exporters Forum and Indian Spice and Association.

Non-teaching staff of 3 govt varsities in Punjab continue to get benefit of secretariat pay: HC

Ahmedabad, In an order that would affect thousands of non-teaching employees in three government universities in Punjab, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has set aside the 2019 orders by the Punjab Government and the Department of Finance, withdrawing the secretariat pay granted to the employees of these universities.

The Bench of Justice Namit Kumar held, "The State Government has no jurisdiction to interfere in the day-to-day working of the university once the syndicate has taken the decision to grant parity to its employees with that of employees of the Punjab Civil Secretariat."

Punjab University, Chandigarh; and Punjabi University, Patiala. One of the petitioners Balvir Singh Garcha, through counsel DS Rawat, had sought directions to the state not to withdraw the secretariat pay and continue granting the same as per the decision taken by the syndicate on the recommendations of the Finance Committee of the University.

Kejriwal lost his mind in jail, says Adityanath after AAP chief's claim

Ahmedabad, Hours after AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday reiterated his charge that the BJP leadership would remove Yogi Adityanath within two months of coming to power at the Centre, the Uttar Pradesh chief minister hit back saying that Kejriwal has become delusional after spending time in jail.

gayen ki jail mein jaakar ke unko ye lagta hai ki ab jail ke bahaar kabhi nahi aana hai. Ab unko mukhyamatri pad ka itna ilalach ho gaya hai ki wo apni baat ko mere saath jodne ka prayas kar raha hai.

Shah in Rae Bareilly for 2nd time in week, welcomes SP rebel

Ahmedabad, Union Home Minister Amit Shah Friday addressed a rally in Rae Bareilly for the second time in less than a week as he formally welcomed rebel Samajwadi Party (SP) MLA Manoj Pandey to the BJP fold — an attempt to give a last-minute leg-up to the party's campaigning in the Congress bastion as well as the adjoining Amethi seat.

The rally in the three-time legislator's Assembly segment of Unchahar came on a day the INDIA bloc intensified its canvassing in Amethi and Rae Bareilly, deploying senior leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Akhilesh Yadav. Both seats vote on Monday and campaigning ends on Saturday evening.

Organized seminars for members of ICSI

Today the ICSI Ahmedabad Chapter jointly with i-Hub, an initiative of Government of Gujarat, organized a full day seminar for the Members of the ICSI. The theme for the Program was on the crucial and pivotal role to be played by the Company Secretaries for MSMEs and Start Up Ecosystem.

K'taka HM says special court to be set up for trial in minor girl beheading case

Bengaluru, May 18 (IANS) Karnataka Home Minister G. Parameshwara met the parents of the minor girl who was recently beheaded by a man in Kodagur district and said that steps will be taken to set up a special court for the trial in the case to provide justice to the victim's family.

parents to get their daughter married to him. He then attacked her mother, dragged the victim, and committed the crime, the Home Minister said. "This is unacceptable by any standard. The accused has already been arrested, and the police are working to get him punished in accordance with the law.

regarding "deteriorating" law and order in the state, Parameshwara said: "If the statistics during Shettar's rule are analyzed, he would see how many murders, rapes, and crimes had occurred. I do not need a certificate from Shettar."

Mosquito-borne diseases: Notice issued to 264 households in Gurugram

Gurugram, May 18 (IANS) To prevent mosquito-borne diseases, the District Health Department in collaboration with Gurugram district administration has so far examined more than 17,748 thousand households in the district.

Ahmedabad Airport Boosts Capacity with New Stands and Upgrades



Ahmedabad, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport has seen significant improvements in recent months. The latest development is the addition of five new parking stands at Terminal 2, increasing flight operations and aircraft parking capacity.

Israel prefers to avoid tough war with Hezbollah: Defence Minister

Jerusalem, May 18 (IANS) Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant has said that his country prefers to avoid a difficult war with the Lebanese armed group Hezbollah.

Speaking with fighter soldiers near Israel's northern border with Lebanon on Friday, Gallant noted that Israel will eventually return the northern region residents to their homes safely, and wants to exhaust every chance to do so by agreement, "because we know that war has prices for everyone", Xinhua news agency reported.

"A long round of hard war would be a catastrophe for Lebanon and Hezbollah, but there would also be a price for us and we prefer to avoid that," he added.

Gallant noted, however,

that "anything can happen, and we must prepare for it. If we conclude that we need to act, we will do so simply because we have to take care of our citizens."

Earlier on Friday, the Israeli military said in statements that it attacked Hezbollah's air defence infrastructure, launchers, and structures in southern Lebanon. At the same time, Hezbollah's attacks continued on Friday, with dozens of rockets and drones launched into northern Israel. The exchanges of fire between Hezbollah and the Israeli military have ramped up in recent days. Hezbollah has deployed new types of rockets against Israel and recently launched a drone attack the furthest into Israeli territory since October.



ROYAL NIGERIAN SCAMMER

Air Peace CEO Dr. Allen Onyema was a key member of the welcoming committee for Harry and Meghan when they touched down in Nigeria last week. DailyMail.com has exclusively learned that the 59-year-old businessman is wanted in the United States for a bank fraud scheme. Onyema is accused of using his status as a prominent business leader to launder more than \$20million from Nigeria through US bank accounts.

Hamas confirms no alternative to opening land crossings for aid delivery

Gaza, May 18 (IANS) Hamas said that there is no alternative to opening land crossings under Palestinian supervision for delivering humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip, including the newly-anchored floating aid pier.

The confirmation comes following the start of operations by the US-built aid pier off the coast of Gaza City, according to local Palestinian sources, reports Xinhua news agency.

Any means of aid delivery, including the aid pier, is not a substitute for opening all land crossings under Palestinian supervision, Hamas said in statement.

It emphasised the right of the Palestinian people to receive all necessary aid amid the humanitarian catastrophe caused by the occupation of the Gaza Strip.

It also reiterated the rejection by Hamas and all Palestinian factions of any

military presence of any force on Palestinian territories.

Earlier, local Palestinian sources told Xinhua that a ship carrying humanitarian aid had reached the shores of the Gaza Strip while smaller boats began unloading their cargo and delivering it to the aid pier west of the city.

Dozens of trucks were reported waiting on the coastal strip to be loaded with aid and transported to warehouses belonging to the United Nations (UN) in the Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, the sources noted that another

group of ships are on the way to the shores of Gaza, with expectations to unload their cargo soon.

Palestinian sources said that international relief organisations, led by the World Food Program (WFP) operating in the Gaza Strip, would be responsible for receiving and distributing the aid to local residents.

The US announced earlier Friday that trucks carrying humanitarian aid had reached the coast of the Gaza Strip through the floating maritime port it had constructed.

American media quoted US sources as saying that what is currently being implemented is part of a multinational effort to deliver humanitarian aid to Palestinian civilians in Gaza. In April, the US Department of Defense announced its plans to build a temporary floating dock on the coast of the Gaza Strip to facilitate humanitarian aid delivery to the Gaza Strip, which suffers from severe shortages of food, medicine and other life necessities, according to local and international health sources.

Israel launched a large-scale offensive against Hamas in Gaza to retaliate against a Hamas rampage through the southern Israeli border on October 7, 2023, during which about 1,200 people were killed, and more than 200 were taken hostage.

Due to the conflict, the majority of the coastal strip's residents suffer from shortages of food, medicine, and basic humanitarian needs, prompting UN agencies to warn of dire consequences that could occur in the area, such as famine, epidemics and diseases among local residents.



Rebekah Richardson, 38, and Dale Wood, 46, wanted to take their children - Jacob, eight, and Oliver, seven - to Universal Studios and Disneyland in Florida. But when the couple, from Clowne, Derbyshire, compared the price of going in September during termtime to the October half term they were astonished to see a £5,000 price difference. The parents decided to instead go during the school term but are now 'struggling to cope' as they are facing huge fines from their local authority. Derbyshire County Council issued a fixed penalty notice to both parents - ordering Rebekah to pay £924 and Dale £1,044.

Climate activists in Germany temporarily block Munich Airport

Munich, May 18 (IANS/DPA) Members of the German climate activist group Last Generation caused considerable disruption at Munich Airport on Saturday at the start of a holiday weekend by entering restricted areas, officials said.

The airport was initially closed for security reasons, airport officials and the federal police said.

After about two hours, one of the two runways was reopened, followed by the second runway around an hour later.

The Last Generation reported on the social media platform X that six people sat down in groups of two at different locations at

Munich Airport.

Numerous police officers and firefighters were on site to remove the activists. The spokesman for the federal police said that eight people initially tried to enter the site at four different points at the same time by cutting through the airport's security fence.

The airport spokesperson said it could take a while for air traffic to normalise on Saturday.

Due to the tight synchronisation of flights, delays can still occur for a while. Passengers who have flights booked on Saturday should contact their airline as a precaution. -IANS/DPA

Air raid alert in Russia's Belgorod, explosion heard: Report

Moscow, May 18 (IANS/DPA) There has been an explosion in the Russian border region of Belgorod following a missile alert, the media reported early Saturday.

The Governor of the region, Vyacheslav Gladkov, had called on residents to take shelter via his Telegram channel. Deaths that Russia has caused in Ukraine.

Ukraine has been defending itself against a Russian invasion with massive Western support for more than two years.

Zelensky signs legislation to allow some convicts to join armed forces

Kiev, May 18 (IANS) Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has signed legislation allowing certain convicts to join the country's armed forces, the parliament press service has reported.

The legislation, signed on Friday, enables certain categories of convicts to be enlisted for military service under a contract during martial law, Xinhua news agency reported.

The legislation was adopted by the parliament on May 8.

In exchange, the convicts will be granted the possibility to get parole from serving their

sentences. The new law will not apply to prisoners who were convicted for crimes against Ukraine's national security, intentional murder of two or more persons, and other serious crimes.

Last week, Justice Minister Denys Maliuska said that Ukraine has the potential to conscript between 10,000 and 20,000 convicts, according to media reports.

On Saturday, a law to tighten military mobilization rules, which aims to recruit more troops for the country's armed forces, will take effect in Ukraine. -IANS

North Korea says it test-fired tactical ballistic missile with new guidance technology

Seoul, May 18 (IANS) North Korea said it has test-fired a tactical ballistic missile equipped with a new "autonomous" navigation system in a bid to advance its weapons capabilities.

The North's leader, Kim Jong-un, oversaw the weapons test on Friday, according to the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA). The report did not reveal further details, such as how many missiles were fired, Yonhap news agency reported.

"The accuracy and reliability of the autonomous navigation system were verified through the test fire," the report said.

On Friday, the South Korean military said it detected the North's firing of several short-range ballistic missiles from the eastern coastal city of Wonsan. According to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the missiles flew about 300 kilometres and landed in the East Sea.

Shin Jong-woo, a senior researcher at the Korea Defense and Security

Forum, said the latest launch would mark an increase in range for the North's tactical guided weapons, which previously had been known to have a range of 100 to 110 kilometres. Considering the flight distance of some 300 kilometres, the North may have tested the missile with major military facilities in South Korea in mind. The direct distance between Pyongyang and the South's Gyeongdong military headquarters in Gyeongong is measured at around 330 kilometres, while that between the North's capital and the US 8th Fighter Wing in Gunsan is about 350 km.



Germany's Saarland sees flooding after heavy rain

Berlin, May 18 (IANS/DPA) Heavy rainfall caused flooding and landslides in the western German state of Saarland.

Buildings in the state capital of Saarbrücken and other municipalities had to be evacuated due to rising water levels.

The state Interior Ministry spoke of a "widespread flooding situation", with a focus on the southeastern part of the state.

People in the city of Saarbrücken have been advised to avoid basements, bodies of water, and flooded areas due to persistent heavy rain.

"Flood waves can come suddenly, banks can collapse," the city announced on Friday

evening.

"Crossing flooded streets should be avoided at all costs -- both on foot and by car."

Therefore, citizens were warned to stay away from the affected areas and, if necessary, spend the night elsewhere.

A Ministry Spokesperson said that the districts of Neunkirchen, Saarpfalz, and Saarbrücken regional associations were particularly affected. There was initially no news of any

casualties.

Apart from Saarbrücken and Neunkirchen, the situation was tense in Eppelborn, St. Wendel, Saarlouis, and Merzig. In some places, residents had to be evacuated from their flats in isolated streets. Some retirement homes were also affected.

US warns of possible terror threat to LGBTQI+ community

Washington, May 18 (IANS/DPA) The US government is calling on its citizens to be vigilant due to possible terrorist attacks against the LGBTQI+ community worldwide.

"Due to the potential for terrorist attacks, demonstrations, or violent actions against US citizens and interests, the Department of State advises US

citizens overseas to exercise increased caution," the US Department of State wrote in a global security advisory on Friday.

It said it was aware of the increased potential for violence against the LGBTQI+ community inspired by foreign terrorist organisations. US citizens should be vigilant at Pride events, the advisory recommended.

Situation under control in Kyrgyz capital after clashes between Pakistani students and locals

Bishkek, May 18 (IANS) Kyrgyzstan's Foreign Ministry said on Saturday that the situation was "completely under the control of law enforcement agencies" after the incident of mob violence in capital Bishkek involving foreign students and locals left many injured, including a Pakistani citizen with a fractured jawbone.

The clashes, which

began from a hostel on Monday and majorly involved students from Pakistan, took an ugly turn on Friday night as local protesters also raised the issue of illegal migration.

"From the moment information about the incident was received, law enforcement agencies of the Kyrgyz Republic took prompt measures to detain persons involved in the event, both foreign

citizens and citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic," Kyrgyzstan's Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Saturday.

In a separate statement, Kyrgyzstan's Health Ministry said that 12 victims were admitted to the National Hospital with various injuries.

"Minister of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic, Alymkadyr Beishenaliev, visited the Department of

Maxillofacial Surgery of the National Hospital and got acquainted with the health condition of a Pakistani citizen who was admitted with a diagnosis of a fractured jaw bone.

The country's government also urged foreign diplomatic missions not to disseminate "unreliable and unverified information" as the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Re-

public Almaz Imangaziev met with Pakistani Ambassador Hassan Ali Zaigam at the Ministry on Saturday.

"The minister also asked the Pakistani side to conduct explanatory work among representatives of the Pakistani mass media on the non-dissemination of inaccurate information on the incident," said the Kyrgyz Foreign Ministry.



South West Water (SWW) has urged people to boil their tap water after hundreds were struck down with diarrhoea, vomiting and stomach pains linked to cryptosporidium, a parasitic bug that causes severe stomach issues. Residents across Brixham, Boohay, Kingswear, Roseland and north-east Paignton in Devon are all being told to boil water as a precaution, including when drinking it or using it to cook with and brush teeth. The water board initially claimed that its treatment works were not to blame but has since backtracked - prompting fury from local Tory MP Anthony Mangnall, who said its initial failure to act had been 'enormously frustrating'.

