261

Chinese and Vietnamese nationals have been detained in Sri Lanka's cyberscam crackdown, police said

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain HR: Heavy Rain LS: Light Snow TDS: Thundershower LC: Light Cloud SNY: Sunny

Beijing	21	1	SNY	Los Angeles	20	12	SNY
Colombo	28	24	SNY	Melbourne	26	15	LC
Dhaka	31	19	SNY	Moscow	4	2	SNY
Dubai	26	21	SNY	New York	7	2	SNY
Houston	31	19	TDS	Singapore	28	25	TDS
Istanbul	33	21	SNY	Toronto	1	-5	SNY
London	13	9	SNY	Washington	3	-2	SNY

Iran weighs latest US proposal to end the war

After days of mixed signals over its strategy, Trump tied peace to the deal as Pak pushed efforts to extend ceasefire

DUBAI

IRAN said it was reviewing the latest American proposals to end the war after US President Donald Trump threatened the country with a new wave of bombing unless a deal is reached that includes reopening the crucial Strait of Hormuz to international shipping.

Hope that the two-month conflict could soon be over, buoyed international markets on Thursday, a day after the US military fired on an Iranian oil tanker attempting to breach the American blockade of Iran's ports. The developments followed days of mixed messages from the Trump administration over its strategy to end the war.

WAR WATCH

Trump posted on social media on Wednesday that ending the war and resuming oil and natural gas shipments disrupted by the conflict depends on Iran accepting an agreement, which he did not detail. "If they don't agree, the bombing starts," Trump wrote.

A fragile ceasefire between the US and Iran has largely held since April 8. But in-person talks between the two countries hosted by Pakistan last month failed to reach an agreement. The war began February 28, when the US and Israel launched strikes against Iran.

"We expect an agreement sooner rather than later," Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesperson Tahir Andrabi said Thursday. "We hope the parties will reach a peaceful and sustainable solution that will contribute not only to peace in our region but to international peace as well." But he declined to give a timeline, saying Pakistan would not disclose details of the ongoing diplomatic efforts.

Asked whether Pakistan was expecting any response from Iran later Thursday, Andrabi said: "I will not comment on specifics or the movement of the messages." Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, speaking in televised remarks, said Islamabad remained in "continuous contact with Iran and the United States, day and night, to stop the war and extend the ceasefire."

The Trump administration's messaging throughout the Iran war has been shifting and often contradictory. This week, the president and his aides presented a dizzying narrative over the US strategy to unblock the Strait of Hormuz and wrap up the war that drastically changed over the course of mere hours.

Iran has established a new government agency to approve transit and collect tolls from shipping in the strait, shipping data firm Lloyd's List Intelligence said Thursday. The move raised concerns over freedom of navigation and global trade. *AP*

Rubio makes fence-mending Vatican visit after Trump attacked Pope Leo

VATICAN CITY

THE Vatican raised the "need to work tirelessly in favor of peace" in talks Thursday with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who came to Rome on a fence-mending visit after Donald Trump's criticisms of Pope Leo XIV over the Iran war.

Both the Vatican and the US State Department stressed that Rubio's meetings with Leo and the Vatican's top diplomat underscored strong bilateral ties. Those relations, though, have been strained over Trump's repeated broadsides about Leo's calls for peace and dialogue to end the US-Israeli war.

Rubio, a practicing Catholic, has often been called on to tone down or explain Trump's harsh rhetoric. He had an audience first with Leo, which was complicated at the last minute by Trump's latest criticism of the Chicago-born pope.

During a 2½-hour visit, Rubio then met with the Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, who on the eve of his visit had strongly defended Leo and criticised Donald Trump's attacks.

"Attacking him like that or criticising what he does seems a bit strange to me, to say the least," Parolin said Wednesday.

Pope Leo XIV exchanges gifts with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, right, as they meet in the pope's private library at the Vatican | AP

After the meetings, the US State Department said that Rubio and Parolin discussed "ongoing humanitarian efforts in the Western Hemisphere and efforts to achieve a durable peace in the West Asia. The discussion reflected the enduring partnership between the United States and the Holy See in advancing religious freedom."

In a separate statement about the audience with Leo, US State Department spokesperson Tommy Pigott said that the two discussed the situation in the West Asia and the Western Hemisphere.

"The meeting underscored the strong relationship between the United States and the Holy See and their shared commitment to promoting peace and human dignity," he said.

The Vatican, for its part, said that during Rubio's meetings with both Leo and Parolin, "the shared commitment to fostering good bilateral relations between the Holy See and the United States of America was reaffirmed."

Many passengers left hantavirus-hit ship after 1st fatality

MADRID

MORE than two dozen passengers from at least 12 different countries left a cruise ship hit by a deadly hantavirus outbreak without contact tracing nearly two weeks after the first passenger died on board, the ship operator and Dutch officials said on Thursday.

Health authorities on at least four continents are now tracking down and in some cases monitoring the cruise passengers who returned home on April 24, and trying to trace others who may have come into contact with them.

Experts say the risk to the wider public is considered low because hantavirus — usually spread by the inhalation of contaminated rodent droppings — isn't easily transmitted between people. The Dutch health ministry said on Thursday that a flight attendant on a plane briefly boarded by an infected cruise passenger in South Africa was showing symptoms of hantavirus and would be tested in an isolation ward at a hospital in Amsterdam.

The cruise passenger, also a Dutch woman, was too ill to fly and was taken off the plane in Johannesburg, where she died. If the woman tests positive, she could be the first known person not on the MV Hondius to become infected in the outbreak.

Three cruise passengers have died in the outbreak, with several others sick. Three people, including the ship's doctor, were evacuated from near Cape Verde to Europe for treatment. The body of the Dutch man, the first to die on board on April 11, was taken off the ship at St Helena on April 24, when his wife also disembarked. She flew to South Africa a day later and died there *AP*

WHO warns of more hantavirus cases

GENEVA: The World Health Organization said five hantavirus cases linked to the MV Hondius cruise outbreak have been confirmed, with three more suspected and three deaths reported. The UN agency warned more cases could emerge due to the virus's six-week incubation period, but said the outbreak was likely to remain limited if precautions are followed.

Health workers in protective gear evacuate patients from the MV Hondius cruise ship into an ambulance at a port in Praia, Cape Verde | AP

POWER CLEANSE

Sentences of 2 ex-ministers commuted to life in China

BEIJING

A Chinese military court handed suspended death sentences to two former defence ministers for corruption on Thursday, state media said, in President Xi Jinping's latest push to root out graft. They are the harshest sentences that Beijing has meted out on high-ranking military officials as part of Xi's sweeping anti-corruption purge since coming to power in 2012.

The sentences against Wei Fenghe, 72, and Li Shangfu, 68, will be "commuted to life imprisonment" after a two-year reprieve, the Xinhua state news agency reported.

The ex-ministers, who served between 2018 and 2023, were also former members of China's powerful Central Military Commission (CMC), which oversees the military and is headed by Xi.

They also appeared regularly on television along with other officials. Wei was convicted of accepting bribes and Li was convicted of accepting and offering bribes, Xinhua said.

The pair were also stripped of their political rights for life as well as their personal property. Adam Ni, editor of *China Neican*, a newsletter on Chinese current affairs, said the ruling against Wei and Li was "pretty extraordinary".

"A death sentence with a two-year reprieve is actually the strongest punishment China gives to its high level leaders nowadays," he told AFP. "It's a loud message from Xi."

Wei and Li are the latest military officials to fall in Xi's anti-corruption purge that has focused on the armed forces in recent years, with several top generals removed. *AFP*

Truce spurned, Ukraine ramps up attacks on Russia

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN air defenses shot down 347 Ukrainian drones overnight, Russia's Defense Ministry said on Thursday, in what appeared to be a major attack after Moscow spurned Kyiv's ceasefire earlier in the week and tension mounted over safety at Russia's upcoming Victory Day celebrations.

Incoming drones were destroyed over 20 Russian regions, including Moscow, according to the Defense Ministry, in Ukraine's second-biggest aerial attack since Russia's all-out invasion more than four years ago. The largest was last March when it launched 389 drones. Dozens more Ukrainian drones were launched during daylight hours Thursday, the ministry said, including some heading again toward Moscow. Nearly 100 flights in and out of the Russian capital's three main airports — Sheremetyevo, Domodedovo and Vnukovo — were delayed or canceled by midday, the Moskva news agency reported.

The attacks came ahead of Russia's most important secular holiday, Victory Day, which marks the anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II. Russian authorities have declared a unilateral ceasefire in Ukraine for Friday and Saturday. Ukraine had responded to that with its own suspension of hostilities from midnight Tuesday. But Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Moscow disregarded the goodwill gesture and launched fresh attacks. "Russia has not stopped any type of its military activity. Unfortunately, it has not stopped. Ukraine will act symmetrically," Zelenskyy said in his regular evening video address on Wednesday.

He said on Thursday on X that Russia's attacks have been ceaseless, with drones, missiles, artillery shelling and glide bombs hitting civilian areas of Ukraine, including the power grid and rail network. *AP*

Cars burning at the site of a Russian air attack, in Kramatorsk, eastern Donetsk region, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine | AFP

CHINA STRESSES TAIWAN LINE AHEAD OF TRUMP-XI SUMMIT

BEIJING: China again signaled that Taiwan would be a priority topic ahead of a highly anticipated summit between Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping next week, saying that US must adhere to the "one China principle" for a stable relationship with Beijing. China's top diplomat Wang Yi said he hopes the US would make the "right choices" relating to the self-ruled island when he spoke with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio. China claims Taiwan as its own territory and has not excluded the use of force to take it. Beijing has been ramping up its military pressure by sending warplanes and naval vessels around the island almost daily. AP

British local elections could deepen PM Starmer's troubles

Britain's PM Keir Starmer and wife Victoria at a polling station in central London to vote for local elections | AP

LONDON

BRITISH voters cast ballots Thursday in local and regional elections that could shake up the country's politics and deliver a heavy blow to embattled Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

Starmer's center-left Labour Party is bracing for big losses in polls that will choose about 5,000 local councilors and a handful of mayors across England, as well as semiautonomous parliaments in Scotland and Wales. They are the biggest set of elections since Labour swept to power in a landslide in July 2024, and Starmer's opponents have painted them as a midterm referendum on the prime minister. Polls will close at 10 pm (2100 GMT), and some local authorities will count ballots overnight, but the bulk of the results are likely to be declared on Friday afternoon.

A rout could trigger moves by restive Labour lawmakers to oust a leader who led them to power less than two years ago. Even if Starmer survives for now, many analysts doubt he will lead the party into the next national election, which must be held by 2029.Starmer's popularity has plunged after repeated missteps since he became prime minister in July 2024. His government has struggled to deliver promised economic growth, repair tattered public services and ease the cost of living. *AP*

Court unseals note tied to Epstein's 1st jail suicide bid

NEW YORK: A note allegedly found by Jeffrey Epstein's former cellmate after the financier's first suspected jail suicide attempt was unsealed by a New York court on Wednesday. The handwritten message read: "They investigated me for month — found nothing!!!" and described it as "a treat to be able to choose" the "time to say goodbye." It ended with: "no fun" and "not worth it!!" Authorities found Epstein injured in his Manhattan jail cell on July 23, 2019, weeks before his death, officially ruled a suicide. The note surfaced after former cellmate Nicholas Tartaglione claimed he found it hidden inside a book in their shared jail cell. Tartaglione, a former police officer now serving life for killing four men, revealed the note publicly last year.

EXPRESS READ

Spain summons Israel envoy over detention

MADRID: Spain summoned Israel's top envoy to protest the continued detention of Spanish activist Saif Abu Keshek, arrested after Israeli forces intercepted a Gaza-bound aid flotilla. Madrid called the detention "unacceptable and intolerable". The row deepened as Spain honoured UN rapporteur Francesca Albanese over Gaza rights violations.

पंजाब नेशनल बैंक punjab national bank

CIRCLE OFFICE : Khandha Enclave, 179, Sarojini Street, Ram nagar, Coimbatore - 641 009
Phone No: 0422-2238839. e-mail: cocoimrec@pnb.bank.in

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/IES

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES ON 26.05.2026 between 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM
LAST DATE & TIME OF SUBMISSION OF EMD AND DOCUMENTS IS 26.05.2026 UPTO 03:00 PM

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets 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.

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 constructive/physical/ symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank/ Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is"**, and **"Whatever there is"** on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the Bank/ Secured Creditor from the respective borrower (s) and guarantor (s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.

Details of the encumbrances known to the secured Creditors - **3 Attachment orders from Coimbatore Deputy Registrar of Deeds Arbitration Court**

SCHEDULE OF THE SECURED ASSETS

Lot No	Name of the Branch & Account Name & addresses of the Borrower/ Guarantors	Description of the Immovable Properties mortgaged / owner's Name [mortgagers of property(ies)]	A) Dt. of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFAESI Act 2002 B) Outstanding Amount C) Possession Date U/s 13(4) of SARFAESI Act 2002 D) Nature of possession / physical/Constructive	1) Reserve Price 2) EMD 3) Bid Increase Amount
1	**BO: R.S.Puram (ID 525910)** **MR. M.CHINNATHAMBI** **Borrower/Mortgagor: :** **Shri M.Chinnathambi,** S/o Shri Muniaswamy, 220, Gurumbar Lane, MNG Street, Coimbatore – 641001 **Also at:** D.No.79, Dase Gounder Sandhu, MNG Street, Thiyagi Kumaran Street Coimbatore – 641 001 **Co-Borrower:** **Smt. C. Mallika,** W/o Mr. M. Chinnathambi, 220, Gurumbar Lane, MNG Street, Coimbatore – 641001 **Also at:** D.No.79, Dase Gounder Sandhu, MNG Street, Thiyagi Kumaran Street Coimbatore – 641 001	**(Schedule of the property)** **Property in the name of Mr.M.Chinnathambi (PAN:AKGPC9236Q):** In the land measuring an extent of 1312 sq.ft TS No 7/2486, Dhasaiyan Lane, Coimbatore Taluk, Coimbatore Sub Registration District and Coimbatore Registration District within the following **boundaries:-** South of : House belonging to Deenasingh Konar, Piravidai, belonging to Bhavani Singh and other, East West Road, East of : House belonging to Shanmugam, West of : 3 ft wide South North Common Pathway, House belonging to Marudhachalam Chettiar, North of : Dasea Gounder Lane In midst, North side East West– 21'.9"; South side East West– 24'.6", East side South North – 52'.6", West side South North– 51'.6" & North East corner cross – 4'.9". Within the total extent of 1312 sq ft (or) 3 Cents 5 sq.ft vacant site and in this boundaries and measurements of the Southern Portion Property herein as follows:- North of: Dasea Gounder Lane, South of : The remaining property of L.Gracy Chitra and D. Vasanthamani East of : House belonging to Shanmugam, West of : 3 ft wide pathway, remaining property of L.Gracy Chitra and D.Vasanthamani. **Note: 1. As per the Valuation, the building is not approved. 2. Encumbrance - Attachment orders from Coimbatore Deputy Registrar of Deeds Arbitration Court** **Latitude: 10.999029 Longitude: 76.953445**	**A) 10.09.2024** **B) Rs.7,18,620/- as on 28.02.2026** plus further interest and other charges from **28.02.2026** **(A/c no: 0289300363877)** **Rs.3,98,811/- as on 28.02.2026** plus further interest and other charges from **28.02.2026** **(A/c no: 0289300365109)** **Total Amount of Rs.11,17,431/- (Rupees Eleven Lakh Seventeen Thousand Four Hundred Thirty One Only)** **C) 06.12.2024** **D) SYMBOLIC**	**1)Rs.66,56,000/-** (Rs.Sixty Six Lakh and Fifty six thousand only) **2) Rs.6,65,600/-** (Rs.Six Lakh Sixty five thousand and Six hundred only) **3) Rs.50,000/-** (Rs.Fifty Thousand only) **DATE & TIME OF e-AUCTION: 26.05.2026, (TUESDAY) 11.00 AM TO 04.00 PM.**

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF E-AUCTION SALE

The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions:
1. The properties are being sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS".**
2. The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.
3. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website **https://baanknet.com on 26.05.2026, (Tuesday) @ 11.00 AM to 04.00 PM,**
4. For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer **https://baanknet.com & www.pnbindia.in**

Date : 07.05.2026
Place : Coimbatore

Authorized Officer
Secured Creditor
PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK

STATUTORY SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002