7 killed
in Israeli strike on Lebanon as hostilities continued despite ceasefire

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

NATO rift deepens as US to pull 5,000 troops from Germany

Announcement comes days after Berlin said Washington being 'humiliated' by Iran

WASHINGTON

THE United States will withdraw 5,000 troops from Germany in the next six to 12 months, the Pentagon said Friday as a rift in transatlantic ties deepens over the West Asia war.

Trump had threatened to withdraw some troops from the NATO ally earlier this week after Chancellor Friedrich Merz said the US was being "humiliated" by the Iranian leadership and criticised Washington's lack of strategy in the war.

Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell said in a statement that the "decision follows a thorough review of the Department's force posture in Europe and is in recognition of theatre requirements and conditions on the ground."

Germany hosts several US military facilities, including the headquarters of its European and Africa commands, Ramstein Air Base and a medical centre in Landstuhl, where casualties from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq were treated. US nuclear missiles are also stationed in the country.

The number of troops leaving Germany would be 14 per cent of the 36,000 American service members stationed there.

German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius called it "foreseeable" that the US would withdraw troops from Europe and Germany, while he sought to stress mutual benefit from the US military presence on the European continent.

"The presence of American soldiers in Europe, and especially in Germany, is in our interest and in the interest of the US," Pistorius told the German news agency dpa, while adding that European allies needed to adjust their defence postures - and were doing so. "We Europeans must take on more responsibility for our security," he said, stressing recent efforts by Germany to boost its armed forces, accelerate procurement and develop infrastructure.

News of the troop withdrawal drew swift pushback from Democrats in Congress as well as a hawkish Washington think tank. They said the move will benefit Russian President Vladimir Putin and weaken US security interests.

The withdrawal "suggests American commitments to our allies are dependent on the president's mood," said Sen. Jack Reed of Rhode Island, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee. "The president should immediately cease this reckless action before he causes irreversible consequences for our alliances and long-term national security," Reed said. Trump wrote on Wednesday on social media that the US was reviewing possible troop reductions in Germany, with a "determination" to be made soon. *AFP*

File photo of US Army personnel participating in a military exercise at 7th Army Training Command Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany | AFP

Trump weighed similar action during first term

Donald Trump made a similar threat in his first term, saying he would pull about 9,500 of the roughly 34,500 US troops who were then stationed in Germany, but he didn't start the process, and Democratic President Joe Biden formally stopped the planned withdrawal soon after taking office in 2021

Nobel laureate Narges Mohammadi hospitalised in Iran

Detained Nobel Peace Prize winner Narges Mohammadi has been hospitalised in Iran, her supporters said, "following a catastrophic deterioration of her health". Mohammadi, who won the eace prize in 2023 in recognition of more than two decades of rights campaigning, was arrested in December in Iran's eastern city of Mashhad after speaking out against the country's clerical authorities at a funeral ceremony. Her supporters had been warning for months about her health, saying in late March that she had suffered a suspected heart attack but received inadequate medical treatment. In a statement posted by her foundation on Friday, they said she was "urgently transferred to a hospital in Zanjan today" after a rapid deterioration, "including two episodes of complete loss of consciousness and a severe cardiac crisis"

Narges Mohammadi

Renewed fighting with US likely: Iran

DUBAI/WASHINGTON

A senior Iranian military officer said on Saturday that renewed fighting with the US was "likely", hours after President Donald Trump said he was not satisfied with an Iranian negotiating proposal.

On Saturday morning, Mohammad Jafar Asadi, a senior figure in the Iranian military's central command, said "a renewed conflict between Iran and the United States is likely", in quotes published by Iran's Fars news agency.

"Evidence has shown that the United States is not committed to any promises or agreements," he added.

Iran's judiciary chief Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei said on Friday that his country had "never shied away from negotiations", but would not accept an "imposition" of peace terms.

The White House has declined to provide details on the latest Iranian proposal, but news site Axios reported that US envoy Steve Witkoff had submitted amendments to a previous one putting Tehran's nuclear programme back on the negotiating table.

The changes reportedly include demands that Iran not move enriched uranium from bombed sites or resume activity there during talks.

News of the Iranian proposal briefly pushed oil prices down nearly five percent, though they remain about 50 percent above pre-war levels amid the ongoing closure of the Strait of Hormuz. Iran has maintained a stranglehold on the strait since the war began, choking off major flows of oil, gas and fertiliser to the world economy, while the United States has imposed a counter-blockade on Iranian ports.

President Trump said the US Navy was acting "like pirates" as he described an operation seizing a ship amid the tit-for-tat American blockade of Iranian ports. "We... land on top of it and we took over the ship. We took over the cargo, took over the oil. It's a very profitable business," Trump said at a rally in Florida. "We're like pirates," he added to cheers from the crowd. "We're sort of like pirates. But we're not playing games."

The US announced a blockade of Iranian ports after the initial peace talks in Pakistan failed to achieve a breakthrough.

Meanwhile, unidentified attackers hijacked an oil tanker on Saturday off the coast of Yemen in the Gulf of Aden and directed it towards Somalia, the Yemeni coast guard said.

According to the agency, the tanker EUREKA was seized off Yemen's Shabwa province by a group who "boarded, took control of it, then steered it... in the direction of the Somali coast".

The coast guard, affiliated with Yemen's internationally recognised government, vowed to probe the attack. *AFP*

An anti-US billboard referring to President Donald Trump and the Strait of Hormuz, installed on a building at the Valiasr Square in Tehran on Saturday | AFP

UK govt weighs ban on pro-Palestinian protests

LONDON

BRITAIN'S Prime Minister Keir Starmer said in an interview broadcast on Saturday that banning some pro-Palestinian marches could be justified, especially when they call for the intifada to spread.

Labour leader Starmer is under pressure to act after a spate of antisemitic incidents, including this week, when two men were stabbed in the north London suburb of Golders Green, which is home to a large Jewish community.

A 45-year-old British national who was born in Somalia was remanded in custody when he made his first appearance in court on Friday accused of attempted murder.

Starmer visited the scene of the attacks and a Jewish volunteer ambulance service on Thursday and was booed by some locals, who accused him of not doing enough to protect them.

They also denounced pro-Palestinian activists holding marches in British cities, which began after Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack on Israel that sparked the war in Gaza.

The prime minister, a former human rights lawyer and chief public prosecutor whose wife is of Jewish origin, said many Jewish people had told them they were affected by "the repeat nature" of the protests.

"I'm a big defender of freedom of expression, peaceful protests," he told the BBC. "But when there are chants like 'globalise the intifada', that's completely off limits". "Clearly, there should be tougher action in relation to that."

The intifada refers to the Palestinian civilian uprisings against Israel in 1987-1993 and the early 2000s.

Starmer said he wanted to police the language used on marches more strongly and that there were "instances" when some protests should be stopped altogether.

Discussions had been taking place with the police for some time about what further action could be taken, he added. *AFP*

BOOKLESS BOOKSTORE

NY turns the page with 1st audio-only book shop

Customers shop at the Audible Story House in New York City | AFP

NEW YORK

AUDIOBOOK giant Audible opened what it billed as the first "bookless bookstore" in New York on Friday as industry statistics show more American consumers embracing the format.

There is no rustle of pages or stacks of best-selling novels at the pop-up store opened by the Amazon subsidiary on the Lower East Side in Manhattan.

"This is a physical place entirely dedicated to bringing audio storytelling to life," Audible CEO Bob Carrigan said during a press tour of the "Audible Story House" on Thursday.

It was a slightly "wild idea" which "took quite a bit of imagination," Carrigan said, adding that the month-long pop-up aims to "bring audiobooks to life in this environment where you can browse, you can connect with people."

According to the Audio Publishers Association (APA), audiobook sales reached $2.22 billion in the United States in 2024, nearly doubling over the past five years.

In the store, audiobook tablets called "story tiles" line the shelves, ready to be inserted into a player for listening through headphones.

Each tile plays a short excerpt and the full title can be accessed on the Audible app.

The platform, which dominates the audiobook market, offers paid subscriptions, individual purchases and free access to some titles for Amazon account holders. *AFP*

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Gandhinagara Division, 2nd Floor, BBMP Complex,
Dhanavantri Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

No: EE/GNR/TEND/KPPP/001/2026-27 Date: 02-05-2026

CORRIGENDUM-01

Sub: Postponement of Tender.
Ref.: 1) Tender Notification No: EE/GNR/TEND/KPPP/001/2026-27, Dated: 04-04-2026.

Due to Technical reasons the above Tender has been Postponed.

Revised Calendar of Events: 1) Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders is **13-05-2026 upto 4.00 PM. 2)** Date of Opening of Tender: **15-05-2026 at 12.30 PM.** All other conditions remain same.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Gandhinagar Division, BCCC.

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited, No.4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi.
No: EE/ KNNL/ BDN-4/TA/PB-1/4701 Bhadra /5th Call Tender Notification No: 11/2025-26: Dated: 27.04.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION - Call-5
(THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY)

Ref. 1) No: EE/ KNNL/BDN-4/TA/PB-1/4701 Bhadra / Tender Notification No: 11/2025-26: Dated: 06.10.2025 **2)** No: EE/ KNNL/ BDN-4/TA/PB-1/4701 Bhadra / 2nd Call Tender Notification No: 11/2025-26: Dated: 28.11.2025 **3)** No: EE/ KNNL/BDN-4/TA/PB-1/4701 Bhadra / 3rd Call Tender Notification No: 11/2025-26Dated: 28.01.2026 **4)** No: EE/ KNNL/ BDN-4/TA/PB-1/4701 Bhadra /4th Call Tender Notification No: 11/2025-26 Dated: 23.03.2026

Percentage Tenders by kpp portal in the prescribed form is invited by the undersigned on behalf of Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore from the eligible Contractor under the Head of Account 4701 Bhadra. The No. of work is 01. The approximate cost of amount put to tender is Rs.4225.15 Lakhs. The amount of EMD is Rs.42.25 Lakhs (Rs.1.00 lakhs e-cash balance amt e-BG Rs.41.25 lakhs) (by kpp portal) contactors can access and submission of completed e-tendering documents from 29.04.2026 to 15.05.2026 upto 17.30 hours in the website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Technical Bid will be opened on 16.05.2026 at 17.30 hours and Financial Bid will be opened on after obtaining approval of technical bid from competent authority. Pre-Bid Meeting on dated: 12.05.2026 @ 11.00 Hrs at Olo Executive Engineer, No.4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi. Stipulated period for the completion of work is 18 Months (Including monsoon).

For more conditions and details visit website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. OR at undersigned in all working days during office hours on telephone No. 8660573513.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KNNL, No.4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi.

DIPR/smg/ksmca/26-27/140/04/166

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
THE ALL-NEW APP
SCAN THE QR CODE TO DOWNLOAD THE APP
STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH THE LATEST NEWS
Google Play | App Store

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD
THORAPADI BRANCH
Azad Road,
Thorapadi, Vellore-632002

APPENDIX- IV-A" [See proviso to rule 8 (6)]
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

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 **Physical** possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, Thorapadi branch, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **20.05.2026,** for recovery of **Rs.37,32,758/- (Rupees Thirty - Seven Lakhs Thirty Two Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty-Eight only) (as on 29.04.2026)** due to the Indian Bank, Thorapadi branch, Secured Creditor, from

1. Mrs. Navya, W/o. Abaraham Naresh, C 180 Baiyar Line Kaspa Vellore Tamilnadu - 632001 **Borrower & Mortgagor**
2. Mr. Naresh, S/o Abraham, C 180 Baiyar Line Kaspa Vellore Tamilnadu - 632001 **Co-applicant.**

The specific details of the property intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

Plot No: 104, S. F. No 266 New S.F. No 266/1A1, having east to west 37 feet, North to South 22 feet, in total 814 Sq.feet. At Existing Road kurinji Nagar sadhuperi village Panchayat vellore Taluk and District. Tamilnadu-632001.
Bounded by: North: Plot no 103, South: 18' wide road, East: P Samuvel and Nithiyanesan property, West: 18' wide road.

Encumbrances on property	Nil
Reserve Price	Rs.31.00 Lakhs
EMD Amount	Rs.3.10 Lakhs
Bid incremental amount	Rs.50000/-
Date and time of e-auction	20.05.2026 & 11.00 AM to 03.00 PM
Property ID No.	IDIB7262125668

Bidders are advised to visit the website **(https://baanknet.com)** of our e auction service provider PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call 8291220220. For Registration status and for EMD status please email to **support.baanknet@psballiance.com.**

For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: **https://baanknet.com** and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd, Contact No. 8291220220.

Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with **https://baanknet.com**

Date: 29.04.2026 **Authorised Officer**
Place: Thorapadi **Indian bank**

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD
THORAPADI BRANCH
Azad Road,
Thorapadi, Vellore-632002

APPENDIX- IV-A" [See proviso to rule 8 (6)]
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

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 **Physical** possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, Thorapadi branch, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 20.05.2026, for recovery of **Rs.13,12,094/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakhs Twelve Thousand and Ninety-Four only) (as on 29.04.2026)** due to the Indian Bank, Thorapadi branch, Secured Creditor, from

1. Mr. M Hari Vikram, Prop. Auto Graft's, No. 10, Katpadi Road Old Bye Pass Road Vellore. **... Borrower & Mortgagor**
2. Late Mr K Manoharan, (Estate of a deceased guarantor) No. 10, Katpadi Road, Old Bye Pass Road, Vellore **... Guarantor**

The specific details of the property intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below:

Survey No. Khata No. House No. Site No.	S.F.No. 18/4, Revised Plot.No: 167, Old.Plot. No: 149C & 150A, Auto Nagar, Perumugai Village & Panchayat, Vellore Taluk & SRO, Vellore District, Pincode-632009.
Extent/ Area of the Land/Building Location/ Village/ Munucipality/ Sub District/District	Measuring East to West on 60 feet, North to South 30 feet, Total Extent 1800 sq.ft. or 167.22 sq.metre Located in Autonagar, Perumugai Panchayat, Perumugai Village, Vellore Sub District, Vellore Taluk, Vellore Registration District, Vellore District.
Boundaries	North: Plot No: 150B With Revised Plot. In Plot. No: 168, South : Plot.No: 149B, With Revised Plot. In Plot.No: 166, East : Plot. No: 154 With Revised Plot In Plot.No: 184 & 175, West : 60'0'' Wide Road.
Encumbrances on property	Nil
Reserve Price	Rs.37.00 Lakhs
EMD Amount	Rs.3.70 Lakhs
Bid incremental amount	Rs.50000/-
Date and time of e-auction	20.05.2026 & 11.00 AM to 03.00 PM
Property ID No.	IDIB934517788

Bidders are advised to visit the website **(https://baanknet.com)** of our e auction service provider PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call 8291220220. For Registration status and for EMD status please email to **support.baanknet@psballiance.com.**

For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: **https://baanknet.com** and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd, Contact No. 8291220220.

Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with **https://baanknet.com**

Date: 29.04.2026 **Authorised Officer**
Place: Thorapadi **Indian bank**