8 Arrested

The female students nabbed by the Kenyan police after a fire destroyed a dormitory at a boarding school, killing 16 children

GLOBAL WEATHER

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

Beijing	35	20	SNY	Los Angeles	23	15	SNY
Colombo	31	26	SNY	Melbourne	15	8	LC
Dhaka	34	27	SNY	Moscow	24	15	SNY
Dubai	40	29	SNY	New York	28	19	SNY
Houston	33	25	TDS	Singapore	31	27	TDS
Istanbul	26	18	SNY	Toronto	24	13	SNY
London	24	14	SNY	Washington	29	18	SNY

NO TRUST IN U.S. 'WORDS', WAITING FOR WASHINGTON TO ACT: TEHRAN

Vance claims progress on peace deal, waiting for Prez Trump to sign

WASHINGTON

IRAN top negotiator said Friday that Tehran would only trust Washington's actions, not its words, after US Vice President JD Vance said progress had been made on a deal to extend a ceasefire and provide a framework for peace talks.

President Donald Trump has remained notably silent about the deal despite US sources telling AFP it only needed his sign-off, underscoring the unpredictability of talks three months after the conflict engulfed West Asia and shook the global economy. "We place no trust in guarantees or words; only actions matter. No step will be taken before the other side acts first," Iran's Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf wrote on X. The parliament speaker, who led Tehran's delegation at peace talks with the US in Pakistan last month, also warned that Iran had gained leverage not "through talks, but through missiles" fired at US bases and allies in the region when war broke out on February 28.

Hopes of an agreement had risen on Thursday after US officials were positive about the direction of diplomacy. "It's hard to say exactly when or if the president is going to sign the MoU," Vance told reporters on Thursday. Optimism around a possible US-Iran deal boosted Asian stock markets on Friday, while oil prices receded slightly. Energy markets have whipsawed this week as investors parse the chances of an agreement that could potentially resume normal shipping through the crucial Strait of Hormuz.

The potential deal would end restrictions on shipping through the strait, with no tolls or harassment, while Tehran would remove mines within 30 days and the US would lift its naval blockade of Iranian ports if commercial traffic resumed, according to US media reports. But Iran has not confirmed any commitments to a deal, and sources have told Iranian media that any agreement unilaterally announced by Trump would not be recognised.

On Friday, Iran's Tasnim news agency, citing a source, said the text had not yet been finalised and the wording of the potential memorandum of understanding had "undergone some changes in recent days".

A fireball erupts from a building following an Israeli strike in Tyre, southern Lebanon, on Friday | AFP

Pak FM Ishaq Dar meets Marco Rubio

Washington: Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar met US Secretary of State Marco Rubio here on Friday, amid reports of the US and Iran closing in on an agreement to end the three-month war. Dar's meeting with Rubio comes days after US President Donald Trump urged countries mediating the US-Iran talks to end the three-month war to join the Abraham Accords, which establish diplomatic, economic and security ties between Israel and Arab nations. Pakistan, which has emerged as a key mediator in the West Asia conflict, does not recognise the state of Israel and has no diplomatic relations with it. Dar, also the Deputy Prime Minister, was in New York at the invitation of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to attend the UN Security Council debate on 'Maintenance of International Peace and Security'. PTI

Trump meeting with aides on Iran deal

Washington: US President Donald Trump said Friday he's holding a White House Situation Room meeting with his advisors as he looks to make a "determination" on moving forward with a deal to extend the Iran ceasefire. Trump confirmed the high-level White House talks the day after AP and other news outlets reported that US and Iranian negotiators had come to terms on a tentative agreement. The deal would extend the fragile ceasefire by 60 days as new talks are held on Iran's disputed nuclear programme. US Vice President JD Vance said Thursday that the sides continued to debate "a couple of language points". Among the first issues to be negotiated during the 60-day ceasefire would be what will happen to Iran's highly enriched uranium.

Hormuz exposes China's Indian Ocean vulnerability, says report

SINGAPORE

WAR WATCH

CHINA'S maritime vulnerability begins at the Strait of Hormuz rather than the Strait of Malacca, creating a new arena of strategic competition in the Indian Ocean among Beijing, India, France and the US, according to a report by London-based International Institute of Strategic Studies.

The report says the Indian Ocean region is re-emerging as a key strategic theatre after decades of relative calm following the end of the Cold War.

The report, "Asia Pacific Regional Security Assessment", argues that China's dependence on energy supplies moving through the Indian Ocean has made the region increasingly important to Beijing's security calculations, while also exposing vulnerabilities that rival powers could seek to exploit during a conflict.

The study examines strategic competition around major maritime choke points linking the Middle East and Asia, with particular focus on the Strait of Hormuz and the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS), also known as the Malacca Strait, which carries a substantial share of global energy shipments.

According to the report, recent developments around Hormuz have highlighted the growing strategic importance of these sea lanes. The report challenges the widely discussed notion of China's "Malacca Dilemma", which focuses on the vulnerability of Chinese trade and energy flows through the Malacca Strait. While the narrow waterway remains critical, the report argues that China's actual vulnerability begins much further west because a significant portion of its imported energy passes through the Strait of Hormuz before entering the Indian Ocean and reaching East Asia. *PTI*

HEAVIER NEW GLENN CRASH

Blue Origin rocket explodes on launch pad during test

CAPE CANAVERAL

A rocket belonging to Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin exploded during a test at the launch pad Thursday night, shaking nearby homes and briefly painting the sky orange.

Blue Origin said its New Glenn rocket exploded during an engine-firing test being conducted ahead of a satellite launch planned for next week. No one was hurt, according to officials at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station.

"It's too early to know the root cause but we're already working to find it," Bezos said via X. "Very rough day, but we'll rebuild whatever needs rebuilding and get back to flying. It's worth it." The massive New Glenn was grounded in April after it left a satellite in the wrong orbit because of engine failure. It was only the third flight of the rocket that Blue Origin intends to use to launch landers to the moon for NASA, including the landers that will take astronauts to the lunar surface.

The company had been on track to launch a prototype lunar lander to the moon on a flight test this fall. Earlier this week, the space agency awarded Blue Origin a contract worth hundreds of millions of dollars to launch a pair of moon buggies in the next few years as part of the Artemis program.

"Spaceflight is unforgiving, and developing new heavy-lift launch capability is extraordinarily difficult," NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman said via X. He promised to provide information on any impacts to the Artemis program, including the moon base that he recently outlined.

Homes shook in nearby Cape Canaveral and Cocoa Beach around 9 pm, with residents turning to social media to wonder what happened. Launch Complex 36 is visible from the beach, and the internet quickly filled with photos of an orange fireball. *AP*

TIMELINE

- **2016** – Rocket officially unveiled
- **Jan 2025** – First successful launch
- **Nov 2025** – First successful booster landing at sea
- **Apr 2026** – Third mission places payload in wrong orbit
- **May 2026** – Rocket explosion

AT A GLANCE

- Height: 321 ft (98 m)
- Diameter: 7 metres
- Stages: 2
- Heavy-lift orbital rocket
- Designed with a reusable first stage
- Developed over nearly a decade to rival SpaceX's launch fleet

Named after: Astronaut John Glenn John Glenn

EXPRESS READ

Remains of 6 workers recovered in massive US chemical tank rupture

Longview: Crews have recovered the remains of six of nine workers who were missing after a massive chemical tank ruptured at a paper mill in Washington state, releasing a flood of caustic liquid capable of causing severe burns and lung injuries, officials said on Thursday. In all, 11 people were killed in the disaster, including the three yet to be recovered, and eight injured. It is one of the deadliest US workplace accidents in recent decades. A tank containing more than 1.9 million litres of a chemical mixture used to break down wood for making paper collapsed on Tuesday at the Nippon Dynawave Packaging Company in Longview.

SPELLBOUND

14-year-old Indian-American teenager wins Scripps National Spelling Bee

WASHINGTON

INDIAN-AMERICAN student Shrey Parikh, aged 14, from California, won the Scripps National Spelling Bee on Friday after correctly spelling 32 of 35 words in 90 seconds.

Parikh, an eighth-grade student from Day Creek Intermediate School, spelt 'Bromocriptine' correctly in the 90-second spell-off, beating seventh grader 12-year-old Ishaan Gupta of Frank R Conwell Middle School, Jersey City, New Jersey. Twelve-year-old Sarv Dharavane from Peachtree Charter Middle School in Tucker, Georgia, finished third. Ishaan takes home $25,000, while Sarv gets $15,000 in prize money.

Parikh also beat the previous spell-off record set in 2024 by Bruhat Soma, who spelled 29 out of 30 words correctly in the spell-off. "Spelling fast is what I do every day," Shrey said in comments after winning the competition.

Shrey Parikh lifts the Scripps National Spelling Bee trophy in Washington on Friday | AP

Parikh, who was also a finalist in the 2024 edition of the competition, takes home a slew of prizes, including $50,000, a commemorative medal, the Scripps Cup, as well as $2,500 from Merriam-Webster, $1,000 in flight credits from Delta and $400 of reference works from Encyclopaedia Britannica.

The three-day competition began Monday at DAR Constitution Hall here with 247 contestants from all 50 states and the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, Defence Department schools in Europe and five other countries: the Bahamas, Canada, Ghana, Nigeria and the United Arab Emirates.

Nine contestants advanced to the finals that were held on Thursday evening. Shrey and Ishaan each had 90 seconds to correctly spell as many words as they could, served from the same list. Shrey previously competed in 2022 and tied for 89th place, and in 2024 tied for third place.

The Spelling Bee competition was first held in 1925 to test spelling, vocabulary and language skills through multiple rounds of increasingly difficult words. Participants must generally be no older than 15 years and may not have progressed beyond the eighth grade. *(With inputs from PTI)*

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Central Bank of India
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MEGA E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
(UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002)

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of Central Bank of India had taken possession of the following schedule mentioned properties on the dates mentioned below, under sec. 13(4) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, pursuant to the demand notice dated as mentioned below, issued under Sec 13(2) of the said Act, in the following loan accounts with right to sell the same for realization of Bank's dues plus interest as detailed hereunder. And whereas consequent upon failure to repay the dues by the borrower / guarantor / mortgagor, the undersigned, in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(4) (a) of the Said Act read with rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 proposes to realize the Bank's dues by sale of the said properties. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the **website : https://baanknet.com**

Branch : Hosur Branch. Name of the Loan Account : Borrower : M/s.Fortune Curcumina, Partnership Firm, Address: Survey No 401/1, Athanur, Anjehalli (PO), Pennagaram Taluk, Dharmapuri District - 636813. **Guarantor 1: Mr.K.Parthiban, S/o.Late.Kembaiyan,** No 4/47, Athanur, Anjehalli (PO) Pennagaram Taluk, Dharmapuri District - 636813. **Guarantor 2 : Mrs.K.Saradha, W/o.Late.Kembaiyan,** No 4/47, Athanur, Anjehalli (PO), Pennagaram Taluk, Dharmapuri District - 636813. **Amount Due : Rs.2,93,60,584.00 as on 29.05.2026** and interest plus other charges thereon. **Demand Notice Date : 13.01.2023. Possession taken on : 11.06.2024. Description of the Immovable Property :** At Dharmapuri District, Pennagaram Sub Registration District, Pennagaram Taluk, Anjehalli Village, Survey No.401/1, Extent 2 acres and 63 cents. Bounded by : East : Land and Shed in Survey No 400/1A belonging to Mr.K.Parthiban, West : Road in Sy No 730&731, North : Agri Land in Survey No 402, South : Agri Land in Survey No 401/2. **Reserve Price : Rs.2,75,00,000/- . EMD : Rs.27,50,000/-. Bid Increase Amount : Rs.1,00,000/-. Date of Auction : 30.06.2026. Time of Auction : 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM with auto extension of 10 minutes. Date of Inspection of the Property : On all working days between 23.06.2026 and 29.06.2026 between 10 AM and 4 PM with the prior appointment of branch manager. Last Date of Remitting EMD : 30.06.2026 upto 1.00 PM. Authorized Officer - Mobile No : 8489903009 / Chief Manager (RO) - Mobile No : 8489903057.**

TERMS & CONDITIONS : 1. The auction sale will be online E-Auction/Bidding through website **https://baanknet.com** the above specified date & time (with unlimited auto extension of 10 minutes till the conclusion of sale). **2.** Bids shall be submitted through online on or before **30.06.2026 upto 1.00 p.m. 3.** The E-Auction is being held on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS". **4.** Intending bidders are required to go through the website **https://baanknet.com** for detailed terms and conditions of auction sale before submitting their bids and taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings. **5.** Successful bidder/purchaser will remit TDS @ 1% on sale proceeds on immovable property/ies of value Rs.50.00 lacs and above as per Sec 194 IA of the income tax Act 1961 and deposit the same by furnishing the challan in Form 26QB and submit the Original receipt of TDS Certificate to Bank. **6.** For further any property related query may contact **Authorized Officer - Mobile No : 8489903009 / Chief Manager (RO) - Mobile No : 8489903057, Central Bank of India, Regional Office, Coimbatore, E-Mail Ids: bmcoim2071@centralbank.co.in / recvcoimro@centralbank.co.in** during office hours during the working days and after Registration by the bidder in the web portal, intending bidder/purchaser is required to get the copies of the following documents uploaded in Web Portal before last date of submission of the bid viz 1) Copy of NEFT/RTGS Challan, 2) Copy of PAN Card, 3) Identification (KYC) viz self attested copy of Voter ID Card / Driving Licence / Passport etc., 4) Copy of proof of address, without which the bid is liable to be rejected.

Date : 29.05.2026
Place : Hosur

Authorised officer
Central Bank of India

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to General Public that My Client **Mrs. Poongodi W/o. Mr. Settu,** residing at No.105/24/1, Sarthar Nagar, Katteri Village, Pakkirithakka Post, Tirupattur Taluk, Tirupattur District - 635853 has represented that she lost her Original Parent Documents i.e., 1. Regd. Sale Deed Doc No.605/1998 dated 28.05.1998 of SRO Jolarpettai, 2. Regd. Sale Deed Doc No.19/2005 dated 05.01.2005 of SRO Jolarpettai, 3. Regd. Sale Deed Doc No.251/2007 dated 07.02.2007 of SRO Jolarpettai, 4. Regd. Sale Deed Doc No.1315/2007 dated 04.05.2007 of SRO Jolarpettai, 5. Regd. Sale Deed Doc No.86/2009 dated 20.01.2009 of SRO Jolarpettai, 6. Regd. Settlement Deed Doc No.986/2018 dated 11.05.2018 of SRO Jolarpettai relating to the property situated in Pakkirithakka Village, Sy.No.215/4, in this Sub Division Sy.No.215/4F1A1A, measuring an extent of 1134 Sq.Feet (or) 105.36 Sq.Mtr of land. In this regard my client who is the Present Owner namely **Mrs. Poongodi W/o. Mr. Settu** filed an online complaint in Tamilnadu Police- CCTNS Citizen Portal Website and got an online acknowledgement bearing reference No.0LC9402600023215 dated 27.05.2026. My client hereby issue notice to the General Public that if any person has in any manner right, title, claim and/or interest in respect of the above mentioned land and found the said misplaced Deeds anywhere, he/she may inform to me or to my client in writing within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which my client shall treat a Certified True Copies of the above said misplaced Documents as original for further transactions/Alienations. Thereafter no claim will be entertained.

By
K. Velayudham., M.Sc., M.L.,
Advocate & Notary Public,
Tirupattur.
Mobile-9489903454.

Date: 30.05.2026
Place: Tirupattur

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to General Public that My Client **Mr. Madhappan S/o. Mr. Gundan,** residing at Door No.1/51, Colony Chinna Gummanur, Chikkadoranapettam, Palacode Taluk, Dharmapuri District, Tamil Nadu State – 636 806 has represented that he lost the Original Parent Document i.e., Regd. Sale Deed Doc. No.2010/2017 dated 15.11.2017 of SRO Marandahalli relating to the property situated in Marandahalli Village Sy No.60/1, measuring an extent of 1250 Sq Feet of land. In this regard my client who is the Present owner namely **Mr. Madhappan S/o. Mr. Gundan** filed an online complaint in Tamilnadu Police-CCTNS Citizen Portal Website and got an online acknowledgement bearing reference No. LDR No.ID5872649170 dated 29.05.2026. My client hereby issue notice to the General public that if any person have in any manner right, title, claim and/or interest in respect of the above mentioned Land and found the said misplaced Sale Deed anywhere, he/she may inform me or to my client in writing within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which my client shall treat a certified True Copy of above said misplaced Sale Deed as original for further transactions/Alienations. Thereafter no claim will be entertained.

By
K.Velayudham., M.Sc., M.L.,
Advocate & Notary Public,
Krishnagiri.
Mobile-9489903448.

Date: 30.05.2026
Place: Krishnagiri