

WORLD
world**Foreign journalists in Russia could be branded 'agents': MP**

Moscow, Russia

Russian lawmakers have drafted legislation that could require reporters working for selected media to be branded "foreign agents", a senior deputy said on Tuesday.

Late last year Russia adopted a law allowing the government to classify foreign media organisations as "foreign agents".

The new legislation would go a step further, extending the definition to individual journalists working for such media.

Iran, world powers to have nuclear meet

Tehran, Iran

The foreign ministers of Iran and five world powers still party to the 2015 nuclear deal will meet in Vienna on Friday for talks on the troubled accord, Tehran and Moscow said.

The top diplomats of Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia will join Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif in the Austrian capital, Iran's official IRNA news agency reported, for their first talks together on the deal since Washington pulled out earlier this year.

UK healthcare worker arrested for 'murdering' 8 babies

London, United Kingdom

British police yesterday arrested a female healthcare worker suspected of murdering eight babies and attempting to murder six more after an investigation into deaths at a neo-natal hospital unit.

The investigation in the northwestern English city of Chester began last year and is focusing on the deaths of 17 babies at the Countess of Chester Hospital between March 2015 and July 2016.

Three-year-old in US stabbing attack dies: police

Washington

A three-year-old girl died on Monday after being seriously wounded when a man went on a stabbing spree in the US state of Idaho two days before, police said. The girl was evacuated by air to neighboring Utah for treatment, but did not survive her injuries.

Another ferry sinks



This handout picture taken and released on July 3, 2018 by Indonesia's Badan Nasional Penanggulangan Bencana (BNPB), the accident mitigation agency, shows passengers clinging to the side of a ferry as it sank off the coast of Selayar Island, in South Sulawesi province.

16 dead in Indonesia ferry accident, Search called off for another ferry sank with 160 onboard

Jakarta, Indonesia

At least 16 people, including two children, died yesterday after a ferry ran aground off the coast of Indonesia, officials said, as rescuers raced to save scores of other passengers thought to be aboard the vessel.

The deadly incident comes the same day authorities official-

ly called off the search for more than 160 people still missing after another ferry sank on a popular tourist lake in Sumatra two weeks ago.

Images from the latest accident showed passengers clinging to the side of the KM Lestari as it listed in waters off Sulawesi island, while other passengers floated in the sea awaiting help.

The ferry ran aground about

300 metres (985 feet) from the coast, Indonesia's transportation agency said, as waves swamped trucks and other vehicles on the boat's deck before they plunged into the water.

Sixteen bodies have been recovered, with 39 survivors, but authorities have not yet accounted for all 139 people listed in the ship's manifest, said Darfian Mukri, head of the local dis-

aster agency. "The joint search and rescue team and fisherman are still trying to rescue victims on board the boat," Mukri said.

"The number of passengers that are still trapped on the boat is not yet known."

A fleet of smaller boats was working to save passengers as bad weather was preventing larger vessels from getting near the location, the transportation

ministry said. It added that passengers had been wearing life jackets. The 48-metre vessel was sailing from Sulawesi to nearby Selayar island when it ran into strong winds and high waves.

Deadly maritime accidents are not uncommon in Indonesia, where many people depend on boats to get around the 17,000 island archipelago nation despite lax safety standards.

Israel freezes Palestinian Authority money transfers

AFP | Ramallah

Palestinian leaders yesterday strongly condemned a new Israeli law that will freeze money transfers to the Palestinian

Authority to punish the PA's payments to families of those jailed for attacks.

The move threatens the existence of the cash-strapped PA and amounts to "theft", said

Saeb Erekat, secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Both he and a spokesman for Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas called it a "dangerous decision".

The legislation was approved late Monday and gives the Israeli government powers to withhold an amount of money based on what is paid to the prisoners and their families by the PA.

Israel collects around \$127 million a month in customs duties levied on goods destined for Palestinian markets that transit through Israeli ports, and then transfers it to the PA.