

Heavily-pregnant woman dies after Turkey balcony fall, husband held



AFP | Ankara, Turkey

A heavily pregnant woman died late on Sunday after falling from the balcony of her home in western Turkey, with police detaining her husband, state news agency Anadolu reported yesterday.

The 35-year-old woman, who was eight months pregnant, died late on Sunday.

A Sudanese national, she was living with her husband in a fourth-floor flat in the city of Bursa.

Her husband, 37, who was home at the time of the incident with their three-year-old daughter, was taken into custody with police opening an investigation, it said.

The husband told police that his wife had jumped out of the bedroom window.

In his testimony, he told police he met his wife in Sudan and they had been married for

five years.

He admitted to solvent abuse, saying the habit often caused fights including one on Sunday night.

Two neighbours also reported hearing sounds of a fight, Anadolu said.

Turkey does not publish figures on femicides, leaving the task to women's organisations that collect data on murders and other deaths under suspicious circumstances from news reports.

Figures from We Will Stop Femicides show that in the first seven months of this year, 215 women were killed or found dead in suspicious circumstances.

Last year, 294 women were killed by men with another 297 dying in suspicious circumstances, such as falling from a balcony -- which is frequently classed by the authorities as suicide or an unsolved death.

Detained Suu Kyi meets Red Cross official in Myanmar



AFP | Yangon, Myanmar

Myanmar's detained democratic leader Aung San Suu Kyi met with the nation's Red Cross representative on Monday, the president's office said, the first publicised meeting between her and a foreign official since she was ousted in a 2021 military coup.

"Mr. Arnaud de Baecque, the Resident Representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to Myanmar, met with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi this morning," said a statement from the president's office.

The military deposed Suu Kyi in February 2021, jailing the Nobel Peace Prize laureate and triggering an ongoing civil war.

The coup leader and former junta chief, Min Aung Hlaing,

was installed as civilian president in April following highly restricted elections.

Later that month, Suu Kyi, now 81, was moved to house arrest after Min Aung Hlaing said he had commuted the rest of her sentence.

She was detained following the coup on a host of charges which rights groups say were confected to sideline her.

In photos released by the president's office, Suu Kyi is seen shaking hands with a man who appears to be de Baecque.

Another image shows Suu Kyi cutting a birthday cake, and yet another shows the cake with text reading: "Happy Birthday Aunty Suu".

The images could not be immediately verified by AFP but AI tools found no instances of fabrication.

Trump tells Iranians to make deal or **surrender**

AFP | Washington, United States

President Donald Trump lashed out yesterday after Iran denied it was in negotiations with the United States, declaring in an angry social media post that a US military blockade will continue until there is a "Deal, or Total surrender."

Calling Iran "duplicious" for "openly and proudly" saying it was not negotiating, Trump wrote: "Whether Iran wants to admit it or not, we are, in fact, talking of a solution to a problem that they have caused, for decades."

Trump's statement on Truth Social came after Iran said there were no direct talks with Washington, as Trump had insisted there would



AFP | Tokyo, Japan

Oil prices fall nearly 5%

Oil prices tumbled yesterday in early Asia trade after US President Donald Trump announced fresh talks with Iran to end the Middle East war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

The war, which began in

late February when the United States and Israel attacked Iran, has caused oil prices to swing sharply as it effectively closed the waterway, a vital route for global oil and gas supplies.

At around 2250 GMT on Sunday, the price of a barrel of Brent North Sea, the benchmark international oil contract, for September delivery was down 4.69 percent at \$83.81.

Its American equivalent, West Texas Intermediate, fell 4.67 percent to \$80.72.

Trump said on Sunday that

fresh negotiations with Iran will begin on Monday after holding off on major strikes against the Islamic republic to pursue a deal.

"Now what we're doing is we're talking to them in the form of a negotiation. It begins tomorrow afternoon," he said, without providing further details of the venue of the talks or the participants.

Hours after the US had called off major strikes Iran on Sunday said it was nearing a deal with Oman over a new route through the Strait of Hormuz.

be when he called off a threatened round of heavy bombing against Iran over the weekend, citing what he said were appeals from regional powers and Tehran.

The Iranian foreign ministry said Monday that the only talks it was holding were with Oman to discuss plans for sharing

control over the Strait of Hormuz, a vital passage for the global energy trade.

Trump insisted Iran had asked for talks -- "some would say 'beg'" -- but was now giving "their usual blather" about controlling Hormuz.

The strait, Trump insisted, "is already completely controlled by the United States Navy and our 'Blockade' or, as some say, 'The United States Wall of Steel!'"

Nothing gets through to Iran, unless we want it to, and nothing will get through, unless a Deal, or Total Surrender, is accomplished."

Trump launched a war, together with Israel, against Iran on February 28.

Original goals included destruction of the country's nuclear industry, missiles and backing for a popular uprising against the government.

Trump attorney general pick looks set to clear US Senate hurdle

Washington, United States

President Donald Trump's former personal lawyer Todd Blanche appeared on track to become the next US attorney general after two Republican senators dropped their opposition to his nomination.

Blanche's Senate confirmation has been held up by concerns from senators John Cornyn and Thom Tillis over a \$1.8 billion fund for alleged victims of politically motivated prosecution and a tax audit immunity deal with the Republican president.

Blanche issued a written order over the weekend scrapping the so-called "anti-weaponization fund" and said the audit immunity agreement with Trump, his two eldest sons and the Trump Organization would only apply "retroactively" to past tax years and not future filings.

Cornyn and Tillis, both of whom are leaving the Senate in January, welcomed Blanche's moves in a statement on Monday and said they "look forward to voting to advance his nomination out of the Senate Judiciary Committee soon."

A vote in the committee, where Republicans hold a narrow 12-10 majority, is scheduled today.

Wildfire flares up again in Greece as water bombers deployed



Firefighters drive a fire truck as they attempt to extinguish a wildfire in the Veniza area, west of Athens, in the Viotia region

AFP | Kryo Pigadi, Greece

Flames flared up again in Greece on Monday, as wildfires that have raged west of Athens for four days remained a threat despite easing winds and the deployment of firefighting aircraft.

Wildfires that have raged for four days west of Athens remained a threat on Monday, with flames flaring up again despite easing winds and the deployment of firefighting aircraft.

Firefighters reported a slight

improvement in conditions earlier in the day, but authorities later warned of fresh flare-ups on one of the main fire fronts near Megara, about 30 kilometres (19 miles) west of the capital.

"The wind has eased in the area, but in Kandyli there are still gusts and currents created by rising hot air, and we are seeing the fire flare up again," Megara mayor Panagiotis Margetis told AFP.

For now, there had been no damage to homes or businesses

in the villages of Kandyli and Agia Skepi, around 50 kilometres west of Athens, he said.

But the fire was "constantly changing direction" and moving closer to Megara's industrial zone, creating a "very dangerous" situation, Margetis told state broadcaster ERT.

The fire brigade confirmed that the blaze had intensified on Monday afternoon.

"That is normal because there are still active hotspots," a fire service source told AFP.