

India charges Pakistan-based leader in 2025 attack

AFP | New Delhi, India

India filed charges on Monday against the founder of a Pakistan-based militant group in connection with a deadly attack on tourists in India-administered Kashmir last year. The April 2025 attack near the tourist resort of Pahalgam killed 26 people, mostly Hindu tourists, sparking an intense four-day conflict between the nuclear-armed neighbours. New Delhi has accused Pakistan of backing the attack, claims Islamabad has repeatedly denied. India's National Investigation Agency said it had charged

Hafiz Saeed in "his individual capacity and also as the chief of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba terror outfit and its active proxy organisation, The Resistance Front". Saeed was charged with "waging war against India and hatching a conspiracy from across the border", according to a statement from the agency. Pakistan's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to request for comment, but Islamabad has previously called for an independent inquiry, saying there was no Pakistani involvement in the attack.

Jewellery worth millions stolen in French museum burglary

AFP | Strasbourg, France

Burglars stole millions of euros' worth of jewellery from the museum of French luxury glassmaker Lalique in a daring early-morning raid on Sunday, just months after a stunning gem heist at the Louvre in Paris. A gang of masked thieves broke in to the museum in Wingen-sur-Moder in northeastern France around 5:30 am (0330 GMT), forcing a door before heading for the jewellery room and smashing open six display cases, a source close to the investigation told AFP. "Around twenty pieces of jewellery were stolen. The loss



is currently being assessed but could amount to several million euros, likely close to four million," the source said. Another source close to the investigation said the stolen

jewellery was crystal, without precious gems, and could not be melted down. The museum said on its website that it will be closed for several days because of the burglary. "An alarm went off, but by the time the security company had completed its checks, it was a cleaning lady who arrived first on the scene and called the police," the first investigation source added. The CCTV footage is currently being examined. The museum, dedicated to the Art Nouveau and Art Deco jeweller and glassmaker Rene Lalique, was opened in 2011 near the company's factory.

China says test-fired 'strategic' missile in Pacific Ocean

AFP | Beijing, China

A Chinese submarine test-fired a "strategic" missile carrying a dummy warhead into the Pacific Ocean yesterday, Beijing said, drawing immediate condemnation from nations in the region. China made the rare show of its military might on the same day Australia and Fiji signed a major defence treaty, bolstering their ties as Canberra seeks to outmanoeuvre Beijing in the strategically important South Pacific. New Zealand described the test as involving a nuclear-capable

"long-range ballistic missile", but China's defence and foreign ministries did not confirm whether an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) had been used. Monday's test followed two years after China's elite Rocket Force fired an ICBM into the sea near French Polynesia, its first launch of such a missile over international waters in more than 40 years. A nuclear submarine launched a "strategic missile carrying a training simulation warhead" at 12:01 pm (0401 GMT), a Chinese navy statement said, adding that it had "accurately land(ed) in the designated sea area".



Indonesia, Singapore say key oil passage will remain 'accessible'

AFP | Jakarta, Indonesia

Indonesia and Singapore vowed yesterday that the Strait of Malacca, a critical oil transit chokepoint in the region, will remain "accessible" even as Iran imposes fees on ships traversing the Strait of Hormuz. Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto discussed the matter with Singaporean Prime Minister Lawrence Wong in Jakarta as Southeast Asia reels from the effects of oil prices pushed sky-high by the Middle East war. The Strait of Malacca, surrounded by Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand, is the world's largest oil chokepoint in terms of transit volume, according to the US



Energy Information Administration (EIA). More than 23 million barrels -- 29 percent of total maritime oil flows -- crossed the strait in the first half of last year, the latest EIA data shows. In April, Indonesian Finance Minister Purbaya Yudhi Sadewa floated the idea of charging vessels to cross the strait, but later backtracked.

Damage but no casualties reported from Pacific super typhoon

- Worst hit was the small island of Rota
- The island of Tinian, northern parts of Guam and the southern tip of Saipan experienced winds equivalent to a category-one hurricane

AFP | United States

Authorities in the Northern Marianas and Guam reported extensive damage including fallen trees and downed power lines Monday after a super typhoon with the force of a category-five hurricane hit the US Pacific territories. No casualties had been reported as of early evening, although with treacherous conditions throughout much of the day hindering clear-up operations, a full picture was yet to emerge. Worst hit was the small is-



A car lies overturned after being flipped by strong winds brought by Super Typhoon Bavi in Guam

land of Rota, hit by the full force of Super Typhoon Bavi early Monday with winds of up to 180 miles (290 kilometers) per hour, knocking out power, water and communications for many of its 1,500 people. A spokeswoman for the Rota Municipal Operations Center, Lou Rosario, said that there had been reports of "major damages". "A lot of telephone and power lines down. I think this is a major, major storm," said Juan Pan Guerrero, president of the Rota Chamber of Commerce.

"We've been out of power and communications for almost eight hours," he said. The National Weather Service had warned before that a direct hit by Bavi would make most of Rota "uninhabitable for weeks, perhaps longer". The island of Tinian, northern parts of Guam and the southern tip of Saipan experienced winds equivalent to a category-one hurricane, NWS meteorologist Marcus Landon Aydlett said. On Guam, AFP saw downed trees, fallen streetlamps, debris strewn over roads and at least

one car flipped over by the wind. Around 10 major roads were impassable due to flooding, fallen trees, downed utility lines, rockslides and other storm-related damage, Guam authorities said.



A typhoon, hurricane and cyclone are actually the same type of storm – a powerful tropical cyclone. The only difference is where they occur:
Typhoon: Northwest Pacific Ocean (near countries such as Japan, China and the Philippines)
Hurricane: Atlantic Ocean and Northeast Pacific
Cyclone: Indian Ocean and South Pacific

NATO allies to unveil arms contracts worth 'tens of billions'

- Trump will join leaders from the 32-nation alliance

AFP | Ankara, Turkey

NATO allies will unveil billions in new arms contracts at their summit in Ankara, Secretary General Mark Rutte said Monday, as they look to show US President Donald Trump they are delivering on a defence spending vow. Trump will join leaders from the 32-nation alliance in the Turkish capital today after lashing out at Europe over its response to his war in Iran. "Just one year later, we already see transformational progress," Rutte told journalists in Ankara. Rutte said that "European Allies and Canada are already investing around four percent



Defence Industry Agency's president Haluk Gorgun (L) greets NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte as he arrives at Esenboga Airport ahead of the 36th NATO Heads of State and Government Summit in Ankara

of their GDP in defence and security" and would set out clear plans on how to reach the ultimate target. In a bid to display to Trump how allies are now putting their money where their mouth is, NATO allies have lined up a series of eye-catching arms deals to be announced at an industry forum on the sidelines of the summit.

"We will announce tens of billions in new contracts that will provide the crucial kit we need to deter and defend," he told a news conference in Ankara. Last year, European Allies and Canada spent nearly 20% more on core defence than they had the year before, he said. "Looking at 2025 and 2026 combined, that's \$258 billion in extra in-

vestment. "We are investing in our own security. Ensuring we have what we need to safeguard our societies today and tomorrow. Because the threats we face are real -- including from Russia." Rutte said that beyond taking greater responsibility for their own defence, European countries were now "spearheading support to Ukraine". President Volodymyr Zelensky will attend part of the summit. "Right now, Ukraine is changing the dynamics on the battlefield, thanks to the bravery, dedication, and ingenuity of their fighting forces. But they need our continued support, especially in air defence," he said. Diplomats say Europe and Canada are set to pledge at the summit to keep at least 70 billion euros of military aid flowing to Kyiv each year in both 2026 and 2027, as Trump has largely halted US support.

Building collapse kills six in Mumbai as torrential rain batters city

AFP | New Delhi, India

Six people including five children were killed when a building collapsed in Mumbai, officials said yesterday, as monsoon rains pounded India's financial capital, flooding roads and leading to school closures. A dilapidated residential building collapsed Sunday in

the megacity's east, trapping residents under the debris, Mumbai Mayor Ritu Tawde said in a statement. The deaths came as heavy rainfall paralysed parts of the city, with the India Meteorological Department recording more than 200 millimetres (7.8 inches) of rain within 24 hours.