

'Serial killer' German doctor given life sentence

● **Detained in 2024, he is only partially identified in court records as Johannes M.**

AFP | Berlin, Germany

A German palliative care doctor was sentenced to life in prison yesterday for murdering 15 people with lethal doses of sedatives, and he remains under investigation for dozens more killings.

The court in Berlin convicted the 41-year-old of killing 12 women and three men during home visits between September 2021 and July 2024.

But presiding judge Sylvia Busch said the conviction for 15 murders may well be only a glimpse of his many crimes.

Prosecutors said during the proceedings that he was suspected of having killed more than 70 other people.

Detained in 2024, he is only partially identified in court records as Johannes M.

And as the court found his crimes carried a "particular gravity of guilt", he was given the harshest possible sentence, making it much more difficult for him to ever win release.

The court also banned him from ever again practising medicine.

Death 'within minutes'

The court ruled that he had killed not out of any compassion for his patients or a misguided sense of assisted dying, but instead by a drive for power over his victims.

Prosecutors had described the killer as having "a lust for murder", saying the physician had had "no other motive for killing these people than the act of killing itself".

The victims, all of whom were under his medical care at the time, ranged in age from 25 to 94. The court found that he intentionally administered an anaesthetic and a muscle relaxant that "paralysed the respiratory muscles, leading to respiratory arrest and death within minutes".

On at least five occasions, he allegedly set fire to the victims' apartments to cover up the killings. On Monday Johannes M. confessed that he had "killed people" and told the court that "I despair at myself".

He said he only now understood "the extent of the suffering" he had caused, the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung daily reported.

IMF cuts 2026 world growth forecast

AFP | Washington, United States

The IMF cut its 2026 global growth projection again yesterday, flagging "uncertainty and risks" to the economic outlook as fighting reignited in the Middle East.

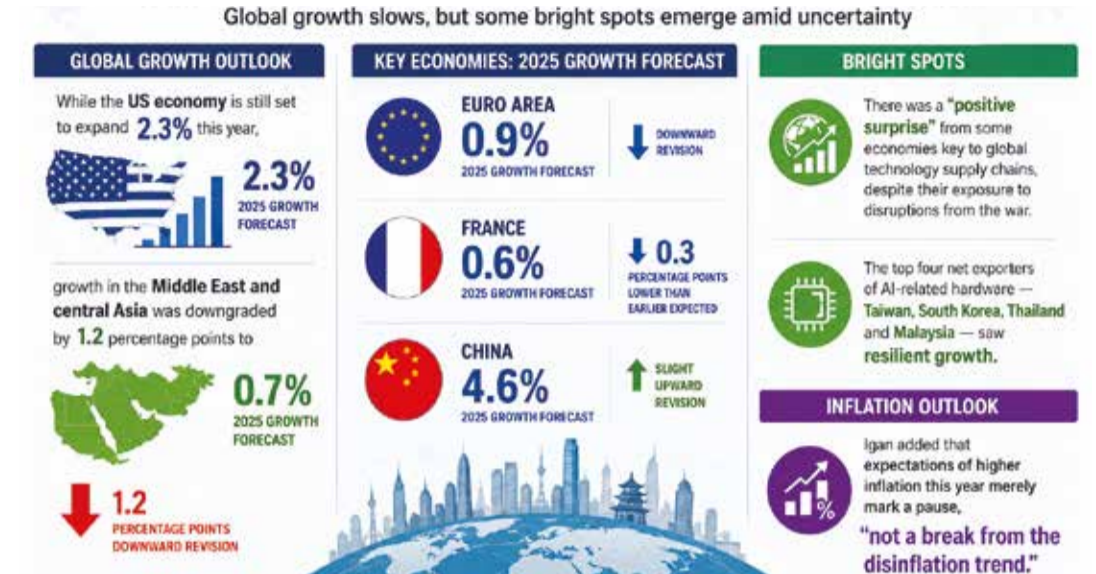
Global economic growth is estimated at 3.0% this year, said the International Monetary Fund, down from 3.1% in its April forecast.

The projection, in its World Economic Outlook update, was made before renewed exchanges of fire between the United States and Iran in recent hours.

"Developments overnight illustrate the uncertainty and risks that surround the outlook," said Petya Koeva Brooks, deputy director at the IMF's research department.

"We're going to be monitoring developments very closely," she told reporters.

It is the second time this year that the fund has lowered its



overall growth expectations. The growth rate marks a cooling from 2025 as well.

Global inflation is anticipated to accelerate to 4.7% this year, higher than earlier projected.

Koeva Brooks expects normalization from the war to gradually

unfold over three quarters of a year, although shocks that lead to higher oil prices and inflation expectations could take further tolls on the global economy.

For now, the overall growth downgrade is modest, as momentum in artificial intelligence

-- driven by demand -- partially offsets the war's effects.

The IMF expects global growth to pick up in 2027 to 3.4%.

Deniz Igan, division chief at the IMF's research department, describes the bounceback as "a V-shaped recovery."

Ceasefire 'over'

Trump warns Iran as fighting flares

Strikes 80 targets

US Central Command (CENTCOM) said its forces had struck over 80 targets, including Iranian air-defence systems, coastal radar sites and 60 IRGC small boats.

The strikes aimed "to degrade Iran's ability to continue attacking international commerce flowing through the international trade corridor", it said.

Mark Rutte, secretary general of NATO, said at the summit in Ankara

that the American strikes were "absolutely necessary".

Almost 6,000 seafarers "remain stranded" in the area, International Maritime Organisation chief Arsenio Dominguez said Wednesday.

An analyst told AFP the cost of returning to full-blown war would be too high for both sides.

by retaliatory attacks from Iran on Gulf countries.

"As far as I'm concerned, it's over," Trump said at a NATO summit in Turkey on Wednesday when asked if the truce was intact.

"It's just a waste of time dealing with them," he added.

"I'll let our wonderful negotiators keep talking if they want, but I don't see it. I don't like these people."

Russia bans diesel exports as strikes intensify fuel crisis: minister

AFP | Moscow, Russia

Moscow banned diesel exports yesterday in a bid to "stabilise" a worsening fuel crisis caused by weeks of intensifying Ukrainian strikes on energy infrastructure, with regions across Russia experiencing shortages.

"A ban on diesel fuel exports went into effect today, which will allow for increased supplies to the domestic market," Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak said during a government meeting with President Vladimir Putin, adding that the measure was intended to "stabilise the situation."

OpenAI says powerful new model to launch publicly today

San Francisco, United States

ChatGPT maker OpenAI said its latest powerful artificial intelligence model series will be released to the public on Thursday, as the US government reportedly approved a broader launch.

The company's new offering GPT-5.6 and other cutting-edge AI models, including Anthropic's Mythos series, have drawn concern over their supposedly unprecedented ability to identify software vulnerabilities -- weaknesses in code that hackers can exploit.

OpenAI said in late June it had shared preview access to GPT-5.6 with a limited group of US-only partners at Washington's request.

The GPT-5.6 series comprises three new models: Sol, the company's new flagship; Terra, a mid-range model for everyday work; and Luna, a fast, low-cost option.

"GPT-5.6 Sol, along with Terra and Luna, will launch publicly this Thursday. We're expanding preview access globally now," the company said in an X post Tuesday, without giving further details.

China warns of 'security backdoor'

Beijing, China

A Chinese industry regulator warned users on Wednesday of a "security backdoor" embedded in versions of Anthropic's Claude Code, but the US artificial intelligence company described the mechanism as an anti-abuse measure.

Claude Code is an AI agent that can generate computer code, debug software and review code based on user prompts. Anthropic prohibits users and companies in China and other nations it deems adversarial from accessing it, but users can sometimes get around this through VPN or third-party proxy services.

● **Oil prices immediately jumped five percent**

● **Both the US and Iran said they had hit dozens of targets**

AFP | Tehran, Iran

US President Donald Trump said the ceasefire with Iran was "over" yesterday but left the door open to more talks, after fighting flared, sparked by Iranian attacks on ships in the vital Strait of Hormuz.

Tehran insists on controlling the waterway, saying it will charge fees for passage and threatening to hit vessels that deviate from its authorised route.

Its military struck at least three ships in recent days, prompting extensive US strikes against Iranian targets Tuesday followed



Strait of Hormuz: Nearly 20% of the world's oil passes through this narrow waterway every day, making it the most critical energy trade route on the planet.

