

News in brief

Three hurt in Australian university campus stabbing



Three people have been wounded after a stabbing at an Australian university campus yesterday afternoon, police said. Two 20-year-old women are in hospital -- one in critical condition and one stable -- after the attack, which happened around 2.45 pm (0445 GMT) at the Australian National University in Canberra. Both women were students at the university.

Australian Capital Territory police said a 34-year-old man was also attacked and suffered minor injuries but did not need to go to hospital.

Nine youths who broke out of a juvenile detention center in Pennsylvania have been recaptured, US police said yesterday, with four of them knocking on a stranger's door after one night on the run.

US police detain nine juveniles who fled detention centre



The incident was the latest involving a detention facility in the eastern state, where a massive manhunt last week captured murderer Danilo Cavalcante who spent 13 days evading authorities after his escape. "All nine of the escapees from last night were picked up within the last two hours," most of them within a few miles (kilometres) of the Abraxas Academy, a juvenile facility in Morgantown, northwest of Philadelphia, said Pennsylvania state trooper David Boehm.

One in 10 Japanese are older than 80: government data

More than 10 percent of Japanese people have crossed 80 years or older for the first time, new official data showed, as the nation faces a rapidly greying population.



Government data released on Sunday, ahead of yesterday's "Respect for Aged Day" national holiday, also showed that the share of Japan's population at 65 or older expanded to a record 29.1 percent from 29.0 percent a year ago. The level compared with second-ranked Italy's 24.5 percent and third-ranked Finland's 23.6 percent, according to the internal affairs ministry.

CURIOSER & CURIOSER

NASA doubts authenticity of popular UFO video



A video grab shows part of an unclassified video taken by Navy pilots that have circulated for years showing interactions with "unidentified aerial phenomena"

Agencies

In a surprising turn of events, NASA has cast doubt on the authenticity of a widely popular UFO video known as 'GOFAST,' originally filmed by American Navy fighter pilots in January 2015.

A recent advisory report from NASA suggests that the mysterious object captured in the video may have a more mundane explanation - it was "most likely" just a conventional object "drifting with the wind."

The US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) formed an independent science team in June 2022 to scrutinize Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAPs) that defied conventional explanations.

Their investigation, released on September 14, challenges the notion that 'GOFAST' represents an extraordinary UFO sighting, instead proposing the possibility of wind drift.

The report indicates that the 'GOFAST UFO' failed to consider the influence of wind

speed during the sighting, a factor overlooked until now. This revelation may significantly alter the perception of the enigmatic footage that has captivated UFO enthusiasts for years.

In September 2019, Joseph Gradisher, a spokesperson for the deputy chief of Naval Operations, acknowledged the unexplained nature of three videos, including 'GOFAST,' possibly depicting "Tic-Tac"-shaped UFOs.

Interestingly, Josh Semeter, a member of the UAP advisory panel and director of Boston University's Center for Space Physics, presented preliminary analysis of the 'GOFAST' footage in May.

His calculations suggested that the object in question might have been propelled by a "strong breeze," cruising at a remarkable speed of close to 40 miles per hour (mph).

NASA's newfound skepticism towards 'GOFAST' challenges the conventional narrative surrounding UFO sightings, leaving both skeptics and believers with much to ponder.

US, Iran swap prisoners

US and Iran free five people each under deal also involving

United States and Iran release detainees in prisoner swap

Freed US citizen hails Biden 'incredibly difficult decisions'

AFP | Washington

The United States and Iran each released five detainees yesterday in a prisoner swap deal that also gives Tehran access to \$6 billion in long-frozen oil funds.

The five Americans freed by Iran, including a businessman arrested in 2015, landed in Doha just before 5:40 pm (1440 GMT) on a Qatari jet, hours after the unblocked funds were credited to Iranian accounts in Qatari banks.

The five were greeted on the tarmac before walking in the setting sun to a terminal building, three of them with their arms round each other's shoulders.

One of them praised US President Joe Biden for ignoring the political backlash and taking the "incredibly difficult decisions" that freed them.

"Thank you President Biden for ultimately putting the lives of American citizens above politics,"



US citizens Siamak Namazi (C-back), Emad Sharqi (L) and Morad Tahbaz (C) disembark from a Qatari jet upon their arrival at the Doha International Airport



US citizens Siamak Namazi (2nd-L) and Morad Tahbaz (C) disembarking from a Qatari jet upon

Siamak Namazi said in a statement.

Two of the Iranian detainees arrived in Qatar, Iranian media said. The other three released by the United States have opted to remain there or in a third country, Tehran said.

The trigger for the exchange was the release of the \$6 billion in funds, frozen by US ally South Korea under sanctions against Iran, to the Iranian accounts.

Washington has denied the \$6 billion is a ransom payment, insisting the money will be used for humanitarian purposes.

"We hope to have total access

to the Iranian assets today," Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani told a news conference in Tehran earlier yesterday.

"The prisoner exchange will take place on the same day and five Iranian citizens imprisoned in America will be released."

As the prisoners were released, Biden granted clemency to the five Iranians and announced sanctions against Iran's ex-president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and the country's intelligence ministry.

The sanctions were imposed over alleged deceit over the disappear-

ance of Bob Levinson, a former FBI agent who disappeared in a mysterious circumstance and is presumed dead.

Damages claim

Iran generated the \$6 billion through oil sales to South Korea which blocked the funds after United States under former president Donald Trump reimposed sanctions as he withdrew from a landmark nuclear accord.

Iran's central bank governor said Iran would seek damages from South Korea for withholding funds. The equivalent of 5.57 trillion

Ukraine claims gains on south front and near Bakhmut

AFP | Kyiv

Ukraine said on Monday its forces had recaptured small clutches of land from Russian forces along the southern front and near Bakhmut, regions where Kyiv's troops have focused their slow-moving counter-offensive.

Kyiv launched its bid to wrest back territory controlled by Moscow in June, after stockpiling Western-supplied weapons and recruiting assault battalions.

Its efforts have focused on the war-battered town of Bakhmut in the eastern Donetsk region, as well as several points along the frontline in the south, towards Crimea.

"Two square kilometres (0.77 square miles) were liberated in



Pedestrians look at destroyed Russian armored military vehicles on display in Kryvyi Rig

the Bakhmut sector," Deputy Defence Minister Ganna Malyar said on state media.

Her announcement came one day after Kyiv said its forces had

retaken Klishchiivka, a village south of Bakhmut, which was captured by Russian forces in May after one of the longest and bloodiest battles of the war.

Malyar also said Ukrainian forces had clawed back 5.2 square kilometres in the south, where its forces are working to push deeper at two points along the front.

But Ukraine's progress against entrenched Russian positions has been limited since June, spurring debate among Kyiv's Western allies over its military strategy.

Russian forces meanwhile have pursued their aerial bombardment campaign, targeting Ukraine's southern regions and maritime export hubs in particular.

Ukraine said on Monday its air defence systems had downed a swarm of attack drones and nearly 20 cruise missiles in Russia's latest aerial barrage overnight.

US military asks for help finding its lost stealth jet

AFP | London

A stealth-capable US fighter jet vanished on Sunday -- not from prying eyes but rather from the American military, prompting an unusual call to the public to help locate the missing multimillion-dollar plane.

After what authorities labelled a "mishap," a pilot flying an F-35 in the southern state of South Carolina on Sunday afternoon ejected from the craft.

The pilot survived, but the military was left with an expensive problem: it couldn't



A pilot climbs into the cockpit of US Air Force's (USAF) fifth-generation supersonic multirole F-35 fighter

find the jet, leading Joint Base Charleston to ask for help from local residents.

"If you have any information that may help our recovery teams locate the F-35, please call the Base Defense Operations Center," a post from the base read on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Base authorities said they were searching, in coordination with federal aviation regulators, around two lakes north of the city of Charleston.

The planes, manufactured by Lockheed Martin, cost around \$80 million each.