

Self-driving bus crashes on first day carrying passengers in Sweden

AFP | Sweden

A self-driving bus was involved in a collision with a tram on its first day of carrying passengers in the Swedish city of Gothenburg on Monday, raising questions about the safety of autonomous public transport systems.



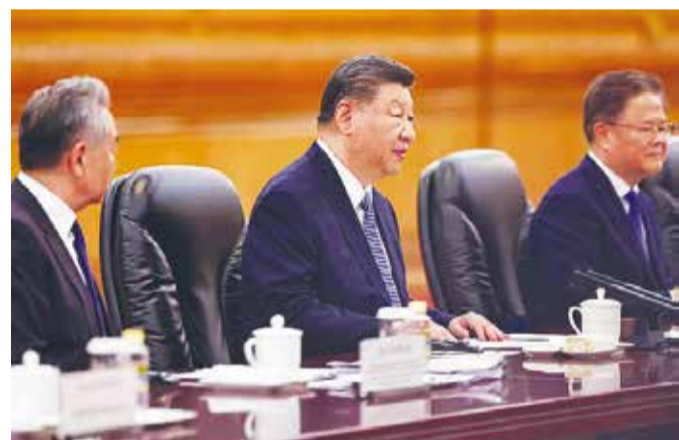
the bus from service for inspection following the 25 May crash.

The automated bus braked suddenly and was struck from behind by a tram in central Gothenburg. No injuries were reported among passengers or other individuals involved in the incident.

The bus had been circulating in the Swedish city since the end of March, but Monday marked its first day transporting members of the public. A human driver was present on the vehicle with the ability to take control if necessary.

Vasttrafik, the public transport company operating the service, immediately removed

China's Xi meets Pakistan PM Sharif as Iran war mediation drags on



AFP | Beijing

China's leader Xi Jinping met with Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Beijing yesterday, state media reported, as diplomatic efforts by several countries to formally end the Iran war drag on.

talks between the two leaders.

The high-level meeting, reported by state news agency Xinhua, followed Sharif's talks earlier in the day with Premier Li Qiang, China's number two leader.

"Both sides should continue to maintain close communication and coordination (and) jointly oppose unilateralism and Cold War mentality," Xi said.

Sharif was accompanied on his trip by army chief Asim Munir, Islamabad's key negotiator between the United States and Iran, Pakistan television showed on Monday.

Sharif, speaking to Chinese leaders alongside Munir, said "the world is passing through a critical moment", Pakistan's state-run PTV channel showed.

Xi praised Pakistan for "taking the initiative to play a mediating role in restoring peace in the Middle East", according to a Chinese readout of the

"Pakistan has played a sincere role to mediate between US and Iran. Field marshal (Munir) was in Tehran and did not want to miss this great visit," Sharif said.

"Things are moving in the right direction. I would like to thank China's support to promote peace," he said.

Sharif kicked off his four-day official visit in Hangzhou in eastern Zhejiang province on Saturday.

Iran health official says supreme leader suffered only 'superficial' wounds in US-Israel strike

AFP | Tehran, Iran

An Iranian health ministry official said yesterday the injuries suffered by supreme leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei in US-Israeli strikes in late February were only "superficial", offering a rare account of the day he was wounded.

The 56-year-old has not appeared publicly since he was named as Iran's supreme leader on March 8, issuing only written statements, fuelling speculation about his health.

In March, US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said Mojtaba was "believed to be alive, wounded and disfigured". Mojtaba succeeded his father, Ali Khamenei, who was killed in US-Israeli strikes on February 28 that triggered retaliatory Iranian attacks across the region.

On Monday, health ministry spokesman Hossein Kermanpour described the day Mojtaba was wounded and his arrival at a hospital, which he did not identify.

Pope calls idea of 'just war' put forward by US 'outdated'

AFP | Vatican City, Holy See

Pope Leo XIV yesterday labelled "outdated" the concept of a "just war" put forward by U.S. President Donald Trump's administration, warning that "humanity is slipping into a violent culture of power".

In his first encyclical, a sort of manifesto, U.S.-born Leo focused mainly on the rise of artificial intelligence but also returned to an anti-war message that has caused tensions with Washington.

"Today, more than ever, without prejudice to the right to self-defense in the strictest sense, it is important to reaffirm that the 'just war' theory, which has all too often been used to justify any kind of war, is now outdated," he wrote in Magnifica Humanitas (Magnificent Humanity).

"Humanity possesses far more effective and capable tools for promoting human life and resolving conflicts, such as dialogue, diplomacy and forgiveness," he wrote.

The Pope has been a high-profile critic of the West Asia war which started with U.S. and Israeli air strikes on Iran in February. He condemned Trump's threat to destroy Iran as "truly



The Vatican Media shows Pope Leo XIV signing his first Encyclical Letter "Magnifica Humanitas", focused on the rise of artificial intelligence, in The Vatican

unacceptable" and urged Americans to demand that U.S. lawmakers "work for peace".

Mr. Trump slammed the pontiff as "WEAK on Crime, and terrible for Foreign Policy" — to which Pope Leo replied that he had a "moral duty to speak out".

The Trump administration has repeatedly justified its attack on Iran as a way to prevent the country from developing a nuclear weapons capability.

U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance, a Catholic convert, has used the "just war" argument and has urged the pope to be "careful"

on theological matters.

In an interview earlier this month, Mr. Trump again criticised the pope, alleging that Leo believes it is "OK for Iran to have a nuclear weapon".

"I think he's endangering a lot of Catholics and a lot of people," Mr. Trump said.

Asked about the comments, Pope Leo said that the Catholic Church's mission was to "preach peace" and the Gospel.

"If anyone wishes to criticise me for proclaiming the Gospel, let them do so truthfully," he told reporters.

Trump took to his social media platform Truth Social to declare: "The deal with Iran will either be a great and meaningful one, or there will be no deal."

Trump throws Tehran Abraham lifeline

Demands widespread sign-up to Abraham Accords

● Iran's top negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf arrived in Qatar on Monday as part of the "diplomatic process" to end the war

● Trump listed countries whose leaders he spoke with in a conference call

AFP | Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump on Monday urged Muslim-majority nations across the Middle East and beyond to normalise relations with Israel as part of the emerging Iran peace deal.

In a lengthy social media post, Trump listed countries whose leaders he spoke with in a conference call on Saturday about efforts to end the war with Iran.

"After all the work done by the United States to try and pull this very complex puzzle together, it



should be mandatory that all of these Countries, at a minimum, simultaneously, sign onto the Abraham Accords."

"Those Countries discussed are Saudi Arabia, The United Arab Emirates (already a Member!), Qatar, Pakistan, Turkiye, Egypt, Jordan, and Bahrain (already a Member!)"

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman told Trump in November 2025 that the kingdom was open to joining the Abraham Accords, as long as there was "a clear path" toward a two-state solution.

"It may be possible that one or

two have a reason for not doing so, and that will be accepted, but most should be ready, willing, and able to make this Settlement with Iran a far more Historic Event than it would, otherwise," Trump wrote in his Truth Social post.

"It should start with the immediate signing by Saudi Arabia and Qatar, and everybody else should follow suit. If they don't, they should not be part of this Deal in that it shows bad intention," he wrote.

Trump even implied that Israel's bitter enemy -- Iran -- should sign on to the accords.

"If Iran signs its Agreement with me, as President of the United States of America, it would be an Honor to have them also be part of this unparalleled World Coalition," Trump wrote.

Over the three-day US holiday weekend, Trump and his top diplomat Marco Rubio have offered varying assessments of the timing of a deal to end the war, at times suggesting it was imminent.

In his latest post, while introducing what appears to be a completely new element to the peace talks, Trump said that "Negotiations with the Islamic Republic of Iran are proceeding nicely!"

Iran warned Monday that, while some progress had been made, it was not yet close to an agreement, while Trump declared: "The deal with Iran will either be a great and meaningful one, or there will be no deal."

Iran's top negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf arrived in Qatar on Monday as part of the "diplomatic process" to end the war with the United States, state media reported.

Suspected Ebola cases top 900 in DR Congo: WHO chief

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

More than 900 suspected Ebola cases have been identified in the conflict-hit Democratic Republic of Congo, the World Health Organization (WHO) chief has said.

The country declared an outbreak on May 15 caused by the Bundibugyo strain, which has no approved vaccine or treatments. In a previous update released on Saturday, the DR Congo health ministry said 204 deaths had been recorded in three provinces of the vast central African country, from 867 suspected cases.

"As surveillance efforts have been scaled up in the #DRC #Ebola response, more than 900 suspected cases have been identified so far, including 101 confirmed cases," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a Sunday social media post that gave no update on the death toll.

Ebola is a deadly viral disease that spreads through direct contact with bodily fluids. It can cause severe bleeding and organ failure.

15k

Ebola has killed more than 15,000 people across Africa in the past half-century.