KOCHI

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Hamas open for truce, Netanyahu says no deal

Israel insists on barring Hamas from postwar Gaza as both brace for US-backed peace talks

CAIRO

HAMAS and Israel staked out their positions Wednesday ahead of expected talks on a Washington-backed ceasefire proposal, with the militant group suggesting it was open to an agreement while the Israeli prime minister vowed "there will be no Hamas" in postwar Gaza. Both stopped short of accepting the proposal announced by US President Donald Trump on Tuesday. Hamas insisted on its longstanding position that any deal bring an end to the war in Gaza.

Trump said Tuesday that Israel had agreed on terms for a 60-day ceasefire in Gaza and urged Hamas to accept the deal before conditions worsen. The US leader has been increasing pressure on the Israeli government and Hamas to broker a ceasefire, and hostage agreement and bring about an end to the war. Trump said the 60-day period would be used to work toward ending the war — something Israel says it won't accept

ELECTION READY

Japan's PM

faces tough

TOKYO

test in upper

house election

JAPAN's Prime Minister

Shigeru Ishiba faces a

tough test in an upper house

election later this month as his

minority government struggles

after its major defeat in last

Ishiba has survived

year's snap election.

until Hamas is defeated. He said that a deal might come together as soon as next week.

But Hamas' response, which emphasized its demand that the war end, raised questions about whether the latest offer could materialise into an actual pause in fighting.

Hamas official Taher al-Nunu said that the militant group was "ready and serious regarding reaching an agreement." He said Hamas was "ready to accept any initiative that clearly leads to the complete end to the war."

A Hamas delegation is expected to meet with Egyptian and Qatari mediators in Cairo on Wednesday to discuss the proposal, according to an Egyptian official. The official spoke on condition of anonymity, because he wasn't authorised to discuss the talks with the media. Throughout the nearly 21-month-long war, ceasefire talks between Israel and Hamas have repeatedly faltered over whether the war should end as part of any deal.



Palestinians gather their belongings ahead of homes demolition by Israeli forces at the Tulkarem refugee camp in West Bank on Wednesday | 🗛

Hamas said in a brief statement Wednesday that it had received a proposal from the mediators and is holding talks with them to "bridge gaps" to return to the negotiating table to try to reach a ceasefire agreement. Hamas has said that it's

willing to free the remaining 50 hostages, less than half of whom are said to be alive, in exchange for a complete Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and an end to the war.

Israel says it will only agree to end the war if Hamas sur-

WEST BANK ISRAEL **TOLL SO FAR**

renders, disarms and exiles it-

56,575

es to do. "I am announcing to you there will be no Hamas," Israeli

self, something the group refus-

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said during a speech Wednesday.

Russia ups attacks on two Ukraine fronts before fall

MOSCOW

AN emboldened Russia has autumn.

Moscow aims to maximize its as long as possible and extract

Projected direct

employers under

current Trump

Cost if initial

remained

revenue,

third of

Affects firms

with \$10M-\$1B

covering one-

private-sector

US workers

April tariffs had

tariff plans

cost to US

US halts some Ukraine arms after Pentagon review

are steadily gaining ground in the strategic eastern logistics hub of Pokrovsk, the capture of which would hand them a major battlefield victory and bring them closer to acquiring the entire Donetsk region. The fighting there has also brought

combat to the border of the neighboring Dnipropetrovsk

In an effort to prevent Mos-

battle-hardened troops hundreds of kilometers away, in the northeast Sumy region.

"The best-case scenario for Ukraine," said Russian-British military historian Sergey Radchenko, "is that they're able to stall or stop the Russian advance" in the Ukrainian industrial heartland known as Donbas, which includes the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Then Ukraine could "use that as the basis for a ceasefire agreement.

"There's a better chance for Russia to come to some kind of terms with Ukraine" in the fall when the Russians "see the extent of their offensive," Radchenko added. AP

AFTERMATH OF WAR

IRAN SNAPS TIES WITH U.N. NUKE WATCHDOG

DUBAI

IRAN's president on Wednesday ordered the country to suspend its cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency after American and Israeli airstrikes hit its most-important nuclear facilities, likely further limiting inspectors' ability to track Tehran's programme that had been enriching uranium to near weapons-grade levels.

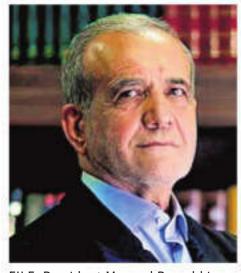
The order by President Masoud Pezeshkian included no timetables or details about what that suspension would entail. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi signaled in a CBS News interview that Tehran still would be willing to continue negotiations with the United States. "I don't think negotiations will restart as quickly as that," Araghchi said, referring to US President Donald Trump's comments that talks could start as early as this week. However, he added: "The doors of diplomacy will never slam shut."

Iran has limited IAEA inspections in the past as a pressure tactic in negotiating with the West — though as of right now Tehran has denied that there's any immediate plans to resume talks with the United States that had been upended by the 12-day Iran-Israel war.

Iranian state television announced Pezeshkian's order, which followed a law passed by Iran's parliament to suspend that cooperation. The bill already received the approval of Iran's constitu-

tional watchdog, the Guardian Council, on Thursday, and likely the support of the country's Supreme National Security Council, which Pezeshkian chairs.

A diplomat with knowledge of IAEA operations, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the situation in Iran, said that IAEA inspectors were still there after the announcement and hadn't been told by the government to leave.



FILE: President Masoud Pezeshkian speaks during a rally at Tehran | AP

Iran's decision drew an immediate condemnation from Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar. "Iran has just issued a scandalous announcement about suspending its cooperation with the IAEA," he said in an X post. "This is a complete renunciation of all its international nuclear obligations and commitments."Iran's move so far stops short of what experts feared the most.

They feared Tehran might quit the IAEA, leave the NPT, and race toward a bomb.

manders said. Ukraine wants to slow the Russian advance for

TRUMP'S TARIFFS TO

COST EMPLOYERS

PRICE HIKES, LAYOFFS,

AND PROFIT HITS

LIKELY AS JULY 9 TARIFF

DEADLINE NEARS

\$2,080

per employee, equal

to **3.1%** of

average payroll

Retail & wholesale

sectors most

vulnerable; high

import dependence

on China, India,

Thailand

so far, though he had to make some concessions to the opposition — an unusual step for the Liberal Democratic Party that has dominated Japan's postwar politics.

Official campaigning begins Thursday for the July 20 vote for the upper house, the less powerful of Ja-

pan's two parliamentary chambers.

Ishiba has modest goals for the election and the opposition is divided, so the outcome is unlikely to force an immediate change of

Japan's PM Shigeru Ishiba

government. But it will be a tough test on Ishiba's handling of economic woes at home and global challenges such as US President Donald Trump's tariff war.

"I will defend Japan's national interest at all cost," Ishiba said Wednesday, reiterating his determination to not make any concession on safety or other areas in the tariff negotiations despite Trump's new threat. "Japan has its own national interest and I will do my utmost to pro-APtect it."

ramped up military offensives on two fronts in Ukraine, scattering Kyiv's precious reserve troops and threatening to expand the fighting to a new Ukrainian region as each side seeks an advantage before the fighting season wanes in the

territorial gains before seriously considering a full ceasefire, analysts and military comheavy losses. Kremlin forces

WASHINGTON: The US is halting some shipments of weapons to Ukraine amid concerns that its own stockpiles have declined too much, officials said Tuesday, a setback for the country as it tries to fend off escalating attacks from Russia. Certain munitions were previously promised to Ukraine under the Biden administration to aid its defenses during the more than threeyear-old war. The pause under Trump followed Pentagon concerns over US stockpiles.

region for the first time.

cow from bolstering those positions in the east, Ukrainian forces are trying to pin down some of Russia's best and most

Trump's deadline to finalise

- formal tariff rates
- Amazon, Costco, Walmart stocked up to delay tariff impacts
- Tariffs aimed to offset multitrillion-dollar tax cuts
- Only the UK has signed a trade framework; India, Vietnam close to agreements
- Fed survey: Firms may pass 50% of 10–25% tariffs to customers without cutting demand

Tariffs to offset tax cuts

President Trump plans to use tariff revenues to offset multitrilliondollar tax cuts passed by the Republican Senate. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent says recent trade concessions have impressed career officials.



tariff may pass to consumers (Goldman Sachs)

'Diddy' acquitted of most serious charges, convicted of prostitution-related offenses

NEW YORK

SEAN "Diddy" Combs was convicted of prostitution-related offenses but acquitted Wednesday of sex trafficking and racketeering charges that could have put one of hip-hop's most celebrated figures behind bars for life.

The mixed result still could send Combs, 55, to prison for as long as a decade, and is likely to end his career as a hitmaking music executive, fashion entrepreneur, brand ambassador and reality TV star.

After hearing the verdict, Combs held his hands up in a prayer motion, looking at jury and hugged defense lawyer Teny Geragos. Combs' relatives and supporters in the audience could barely contain their relief, despite the judge's admonition to avoid outbursts: When the first "not guilty" was read aloud, someone shouted,



Sean "Diddy" Combs's family react as they leave Manhattan court | AP

"Yeah!" Combs later continued to pump his right fist subtly, seemingly satisfied that he was acquitted on the most serious charges. Combs was convicted of flying people around the country, including his girlfriends and paid male sex workers, to engage in sexual encounters, a felony violation of the federal Mann Act.

But the jury of eight men and four women acquitted Combs of racketeering conspiracy and sex trafficking charges, related to allegations that he used his money, power and frightening physical force to manipulate his girlfriends into hundreds of drug-fueled sex marathons with the men. Combs' defense team argued that the women were willing participants and that none of his violence justified the severity of the charges.

US District Judge Arun Subramanian was weighing whether to free Combs on bail in the wake of the verdict. The judge adjourned the court while he considers the matter. "I'll be home soon," he said, and "I love you, baby." "I love you, Mom," he added. There's no date yet for sentencing, when the judge will decide on Combs' punishment for the prostitution conviction.

Paramount to pay Trump \$16M over '60 Minutes'

IN a case seen as a challenge to free speech, Paramount has agreed to pay \$16 million to settle a lawsuit filed by President Donald Trump over the editing of CBS' "60 Minutes" interview with then-Vice President Kamala Harris in October.

Paramount told media outlets the money will go to Trump's future presidential library, not to the president himself. It said the settlement did not involve an apology.

Trump's lawyer said the president had suffered "mental anguish" over the editing of the interview by CBS News, while Paramount and CBS rejected his contention that it was edited to enhance how Harris sounded. They had sought to get Trump's law-

suit dismissed. There was no immediate word from the White House about the settlement of the case, which Trump filed in Amarillo, Texas. The case has been closely watched by advocates for press freedom and by journalists within CBS, whose lawyers called Trump's lawsuit "completely without merit" and promised to vigorously fight it after it was filed. In early February, "60

Minutes" released a full, unedited transcript of the interview. Under the settlement reached with help of a mediator, Paramount agreed that "60 Minutes" will release transcripts of future interviews of presidential candidates, "subject to redactions as required for legal and national security concerns," CBS News cited the statement as saving. *AP*

Spain wildfire kills two amid **Europe record heat**

75

Everything's

going well

- President

Donald Trump

on tariff talks

tariffs on

steel and

already applied; China,

Mexico, Canada face

higher rates

R.O No.: 307-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2025-26

www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in

aluminium

BARCELONA: Europe's heat wave fueled a deadly wildfire in Spain as the EU unveiled emission-cutting plans under scorching temperatures. The Catalonia blaze, Spain's largest on record, killed two farmers fleeing in a vehicle and burned 6,500 hectares. Rain later helped stabilize the fire. Two firefighters were injured, and 14,000 residents were told to stay indoors.

KALOJI NARAYANA RAO UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES WARANGAL, TELANGANA

NOTIFICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF CANDIDATES FOR ADMISSION INTO MDS COURSES UNDER MANAGEMENT QUOTA (MO) FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-26 Applications through online are invited from NEET-MDS 2025 qualified candidates for admission into MDS Courses under Management Quota into Dental colleges affiliated to KNRUHS from 08:00 AM on 03:07:2025 up to 03:00 PM on 07:07:2025. For detailed notification & prospectus, refer to http://knruhs.telangana.gov.in

Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation Ltd. Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

| Specification No. | Tender Inviting Authority | Name of the Work |
|--|---------------------------|--|
| M 165/ 2025-26 | CE/ MM | Polycarbonate security seals |
| M 167/ 2025-26 | CE/ MM | 22KV Polymer Composite Pin Insulator |
| 12/ 2025-26 | SE/C/PCC | Procurement of 38000 Nos of 9.0m (150 Kg WL) RCC Square Poles to all Regions |
| 13/ 2025-26 | SE/C/PCC | Procurement of 29000 Nos of 9.0m (400 Kg WL) PSC Poles to all Distribution Regions |
| For details of works / Procurement / Due date of submission / Opening, viewing | | |

and downloading of e-tenders, please visit the websites www.tnpdcl.org,

Friedrich Merz under fire over pride flag ban

BERLIN: German Chancellor Friedrich Merz faced backlash for opposing the rainbow flag at the Bundestag during Berlin's July 26 pride parade, calling the parliament "not a circus tent." The new parliament president limited the flag's display to one day annually, reversing the previous practice. LGBTQ activists and opposition parties condemned the move.

AMARAVATI DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (ADCL) (CIN Number: U93800AP2015SGC165535), Email: ccdmc.amaravali@gmail.com 54-15-1, Venkateswara Nagar, Ring Road, Vijayawada, NTR Dist, Andhra Pradesh-520008.

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

NIT No. 343/ADCL/IPD/2025-26 Dated: 02.07.2025 Name of Work: Package XXXXIII - Survey, Investigation, Design, Construction of Balance Works, Testing, Commissioning of Water Supply including Headworks (Intake Well, Approach Bridge, Raw Water Pumping Main, Water Treatment Plant, Clear Water Reservoir, Clear Water Pump House (Civil works) & other Ancillary works) and 7 years O&M (Intake to WTP) on Design, Build and

Operation (DBO) basis in Amaravati Capital City of Andhra Pradesh State, India" Estimated Contract Value: Rs. 394.61 Cr. NIT No. 344/ADCL/IPD/2025-26 Name of Work: Package XXXXIV - Survey, Investigation, Design, Construction of Balance Works, Testing, Commissioning of Water Supply Works (Clear Water Pump House (Electro-Mechanical works), Clear Water Pumping Main, Cushion Tanks, Semi Underground Reservoirs, Integration with entire water supply, other ancillary works, SCADA, A.I Based Centralized Water Information Management System (CWIMS) & Computerised Maintenance Management System (CMMS)

The bid can be downloaded on AP e-procurement portal from 03.07.2025 to 25.07.2025 up to 15.30 Hrs. Due date for submission of Bid is 25.07.2025 up to 16.00 Hrs, Technical Bid opening is on 25.07.2025 @17.00 Hrs. For further details please refer to www.apeprocurement.gov.in and www.adcl.in

India (Package XXXXIV)." Estimated Contract Value: Rs. 361.34 Cr.

and 7 years O&M for entire Water Supply (Except Intake to WTP) on Design, Build and Operate (DBO) basis in Amaravati Capital City of Andhra Pradesh State,

Sd/- Chairperson and Managing Director, ADCL, Vijayawada

GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION VISAKHAPATNAM Tender Notice No: 09/2025-26/CE/SE-W/EE-II.(Works)/DB, Dt:24.06.2025

: 01 Work,

: Rs.2,66,51,387.00

02. Value of works

0/o.the EE-II Cell No.9948095518

03. Tender Starting Date 04. Ending Date

: 11-07-2025, Note: Further details at http://www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in

Sd/- Commissioner, (GVMC)

FEDERAL BANK

LCRD/THIRUVANANTHAPURAM DIVISON, 4th Floor, Federal Towers, Statue, Thiruvananthapuram-695001, E-Mail: tvmlcrd@federalbank.co.in, PH: 0471 2322229. 2780625, Website: www.federalbank.co.in, CIN: L65191KL1931PLC000368

SALE NOTICE NOTICE FOR SALE of movable Properties issued under The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, (Hereinafter referred to as Act) r/w Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (Hereinafter referred to as Rules).

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described movable properly mortgaged/charged to the Federal Bank Ltd (Secured Creditor), the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of The Federal Bank Ltd (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 05/08/2025, for recovery of Rs.47,78,907.00 (Rupees Forty Seven Lakh Seventy Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Seven Only) in A/c 16177400002034 with Br. Kazhakoottam, including costs as on 05/08/2025 with further including costs and other charges therefore under the costs and other charges therefore under the costs and other charges therefore under the costs and other charges the costs and o

including costs as on 05/08/2025 with further interest, cost and other charges thereon due to The Federal Bank Ltd (Secured Creditor) from (1) Shri. Gokul A, Sto. Anii Kumar, Thrikkadavoor House, Pattathanam, Kollam, Kerala - 691021, (2) Smt. Gopika M S, Dto. Surendran P P, residing at (i) Manath, Ambadimala, Thruwankulam, Ernakulam, Kerala - 682305 (ii) Manath House t (i) Manath, Ambadimala, Thiruyankulam, t thottanikkara P O, Eruvali, Emakulam-682312 Date of sale/auction 05/08/2025 Time: between11.00 AM to 12.00 PM LCRD / Thiruvananthapuram Division 0471-2617787, 2780615, 8547720840 Contact Numbers

DESCRIPTION OF THE HYPOTHECATED/MOVABLE ASSET BMW 2021 Gran Coupe M Sport, BS VI, having Chassis number - WBA37AK03NY403729 Engine number - 0018Y356, 2021 Model, Petrol, Black Sapphire Colour bearing Registration Rs.27,75,000.00 (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakh Seventy Five Thousand Only)

EARNEST MONEY Rs.2,77,500.00 (Rupees Two Lakh Seventy Seven Thousand Five

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in the website of The Federal Bank Ltd i.e. https://www.federalbank.co.in/web/guest/tender-notices

(Sd/-) For The Federal Bank Ltd., Assistant Vice Presiden & Division Head (Authorised Officer under SARFAESI Act

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REGISTRAR

DIPR/3403/Tender/2025