



QUARTER OF EU RESIDENTS RECEIVES FIRST SHOT

Brussels: The president of European Union's executive arm said a quarter of all EU residents have received a first dose of Covid vaccine. "Vaccination is gaining speed across the EU: we have just passed 150 million vaccinations," Ursula von der Leyen said.

FAUCI'S ADVICE TO INDIA: CLAMP NATIONWIDE LOCKDOWN

Washington: Expressing concern over surging Covid cases in India, America's top public health expert Dr Anthony Fauci on Monday recommended a nationwide lockdown, massive vaccination drive and the construction of a large number of makeshift hospitals.

23 killed in Mexico City metro overpass collapse

Dozens injured in one of the worst accidents to strike the city's metro since its inauguration in 1969; mayor Sheinbaum vows full probe

MEXICO CITY

AN elevated metro line collapsed in the Mexican capital late on Monday, leaving at least 23 people dead and dozens injured as a train came plunging down, authorities said.

Carriages were seen hanging from the overpass in a tangle of twisted cables with the ends pointing towards the ground in a V-shape.

"Unfortunately there are 23 deceased," Mexico City Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum told reporters at the scene in the south of the capital. "There are children among the dead," she said, without specifying how many. Around 65 others received

hospital treatment following the dramatic accident, one of the worst to strike the Mexico City metro since it was inaugurated in 1969. The overpass was about 5 metres above the road in the borough of Tlahuac, but the train ran above a concrete median strip, which apparently lessened the casualties among motorists on the road below.

"A support beam gave way just as the train passed over it," Sheinbaum said.

Dozens of emergency workers were seen trying to rescue victims from the carriages. The work had to be suspended because of fears the wreckage was too unstable, but it later resumed with the help of a



An aerial view of the collapsed elevated section of the metro in Mexico City on Tuesday | AP/PTI

crane.

A car was trapped under the rubble, but a person inside managed to get out alive, she said. The police, who brought rescue dogs, urged onlookers to move back in case of falling debris. "Suddenly I saw that the

structure was shaking," an unidentified witness told the Mexican television network Televisa. "When the dust cleared we ran... to see if we could help. There were no screams. I don't know if they were in shock," she added. The casualties were

METRO ACCIDENTS SINCE 2,000

FEB 18, 2003 | SOUTH KOREA
A fire started by a man trying to commit suicide destroys two metro trains, killing 198 and injuring 147

JULY 3, 2006 | SPAIN
In Valencia, a metro train derails, leaving 43 dead and 39 hurt

JUNE 22, 2009 | UNITED STATES
A head-on collision between two subway trains in Washington leaves nine people dead and 70 injured

JULY 15, 2014 | RUSSIA
At least 22 die and 200 injured after a train derails in Moscow

rushed to different hospitals in the city, Sheinbaum said.

She promised a structural examination of the affected metro line, which will remain closed, and a full investigation into the causes of the accident. "We will report the whole truth. Our support to all victims," Sheinbaum tweeted.

Monday's incident comes just over a year after two subway trains collided in Mexico City, leaving one dead and around 40 injured as panicked passengers escaped through dense smoke.

In January this year, one person died and 29 suffered smoke inhalation injuries in a fire in the metro's control centre.

15 killed in Pak mishap

ISLAMABAD

AT LEAST 15 people were killed and more than 35 others injured when a speeding passenger bus fell into a ravine in Pakistan's Punjab province, the police said on Tuesday. The accident occurred on a motorway in Hasan Abdal area of Attock district. The bus was travelling from Lahore to Mardan in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province. According to the police, the bus driver lost control while trying to avoid an accident with another car. The rescue teams shifted the dead and injured to a nearby hospital. At least 15 people have lost their lives while 35 others were injured.



An Israeli Navy vessel patrols in the Mediterranean waters off the coast of Rosh Hanikra, an area on the Israel-Lebanon border | AP

Lebanon, Israel resume talks on maritime border

NAQOURA (LEBANON)

AFTER a nearly six-month pause, Lebanon and Israel on Tuesday resumed indirect talks with US mediation over their disputed maritime border.

The resumption comes after a new US administration took over. Lebanon has sunk deeper into economic and financial crisis that started in late 2019, a culmination of decades of corruption and mismanagement by the political class. The small Mediterranean country is eager to resolve the border dispute with Israel, paving the way for potential lucrative oil and gas deals.

Local media said the talks resumed at a UN post along the border known as Ras Naqoura, on the edge of the Lebanese border town of Naqoura. The Lebanese delegation will speak through UN and US officials to the Israelis.

American Ambassador John Desrocher, who serves as the US mediator, arrived in Beirut on Monday night to take part in the talks. The US has been mediating the issue for about a decade, but only late last year was a breakthrough reached on an agreement for a framework for US-mediated talks. AP

Now, G7 countries seek common front on China

LONDON

THE Group of Seven wealthy democracies on Tuesday discussed how to form a common front towards an increasingly assertive China in the foreign ministers' first in-person talks in two years.

Backing US President Joe Biden's calls for a deeper alliance of democracies, host Britain invited guests, including India, South Korea and Australia for talks in central London stretched out over three days.

After a welcome dinner on Monday focused on the nuclear programmes of Iran and North Korea, the foreign ministers opened formal talks at Lancaster House, a West End mansion, welcoming one another with Covid-friendly elbow-bumps and minimal staff.

The G7 devoted its first session on Tuesday to China, whose growing military and economic clout, and willingness to exert its influence at home and abroad have increasingly unnerved Western democracies. "It is not our purpose to try to contain China or to hold China down," US Secretary of State Antony Blinken told reporters on Monday.

"What we are trying to do is to uphold the international rules-based order that our countries have invested so much in over so many decades to the benefit, I would argue, not just of our own citizens, but of people around the world -- including, by the way, China."

Blinken pledged "robust cooperation" with Britain in pressuring China over the Xinjiang region, where Beijing's incarceration of one million Uyghurs and other Muslims has been labelled genocide by Washington, and over a clampdown against civil rights in Hong Kong. AFP



G7 foreign ministers wear facemasks and maintain social distance for a group photo on the stairs at Lancaster House in London ahead of bilateral talks at the G7 Foreign and Development Ministers' meeting in London on Tuesday | AP

Bill and Melinda Gates decide to end 27 years of marriage

WASHINGTON

BILLIONAIRE philanthropists Bill and Melinda Gates have announced they are divorcing after 27 years of marriage, raising questions over how they will split their fortune and the direction of one of the world's most powerful charity organizations.

The couple, with a joint fortune estimated at \$130 billion, have channelled billions into charitable work around the globe via their hugely influential Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. They said they would continue their joint work on the foundation, which funds programmes in global health, gender equality, education and other causes.

"After a great deal of thought and a lot of work on our relationship, we have made the decision to end our marriage," they said in a joint statement, posted on each of their official Twitter accounts on Monday. "Over the last 27 years, we have raised three incredible children and built a foundation that works all over the world to enable all people to lead healthy, productive lives," they wrote.

"We continue to share a belief in that mission and will continue our work together at the foundation, but we no longer believe we can grow together as a couple in this next phase of our lives." The statement offered no additional details on the split but said: "We ask for space and privacy for our family as we begin to navigate this new life."



The announcement comes two years after the divorce of Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, another of the world's wealthiest people, and his wife MacKenzie.

Microsoft founder Bill Gates, 65, was a geeky teenager when he started what would become the world's most valuable company, and was for a time the world's richest man and most prominent philanthropist.

He stepped down as Microsoft chief executive in 2008 to devote more time to philanthropy and later left the board, keeping only the title of "founder and technology advisor." Melinda Gates, 56, met Bill at Microsoft in 1987, shortly after she joined the tech firm, and the pair married in 1994.

In a 2019 Netflix documentary series, he described his wife as "truly an equal partner", while she looked back on some of their first interactions to call him "funny and very high-energy." The couple's divorce could create new questions about their wealth.

MANAPPURAM FINANCE LTD.

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

The pledges, in specific and the public, in general, are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted at the following branches on 20/05/2021 from 10.00 am onwards. We are auctioning gold ornaments defaulted customers who have failed to make payment of his/her loan amount despite being notified by registered letters. Unauctioned items shall be auctioned on any other days without further notice. Changes in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at auction centre and on website without any further notice.

List of pledges:-

POORNAMARKET, 104850700043526, 3527, 3589, 3734, 3872, 3896, 3971, 4145, 4357, 4387, 4507, 5479, 5484, 5500, 5505, 5506, 5507, 5511, 5513, 5529, 5530, 5542, 5548, 5553, 5554, 5555, 5557, 5570, 5574, 5576, 5578, 5579, 5593, 5595, 5598, 5613, 5615, 5616, 5622, 5630, 5633, 5640, 5651, 5655, 5662, 5666, 5667, 5681, 5683, 5688, 5694, 5702, 5715, 5717, 5724, 5725, 5727, 5732, 5739, 5740, 5741, 5742, 5747, 5752, 5754, 5760, 5789, 5791, 5795, 5812, 5814, 5837, 5839, 5867, 5877, 5880, 5891, 5899, 5907, 104850730006155, 6163, 6170, 6513, 6523, 6574, 6695, 6696, 6738, 6819, 7104, 7400, 7552, 7629, 8201, 8326, 8336, 8337, 8341, 8347, 8358, 8372, 8373, 8398, 8429, 8448, 8449, 8460, 8462, 8463, 8491, 8515, 8546, 8599, 8606, 8623, 8634, POTHINAMALLAYAPALEM, 123610700043804, 3868, 4383, 4461, 4478, 4520, 4582, 4699, 4835, 4848, 5090, 5140, 5230, 5457, 5485, 6593, 6651, 6675, 6694, 6716, 6733, 6737, 6756, 6772, 6799, 6803, 6825, 6857, 6868, 6873, 6883, 6896, 6908, 6942, 6948, 6955, 6959, 6966, 6967, 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