



Heatwave Records tumbled across US Southwest as temperatures soared past 43 degrees Celsius



Table with weather forecasts for various cities including Beijing, Colombo, Dhaka, Dubai, Houston, Istanbul, London, Los Angeles, Melbourne, Moscow, New York, Singapore, Toronto, and Washington.

Delay in weapons delivery: Biden apology to Zelensky

US President says they are completely and thoroughly with Ukraine

PARIS

US President Joe Biden on Friday for the first time publicly apologised to Ukraine for a monthslong congressional holdup in American military assistance that let Russia make gains on the battlefield.

Biden met in Paris with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, who appealed for bipartisan US support going forward 'like it was during World War II.' A day earlier, the two had attended ceremonies marking the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy, where Biden had drawn common cause between the allied forces that helped free Europe from Nazi Germany and today's effort to support Ukraine against Russia's invasion and Zelensky had been greeted with a rapt ovation.

"I apologise for those weeks of not knowing what's going to happen in terms of funding," Biden said, referring to the six-month holdup by conservative Republicans in Congress to a \$61 billion military aid package for Ukraine. Still, the Democratic president insisted that the American people were standing by Ukraine for the long haul. "We're still in. Completely. Thoroughly," he said.

The apology and Zelensky's plea for rock-solid support akin to the allied coalition in WWII served as a reminder that for all of Biden's talk of an unflinching US commitment to Ukraine, recalcitrance among congressional Republicans and an isolationist strain in Ameri-



France's Minister for Foreign and European Affairs Stéphane Sejourne (R) welcomes Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky on Friday | AFP

can politics have exposed its fragility. And, although unremarked upon, the spectre of Donald Trump's candidacy loomed over the discussion, as the Republican former president and the presumptive nominee has spoken positively of Russian President Vladimir Putin and sparked Ukrainian concerns that he would call for it to cede territory to end the conflict.

Zelensky pressed for all Americans to support his country's defense against Russia's invasion, and he thanked lawmakers for eventually coming together to approve the weapons package, which has allowed Ukraine to stem Russian advances in recent weeks.

"It's very important that in this unity, United States of America, all American people stay with Ukraine like it was during World War II," Zelensky said. "How the United

States helped to save human lives, to save Europe. And we count on your continuing support in standing with us shoulder to shoulder." The United States is by far Kyiv's biggest supplier of wartime support, and Ukraine is trying to fend off an intense Russian offensive in eastern areas of the country.

Meanwhile, Zelensky on Friday urged the West to do more to achieve a fair peace as Ukraine battles the Russian invasion, telling US leader Joe Biden that Kyiv is counting on "shoulder-to-shoulder" support. Zelensky told France's National Assembly he hoped a summit hosted by Switzerland later this month on bringing peace to Ukraine could hasten a fair end to the conflict. "The inaugural peace summit could become a format that would bring closer a just end to this war," Zelensky said. AGENCIES

Sunita & Co overcome new issues; enter ISS

HOUSTON

NASA's Indian-origin astronaut Sunita Williams and her colleague Butch Wilmore have successfully docked Boeing's Starliner spacecraft to the International Space Station (ISS) after overcoming new issues that cropped up en route to the orbiting laboratory.

Williams, 58, flew to space for the third time on Wednesday along with Wilmore, scripting history as the first members aboard Boeing's Starliner spacecraft to the ISS. Williams is the pilot for the flight test while Wilmore, 61, is the commander of the mission.

Boeing Starliner spacecraft successfully docked at the International Space Station at 1:34 pm on Thursday, about 26



Sunita Williams breaks into a dance after docking at ISS on Thursday | AFP

hours after launching from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, NASA said in a statement. Williams shared her gratitude to the family and friends who have been with them during the lead-up to the launch. "We have another fam-

ily up here, which is just awesome," Williams said. "And we're just happy as can be to be up in space, one in Starliner on an Atlas V, and then here at the International Space Station. It just doesn't get much better." On the way to the ISS, the

crew completed a series of tests including manually flying Starliner for the first time in space. The two Starliner astronauts, are joining seven others currently living on the station.

"It is both amazing and humbling to join the fleet of commercial spacecraft capable of conducting crewed transportation services to and from the space station for NASA. Our teams have done some great work to get us to this point," said Kay Sears, vice president and general manager of Space, Intelligence & Weapon Systems for Boeing Defence, Space & Security. "The launch yesterday and docking today puts the Starliner on a path to certification," said Jim Free, NASA Associate Administrator, during a news conference. AP

British PM Sunak sorry for missing D-Day ceremony for poll interview

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Rishi Sunak apologized Friday for leaving D-Day commemorations in France early to fly home for an election campaign television interview. Sunak said that, "on reflection" the decision - which has drawn wide political condemnation - was a mistake.

Sunak was not alongside leaders including U.S. President Joe Biden, French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelensky for the major memorial event at Omaha Beach in Normandy on Thursday. Former Prime Minister

David Cameron, who is now foreign minister, represented the UK.

Earlier in the day, Sunak had attended a ceremony at the British memorial in Normandy alongside King Charles III and surviving World War II veterans. He also attended a commemoration in Portsmouth, England, the day before.

Sunak wrote on X, formerly Twitter, that the 80th anniversary of the Allied invasion that helped free Europe from the Nazis "should be about those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. The last thing I want is for the commemorations to be overshadowed by politics."

He added: "On reflection, it was a mistake not to stay in France longer - and I apologise." The Prime Minister, who is fighting to keep his job in Britain's July 4 election, recorded an interview with broadcaster ITV. A clip released by the broadcaster showed Sunak denying opposition allegations that he lied by making inaccurate statements about the Labour Party's tax plans. Labour lawmaker Jonathan Ashworth said the decision to leave France early showed "dreadful judgment" by Sunak. Liberal Democrat leader Ed Davey said it was "a total dereliction of duty." AP

Yemen Houthi rebels detain 9 UN staffers

DUBAI

AT least nine Yemeni employees of United Nations agencies have been detained by Yemen's Houthi rebels under unclear circumstances, authorities said Friday, as the rebels face increasing financial pressure and airstrikes from a US-led coalition. Others working for aid groups also likely have been taken.

The detentions come as the Houthis, who seized Yemen's capital nearly a decade ago and have been fighting a Saudi-led coalition since shortly after, have been targeting shipping throughout the Red Sea corridor over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip. AP

Israel on UN blacklist for harming kids

UNITED NATION

THE UN Secretary General has informed Israel that it has decided to add the country to a blacklist of countries that harm children in conflict zones. This was revealed by Israel's UN ambassador Gilad Erdan. In a statement by Erdan, he says Secretary General Antonio Guterres told him of the official decision, which was made on grounds of harm made to children during the Gaza war.

Erdan criticized the decision and called it "disgraceful." He said he was "disgusted" that the Israeli army is to be included on an upcoming United Nations list of countries and armed forces that fail to protect children during war. "I am utterly



Members of UN investigation team at a school run by UNRWA that was hit on Thursday | AFP

shocked and disgusted by this shameful decision," Erdan said in a statement. "Israel's army is the most moral army in the world and you know it. This is an immoral decision that only aids terrorism and rewards Hamas."

Gaza refugee camp attacked Israel forces bombarded a Gaza refugee camp on Friday after a deadly strike on a UN-run school there, as the war sparked by Hamas's unprecedented attack on Israel entered its ninth month. The conflict has killed thousands, laid waste to much of the Gaza Strip, uprooted most of its 2.4 million people and put them at risk of starvation. Efforts to mediate the first ceasefire since a week-long pause in November appear to have stalled, only a week after US President Joe Biden offered a new roadmap. Hamas has yet to respond to Biden's proposal, while Israel has expressed openness to discussions. Al-Aqsa Martyrs hospital in Deir al-Balah, central Gaza, said at least 37 people were killed in Thursday's Israeli strike on the UN-run school in Nuseirat camp. AGENCIES



Officials remove trash from a North Korean balloon on June 2 | AP

Koreas launch trash balloons, take fight to air

SEOUL

SOUTH Koreans were alert on Friday for possible new launches by North Korea of balloons carrying rubbish into the South, a day after Seoul activists flew their own balloons to scatter political leaflets in the North. Any resumption of trash balloon launches by North Korea would likely prompt South Korea to respond, possibly with anti-North Korean loudspeaker broadcasts or live-fire exercises along their heavily fortified border. North Korea would probably retaliate with its own measures. Here is a look at the soaring animosities between the Koreas over the balloon launches: **WHY BALLOON FIGHT?**

Last week, South Korean authorities discovered about 1,000 North Korean-flown balloons carrying manure, cigarette butts, scraps of cloth, waste batteries and vinyl in various parts of South Korea. No highly dangerous materials were found, but some South Koreans worry that North Korea may launch balloons with biological or other hazardous materials in the future.

South Korean officials called the North Korean balloon campaign and other recent provocations 'absurd, irrational' and vowed 'unbearable' retaliation. They suspended a 2018 military agreement on easing frontline military tensions with North Korea. Kim Yo Jong, the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, said the balloons were a response to campaigns by South Korean civilians to fly propaganda leaflets into North Korea. AP

CHANGE OF NAME advertisement for Gadey Kanakadurga Vardhani Annappurna.

NAME CHANGE advertisement for PALEPU BHARATHA RAJU.

STATE INDUSTRIES PROMOTION CORPORATION OF TAMIL NADU LIMITED advertisement for RCC Side Drain & Box Culvert.

MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LIMITED advertisement regarding a possession notice for an immovable property.

ICICI Home Finance advertisement for an E-Auction Sale Notice for immovable assets.

Canara Bank advertisement for an E-Auction Sale Notice for immovable properties in Kakinada.