

Curfew imposed in 4 Manipur Valley districts

IMPHAL, Apr 7 (PTI)

THE Manipur Government on Tuesday imposed indefinite curfew in Imphal East, Imphal West, Bishnupur and Kakching districts in the wake of violence after two children were killed in a bomb explosion, officials said.

The District Magistrates of Imphal West, Imphal East, Bishnupur and Kakching issued the order imposing curfew in their respective districts from Tuesday.

“Movement of any person outside their residences is hereby prohibited with effect from April 7 until further orders,” the order said.

“The order shall not apply to Government agencies engaged in maintenance of law and order, essential emergency and health services,” it added.

Earlier in the day, the Manipur Government had ordered suspension of internet and mobile data services, including Broadband, VSATs and VPN in five valley districts of Imphal West, Imphal East, Thoubal, Kakching and Bishnupur for three days, an official statement said.

Two persons were killed and five others injured in firing after a mob stormed a CRPF camp to protest the death of two children in a bomb explosion in Bishnupur district.

The protesters stormed the CRPF camp near Gelmol, a few 100 metres from the bomb attack site, burnt vehicles and vandalised properties there, he said.

Communist Party's To Lam is Vietnam's new President

■ By Aniruddha Ghosal
HANOI, Apr 7 (AP)

VIETNAM unanimously elected Communist Party General Secretary To Lam as President for a five-year term, consolidating his control over both the party and the State.

The move departs from Vietnam's tradition of shared leadership, in which the jobs have typically been held by different people, and echoes power structures in China under Xi Jinping and neighbouring Laos.

It has been widely expected since Lam's reelection as Communist Party head in January, when observers noted that his consolidation of party authority positioned him to assume the presidency as well.

After being sworn in, the 69-year-old told the National Assembly that his top priority was to maintain peace and stability, which were the foundation for fast and sustainable growth.



Vietnam's top leader To Lam swears in as the country's President in Hanoi on Tuesday. (AP/PTI)

"We aim to improve people's livelihoods so all can share the benefits of development," he said.

This is To Lam's second time holding both jobs, after briefly doing so in 2024 when his predecessor as party chief, Nguyen Phu Trong, died.

The concentration of power was significant since it meant that Lam had a "stronger mandate and far more political room to push through his agenda than any leaders" since the 1980s, when Hanoi launched reforms to shed a state-run economy in favour of a market-oriented one

open to foreigners, said Nguyen Khac Giang, of Singapore's ISEAS Yusof Ishak Institute research centre.

"The opportunity is obvious. Faster decision-making, greater policy coherence, and a better chance of pushing difficult reforms at a pivotal moment. But the risk is that concentration of power can move faster than institutional reform," he said.

Lam's rise to the top caps the ascent of a career policeman who advanced from Vietnam's security services to the top of the political system. This was aided by a sweeping anti-corruption campaign launched by his predecessor, which he oversaw as head of the Ministry of Public Security.

As party chief, Lam has led Vietnam's biggest bureaucratic overhaul since the 1980s, cutting jobs, merging ministries, redrawing provincial boundaries and advancing major infrastructure projects.

PM Modi congratulates To Lam

NEW DELHI, Apr 7 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday congratulated To Lam on his election as Vietnam President and said, he was confident that under his leadership, the time-tested friendship between the two countries will continue to grow from strength to strength.

Modi also said that he was looking forward to working closely together to further deepen India-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership for the progress and prosperity of the people of the two countries and the region.

Russia, China veto UN resolution on reopening Strait of Hormuz

■ By Yoshita Singh

UNITED NATIONS, Apr 7 (PTI)

RUSSIA and China on Tuesday vetoed a UN Security Council resolution on reopening the Strait of Hormuz, a vital maritime chokepoint through which a fifth of the global oil passes, blockaded by Iran.

The 15-nation UN Security Council voted on the resolution proposed by Bahrain, which got 11 votes in favour, two against

and two abstentions.

The resolution could not be adopted because veto-wielding permanent members Russia and China voted against the resolution.

Before the vote, the UAE Mission to the UN said in a post on X, "Skyrocketing food prices and fuel costs. Blocked raw materials and essential supplies. Billions of people around the world are paying more for basic commodities due to Iran's ille-

gal actions. Now is the time for international action to protect freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz."

The UAE urges the UNSC to adopt the "Open the Strait" resolution and end Iran's attacks and threats to the global economy, it said. Bahrain, supported by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Jordan, proposed the Security Council resolution on the Strait of Hormuz.

Bahrain is currently President

of the Council for the month of April.

It is learnt that an initial version of the draft resolution had language that would have allowed countries "to use all necessary means" in the Strait of Hormuz, the Gulf and the Gulf of Oman to ensure passage in the crucial chokepoint.

However, veto-wielding permanent members Russia, China and France are understood to have opposed approval of the

use of force.

The final draft now has language that states are authorised to take "exclusively defensive measures" to secure transit passage.

The Council was originally scheduled to vote on the resolution on Friday but the UN headquarters was closed on the occasion of Good Friday.

The vote was then scheduled for 11 am (local time) Saturday but got postponed again.

Oil prices rise as US stocks fall ahead of Trump's deadline for Iran

NEW YORK, Apr 7 (AP)

OIL prices are rising, and US stocks are falling Tuesday as the countdown ticks toward the latest deadline set by President Donald Trump to destroy Iranian power plants and bridges.

The S and P 500 fell 0.7 per cent as Trump threatened that a "whole civilisation will die tonight, never to be brought back again" if Iran does not meet his deadline at 8 p.M. Eastern time to open the Strait of Hormuz.

Iranian officials, meanwhile, urged young people to form human chains to protect power plants that Trump has threatened to bomb. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 210



points, or 0.5 per cent, as of 10:30 a.M. Eastern time, and the Nasdaq composite was 1.1 per cent lower. During just the first hour of Tuesday's trading, the Dow careened between a gain of 74 points and a loss of 425.

The moves were sharper in the oil market, where prices have spiked because the war has snarled the production and

transportation of crude in the Persian Gulf. Much of that oil exits the gulf through the Strait of Hormuz to reach customers around the world, but Iran has blocked it to enemies.

The price for a barrel of benchmark US crude climbed 3.9 per cent to USD 116.83. Brent crude, the international standard, added 0.7 per cent to USD 110.55 and is well above its roughly USD 70 level from before the war in late February.

The worry in markets has been that a long-term disruption will keep oil prices high for a long time and send a painful wave of inflation crashing through the global economy. Iran on Monday rejected the latest ceasefire pro-

posal and instead said it wants a permanent end to the war.

CRUDE OIL FUTURES HIT RECORD HIGH OF RS 10,888/BARREL AS US-IRAN STAND-OFF FUELS SUPPLY FEARS: CRUDE oil prices rose nearly 3 per cent to hit a record high of Rs 10,888 per barrel in futures trade on Tuesday, tracking strong global cues as tensions between the US and Iran intensified ahead of President Donald Trump's deadline for reopening the Strait of Hormuz.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), crude oil for April delivery increased by Rs 300, or 2.83 per cent, to hit a lifetime high of Rs 10,888 per barrel.

Taiwan's Oppn leader Cheng arrives in China

BEIJING/SHANGHAI, Apr 7 (PTI)

A DELEGATION of the pro-Beijing Chinese Kuomintang (KMT) party, led by its leader Cheng Li-wun, arrived in Shanghai on Tuesday on a six-day visit during which it is likely to meet President Xi Jinping to discuss easing of cross-strait tensions.

Cheng's visit to China, being closely watched around the world, marks the first trip by a KMT leader in a decade.

The focus of her visit was expected to be a meeting with Xi, who, since he assumed power in 2012, stepped up efforts to "re-unify" Taiwan, strictly enforcing its One-China policy, according to high military and diplomatic priority to it.

China calls Taiwan's ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) separatists and tacitly backs the pro-Beijing KMT as it advocates close ties with the



Leader of Beijing Chinese Kuomintang party Cheng Li-wun arrives in Shanghai on a six-day visit.

mainland. DPP firmly opposes China's attempts to reunify Taiwan with the mainland and advocates for the breakaway island to retain its identity. Speaking ahead of her departure to Beijing, Cheng called the visit a "journey of peace" and said both sides of the Taiwan Strait should seek dialogue and communication to resolve their differences.

Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei 'unconscious', receiving treatment: UK Daily

LONDON, Apr 7 (ANI)

IRAN'S new Supreme Leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, is receiving medical treatment in Qom city of Iran, 'The Times UK' reported on Tuesday, citing an intelligence assessment.

As per 'The Times UK', the diplomatic memo is understood to be based on US, Israel intelligence shared with Gulf allies, which suggests that Khamenei is unconscious and being treated for a "severe" medical condition.

'The Times' said that it had seen the memo, which reveals the location of the supreme leader for the first time.

"Mojtaba Khamenei is being treated in Qom in a severe condition, unable to be involved in any decision-making by the regime," the Times reported.

Meanwhile, the report by 'The Times' also noted that the elder Khamenei's body is being prepared for burial in Qom.

Israeli military issues warning in Farsi to Iranians to avoid taking trains

DUBAI, Apr 7 (PTI)

THE Israeli military warned Iranians in Farsi on Tuesday to avoid taking trains, likely signalling a new target for its airstrikes.

The warning came in a post on X. "Your presence puts your life at risk," the warning read.

Iran has shut off access to the internet for weeks, making it difficult for average Iranians to see these warnings. However, Farsi-language satellite news networks abroad do report them, allowing the information to make its way back into the Islamic Republic.

US again strikes Kharg Island

WASHINGTON, Apr 7 (AP)

THE US again struck the Iranian oil hub of Kharg Island, according to a White House official.

The US hit military targets on the island. The strikes came hours ahead of a deadline President Donald Trump set for Iran to capitulate to his demands or face a major attack. Trump has threatened to deploy ground troops to seize critical oil infrastructure on the island, but experts warn such an operation would cost the lives of many US military members and would not be a decisive move to ending the war. The US had earlier in the war struck several targets on the island.

Iran calls for human chains to protect power plants

DUBAI, Apr 7 (AP)

AIRSTRIKES pounded Tehran on Tuesday, and Iranian officials urged young people to form human chains to protect power plants, hours before the expiration of US President Donald Trump's latest deadline for the Islamic Republic to reopen the crucial Strait of Hormuz or face punishing strikes on its infrastructure.

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian said 14 million people, including himself, have volunteered to fight.

While Iran cannot match the sophistication of US and Israeli weaponry or their dominance in the air, its chokehold on the strait is causing major damage to the world economy and raising the pressure on US President Donald Trump both at home and abroad to find a way out of the stand-off.

Officials involved in diplomatic efforts said talks were ongoing - but Iran has rejected the latest American proposal, and it was unclear if a deal would come in
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Iran's President Pezeshkian said 14 million people, including himself, have volunteered to fight

A wave of strikes hit Iran killing nearly 3 dozen people, including in residential areas of Tehran



An excavator removes rubble at the site of a strike that destroyed half of the Khorasaniha Synagogue and nearby residential buildings in Tehran on Tuesday. (AP/PTI)

Whole civilisation will die tonight if deal with Iran isn't reached: Trump

TEHRAN (Iran), Apr 7 (AP)

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump warned on Tuesday that a "whole civilisation will die tonight" if Iran does not meet his latest deadline for the Islamic Republic to agree to a deal that includes reopening the crucial Strait of Hormuz.

The warning came as airstrikes hit two bridges and a train station in Iran, and Iranian officials urged young people to form human chains to protect power plants.

Trump has extended previous deadlines but suggested the one set for 8 pm in Washington was final, and the rhetoric on both sides reached a fever pitch, leaving Iranians on edge. Trump threatened to destroy all of Iran's power plants and bridges if Tehran does not allow traffic to fully resume in the strait, through which a fifth of the world's oil transits in peacetime.

In emphasising his Tuesday deadline, Trump warned that "the entire country can be taken out in one night."

"Every bridge in Iran will be decimated by 12 o'clock tomorrow night," he said on Monday, and all power plants will be "burning, exploding and never to be used again."