

UN chief urges aid surge in world of ‘conflicts’

AFP, Seville

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged the world to “rev up the engine of development” at an aid conference in Spain yesterday at a time when US-led cuts are jeopardising the fight against poverty and climate change.

Dozens of world leaders and over 4,000 representatives from businesses, civil society and financial institutions are gathering in the city of Seville for the June 30-July 3 conference to seek fresh impetus for the aid sector.

But the US is snubbing the biggest such talks in a decade, underlining the erosion of international cooperation on combating hunger and climate change.

Guterres said that two-thirds of UN’s sustainable development goals set for 2030 were “lagging” and over \$4.0 trillion of annual investment would be needed to achieve them.



Migrants attempt to board a smuggler's boat in an effort to cross the English Channel off the beach of Equihen, northern France, yesterday. Almost 37,000 people crossed the Channel in small boats in 2024 but the highest figures were for 2022, when 45,755 people arrived.

Israel eyes peace accords with Syria, Lebanon

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel said yesterday it is “interested” in striking peace agreements with neighbouring Lebanon and Syria, a potentially historic shift in the region after decades of war and animosity.

With Syria under new leadership after the fall of longtime ruler Bashar al-Assad and Lebanon’s Iran-backed Hezbollah movement weakened, Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar told journalists his government wanted more normalisation agreements with Arab countries.

“Israel is interested in expanding the Abraham Accords circle of peace and normalisation,” Saar said of the US-brokered deals that Israel signed with the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Morocco in 2020, during US President Donald Trump’s first term.

“We have an interest in adding countries such as Syria and Lebanon, our neighbours – to the circle of peace and normalisation while safeguarding Israel’s essential and security interests,” Saar told a news conference in Jerusalem alongside his Austrian counterpart Beate Meinl-Reisinger.

US not offering Iran ‘anything’: Trump

Tehran says US must rule out more strikes before new talks

AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump said yesterday he was not speaking to Iran and was not offering the country “anything”, and he reiterated his assertion that the United States had “totally OBLITERATED” Tehran’s nuclear facilities.

Trump’s comments, posted to Truth Social, followed reports that his administration had discussed possibly helping Iran access as much as \$30bn to build a civilian energy-producing nuclear programme.

The statement comes as Iran’s deputy foreign minister told the BBC that talks between Washington and Tehran cannot resume unless the US rules out further strikes on Iran.

Majid Takht-Ravanchi told the British broadcaster that the US had signalled it wants to return to the negotiating table, a week after it struck three Iranian nuclear facilities.

“We have not agreed to any date, we have not agreed to the modality,” said Takht-Ravanchi. “Right now we are seeking an answer to this question. Are we going to see a repetition of an act of aggression while we are engaging in dialogue?”

The US needs to be “quite clear on this very important question”, he said.

Iran also criticised Trump’s shifting stance on whether to lift economic sanctions against

Tehran as “games” that were not aimed at solving the problems between the two countries.

“These [statements by Trump] should be viewed more in the context of psychological and media games than as a serious expression in favour of dialogue or problem-solving,” Foreign

Agency and the DG in carrying out their mandate,” said a joint statement issued by the foreign affairs ministries of those three countries.

At least 935 people were killed in Iran during its 12-day war with Israel, Iranian state media reported yesterday.

- Iran slams Trump’s shifting stance on lifting sanctions
- France, Germany, UK condemn ‘threats’ against IAEA head
- Iran’s nuke enrichment ‘will never stop’, says its UN envoy
- Over 900 killed in Iran during 12-day war: report

Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei told a press conference yesterday.

Baghaei also said Iran could not be expected to guarantee the safety of IAEA inspectors. “How can they expect us to ensure the safety and security of the agency’s inspectors when Iran’s peaceful nuclear facilities were attacked a few days ago?” he said.

France, Germany and Britain, however, condemned “threats” against the head of the UN nuclear watchdog, reports Reuters.

“France, Germany and the United Kingdom condemn threats against the Director General of the IAEA Rafael Grossi and reiterate our full support to the

No relief for south Europe as heatwave persists

AFP, Rome

Spain and Portugal record temperatures yesterday as Italy and France braced for several more days of a punishing heatwave that has gripped southern Europe and Britain, sparking health and wildfire warnings.

The summer’s first major heatwave has seen authorities in the countries along the Mediterranean’s northern coast urging people to seek shelter and protect the most vulnerable.

“This is unprecedented,” Agnes Pannier-Runacher, France’s ecology transition minister said as a record 84 of the nation’s 96 mainland departments were placed on the second-highest “orange” heat alert.

Ambulances stood ready near tourist hotspots as experts warned that such heatwaves, intensified by climate change, would become more frequent.

Firefighters were also on standby after blazes broke out Sunday in France, Turkey and Italy. Cities are offering different ways of staying cool, from free swimming pools in Marseille to free guided tours for the elderly in air-conditioned museums in Venice.

‘Getting along well’ with China

Says Trump, downplays hostile acts following pathogen smuggling case

AFP, Washington

President Donald Trump on Sunday dismissed the importance of aggressive actions linked to Beijing including recent arrests of two Chinese nationals accused of smuggling a dangerous pathogen into the United States, saying “that’s the way the world works.”

Trump told Fox News that Washington behaves in a similar way. “You don’t think we do that to them? We do, we do a lot of things,” he said on the “Sunday Morning Futures with Maria Bartiromo” show.

“That’s the way the world works. It’s a nasty world.”

Trump was responding to a question about how he viewed Chinese intellectual property theft, hacking of the US telecoms system and controversy around the Covid-19 pandemic.

He likewise dismissed concerns over a case in which two Chinese nationals were accused last month of smuggling in a toxic fungus.

Yunqing Jian, 33, and Zunyong Liu, 34, are charged with conspiracy, smuggling, false statements, and visa fraud.

The US Justice Department said the pair conspired to smuggle into the United States a fungus called *Fusarium graminearum* that causes “head blight,” a disease of wheat, barley, maize, and rice.

Two firefighters killed in Idaho ambush

Suspect found dead

REUTERS

A gunman ambushed and shot dead two firefighters responding to a forest fire in northern Idaho on Sunday, wounding one other during an hours-long incident before the suspect was found dead, the Kootenai County Sheriff’s Office said.

Law enforcement officers and firefighters took sniper fire during the incident at Canfield Mountain, a nature zone popular with hikers near Coeur d’Alene, about 260 miles (420 km) east of Seattle, Sheriff Bob Norris said.

“We do believe that the suspect started the fire,” Norris told a press conference. “This was a total ambush. These firefighters did not have a chance.”

A third wounded firefighter was “fighting for his life” after surgery and was in a stable condition, Norris added.

Officers exchanged gunfire with the suspect but it was not clear if the gunman was hit and killed, or if he killed himself.

The motive for the shooting was not known and Norris did not provide any details on the suspect, saying officers were still working to identify the man.

More than 300 law enforcement officers from the city, county, state and federal levels responded to the scene of the shooting, including two helicopters with snipers aboard.

Norris said the shooter used a high-powered sporting rifle to fire rapidly at first responders, with law enforcement initially unsure of the number of perpetrators involved.

Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh

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Reference No. 46.02.8700.001.99.001.23-1135

Date: 30-06-2025

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This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

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Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Executive Engineer

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GD-1492

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