

## AUTOPilot DEATH Tesla ordered to pay \$242m

AFP, New York

A Florida jury on Friday ordered Tesla to pay hundreds of millions of dollars to plaintiffs who blamed a deadly 2019 crash on the company's "Autopilot" driver assistance technology.

The jury found Tesla's system partly responsible for a crash in Key Largo that killed Naibol Benavides Leon and injured her boyfriend, Dillon Angulo, according to attorney Darren Jeffrey Rousso, a partner at the law firm.

The plaintiffs had alleged that Autopilot was to blame when driver George McGee's Tesla careened into a Chevrolet sport utility vehicle, killing Leon and injuring Angulo.

The jury awarded \$200 million in punitive damages, plus \$59 million in compensatory damages to Leon's family and \$70 m in damages to Angulo, according to court records.

Tesla will appeal the decision.



Palestinians receive lentil soup at a food distribution point in Gaza City yesterday. The World Health Organisation warned on July 27 that malnutrition was reaching "alarming levels" in Gaza.

PHOTO: AFP

## India to keep buying Russian oil defying Trump

REUTERS

India will keep purchasing oil from Russia despite US President Donald Trump's threats of penalties, two Indian government sources said, not wishing to be identified due to the sensitivity of the matter.

"These are long-term oil contracts," one of the sources said. "It is not so simple to just stop buying overnight."

Trump last month indicated in a Truth Social post that India would face additional penalties for purchases of Russian arms and oil. On Friday, Trump told reporters that he had heard that India would no



On our energy sourcing requirements ... we look at what is there available in the markets, what is there on offer, and also what is the prevailing global situation or circumstances," India's foreign ministry spokesperson Ranghira Jaiswal told reporters during a regular briefing on Friday.

Jaiswal added that India has a "steady and time-tested partnership" with Russia, and that New Delhi's relations with various countries stand on their own merit and should not be seen from the prism of a third country.

The White House in Washington did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Indian refiners are pulling back from Russian crude as discounts shrink to their lowest since 2022, when Western sanctions were first imposed on Moscow, due to lower Russian exports and steady demand, sources said earlier this week.

The country's state refiners

Indian Oil Corp IOC.NS, Hindustan Petroleum Corp HPCL.NS, Bharat Petroleum Corp BPCL.NS and Mangalore Refinery Petrochemical Ltd MRPL.NS - have not sought Russian crude in the past week or so, four sources familiar with the refiners' purchase plans told Reuters.

On July 14, Trump threatened 100% tariffs on countries that buy Russian oil unless Moscow reaches a major peace deal with Ukraine. Russia is the top supplier to India, responsible for about 35% of India's overall supplies.

Russia continued to be the top oil supplier to India during the first six months of 2025, accounting for about 35% of India's overall supplies, followed by Iraq, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

India, the world's third-largest oil importer and consumer, received about 1.75 million barrels per day of Russian oil in January-June this year, up 1% from a year ago, according to data provided by Reuters by sources.

longer be buying oil from Russia.

The New York Times yesterday quoted two unnamed senior Indian officials as saying there had been no change in Indian government policy, with one official saying the government had "not given any direction to oil companies" to cut back imports from Russia.

Reuters reported this week that Indian state refiners stopped buying Russian oil in the past week after discounts narrowed in July.

## Thai storm kills six

AFP, Bangkok

Floods and landslides triggered by Tropical Storm Wipha since last month have killed six people and affected more than 230,000 people across Thailand, disaster management officials said yesterday.

Since 21 July, heavy rains have inundated 12 provinces, mostly in the northern and central regions, according to Thailand's Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation.

"We are closely monitoring the impact of rainstorm Wipha and coordinating with affected provinces to assist those in need," the agency said in a statement on its official Facebook page.

Images on social media showed murky floodwaters, sandbags stacked outside homes, and residents using plastic boats to navigate submerged streets.

However, the kingdom's meteorological department predicts rainfall will ease in the coming days.

## New push to reach plastic pollution pact

AFP, Paris

Negotiators will take another stab at reaching a global pact on plastic pollution at talks opening Tuesday in Geneva but they face deep divisions over how to tackle the health and ecological hazard.

The coming 10 days of talks involving delegates from nearly 180 nations follows a failure to reach a deal last December on how to stop millions of tonnes of plastic waste entering the environment each year.

Plastic pollution is so ubiquitous that microplastics have been found on the highest mountain peak, in the deepest ocean trench and scattered throughout almost every part of the human body.

In 2022, countries agreed they would find a way to address the crisis by the end of 2024, but the talks in Busan, South Korea failed to overcome fundamental differences.

One group of countries sought an ambitious globally binding agreement

to limit production and phase out harmful chemicals.

However, a group of mostly oil-producing nations rejected production limits and wanted to focus on treating waste.

The stakes are high. If nothing is done, global plastic consumption could triple by 2060, according to OECD projections.

Meanwhile, plastic waste in soils and waterways is expected to surge 50 percent by 2040, according to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), which is acting as the secretariat for the talks.

Some 460 million tonnes of plastic are produced globally each year, half of which is single-use. And less than 10 percent of plastic waste is recycled.

Plastics break down into bits so small that not only do they find their way throughout the ecosystem but into human blood and organs, recent studies show, with largely unknown consequences on the health of current and future generations.



## Drone strikes kill three in Russia

AFP, Moscow

Ukrainian drone strikes killed three people and wounded two others overnight in western Russia, regional governors said yesterday.

One woman was killed and two other people were wounded in an attack on an enterprise in Penza, the region's governor, Oleg Melnichenko, wrote on Telegram.

An elderly man was killed inside a house that caught fire due to falling drone debris in the Samara region, governor Vyacheslav Fedorishchev posted on Telegram.

In the Rostov region, a guard at an industrial facility was killed after a drone attack and a fire in one of the site's buildings, acting Rostov governor Yuri Sliusar said.

"The military repelled a massive air attack during the night," destroying drones over seven districts, Sliusar posted on Telegram.

Russia's defence ministry said its air defence systems had destroyed 112 Ukrainian drones over Russian territory - 34 over the Rostov region - in a nearly nine-hour period, from Friday night to Saturday morning.

In Ukraine's central-eastern Dniproptetrovsk region, overnight Russian drone attacks left three people wounded, governor Sergiy Lysak wrote on Telegram. Several buildings, homes and cars were damaged, he said.

Russian forces have claimed advances in Dniproptetrovsk, recently announcing the capture of two villages there, part of Moscow's accelerated capture of territory in July, according to AFP's analysis of data from the US-based Institute for the Study of War (ISW).

ROW WITH RUSSIA

## Trump deploys nuclear submarines

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump ordered the deployment of two nuclear submarines Friday in an extraordinary escalation of what had been an online war of words with a Russian official over Ukraine and tariffs.

Trump and Dmitry Medvedev, the deputy chairman of Russia's security council, have been sparring on social media for days.

Trump's post on his Truth Social platform abruptly took that spat into the very real -- and rarely publicized -- sphere of nuclear forces.

"Based on the highly provocative statements," Trump said he had "ordered two Nuclear Submarines to be positioned in the appropriate regions, just in case these foolish and inflammatory statements are more than just that."

"Words are very important, and can often lead to unintended consequences, I hope this will not be one of those instances," the 79-year-old Republican posted.

Trump did not say in his post whether he meant nuclear-powered or nuclear-armed submarines. He also did not elaborate on the exact deployment.

locations, which are kept secret by the US military.

But in an interview with Newsmax that aired Friday night, Trump said the submarines were "closer to Russia."

"We always want to be ready. And so I have sent to the region two nuclear submarines," he said.

"I just want to make sure that his words are only words and nothing more than that."

Trump's remarks came hours after Russian President Vladimir Putin said Moscow had started mass producing its hypersonic nuclear-capable Oreshnik missile, and could deploy them to Belarus, a close Russian ally neighbouring Ukraine, by year end.

The nuclear sabre-rattling came against the backdrop of a deadline set by Trump for the end of next week for Russia to take steps to ending the Ukraine war or face unspecified new sanctions.

The United States and Russia control the vast majority of the world's nuclear weaponry, and Washington keeps nuclear-armed submarines on

permanent patrol as part of its so-called nuclear triad of land, sea and air-launched weapons.

Medvedev had criticised Trump on his Telegram account Thursday and alluded to the "fabled 'Dead Hand'" -- a reference to a highly secret automated system put in place during the Cold War to control the country's nuclear weapons.

This came after Trump had lashed out at what he called the "dead economies" of Russia and India.

Medvedev had also harshly criticized Trump's threat of new sanctions against Russia over its war in Ukraine.

Accusing Trump of "playing the ultimatum game," he posted Monday on

X that Trump "should remember" that Russia is a formidable force.

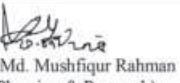
Trump responded by calling Medvedev "the failed former President of Russia, who thinks he's still President."

Medvedev should "watch his words," Trump posted at midnight in Washington on Wednesday. "He's entering very dangerous territory!"

**Bangladesh Small & Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC)**  
398, Mayor Anisul Haque Road, Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka-1208  
[www.bsclc.gov.bd](http://www.bsclc.gov.bd)

**Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Hiring a Research Institution/ Consulting Firm for Conducting a Research on "Measures to Control Process Loss of Salt at the Factory Level."**

1 Ministry/Division	Ministry of Industries
2 Agency	Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC)
3 Procuring Entity Name	Director (Planning & Research), BSCIC, Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka-1208
4 Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
5 Invitation for	Conducting a Research on "Measures to Control Process Loss of Salt at the Factory Level."
6 EoI Ref No	36.02.0000.035.16.001.24
7 Date	03-08-2025
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>	
8 Procurement Method	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>	
9 Budget and Source of Funds	GOB
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>	
10 Project / Programme Name	Conducting a Research on "Measures to Control Process Loss of Salt at the Factory Level."
11 EoI Closing Date and Time	Expression of interest shall be submitted by 12:30 pm (BST) on 31-08-2025 in a sealed envelope to be delivered to Director (Planning & Research) and be clearly marked on the top of the envelope "Expression of Interest for Conducting a Research on Measures to Control Process Loss of Salt at the Factory Level."
12 EoI Opening Date and Time	31-08-2025 at 2.00 pm (BST)
<b>INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT</b>	
13 Brief Description of the Assignment	As Per ToR
14 Experiences, Resources & Delivery Capacity Requirement	The bidder must have solid feasibility studies experience and operational strength to undertake this work forward without any hindrances. Bidder must also have adequate technical ability, resources, human resources and processes. As such, following are defined as minimum eligibility criteria:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Minimum 03 (Three years) experience as a registered company/entity.</li> <li>2. At least 01 (One) production process or salt related research/studies completed as consulting firm. Completion Certificate must be submitted.</li> <li>3. Must submit updated Trade license, Income tax and VAT certificate.</li> <li>4. Needs to have full time experienced human resource as per Terms of Reference (TOR).</li> <li>5. The minimum amount of <b>liquid assets</b> i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the firm shall be Tk. 15 (Fifteen) lakh. Bank Solvency certificate will not be allowed. Bank guarantee Certificate/ Bank Statement of after publication of EOI date must be submitted.</li> <li>6. Yearly average turnover of the firm shall be at <b>least Tk. 50 (Fifty) lakh</b> in last 3 (Three) years. Payment certificate must be submitted.</li> <li>7. Multiple Companies having technical and legal competency for conducting such research can bid jointly but they must have legal agreement among them where one company needs to be master. Master company needs to fulfill all conditions mentioned in TOR. Joint-venture agreement needs to have clear identification about each responsibility.</li> </ol>	
A shortlist of consultants/firms will be prepared upon evaluation of EOIs of the eligible applicants and "Request for Proposals" document will be issued in their favor. Consultants/firms will be selected through the Quality and Cost Based (QCBS) method. Total duration of the contract will be <b>06 Months</b> .	
Interested Applicants may obtain further information from the address below.	
Allowed	
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>	
16 Name of Official Inviting EoI	Khondokar Md. Mushfiqur Rahman
17 Designation of Official Inviting EoI	Director (Planning & Research)
18 Address of Official Inviting EoI	BSCIC Head Office, 398, Mayor Anisul Haque road, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208
19 Contact details of Official Inviting EoI	Phone: 0223314036      E-mail: <a href="mailto:dirplanning@bsclc.gov.bd">dirplanning@bsclc.gov.bd</a>
20 The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EOI's or even change of EoI.	

  
Khondokar Md. Mushfiqur Rahman  
Director (Planning & Research)  
BSCIC, Dhaka