

2-minute read



Oman's foreign minister meets US officials ahead of Iran talks in Muscat. Photo: Oman Foreign Ministry/Anadolu

US–Iran talks

American and Iranian officials met in Oman and then Geneva for talks amid heightened tension as US warships assembled in a threatening posture around the Gulf. The US is demanding restrictions on Iran's nuclear programme while Iran, which faces cost-of-living protests at home, wants to have trading sanctions removed or reduced.

Epstein fallout reaches Asia

With further prominent names being mentioned in the released Epstein files, it was announced that the chief of Dubai-based DP World, Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, has been replaced. The files, released by the US Department of Justice, have sent ripples through the political establishment in the US and political and royal circles in Britain and Norway.

Bomb explodes in Islamabad mosque

Pakistan police arrest several people following what they say was a suicide bombing at a Shia mosque in the capital, Islamabad, that killed 31 and injured more than 150 people. Pakistan's interior minister said an Afghan national planned the bombing.

Thailand's prime minister returned to office

Thailand's prime minister and his Bhumjaithai Party secured re-election and agreed to form a government with the Pheu Thai Party, preserving a fragile coalition between conservative and pro-military factions. Both parties take a strong nationalist position on the dispute with neighbouring Cambodia which broke into open war last year.

North Korea hints at dynastic succession

Kim Jong Un has enhanced the public profile of his daughter, Ju Ae, prompting speculation that she is being groomed as his heir. A formal succession plan would entrench the Kim dynasty for a fourth generation and reinforce the regime's emphasis on continuity over reform.



Yoon Suk-yeol sentenced to life imprisonment for insurrection and abuse of authority

Former South Korean president sentenced

A court in Seoul found the former president of South Korea, Yoon Suk-yeol, guilty of insurrection and abuse of authority for his failed attempt to impose martial law on the country in December 2024 and sentenced him to life imprisonment.

Japan releases Chinese fishing vessel

Following the election which returned Sanae Takaichi's LDP to power, Japan released a Chinese fishing vessel detained in contested waters. The episode could ease tension between the two powers which have been tense since the Japanese Prime Minister made a statement about Taiwan.