



Britain's main oppn Labour Party Shadow Education Secy Bridget Phillipson gives an interview outside the BBC in London, on Sunday



Danny Jones and Tom Fletcher from British band McFly pose on the red carpet upon arrival for the BRIT Awards 2024 in London, on Sunday



3 A model presents a creation by Duran Lantink for the Women Ready-to-wear Fall-Winter 2024/2025 collection as part of the Paris Fashion Week, in Paris



Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus comes out of a courtroom after he was granted bail in an embezzlement case, in Dhaka, Bangladesh

allovertheworld



A member of the bell bearer groups from Greece and Europe poses during a parade, as part of the 6th edition of the European Bell Bearers Festival in the northern Greek port city of Thessaloniki, in Greece, on Sunday.

Hundreds protest in Senegal to demand speedy elections

DAKAR: Several hundred people rallied in the Senegalese capital Dakar on Saturday calling for the country's postponed presidential elections to be held before April 2, the date when incumbent Macky Sall's term is set to end.

Artificial glaciers stave off drought in Kyrgyzstan

SYN-TASH, (KYRGYZSTAN): In the Tian-Shan mountains of Kyrgyzstan, villagers have made an artificial glacier to provide water for their drought-hit farms.

Belgian police arrest 4 youth over jihadist plot messages

BRUSSELS: Belgian police on Sunday arrested four youths over messages they exchanged allegedly plotting a jihadist attack deemed "imminent enough to intervene".

Seven-year-old girl killed as boat carrying migrants capsizes in Channel

LILLE, (FRANCE): A seven-year-old girl drowned on Sunday when a small boat carrying 16 migrants heading from northern France to Britain capsized, the prefecture in France's Nord department said.

Navalny supporters flock to grave to pay respects, gain hope

MOSCOW: Hundreds of Alexei Navalny supporters queued to lay flowers and pay tribute to the deceased opposition leader on Sunday, in a significant show of support for the anti-corruption campaigner, who died last month in an Arctic prison colony.

Pakistan's newly-elected PM Shehbaz rakes up Kashmir issue

Pledges to improve ties with all leading nations, including neighbours

PTI, ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's newly-elected Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday raked up the Kashmir issue in his maiden address but pledged to improve ties with all leading nations, including the country's neighbours.

Shehbaz said that Pakistan would not become part of any "great game" and his government would increase the number of friends.

He pledged to build and improve ties with all leading nations, including neighbours.

"We will keep ties with neighbours on the basis of equality, Shehbaz, 72, said as he easily won the election in the National Assembly to become Pakistan's prime minister for a second time.

Shehbaz, however, raked up the Kashmir issue and equated it with Palestine. Let's all come together and the National Assembly should pass a resolution for

OVER 100 SUPPORTERS OF FORMER PM IMRAN'S PARTY PROTESTING VOTE RIGGING ARRESTED IN PUNJAB

PTI, LAHORE: More than 100 supporters of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's party have been arrested from different parts of Punjab province of Pakistan for staging rallies against alleged vote rigging, police said on Sunday.



Police detain a supporter of former prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party at a protest against the alleged skewing in Pakistan's national election results, in Lahore

the freedom of Kashmiris and Palestinians, he added. He also thanked his allies in the coalition government for putting their trust in him and making him Leader of the House.

"When my Quaid (leader Nawaz) was elected the prime minister thrice, the development that followed in the country is an example of its own. And it is not wrong to say that Nawaz

Sharif is the one who built Pakistan, Shehbaz said in his victory speech.

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) president thanked his elder brother Nawaz and all

Hate preachers to be blocked entering UK

PTI, LONDON: Hate preachers with extremist Islamist views from countries such as Pakistan, Afghanistan and Indonesia will be blocked from entering Britain under new plans being drafted by the government, according to a UK media report on Sunday.

The Daily Telegraph reports that the British government is concerned about a shocking increase in extremist activity and officials are being deputised to identify the most dangerous extremists from overseas so they can be added to visa warning lists.

Under the new plans, those on the list will be automatically refused entry to the UK. The revelation comes days after British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak delivered an impassioned speech from the podium at 10 Downing Street in London, warning that the country's democratic and multi-faith values were under threat by extremists.

More than 30 killed due to heavy rain in Pakistan



Residents use a boat to cross a flooded street after heavy rains in Pakistan

AFP, PESHAWAR: More than 30 people have died in rain-related incidents in Pakistan during days of heavy downpours, with thousands of schools closed, officials said Sunday.

Widespread heavy rain since Thursday has caused severe disruption in some areas of the country, including the closure of all schools in Balochistan province until Thursday.

Eighteen children were among 26 killed in north-western Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province as a result of collapsed buildings.

"As a result of continuous

rainfall over the past four days in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a total of 27 individuals have lost their lives," said Taimur Ali Khan, the spokesperson for the Provincial Disaster Management Authority in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Another person was killed in a landslide and more than 150 houses were also damaged.

In southern Balochistan province, five people were killed when buildings collapsed on Thursday and Friday, said Jahanzain Khan, head of the disaster management agency.

Damaged roads, floods and landslides have cut villages off from main towns in Balochistan, while major roads were blocked in Gilgit-Baltistan, local media reported.

Pakistan's Meteorological Department anticipates further rainfall and snowfall across the region on Sunday.

SUNSET SILHOUETTE



A swan swims in the morning sunlight on a pond at the Veckenstedt pond farm in Veckenstedt, the northern Harz region, Germany, on Sunday

Covid-19 rapid tests still work against new variants

AGENCY, UMASS CHAN MEDICAL SCHOOL WORCESTER (US): By September 2020, just six months after Covid-19 triggered shutdowns across the US, it was clear that SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, had mutated from its original form.

The question quickly arose whether existing rapid antigen tests could detect newly emerging variants.

Using clinical samples obtained from diagnostic labs throughout the US from 2020 to 2023, the Na-

tional Institutes of Health, through its Variant Task Force, analysed the effectiveness of more than 100 rapid antigen test kits on over 300 variants.

The vast majority of the kits were able to detect new as well as prior previously known variants.

We are a team of researchers who have spent the past few years researching Covid-19 tests for their accuracy and performance. We understand why the public may still have questions about whether these

tests are reliable, particularly as new variants continue to appear.

Do these tests work? There are two major types of tests for the detection of SARS-CoV-2.

The first, called a RT-PCR test, is more than 95 per cent accurate for detecting the virus. These were the tests that most Americans were given at drive-through and walk-in testing sites early in the pandemic.

The vast majority are now done at a doctor's office or clinic, though there

are some home PCR tests, which typically cost five to 10 times more than rapid antigen tests.

The other type is an antigen test, commonly known as a rapid test, with an accuracy rate of more than 80 per cent. Most of these tests are sold over the counter at supermarkets and pharmacies.

Rapid antigen tests are relatively inexpensive, can be used without prior training and give quick results, typically within 10 or 15 minutes. One drawback is that they are

less accurate than PCR tests, especially early in an infection when there is less virus present in the body.

Despite these inherent limitations, our team has demonstrated that these tests perform as well in 2024 as they did earlier in the pandemic, when different variants were circulating even though our initial study was completed in January 2022.

That's because the virus protein detected by antigen tests has not changed much over the last two years.

unlike other parts of the virus that have undergone many mutations. Another study, which tested the accuracy of rapid antigen tests from 2020 to 2022, found similar results.

That said, researchers like us continue to test the tests, both in computer simulations and in the lab, to detect new SARS-CoV-2 variants.

Researchers wearing masks and other protective gear sit under tents collecting samples during a Covid-19 testing study.

FROM PAGE 1

WHEN INSPIRATION AND INNOVATION MET ON THE PLANET OF EXCELLENCE

The Innovation Award for driving innovation in enterprise was given to NUMADIC, a Goa-based supply chain tracking and coordination platform for B2B transporters and consignors in India.

The Community Impact Leadership Award for creating a positive impact within the community in every way was conferred to Street Providence for being constituted solely to care and rehabilitate homeless street people, drug & alcohol addicts, poor, marginalised, & abandoned senior citizens.

THOSE WHO LEFT FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND FOR GOAN ENTERPRISE TO FOLLOW

Together, these business icons of Goa have inspired countless individuals to strive for excellence in their respective fields. As Goa continues to grow and age, the contributions of these visionaries, Victor Albuquerque, BebeAzaredo and Vincent Ramos, will be remembered and celebrated for generations to come.

NOISY VENUES IN ANJUNA, VAGATOR UNDER GSCPCR RADAR

The directive has been issued after the Commission received number complaints about the excessive noise levels emanating from entertainment venues, which not only breach legal sound limits but also infringe on the rights of children to a conducive study environment.

The directive has emphasised the critical need for the establishments to adhere strictly to the noise pollution rules laid out under the law.

As part of the enforcement strategy, the Commission has demanded monthly reports from the involved authorities to monitor progress and ensure accountability. These reports are expected to detail the actions taken against non-compliant establishments and the measures put in place to prevent future violations.

"Our tolerance for noise pollution violations is zero. The continuous stream of complaints to the GSCPCR from troubled students and parents, many reaching out for assistance well past midnight, highlights a concerning shortfall in our joint efforts to adhere to these legal mandates. To endanger our children's health and their future through a

blatant disregard for noise regulations in Anjuna and Vagator is deplorable and a direct attack on their rights. The bedrock of our society is the education and well-being of the next generation, and we are committed to fiercely safeguarding this at all costs," Peter F Borges, Chairperson Goa State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, said.

"This step by the Goa State Commission for Protection of Child Rights underscores the importance of protecting children's rights and the environment from the adverse effects of noise pollution. It serves as a reminder to all businesses operating in these bustling areas of their legal obligations and the need for responsible conduct to maintain the harmony and well-being of the community," the GSCPCR said.

To endanger our children's health and their future through a blatant disregard for noise regulations in Anjuna and Vagator is deplorable and a direct attack on their rights. The bedrock of our society is the education and well-being of the next generation, and we are committed to fiercely safeguarding this at all costs

— Peter F Borges, Chairperson Goa State Commission for Protection of Child Rights