

allovertheworld



White balloons are released in the air by participants of a ceremony to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the 2004 hostage-taking at the Beslan school, at the monument to the victims of the Beslan school massacre in central Moscow. More than 350 hostages had been killed during the attack by pro-Chechen rebels, 186 of them were children, and about 750 people were injured

Man detained after major church fire in northern France

LILLE: A man was taken into police custody after a major fire broke out at a 19th-century church in northern France, causing its bell tower to collapse, prosecutors said on Tuesday. A massive fire broke out in the historic Church of the Immaculate Conception in the northern town of Saint-Omer early Monday. No one was injured but the church steeple collapsed. Video footage showed the flames ravaging the steeple of the church in the darkness. The public prosecutor's office said that a suspect had been taken into custody on Monday evening. The man, who was born in 1985, has been known to authorities "for similar acts" in the past. Saint-Omer public prosecutor Mehdi Benbouzid told AFP on Tuesday.

Ireland lifts lid on 'shocking' abuse in religious schools

DUBLIN: An Irish government-commissioned probe into allegations of historical sexual abuse at schools run by religious orders spanning several decades was called "shocking" by a minister Tuesday. The report found almost 2,400 allegations of sexual abuse in respect of over 300 schools nationwide recorded by religious orders that ran those schools. Education Minister Norma Foley said it was the first time the scale of abuse had been revealed, and it was "truly shocking". The 2,395 allegations concerned 884 distinct alleged abusers, in day and residential "boarding" schools run currently or previously by the religious orders, according to the enquiry.

Six dead as ship sinks off Kuwait: Iranian

TEHRAN: Six crew members have died after an Iranian merchant ship capsized in Kuwaiti waters, Iran's official news agency IRNA reported Tuesday. "The Arabakhtar I ship, whose six crew members were of Indian and Iranian nationality, sank on Sunday," Nasser Passandeh, head of Iran's port and maritime navigation authority, was quoted by IRNA as saying. The report did not say what caused the Sunday incident, and an Iranian official said search operations were still ongoing to locate three of the victims' bodies. Three bodies had been retrieved in a joint effort between Iran and Kuwait, Passandeh said.

Two children injured in knife attack at Czech school

PRAGUE: Czech police said two children were wounded in a knife attack by a pupil at a school in the western city of Domazlice on Tuesday. Police said on X the alleged perpetrator was detained "within several minutes" and the two children's lives were not in jeopardy. "A girl pupil attacked her schoolmates with a knife. Two children were injured and their parents have been informed," police said. "Both injured children, whose lives are not threatened, are undergoing treatment, just like another child who was in shock," they added. Regional governor Rudolf Spotak later told reporters that both children had been released into home care and their injuries were not serious. The Blesk tabloid said the 13-year-old alleged perpetrator had stabbed a boy in the stomach and a girl in the back.

WHO says early polio vaccination targets in Gaza surpassed

GENEVA: The World Health Organization said on Tuesday more children had been reached than expected at the start of an emergency polio vaccination campaign in Gaza. It added that the first round would take another 10 days. During the first two days of the large-scale vaccination campaign, more than 161,000 children received an initial dose, said Rik Peepkorn, the WHO's representative for the Palestinian territories. "That surpassed the target we set," he told reporters in Geneva, via video-link from Gaza. With Gaza lying in ruins and the majority of the 2.4 million residents forced to flee their homes due to Israel's military assault - often taking refuge in cramped and unsanitary conditions - disease has spread.

Iran summons Australian envoy over LGBTQ message

TEHRAN: Iran's foreign ministry said it had summoned the Australian ambassador on Tuesday to "strongly condemn" a social media message posted by the embassy supporting LGBTQ rights. The embassy used an Instagram post on Sunday marking "Wear it Purple Day," an annual LGBTQ event in Australia, to call for a "brighter, more inclusive future." "Today and every day, we're dedicated to creating a supportive environment, where everyone, especially LGBTQIA+ youth, can feel proud to be themselves," the Australian mission wrote. But Iran's foreign ministry said in a statement on Tuesday: "Following the publication of offensive content contrary to Iranian and Muslim customs and culture, the Australian ambassador has been summoned to Tehran."

DR Congo jail break attempt leaves 129 dead

AFP, KINSHASA, (DR CONGO): An attempted jail break at the Democratic Republic of Congo's largest and chronically overcrowded prison this week has left at least 129 people dead, the interior minister said Tuesday.

The circumstances around the bid to bust out of Makala prison in the capital Kinshasa in the early hours of Monday remain unclear.

But Interior Minister Jacquemain Shabani in a statement released by video to the media on Tuesday announced a provisional death toll of 129 people.

They included "24 who were shot after warnings", he said.

At least 59 others had been wounded and were receiving care, he added.



Prisoners' family members stand outside the Makala Prison to inquire about the condition of their family members in Kinshasa, Dr Congo, on Tuesday

Witnesses told AFP that they had heard gunfire at around 2:00 am on Monday and that it lasted for several hours in the area of the prison, a popular and residential neighbourhood.

Daddi Soso, an electrician in his 40s, said he had seen security force vehicles taking bodies away in the early hours.

On Monday, police had cordoned off the streets leading to the prison, AFP journalists at the scene saw.

The interior minister said many people had been crushed or suffocated and that a number of women had been raped. He gave no details on their identities.

The authorities have given no indication as to how many inmates escaped or attempted to do so.

On Monday morning, government spokesman Patrick Muyaya said only that the security services were at the scene and he called on residents to "not panic".

A few hours later, he told national television the situation was "under control".

Justice Minister Constant Mutamba later announced on X that inquiries were under way "to identify and severely punish the sponsors of these acts of sabotage".

Boat from northern France with migrants capsizes in English channel, 12 dead

PTI, BOULOGNE-SUR-MER: A boat carrying migrants ripped apart in the English Channel as they attempted to reach Britain from northern France on Tuesday, plunging dozens into the treacherous waterway and leaving 12 dead, authorities said.

Most of the victims were believed to be women, some under 18, and many of the passengers didn't have life preservers, officials said, with one calling it the deadliest migrant accident in the channel this year.

Unfortunately, the bottom of the boat ripped open, said Olivier Barbarin, mayor of Le Portel near Boulogne-sur-Mer, where a first aid post was set up to treat victims. If people don't know how to swim in the agitated waters ... it can go very quickly," Europe's increasingly strict asylum rules, growing xenophobia and hostile treatment

of migrants have been pushing them north. Before Tuesday's accident, at least 30 migrants had died or gone missing while trying to cross to the UK this year, according to the International Organisation for Migration. Rescuers pulled a total of 65 people from the English Channel on Tuesday in a search that lasted more than four hours, according to Lt. Etienne Baggio, a spokesman for the French agency that oversees the stretch of sea where the boat ripped apart. Doctors confirmed 12 died, he said. Another 12 people were hospitalised, and two were in very serious conditions, authorities said.

Baggio called it the deadliest migrant boat tragedy in the English Channel this year. In July, four migrants died while attempting the crossing on an inflatable boat that capsize and punctured.

B'desh ex-PM Khaleda Zia acquitted in 5 cases

PTI, DHAKA: Bangladesh's former prime minister Khaleda Zia has been acquitted in five separate cases, including one filed over allegations of celebrating a fake birthday and another for supporting war criminals, a media report said on Tuesday.

Dhaka Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Mahbulul Haque's court issued acquittal orders in four cases whereas Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Tofazzal Hossain's court acquitted her in one case on Tuesday, The Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported.

The defendant, 79-year-old Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chairperson Zia, was acquitted after the plaintiff did not appear in court.

In August 2016, a case

was filed against Zia by a journalist for celebrating a fake birthday.

The complaint alleged that although five different birthdates of Zia were found through various sources, none was on August 15.

It said that despite this, she has been celebrating her birthday on August 15, which is the national mourning day commemorating the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman since 1996.

The complaint alleged that the BNP leader celebrates her birthday on this day solely to tarnish the reputation of Bangabandhu and his family.

In November 2016, a case was filed by AB Siddique, president of Bangladesh Jananetri Parishad, against Zia for allegedly supporting war criminals.

ASIAN COUTURE



Models present creations from Misuity during the China Fashion Week Opening Show in Beijing, on Tuesday

Our job is to fight BJP-RSS' divisive politics: Kharage, Rahul at Cong meeting

PTI, NEW DELHI: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and former party chief Rahul Gandhi held a meeting with AICC secretaries and joint secretaries here on Tuesday and asserted that the party leaders have to fight the BJP-RSS' "divisive politics" and work stridently to defend the Constitution.

Kharge and Gandhi met the leaders at the AICC headquarters and sought their feedback on strengthening the organisation and expanding the party's support base, sources said.

The meeting comes days after a major organisational rejig under which the party appointed several new secretaries and joint secretaries while shuffling the states of some office bearers.

In a post on X, Kharge said the Congress will reach out to every Indian.

"We chaired a meeting of the newly appointed AICC Secretaries and Joint Secretaries. We are determined to strengthen our organisation, involve each voice and keep speaking truth to



Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi with party President Mallikarjun Kharge and party MP K C Venugopal during a meeting with party secretaries and joint secretaries, in New Delhi, on Tuesday

power," the Congress president said.

Congress general secretary, in-charge organisation, K C Venugopal said that under the leadership of Congress president and the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, an important meeting with the newly-appointed AICC secretaries and joint secretaries was held.

"This diverse team that has strong representation from marginalised sections of society, with its youthful exuberance and pan-India profile, will bring new fer-

our to our party functioning," he said.

"As Kharge ji and Rahul ji aptly pointed out in the meeting, our job has to be to fight against the BJP-RSS' divisive politics and work stridently to defend the Constitution. We are a force that works for social transformation, while the BJP represents social stagnation," Venugopal said.

"I am confident that the new team will help our party grow from strength to strength and work with renewed passion in the days to come!" he said.

No scope for tie-up with BJP: Mehbooba

PTI, SRINAGAR: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Tuesday ruled out any tie-up with the BJP in Jammu and Kashmir, while asserting that government formation after the assembly polls would not be possible without the inclusion of her party.

Hitting out at the National Conference (NC), she claimed the party wants to contest elections just for the sake of government formation.

"They have been doing so since 1947. They do not have any aim other than that. They form alliances just for the sake of government formation, for ministerial berths," she said addressing workers at the party headquarters here.

The PDP chief said her party wants to contest elections for an agenda, but asserted that no government formation after the assembly polls will be possible without her party.

However, she said the PDP's focus is more on implementing its agenda and less on government formation.

Amanatullah dealt in 'tainted' cash transactions; avoided probe: ED

PTI, NEW DELHI: AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan was dealing with "ill-gotten" money and indulged in "tainted" cash transactions to purchase an immovable property in Delhi, the Enforcement Directorate alleged on Tuesday.

The federal agency has arrested the 50-year-old legislator from Okhla on Monday after conducting a search at his house. He was produced before a local court the same day that sent him to four-day ED custody.

The agency also charged him with "non cooperation" and "avoiding investigation" in the case claiming he only appeared once out of the 14 summonses sent to him to depose and get his statement recorded by the investigating officer.

The money laundering case against the AAP MLA stems from two FIRs, one by the Delhi ACB and the other filed by the CBI to probe alleged irregularities committed during his tenure as the chairman of the Delhi Waqf Board from 2016-2021.

He was been charged by the ED and the CBI with committing illegalities in the appointment of Group C and D employees in the Delhi Waqf Board (DWB) causing a wrongful loss to the government apart from a claimed "misuse and abuse" of his official position as the Waqf Board Chairman in allotment of the tenancy of properties of the DWB without following proper procedure.

His party has stoutly defended Khan, claiming he had been framed in a "false" case like its other leaders for raising their voice against the BJP.

Probe found, the ED said in a statement, that under the directions of Khan, his alleged aides Zeeshan Haider and Daud Nasir managed his "ill-gotten" money during his tenure as chairman of the Delhi Waqf Board and used these funds to make cash payments via a person Kausar Imam Siddiqui for the purchase of property at 275-276, TTI Tikona Park in Okhla area of Delhi that belongs to Jawed Imam Siddiqui.

FROM PAGE 2

BHUTANI, THE LATEST FLASHPOINT OVER RAMPANT ENVIRONMENT DESTROYING MEGA PROJECTS

Former Cortalim MLA and ex-Forest and Environment Minister Alina Saldanha has alleged that the zone was changed from private forest to settlement to help the developer.

"The villagers are suffering due to lack of water supply and basic amenities. How was the permission for a 742-unit project given when there is already a lack of basic needs," she said.

Green activist Abhijit Prabhudessai of Rainbow Warriors said, "The situation in Goa has gone out of hand. There is no law and order for the big builders and developers. The big projects that are coming into Goa have originated from RP 2021."

"Visit any government office, one will see there is no law. The departments are following Ministers. All this is in contravention of democracy. Like 2006-07, the people will have to come out and agitate to save what is left of Goa currently," he added.

South Goa MP Capt Viriato Fernandes said "The failed Chief Minister will try to divide people but people will have to fight the battle."

Quepem MLA, Altone D'Costa said that the protest is just a start. "I urge the Chief Minister not to take the people lightly. The world is looking at you."

GOENCHEA RAPONKARANCHO EKVOTT HIT OUT AT FISHING DIRECTORATE FOR FAILING TO IMPOSE BAN ON LED FISHING

GRE as well as Old Cross Canoe Owners and represent-

atives of traditional fishermen from South Goa and North Goa, feared that their livelihoods are being threatened by what they described to be unsustainable and illegal fishing practices. They argued that the use of LED lights, combined with other high-tech fishing methods, not only gives larger trawlers an unfair advantage, but also has a huge ecological impact in the sea.

They argued that the intense illumination can disrupt marine ecosystems, affecting the behaviour and migration patterns of various species, not just those targeted by fishermen. They added that it has totally destroyed the nursing grounds of several species of fish and marine ecology.

GRE Vice President Camilo Souza and Old Canoe Owners Association President Custodio D'Souza had addressed the media in this regard in the presence of their fellow fishermen.