



Members of a group called Patriot Front, rally near the Washington Monument & near the March for Life rally in Washington



Shiite pilgrims pray at the golden twin-domed shrine of Imam Moussa al-Kadhim during their annual pilgrimage in Baghdad district in Iraq



Director of the Drents Museum Harry Tupan speaks during a press conference following a small explosion at the museum in Netherlands



Performers practice for the traditional lion dance ahead of the celebrations for the Lunar New Year of the Snake in Banda Aceh

allovertheworld



Green smoke is ejected from the mouth of traditional dragon costume supported by performers during a celebration for the upcoming lunar new year in the southern Thai province of Narathiwat

**UAE announces reopening of embassy in Beirut**

**DUBAI:** The United Arab Emirates announced on Friday that it reopened its embassy in Lebanon, state media reported, years after it was shut down in solidarity with Saudi Arabia. The Emirati embassy in Beirut "has officially resumed diplomatic activities," state news agency WAM said. "The reopening of the embassy represents an important step in advancing bilateral cooperation between the two countries," WAM cited foreign ministry undersecretary Omar Obaid al-Shamsi as saying. The UAE, alongside several other Gulf states, recalled its diplomats from Lebanon in October 2021 in "solidarity" with Riyadh over a Lebanese minister's criticism of the Saudi-led military intervention in Yemen. Relations between the UAE and Lebanon had deteriorated for years over the influence of the Iran-backed Hezbollah group in Lebanon.

**France holds seven after crypto boss kidnapping**

**PARIS:** France is holding six men and a woman following the kidnapping and torture of the co-founder of a global cryptocurrency company and his partner, prosecutors said Saturday. The seven, who could face long prison terms up to life, are among 10 people taken into custody late Thursday as anti-gang investigators probe the case. David Balland, a 36-year-old co-founder and former employee of Ledger - a world leader in security systems for crypto and digital assets - and his partner were taken from his home in Mereau in the Loire region early Tuesday, Paris prosecutor Laure Beccuau told reporters Friday. Another Ledger co-founder, Eric Larcheveque, alerted police to the kidnapping after receiving a video showing a mutilated finger belonging to Balland, and a ransom demand, according to a source close to the case.

**South African peacekeepers killed as fighting rages in DRC**

**GOMA:** Three South African peacekeepers have been killed in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, where fighting intensified on Saturday between the Congolese army and Rwandan-backed M23 fighters, a political party said. Fighting raged in the region despite calls from the international community for the M23 to halt its advance on Goma, the key city in the east and home to over a million people. After the failure of Angolan-led peace talks, the M23 and the Rwandan army have advanced in recent weeks towards Goma, the capital of the North Kivu province in DR Congo's perennially restive and mineral-rich east. An AFP reporter saw a burned-out, smoking armoured vehicle of the UN peacekeeping force MONUSCO on the road between Goma and Sake, scene of intense fighting in recent days.

**Iran arrests 13 Bahais for promoting their 'misguided sect'**

**TEHRAN:** Iranian authorities arrested 13 followers of the Bahai faith in the central province of Isfahan, accusing them of proselytising for their "misguided sect", the Revolutionary Guards said on Saturday. The Bahais, Iran's largest non-Muslim minority, are branded "heretics" by the Islamic republic and are often targeted over their alleged ties to Israel, home to their most important shrines and world headquarters. "These individuals, who were illegally and indirectly promoting their religious deviation, were arrested by intelligence agents," the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said in a statement carried by Iranian state news agency IRNA. "These active missionaries were systematically creating ideological deviations and attracting Muslims to the misguided Bahai sect on the internet or through classes for children and adolescents, using artistic methods such as music, painting, etc," it added.

**US migrant deportation flights arrive in Latin America**

**GUATEMALA CITY:** US military planes carrying dozens of expelled migrants arrived in Guatemala, authorities said Friday, as President Donald Trump moved to crack down on illegal immigration. A total of 265 Guatemalans arrived on three flights - two operated by the military, and one a charter, the Central American country's migration institute said, updating earlier figures. Washington also sent four deportation flights to Mexico on Thursday, the White House press secretary said on X, despite multiple US media reports that authorities there had turned at least one plane back. The Mexican government has not confirmed either the arrival of flights or any agreement to receive a specific number of planes with deportees.

**Israel releases 200 Palestinian prisoners after Hamas frees four female soldiers**

**PTI, TEL AVIV:** Four female Israeli soldiers who were taken in the attack that sparked the war in Gaza returned to Israel on Saturday after Hamas militants paraded them before a crowd of thousands in Gaza City and handed them over to the Red Cross. Israel later released 200 Palestinian prisoners in the second exchange of a fragile ceasefire. The four Israelis smiled, waved and gave the thumbs-up from a stage in Palestine Square, with armed, masked militants on either side as Hamas again sought to show it remained in control in Gaza after 15 months of war. The hostages likely acted under duress. Previously released ones said they were held in brutal conditions and forced to record propaganda videos. Israel's Prison Service later said it had released of 200 Palestinians, including 121 people serving life sentences after being convicted of deadly attacks against Israelis, while others were held without charge. Thousands of Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank city of Ramallah celebrated their arrival. Some of those released wore Hamas



Palestinian prisoners are greeted by a crowd after getting off a bus following their release from an Israeli prison after a ceasefire agreement with Israel, in the West Bank city of Ramallah

headbands given to them by the crowd. Wan-looking and wearing gray prison sweat-suits, some rode on supporters' shoulders.

In the deal's first major crisis, Israel said it would not allow displaced Palestinians to begin returning to northern Gaza as had been expected by Sunday, because a civilian hostage who was supposed to be released, Arbel Yehoud, had not been freed. As mediators addressed that, hundreds of Palestinians gathered, waiting to move north. Why are they treating us like this?" asked one man, Khalil Abd.

Israeli forces and shot and killed a Palestinian man close to the Netzarim corridor where people were waiting, Palestinian medical officials said. Israel's military didn't immediately comment.

Israel insists on release of civilian hostage Arbel Yehoud Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said Israel would not allow Palestinians to begin returning to northern Gaza until Yehoud, a civilian taken from a kibbutz, was freed.

Hamas said it held Israel responsible for any delay in implementing the agreement and its repercussions.

A senior Hamas official said the group informed mediators that Yehoud will be released next week. An Egyptian official involved in the negotiations called the matter a minor issue "that mediators were working to resolve. Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to discuss the matter publicly.

The ceasefire began last weekend and is aimed at winding down the deadliest and most destructive war ever fought between Israel and Hamas. The deal has so far held, quieting airstrikes and rockets and allowing for increased aid to flow into tiny, devastated Gaza.

When the ceasefire started Sunday, three hostages were released in exchange for 90 Palestinian prisoners, all women and children.

Among the 200 Palestinian prisoners released were Mohammad Odeh, 52, and Wael Qassim, 54, who were accused of carrying out deadly Hamas attacks against Israelis, including a bombing at a cafeteria at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 2002 that killed nine people, including five US citizens.

**WINGS OF PRIDE**



A falcon undergoing training takes off during the Qatar International Falconry and Hunting Festival at Sabkhat Marmi in Sealine, south of Doha

**Drone attack on hospital kills 67 in Sudan's Darfur**

**AFP, PORT SUDAN:** A drone attack on one of the last functioning hospitals in El-Fasher in Sudan's Darfur region has killed 67 people and injured dozens, local activists and a medical source said Saturday, updating an earlier toll. "Thirty-seven of those injured in the drone strike yesterday died today, bringing the number of victims up to 67," the source told AFP, requesting anonymity for fear of retaliation.

He added that a number of those injured were still being treated, but could not give an exact figure.

The bombing of the Saudi Hospital late Friday had "led to the destruction" of the hospital's emergency building, the source said.

AFP could not independently verify which of Sudan's warring sides had launched the attack. Since April 2023, the Sudanese army has been at war with the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), who have seized nearly the entire vast western region of Darfur.

Since May they have besieged El-Fasher, the state capital of North Darfur, but have not managed to claim the city where army-aligned militias have repeatedly pushed them back.

Last week, the RSF issued an ultimatum demanding army forces and allies leave the city by Wednesday afternoon in advance of an expected offensive.

Local activists have reported intermittent fighting since, including repeated artillery fire from the RSF on the famine-hit Abu Shouk displacement camp. On Friday morning alone, heavy shelling killed eight people in the camp, according to civil society group the Darfur General Coordination of Camps for the Displaced and Refugees.

**US arrests 538 illegal immigrant criminals**

**PTI, WASHINGTON:** The US has arrested 538 illegal immigrant criminals, including a suspected terrorist, and several illegals convicted of sex crimes against minors, the White House has said.

In a series of posts on X on Thursday, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said the Trump administration also deported hundreds of illegal immigrant criminals via military aircraft.

"The largest massive deportation operation in history is well underway. Promises made. Promises kept," she said.

Leavitt said, "The Trump Administration arrested 538 illegal immigrant criminals including a suspected terrorist, four members of the Tren de Aragua gang, and several illegals convicted of sex crimes against minors."

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**SAD DEMISE**



**GANAPATRAO TALEKAR**

Ex. CEO of Hindustan Foods Ltd. & Managing Director of Arsanik Healthcare Pvt. Ltd. Beloved husband of Surekha G. Talekar, Father of Arya G. Talekar, late Suraj G. Talekar, Son-in-law of Sujata S. Rao / late Sanjeev Rao, Brother-in-law of Padmaja S. Rao / Jairam Kirtani, Shyamsundar S. Rao / Akshata S. Rao, Uncle of Saniya S. Rao and Anuya J. Kirtani.

Expired peacefully on 25/01/2025. Funeral cortege will leave (Today) 26/01/2025 at 3.00 pm from his residence H.No. 16/582, Saidham, Kamat Retreat Residency, Durgawadi, Taleigao to St. Inez Crematorium, Panaji. Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation

**FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY**



**MAXIMO CARMO GOMES**  
BONDIFEM - TALEIGAO

The Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved Maximo will be held on Monday, 27th January, 2025 at 7.30 a.m. at St. Michael's Church, Taleigao, followed by prayers at the grave, offered by his sorrowful wife Laura Rosa Lima De Nazare, children and family.

Relatives & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

*One Year With The Lord*



**ROLAND AGOSTINE REMEDIOS**

There will be a Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved Roland on 27th January 2025 at St. Alex Church, Calangute at 7.45 am. Offered by his sorrowful family.

**MONTH'S MIND**



**APOLONIO BARTOLOMEU COLACO**  
(Glad Tailors)

Your life was a blessing, Your memory a treasure, You are loved beyond words, And missed beyond measure. There will be a Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved APOLONIO BARTOLOMEU COLACO at 8:15 a.m. on Monday, 27th January 2025 at St. Francis Xavier Church, Velim, followed by prayers and blessing at the grave, offered by his sorrowful wife, children and family.

Relatives & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

**MONTH'S MIND**



Born 26/03/1943 Died 27/12/2024

**MARIA PIEDADE (PIDU) D'COSTA**

Bachhatt - Raia "With grateful hearts we thank the Lord, for the precious gift of our MAI, and shall forever remain indebted to the love she showered upon us and the sacrifices she made for our well-being".

There will be an Eucharistic celebration for the soul of our beloved MAI Maria Piedade (Pidu) on Monday 27th Jan. 2025 at 7:30 am at Our Lady Of Snow's Church, Raia followed by prayers and blessing at the grave offered by her sorrowful Sons/Daughter-in-law: Francisco/ Jaycee (UK), James/ Queeney (Panchn), Daughter/Son-in-law: Antonetta/ Minguel, Loreta / Remedios, Grandchildren: Roland, Alima & Quemex. Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

**MONTH'S MIND**



**ANGEL RUFINA D'SOUZA**

Our hearts still ache with sadness and many tears still flow. What it means to lose you, no one will ever know. We hold you close within our hearts and there you will always remain. To walk with us throughout our lives, until we meet again.

There will be an Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved ANGEL on Monday (TOMORROW), 27th January 2025 at 8:00 am at St Anthony's Church, Vagator followed by prayers and blessing of the grave, offered by her sorrowful parents Domnic/Shini, sister Dale, grandparents: Casmira, Annie/Aby and fly. Friends and relatives please accept this as the only intimation.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

We, the sorrowful parents, sister, grandparents, godparents, aunts, uncles and cousins of our beloved ANGEL express our sincere gratitude to all our relatives, neighbours, friends, priests, nuns, St. Mary's Convent School, Mapusa, staff of South Indian Bank, and all those who attended the funeral and also offered their condolences, floral tributes and rendered timely help and shared in our grief. We regret our inability to thank each one of you individually.

**GOD BLESS YOU ALL.**

