



Veterans place flowers at a monument for the Soviet soldiers killed in action during the war in Afghanistan, 1979-1989, in Saint Petersburg



Lifeguards holding torches, wade into the Atlantic ocean in a ceremony to commemorate Lifeguard Day, in Mar Azul, Argentina



Prince Harry, the Duke of Sussex, watches swimming heats with friends and family of Team Nigeria at the 2025 Invictus Games, in Vancouver



Tidjane Thiam (C), the Prez of the Democratic Party of Ivory Coast (PDCI), greets his supporters in view of presidential election, in Yopougon, in Abidjan

allovertheworld



The flags of (Top to Bottom) Laos, Japan, Italy, and Iraq are flown from a paramotor during a rehearsal a day before the opening ceremony for the Komodo 2025 multilateral naval exercise at Benoa port in Denpasar, Indonesia's Bali island

Major fire breaks out in luxury London hotel

LONDON: More than 100 people were Friday forced to evacuate a luxury London hotel, a favourite celebrity haunt that was once a fire station, when a Valentine's Day blaze broke out, firefighters said. The London Fire Brigade said on X they had about "20 fire engines and around 125 firefighters at the scene of the #Marylebone hotel fire" after it first erupted earlier in the afternoon. A fire service press officer told AFP at the scene that they had made "good progress", while Andre Balazs, owner of the Chiltern Firehouse hotel, said the blaze had been "fully contained" with no injuries, according to the Press Association. The fire broke out in the ducts of the five-star hotel but the cause "is not known at this stage", the fire brigade said.

Myanmar militia says ready to deport 10,000 cyber scam workers

YANGON: A Myanmar ethnic militia said on Saturday it was preparing to deport 10,000 people linked to cyber scams in the area it controls to Thailand as part of a crackdown on the illicit compounds. Scam compounds have mushroomed in Myanmar's borderlands and are staffed by foreigners who are often trafficked and forced to work, swindling people around the world in an industry analysts say is worth billions of dollars. "We have announced to get rid of all scams from our soil. We are now implementing it," Karen Border Guard Force (BGF) spokesman Major Naing Maung Zaw told AFP on Saturday. "We have made a list and are prepared to transfer about 10,000 people (to Thailand)," he said. The deportations would be carried out in groups of 500 per day.

UN chief warns against regional war over DR Congo at Africa summit

ADDIS ABABA: UN chief Antonio Guterres on Saturday demanded that the Democratic Republic of Congo's "territorial integrity" be respected and a regional war avoided, at an African summit the day after Rwandan-backed fighters seized a second DRC provincial capital. With international pressure mounting on Rwanda to curb the fighting in eastern DR Congo (DRC), the conflict was set to dominate the African Union summit as it opened in Addis Ababa. Rwanda's President Paul Kagame was seen attending meetings at the gathering, but DR Congo's president Felix Tshisekedi was absent from the summit as the M23 advanced through his country's territory. Having routed the Congolese army to capture the key provincial capital of Goma in North Kivu last month, the Rwandan-backed armed group pushed into neighbouring South Kivu.

Lebanon says 25 arrested after attack on UN peacekeepers

BEIRUT: Lebanese authorities said Saturday that more than 25 people had been arrested following an attack on a United Nations convoy the day before that wounded two peacekeepers, including the force's outgoing deputy commander. UN and Lebanese officials have condemned Friday's attack, which came as Hezbollah supporters for a second night blocked the road to the country's only international airport over a decision barring two Iranian planes from landing there. "More than 25 people have been arrested by Lebanese army intelligence", with another person detained by the security services, Interior Minister Ahmad al-Hajjar told reporters after an emergency security meeting Saturday. "This does not mean these detainees carried out the attack... but the investigations will show who is responsible," he said.

Spanish police arrest fugitive Italian anarchist bomber

ROME: An Italian anarchist convicted of a 2017 bombing in Florence and on the run for nearly two years has been arrested in Spain, police in Italy said Saturday. Salvatore Vespertino, 38, a "militant anarchist", was captured by police in Madrid early Saturday, police said in a statement. Vespertino had been on the run since July 2023 from an eight-year prison sentence, confirmed by Italy's highest court, for having severely wounded a police bomb squad officer on December 31, 2017. The officer had been dismantling an explosive device in front of a Florence bookstore linked to Casapound, an Italian neo-fascist fringe group.

Kerala Nursing Council cracks down on ragging

PTI, KOTTAYAM THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Amid widespread outrage over the brutal ragging incident at the Government Nursing College here, the Kerala Nurses and Midwives Council (KNMC) on Saturday decided to bar all five accused students from continuing their studies.

A council meeting convened here observed that the accused did not deserve to complete their studies or enter the service profession.

The council further noted that those entering the nursing profession should be humane and compassionate whereas the accused displayed cruelty toward their juniors behaviour that is unacceptable in any circumstance.

A council member de-



Kottayam police personnel escort students who were arrested for allegedly ragging first-year students at the Government Nursing College, in Kottayam, Kerala

scribed the Kottayam ragging incident as an "extremely cruel act" and said it cannot be justified under any circumstances.

"We will never justify the incident. What we want to emphasise is that allowing

such individuals into the nursing profession would be a disaster," said Usha Devi, a council member.

She said the Council would soon inform the concerned authorities of its decision.

"We made the decision in a way that leaves them no chance to continue their studies. Through the District Health Services (DHS), we will inform the government of our decision, which will also be conveyed to the college authorities," the Council member told PTI.

With this decision, the accused students can no longer continue their studies in Kerala, she added.

The Council's ruling came a day after the state Health Minister indicated that strict action would be taken against those involved in the brutal incident.

The hostel's housekeeper-cum-security staff was also ordered to be removed immediately, according to a statement issued by the Health Minister's office late Friday night.

LDF, UDF criticise Centre's Wayanad rehab loan conditions

PTI, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM/THRISSUR: The Centre's conditional loan of Rs 529.50 crore for Wayanad rehabilitation has stirred up the political waters of Kerala with the ruling LDF and opposition UDF on Saturday criticising the stipulations, while the BJP said the amount given was "in effect a grant".

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said that when a state like Kerala, which has been number one in various areas and was proud part of India, suffered a disaster, the Centre only gave a loan to be repaid and did not give it the financial assistance that it deserved.

Vijayan said that the cen-

tral government was "obligated" to provide financial assistance, "but it was yet to fulfil that obligation".

"What was our fault? Are we not a part of this country? Do we not deserve to be a part of it," he asked, while speaking at an event in Kozhikode, and said that pressure needs to be exerted on the Centre to provide the requisite financial assistance to Kerala for the rehabilitation of the Wayanad disaster victims.

Earlier in the day, state Revenue Minister K Rajan said that the loan of Rs 529.50 crore sanctioned by the central government for Wayanad rehabilitation carries conditions which were "scary" and a "cruel joke".

SAFETY FIRST DRIVE



Police personnel issue challans to bike riders not wearing helmets, in Surat, Gujarat

SC to hear pleas concerning Places of Worship Act on Feb 17

PTI, NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court will hear a batch of pleas relating to the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, on February 17.

As per the causelist for

February 17 uploaded on the apex court's website, a bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justices Sanjay Kumar and K V Viswanathan is slated to hear the matter.

The Act prohibits conversion of any place of worship and provides for the maintenance of the religious character of any place of worship as it existed on August 15, 1947.

However, the dispute relating to the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid issue in Ayodhya was kept out of its purview.

Some of the pleas filed in the apex court have chal-

lenged the validity of certain provisions of the 1991 law.

On January 2, the top court agreed to examine a plea filed by AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi seeking effective implementation of

the places of worship law.

The bench was hearing petitions, including the lead plea filed by lawyer Ashwini Upadhyay, challenging various provisions of the 1991 law.

FROM PAGE 1

EX-MLA LAVOO DIES AFTER ROADSIDE BRAWL

Mamledar slapped the Jamadar with the latter hitting the former in return. The people around the duo intervened and tried to push the driver away, but he again slapped and later assaulted the former legislator. More people stepped in and defused the situation. Mamledar later went inside the hotel.

CCTV visuals from inside the hotel showed Mamledar going up the stairs when he suddenly collapsed on the hotel premises.

He was rushed to the emergency ward of the Belagavi District Hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

A medico-legal case was registered. According to the Belagavi DCP (Law and Order) Rohan Jagdish, an echocardiogram (ECG) and other tests were conducted by the doctors on Mamledar, but he was later declared dead. The accused was arrested by the local police and was interrogated. The rickshaw was also attached by the police. A murder case has been registered against Jamadar by the Market Police Station.

According to DCP Jagdish, since the death occurred within a few seconds after the assault, it looked like an impact of the assault and therefore a case of murder was registered. At the same time he added that the police will establish the facts after the post mortem examination report.

The post mortem was conducted after Mamledar's daughter Akshata rushed to Belagavi and filed a police complaint.

The authorities are also probing the exact cause of death and whether he had underlying health conditions.

The hotel's bar manager informed that the former legislator used to visit the hotel every month.

When contacted by O Herald, Goa Director General of Police (DGP) Alok Kumar said, "We are closely coordinating with our counterparts in Belagavi for a thorough investigation and to hand over the Mamledar's body to his family following autopsy."

Mamledar's body was brought back to Goa after conducting the postmortem in Belgaum. The post mortem report will pinpoint the actual cause of reason.

Mamledar's family drove to Belgaum this evening. The last rites will be held on Sunday at 12.30 pm at the local crematorium.

Expressing his condolences on Mamledar's demise, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said that Goa administration is in touch with their counterparts in Belgaum to ensure justice to Mamledar and the culprit is brought to book.

In a post on X, Sawant said, "Deeply anguished by the un-

timely and tragic passing of former MLA Shri Lavoo Mamledar in Belagavi today. His dedicated service to the State, both as an officer of the Goa Police and later as a legislator, will always be remembered with gratitude. The State administration is in close coordination with the local authorities in Belagavi to ensure a thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding the incident and to bring those responsible to justice. My heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones. May the departed soul attain Sadgati. Om Shanti."

Condoling the death of the former police officer, the Goa Police post on its official account on X reads: "We are deeply saddened by the tragic demise of Lavoo Mamledar, former MLA of Ponda and a distinguished officer of Goa Police. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his family, friends, and well-wishers in this difficult time. Om Shanti."

"Deeply saddened by the passing away of former MLA and INC Goa candidate Lavoo Mamledar. Heartfelt condolences to his family, members and friends. May God give them the strength to bear this loss and may his soul rest in peace," said Amit Patkar, GPCC President.

"Lavoo Mamledar was my school friend. Our connection is from school to University. We were very good friends. May his soul get eternal peace," said Sudin Dhavalikar, Power Minister. "Though we had political differences with Lavoo, we had a very strong friendship. Tributes to the departed soul," said Deepak Dhavalikar, MGP president.

Expressing grief, Ponda MLA and Minister Ravi Naik said, "Lavoo Mamledar's performance as Police officer and MLA was excellent."

Social activist Viraj Sapre said, "Lavoo could not get much opportunity in politics, but was a dashing former police officer."

According to Naresh Naik, "Lavoo Mamledar was vociferous on various issues affecting his constituency and never left any opportunity to criticise the government."

FOUR INJURED IN NEW DELHI RLY STATION 'STAMPEDE'

The officer said the passengers of these trains were also present on platform numbers 12, 13 and 14.

"As per CMI, every hour 1,500 general tickets were sold by railways due to which the station got overcrowded and became uncontrollable. There was a stampede at platform no. 14 and an escalator near Platform No. 16," the DCP said. The incident occurred around 9.55 pm, prompting an emergency response.

Authorities immediately dispatched rescue teams and

four fire tenders were rushed to the site to assist in the relief efforts, Delhi Fire Services (DFS) chief Atul Garg said.

Initial reports suggest overcrowding due to train services for the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj led to the situation.

Northern Railway CPRO Himanshu Upadhyay told PTI that due to a heavy rush, some passengers pushed each other, which caused injuries to some of them. They have been taken to hospitals for first aid.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said in a post on X that the situation at the station is now under control. Delhi Police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel have reached the spot and the injured have been taken to hospitals. Special trains are being run to tackle the sudden rush, he added.

ALLAHBADIA APOLOGISES, SAYS FAMILY GETTING DEATH THREATS

Allahbadia's comment has been dominating the headlines for a week with the influencer and others on the show facing police complaints in Mumbai and Guwahati.

The issue also found a mention in the Parliament and at a meeting of the Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology, members from different parties have voiced concern over Allahbadia's comment and called for stringent measures to punish him and to ensure that such an incident does not recur.

The National Commission for Women (NCW) has also asked Allahbadia, Raina, and other panellists Mukhija, Jaspreet Singh, and Ashish Chanchlani, as well as the show's producers Tushar Poojari and Saurabh Bothra to appear before it on February 17 in New Delhi.

NOT FOR SALE: OPENAI BOARD UNANIMOUSLY REJECTS MUSK'S \$97.4 BILLION TAKEOVER BID

Musk had invested about \$45 million in the startup from its founding until 2018, his lawyer has said.

He escalated the legal dispute late last year, adding new claims and defendants, including OpenAI's business partner Microsoft, and asking for a court order that would halt OpenAI's plans to more fully convert itself into a for-profit business. Musk also added xAI as a plaintiff, claiming that OpenAI was also unfairly stifling business competition.

A judge is still considering Musk's request but expressed scepticism about some of his claims in a court hearing last week.