



Britain's King Charles III, left, meets Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at the Sandringham Estate in Norfolk, England



South Korean soldiers take part in the Cobra Gold U.S.-Thai joint military exercise on Hat Yao beach in Chonburi province, eastern Thailand



A visitor poses for a photo inside a drone manufactured by Tianshu drones at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, Spain



Students perform a mid-day prayer during the holy fasting month of Ramadan in Medan, North Sumatra, Indonesia

allovertheworld



A float portraying the leader of Germany's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) Friedrich Merz as donkey trying to pull a cart with several political problems such as migration, Trump, recession, AfD, is pictured during the parade to celebrate Rose Monday (Rosenmontag) in Duesseldorf, western Germany

Iran lawmakers sack minister over economic woes

TEHRAN: Iran's parliament sacked the country's finance minister on Sunday after impeaching him over soaring inflation and a plunging currency, state television reported. Economy and finance minister Abdolnaser Hemmati lost a vote of confidence, with 182 of 273 parliamentarians present backing his removal. On the black market on Sunday, the Iranian rial was trading at more than 920,000 to the US dollar, compared with less than 600,000 in mid-2024. Earlier, President Masoud Pezeshkian defended Hemmati, a former central bank governor, telling lawmakers: "We are in a full-scale (economic) war with the enemy... we must take a war formation". But the depreciation of the rial has only intensified, especially since the fall in December of Iran ally Bashar al-Assad of Syria.

Environmental activist killed in southern Mexico

MEXICO CITY: An environmental activist was shot and killed in southern Mexico in the latest attack on an ecologist in that country, a rights group announced Sunday. Cristino Castro Perea, 63, was targeted late Friday in southern Oaxaca state by two people passing on a motorcycle, according to the Center for Human Rights and Advice to Indigenous Peoples (CEDHAPI). "Two people on a motorcycle fired on him repeatedly, costing his life," the group said. Castro Perea was part of an environmental group that since 2013 has opposed the development of an ambitious project planned to cover 60 acres (24 hectares) along a Pacific Ocean beach. Amid local protests, Mexico's federal government in 2023 classified the site as a protected natural zone, blocking the construction of a hotel.

Japan deploys 2,000 firefighters to tackle forest blaze

TOKYO: More than 2,000 firefighters are battling Japan's biggest forest fire in three decades, officials said Monday, as some 4,600 residents remain under an evacuation advisory. One person died last week in the blaze in the northern region of Iwate, which follows record low rainfall in the area and last year's hottest summer on record across Japan, as climate change pushes up temperatures worldwide. "Although it is inevitable that the fire will spread to some extent, we will take all possible measures to ensure there will be no impact on people's homes," Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba said in parliament. The fire near the city of Ofunato has burned through some 2,100 hectares (5,200 acres) since Thursday, the Fire and Disaster Management Agency said Monday.

Myanmar junta chief heads for meeting with key ally Putin

YANGON: Myanmar's junta chief departed Monday for talks with President Vladimir Putin in Russia, a key ally and arms supplier for the isolated state struggling to quell violent opposition to military rule. Min Aung Hlaing, who seized power in a 2021 coup, left the capital Naypyidaw with a retinue of high-ranking officials, according to the junta's information service, and is due to meet Putin on Tuesday. Analysts say Moscow's support has become vital to the military administration, particularly its air force, as it battles an array of ethnic minority armed groups and pro-democracy guerrillas on multiple fronts. The junta suffered significant territorial losses after a 2023 rebel offensive but its air power has been pivotal to arresting the advance of opposition forces.

UK probes TikTok, Reddit over children's data

LONDRES: The UK's data protection watchdog on Monday announced investigations into three social media networks, including TikTok and Reddit, over their use of children's personal data. Growing concerns that young people could be sent inappropriate or harmful content from social media apps prompted the probes, the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) said in a statement. "The responsibility to keep children safe online lies firmly at the door of the companies offering these services and my office is steadfast in its commitment to hold them to account," said Information Commissioner John Edwards. The ICO will look into how Chinese-owned TikTok uses the personal information of 13- to 17-year-olds to make recommendations and deliver content to their social media feeds.

Ukraine's Zelenskyy says end of war with Russia is very, very far away

'AP, KYIV: A deal to end the war between Ukraine and Russia "is still very, very far away," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said, adding that he expects to keep receiving American support despite his recent fraught relations with US President Donald Trump.

"I think our relationship (with the US) will continue, because it's more than an occasional relationship," Zelenskyy said late Sunday, referring to Washington's support for the past three years of war.

"I believe that Ukraine has a strong enough partnership with the United States of America" to keep aid flowing, he said at a briefing in Ukrainian before leaving London.

Zelenskyy publicly was

upbeat despite recent diplomatic upheaval between Western countries that have been helping Ukraine with military hardware and financial aid. The turn of events is unwelcome for Ukraine, whose under-strength army is having a hard time keeping bigger Russian forces at bay.

The Ukrainian leader was in London to attend UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer's effort to rally his European counterparts around continuing — and likely much increased — support for Ukraine from the continent amid political uncertainty in the US, and Trump's overtures toward Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Europe is suspicious of Trump's motives and strategy. Friedrich Merz, Germa-

TRUMP SLAMS ZELENSKY FOR SAYING END OF RUSSIA WAR IS STILL VERY, VERY FAR AWAY

AP, WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump slammed Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Monday for suggesting that the end of Russia's war against Ukraine likely "is still very, very far away." The comments come as prominent Trump allies escalate pressure on Zelenskyy to dramatically change his approach to the US president, who has made quickly ending the war a top priority, or step aside. The long complicated relationship between the leaders has reached a nadir following a disastrous White House meeting in which Trump and Vice President JD Vance excoriated Zelenskyy for not being sufficiently thankful for US support for Ukraine since Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered the February 2022 invasion. "This is the worst statement that could have been made by Zelenskyy, and America will not put up with it for much longer!" Trump said in a post on his Truth Social platform about the comments Zelenskyy made late Sunday while speaking to reporters in London.

Monday that he didn't think the recent election, said

blow-up was spontaneous.

He said that he had watched the scene repeatedly. "My assessment is that it wasn't a spontaneous reaction to interventions by Zelenskyy, but apparently an induced escalation in this meeting in the Oval Office," Merz said.

He said that he was "somewhat astonished by the mutual tone," but there has been "a certain continuity to what we are seeing from Washington at the moment" in recent weeks. "I would advocate for us preparing to have to do a great, great deal more for our own security in the coming years and decades," he said.

Even so, Merz said that he wanted to keep the trans-Atlantic relationship alive.

Over 25 dead in another Bolivia bus crash

AFP, LA PAZ: At least 25 people were killed and 26 injured in Bolivia on Monday when the bus they were travelling in plunged into a ravine after colliding with a pickup truck, investigators said.

The crash was the second in days in southern Potosi department to claim dozens of lives - and the third in just a month.

On Saturday, at least 37 people died when a bus heading to the Oruro Carnival, one of the biggest festivals in Latin America, collided with another bus near the city of Uyuni.

Monday's accident took place around 90 kilometers (60 miles) north of the city of Potosi and also involved Oruro festival-goers - this time people leaving the Andean city after the weekend carnival.

Investigators said they suspected the driver of the truck of causing the collision by crossing lanes into oncoming traffic, ramming headlong with the bus.

Car rams into crowd in Mannheim, 2 dead, several injured

AP, BERLIN: A driver rammed a car into a crowd Monday in the southwestern German city of Mannheim, and au-

thorities said two people were killed and several others injured.

A 40-year-old German from the nearby state of

Rhineland-Palatinate was detained and in a hospital after being injured, State Interior Minister Thomas

Strobl of Baden-Württemberg, where Mannheim is based, told German news agency dpa.

Police would not immediately characterize the

incident as an attack. Cars have been used as deadly weapons in several acts of violence in recent months in Germany.

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AS THE SACRED BANYAN TREE CAME DOWN, WHERE WERE THE NETAS?

Miranda added, "We don't align ourselves with any party because they're all the same. Politicians show up when they see an opportunity to make a statement. None of them supported us during our struggle." Miranda emphasised that the protection of the tree and temple was a community effort, not a political one. "It was a people's protest, not a party protest," he added.

Swapnesh Sherlekar, another activist at the site, took a more neutral view on the political presence. "Both the AAP and Congress presidents showed up in the evening. While it was late, we welcomed anyone who came in support of the cause. We're focused on the issue at hand, not on the politics," he said.

However, Xencor Polgi, another activist, questioned the silence of Goa's Union Minister Shripad Naik - the elected representative of North Goa - regarding the issue. "What's the use of them being in power if they can't even protect a temple?" he asked, criticising the lack of intervention from the political leadership.

Meanwhile, Sunil Kawthankar, Vice President of the Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC), responded by defending his party's involvement. "Our local team was deeply involved in the protest," he said, though acknowledging that they had not anticipated the extent of the demolition. "We never expected the BJP to go as far as demolishing the temple," Kawthankar added.

During the day, Kawthankar filed a complaint before Crime Branch against officials of the Porvorim Police Station, Joint Mamletdar, Bardez, and a private contractor involved in construction of the National Highway at Porvorim for the 'illegal' demolition of Dev Khapreshwar Temple.

NOTHING LIKE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT ON PLATTER: SC

"These youngsters may think that we are outdated but we know how to deal with them. Don't take the court lightly," the judge cautioned.

The court said if somebody wanted to enjoy fundamental rights, the country gave a guarantee to enjoy but also guaranteed it with a duty.

"So that guarantee will involve a guarantee for performing that duty. So we know what kind of...anyway we are quite hopeful and we are quite sure that some repentance (is there) about what they have done," the bench said.

Allahbadia, popularly known as BeerBiceps, faces multiple FIRs for his comment on parents and sex on comic Samay Raina's YouTube show "India's Got Latent".

He has been asked by the top court to resume his podcast subject to maintaining "morality and decency" and making it suitable for viewers of all ages.

PARENTS PROTEST APRIL SCHOOL START, FLAG FLAWS IN NEP IMPLEMENTATION

"The authorities have not provided a clear reason for starting the academic year in April," she added.

Shetgaonkar assured the delegation that discussions were ongoing, but no concrete decisions were announced.

The parents also sought clarification regarding the Class IX and Board examinations. They were informed that the question papers for Class IX would be set by the Goa Board, while assessments would be conducted by school teachers. As for Class X, the Board exams would continue as usual.

Additionally, parents were informed that the textbooks were ready and that distribution had already begun in a phased manner, including the new textbooks for Standard VI. However, parents expressed concerns that this contradicted the information previously provided to them.

Meanwhile, in Salcete, parents have launched a signature campaign against the change, collecting thousands of signatures for a memorandum to be submitted to the authorities. Many parents criticized the way NEP 2020 was being implemented in the State.

"The decision to start school in April contradicts the NEP 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE) 2023," said Alex Rodrigues, a parent from Margao.

Another concerned parent, Ratna Naik from Navelim, highlighted the mental strain on students. "A break between academic years is crucial for students to recharge.

The authorities' sudden decision is causing unnecessary distress," she stated.

Anita Fernandes from Assolna highlighted the autonomy granted to schools under NEP. "The education department cannot impose regulations on schools as the NEP gives complete autonomy to school authorities to determine the curriculum and assessment methods within the framework of the National Curriculum Framework," she asserted.

The Global Romi Lipi Abhiyan (GRLA) has also supported the parents' demands, particularly with regard to school schedules and the NEP's stance on local language education.

GRLA President Kennedy Afonso pointed out, "NEP encourages education in the mother tongue or local dialect until the fifth standard. It also promotes subject flexibility, allowing students to explore multiple fields of interest."

APEX COURT SAYS 'FORESTS BEING DESTROYED IN GOA'

In response, the Court granted the interim relief, ordering that no further conversion sanads be issued concerning the identified forest lands. The Goa government was also directed to file a counter affidavit within the next four weeks.

The 855 survey numbers in question, listed in the prayer clause of the petition, are those identified as "final" private forests in the expert committees' reports of December 2018. The Goa Foundation's petition called for a status quo order to protect these areas pending the final resolution of the case.

This latest ruling follows a series of judicial concerns regarding the rapid loss of Goa's natural heritage. In 2012, the state government had formed the two expert committees to identify and demarcate private forest areas, but these committees were disbanded in March 2018, even as their final reports were pending submission. The State government, however, chose to classify most of the identified plots as "provisional," leading to further legal challenges from the Goa Foundation. The matter was eventually escalated to the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and, subsequently, the Supreme Court.

POPE SUFFERS NEW CRISES, BACK ON VENTILATION: VATICAN

Francis, 88, denounced the 'progressive irrelevance' of international organisations to combat war as he remained at Rome's Gemelli hospital in stable condition. He was up, had breakfast and was receiving therapies after sleeping 'well all night long', the Vatican said.

The Vatican hasn't released any photos or videos of Francis since before he entered the hospital on February 14 with a complex lung infection. This has become the longest absence of his 12-year papacy.

The Vatican has provided brief, twice-daily medical updates on his condition, and Francis has begun signing off on documents with "From Gemelli Polyclinic" in an indication that he is up and working.

The Vatican has defended Francis' decision to recover in peace and out of the public eye. But on Monday one of Francis' closest friends at the Vatican, Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, urged him to let his voice be heard, saying the world needs to hear it.

"We need men like him who are truly universal and not only one-sided," Paglia said, speaking after a press conference to launch the annual assembly of his Pontifical Academy for Life, the Vatican's bioethics academy, which has as this year's theme "The End of the World?"

INDIAN WOMAN ON DEATH ROW IN ABU DHABI EXECUTED

She was sentenced to death on July 31, 2023. She was lodged in the Al Wathba jail.

On being informed about the development, Justice Sachin Datta termed it "very unfortunate".

"It is over. She was executed on February 15. Her last rites will be held on March 5," Additional Solicitor General Chetan Sharma told the court and stressed that the government had tried its best to assist her.

The submission was made during the hearing of the petition filed by the 33-year-old woman's father seeking to know her well-being.

The Ministry of External Affairs, meanwhile, said on Monday that the Indian Embassy provided all possible le-

gal assistance to Shahzadi, including sending mercy petitions and pardon requests to the Government of the UAE.

Shahzadi was convicted on charges of murder of an infant and sentenced to death in the UAE. The highest court of the UAE, the Court of Cassation, upheld the sentence, it said.

The UAE authorities intimated to the Embassy on February 28, 2025, that the sentence of Shahzadi has been carried out in accordance with local laws. The family of Shahzadi has been informed of the matter, the MEA said.

Her father Shabbir Khan, a resident of Uttar Pradesh's Banda, had said there was "profound uncertainty" regarding his daughter's situation and his repeated applications to the Ministry of External Affairs for clarification were fruitless.

The plea further alleged that Shahzadi was inadequately represented before the local courts in the case over the alleged murder of her employer's four-month-old child and she was pressured into confessing, leading to the imposition of the death penalty on her.

During the hearing, the petitioner's counsel said his limited prayer was to know whether his daughter was alive or she had been hanged.

He said on February 14, Shahzadi had called the family from the prison saying that she would be executed in a day or two and this would be her last call. Since then, they were unaware of her well-being, he said.

The Centre's counsel told the court that the Embassy officials and the petitioner were in touch and arrangements were being made so that the family could attend their daughter's last rites in Abu Dhabi.

"We did our best. We hired a law firm there to represent her in court. But the laws there deal with the murder of an infant very severely," he submitted.

The petition said, "On February 14, 2025, the petitioner's daughter telephoned him from detention, informing him that she had been relocated within the facility and that, prior to her potential execution, her final wish was to speak with her parents."

"The petitioner, with considerable effort, submitted an application dated February 21, 2025 to the Ministry of External Affairs, seeking to ascertain the current legal status of his daughter and confirm whether she remains alive or has been executed," it added.

The plea said the woman travelled to Abu Dhabi in December 2021 after obtaining a legal visa. In August 2022, her employer gave birth to a son for whom Shahzadi was employed as a caregiver. On December 7, 2022, the infant received routine vaccinations and tragically passed away that evening, it said.

It claimed that the infant's parents refused consent for a post-mortem and also signed an agreement to waive further investigation into the death.

DECIBEL FIGHT SETBACK: GOVT U-TURN ON NOISE PANEL MEMBER

However, Alvares objected, arguing that Pereira himself had been removed for living three kilometers away from the affected area.

Local residents, many of whom have endured relentless noise pollution, expressed frustration over recent developments. "It's disheartening that Alvares opposed Janie. She was our best bet, and through her, we saw a bright light," said Agnes D'Souza from Anjuna.

Despite ongoing monitoring by the Goa Bench of the Bombay High Court, several establishments in Anjuna and Vagator continue to violate Supreme Court orders prohibiting loud music after 10 p.m.

"I fear stepping outside because I don't know when I might be attacked. I sit alone, repeatedly filing complaints on emergency helpline 112, yet nothing changes," lamented Avelin Fernandes, who alleged that a nearby nightclub owner attempted to silence her protests.

Amid mounting concerns, Jeremy Ferreira, one of the initially proposed candidates, emphasized the need for local representation. "Someone from our village who has suffered due to the noise should be part of the NMC," he insisted.

"I had nothing against Janie. She was an excellent choice, and I don't understand why she was opposed," Ferreira admitted.

"If no one in the village is deemed capable of serving on the committee, the next best option is to appoint honest outsiders," said Desmond D'Souza.