



A yacht sits washed ashore in the Broadwater at Labrador following cyclone Alfred on the Gold Coast, Australia



A man rides his tuk-tuk in the Sadr City area of Baghdad, Iraq, as cars navigate a flooded street after heavy rains



Military delegates march to the Great Hall of the People to attend a plenary session of China's National People's Cong, in Beijing



A man carries bunches of flowers purchased from a flower market on International Women's Day during a sunny morning in Moscow, Russia

allovertheworld



A man with a Palestine flag after he climbed up Elizabeth Tower, which houses Big Ben at the Palace of Westminster in London

Ten dead, hundreds evacuated in Argentina floods

BUENOS AIRES: At least ten people were killed and more than a thousand evacuated in the Argentine port city of Bahia Blanca on Friday as torrential rains flooded homes and hospitals, destroyed roads and forced officials to cut power. Eight hours of nonstop rain left the city of 350,000 people largely underwater, and forced authorities to evacuate the Jose Penna hospital. Television images showed medical personnel evacuating babies from the hospital's neonatal unit, and the army was deployed to assist in rescue efforts. Some 1,321 people were evacuated to safety in the city, which is about 600 kilometers (about 375 miles) south of the capital Buenos Aires, according to Mayor Federico Susbielles' office. The national government authorised emergency aid of 10 billion pesos (about 9.2 million dollars).

Thai ex-cop guilty of murder dies in prison: officials

BANGKOK: A former Thai police officer serving life in prison for murder was found dead in his cell and an investigation into his death has been launched, prison officials said Saturday. Thitsan Utthanaphon, nicknamed "Joe Ferrari" for his vast collection of luxury sports cars and flashy lifestyle, was found guilty of murder in 2022 for torturing a suspect to death during a brutal interrogation. The high-profile case caused public outrage and shone a rare light on police brutality and corruption in the kingdom. Thitsan was discovered unresponsive in his cell in a Bangkok prison on Friday night, Thailand's Department of Corrections said in a statement. The 44-year-old was found sitting against his cell door with "bruised fingers and no pulse", the statement said.

36 injured in Australian army truck accident on storm deployment

SYDNEY: Two army trucks on a storm aid deployment in eastern Australia collided on Saturday, injuring 36 people, with some rushed to multiple hospitals, emergency services and police said. Australian Defence Force personnel were injured when the trucks crashed southwest of the flood-prone city of Lismore, New South Wales police said in a statement. Police sent specialist rescue units to the scene while the state's ambulance service dispatched teams of paramedics including two helicopters, officials said. The spokesman said he was not authorised to give further details of the defence personnel's condition. After the crash a large army truck lay on its side across a road surrounded by emergency services and army personnel, a photograph of the scene in the Sydney Morning Herald showed.

WhatsApp group admin shot dead for allegedly removing member

PESHAWAR: A Pakistani man has been charged with murder after allegedly shooting the administrator of a community WhatsApp group who removed him from the chat, police said Saturday. Mushtaq Ahmed was shot dead on Thursday evening in Peshawar, the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a province that borders Afghanistan, which has a history of bloody sectarian violence. A man named only as Ashfaq has been charged with his murder, according to police documents seen by AFP and a local police official. Mushtaq allegedly kicked Ashfaq out of the WhatsApp group following an argument, according to a statement by Mushtaq's brother seen by AFP. He said that both parties had arranged to meet and reconcile but alleges that Ashfaq turned up with a gun and opened fire, killing his brother. Ashfaq was angry "in reaction to removal from WhatsApp group," according to his statement.

DR Congo offers bounty for arrest of M23 leaders

KINSHASA: Authorities in the Democratic Republic of Congo are offering a five-million-dollar reward for help in arresting leaders of the M23 group that recently captured two major northern towns, the justice ministry announced. "A reward of five million dollars is offered to any person who helps arrest the convicts Corneille Nangaa, Bertrand Bisimwa and Sultani Makenga," the ministry said in a statement dated Friday. Nangaa, a leader in the River Congo Alliance (AFC) that is a military-political coalition to which the M23 belongs, is a former president of the DRC's electoral commission. Bisimwa and Makenga are respectively the president and military chief of the M23.

Zelensky seeks more sanctions as Russian strikes kill 14

AFP, DOBROPILLIA: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Saturday called for more sanctions against Russia as overnight strikes killed at least 14 people and wounded dozens more, days ahead of talks between US and Ukrainian negotiators aimed at securing a truce.

A Russian assault hit the centre of Dobropillia in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region late on Friday, killing 11 people and wounding 30, according to the emergency services.

Separately, three people were killed and seven others wounded in a drone attack early on Saturday in the city of Bogodukhiv, the military head of the eastern Kharkiv region, Oleg Synegubov, said.

Russia fired two missiles and 145 drones at Bogodukhiv, Ukraine's air

Such strikes show that Russia's goals are unchanged. Therefore, it is very important to continue to do everything to protect life, strengthen our air defence, and increase sanctions against Russia. This is a despicable and inhumane tactic of intimidation that the Russians often use



force said.

The overnight air raids came after US President Donald Trump threatened new sanctions and tariffs on Russia but said it may be "easier" to work with Moscow than Kyiv on efforts to end the three-year-long war.

"Such strikes show that Russia's goals are unchanged. Therefore, it is very important to continue to do everything to protect life, strengthen our air defence, and increase sanc-

tions against Russia," Zelensky wrote on the Telegram social media channel.

In Dobropillia, AFP saw charred residential buildings, flattened market stalls and evidence of cluster bomb damage.

Irina Kostenko, 59, spent the night cowering in her hallway with her husband. When she left the apartment building on Saturday, she saw a neighbour "lying dead on the ground, covered with a blanket".

"It was shocking, I don't

have the words to describe it," Kostenko told AFP.

Zelensky said that Russia had struck Dobropillia, waited until rescuers arrived and then "deliberately" targeted them as well.

"This is a despicable and inhumane tactic of intimidation that the Russians often use," he said. - Trump sanctions threat - US and Ukrainian negotiators are due to meet in Saudi Arabia next week with bilateral relations frayed.

Trump publicly berated Zelensky during a White House meeting and suspended US aid to Kyiv in a stated bid to encourage diplomacy.

"I'm finding it more difficult frankly to deal with Ukraine and they don't have the cards," Trump said on Friday. "It may be easier dealing with Russia."

S Korea's impeached Prez Yoon released from prison

PTI, SEOUL: South Korea's impeached conservative President Yoon Suk Yeol was released from prison on Saturday, a day after a Seoul court cancelled his arrest to allow him to stand trial for rebellion without being detained.

After walking out of a detention centre near Seoul, Yoon waved, clenched his fists and bowed deeply to his supporters who were shouting his name and waving South Korean and US flags. Yoon climbed into a black van headed to his presidential residence in Seoul.

In a statement distributed by his lawyers, Yoon said that he appreciates the courage and decision by the Seoul Central District Court to correct illegality, in an ap-

parent reference to legal disputes over his arrest. He said he also thanks his supporters and asked those who are on hunger strike against his impeachment to end it.

Yoon was arrested and indicted by prosecutors in January over his December 3 martial law decree that plunged the country into huge political turmoil. The liberal opposition-controlled National Assembly separately voted to impeach him, leading to his suspension from office.

The Constitutional Court has been deliberating whether to formally dismiss or reinstate Yoon. If the court upholds his impeachment, a national election will be held to find his successor within two months.

US warns against travel near India-Pak border, Balochistan & Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

PTI, NEW YORK/WASHINGTON: The US has issued an advisory cautioning against travel to the immediate vicinity of the India-Pakistan border and the Line of Control due to terrorism and the potential for armed conflict and to the provinces of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The US State Department issued the travel advisory on Friday. The advisory states that people should "reconsider travel to Pakistan due to terrorism and the potential for armed conflict".

The travel advisory asks Americans to not travel to Balochistan and Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa, which include the former Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), due to terrorism.

It also cautions against travel to the immediate vicinity of the India-Pakistan border and the Line of Control due to terrorism and the potential for armed conflict.

"Violent extremist groups continue to plot attacks in Pakistan. Terrorist attacks are frequent in Balochistan province and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, which include the former FATA. Large-scale terrorist attacks have resulted in numerous casualties, and small-scale attacks are frequent.

"Terrorism and ongoing violence by extremist elements have led to indiscriminate attacks on civilians, as well as local military and police targets. Terrorists may attack with little or no warning, targeting transportation hubs, markets, shopping malls, military installations, airports, universities, tourist attractions, schools, hospitals, places of worship, and government facilities. Terrorists have targeted US diplomats and diplomatic facilities in the past," the advisory said.

It said Pakistan's security environment remains fluid, sometimes changing with little or no notice.

There are greater security resources and infrastructure in the major cities, particularly Islamabad, and security forces in these areas may be more readily able to respond to an emergency compared to other areas of the country, it said.

On advisory related to the "Vicinity of Line of Control - Level 4: Do Not Travel", it said, "Do not travel to the India-Pakistan border, including areas along the Line of Control for any reason. Militant groups are known to operate in the area. India and Pakistan maintain a strong military presence on their respective sides of the border.

FROM PAGE 1

ILLEGAL STONE MINING IN TILLARI MAY CAUSE WATER CRISIS IN GOA

Stone quarries just 50 metres from Tillari Dam use horizontal blasting, putting nearby villages at risk. If the dam wall collapses, disaster is inevitable. Daily, 40-50 gravel trucks head to Goa unchecked, while authorities remain absent

- Sanket Shetve, a protester

Stone quarries have operated here for 18 years, but their proximity to the dam is now a threat. If the protective wall breaks, our village and even Goa—holding an 80% stake in Tillari—will face dire consequences. Goa must act before it's too late

- Laxman Gawade, a local

The residents of Khanyale, a hamlet located on the Maharashtra-Goa border, continued their hunger strike for the third consecutive day, demanding an immediate halt to these operations.

Insisting that the ongoing blasting operation poses a serious threat to the dam wall, the protestors sought the Goa government's urgent intervention to shut down the mines.

The hunger strike, which began on Thursday, is in protest against rampant black stone and minor mineral mining in Shirange village, an area adjacent to Khanyale. The Revenue Department officers visited the protest site on Thursday evening and assured the villagers that a report would be sent to the District Magistrate. However, there was no action initiated and the government officials were conspicuous by their absence on Saturday, which fuelled growing frustration among the residents.

Social activist and Maharashtra Congress leader Meghshyam Raut, who visited the site, raised serious concerns about illegal encroachments into the Tillari Dam reservoir and the indiscriminate dumping of soil.

Raut recalled that similar concerns were raised with Chief Minister Pramod Sawant when villages such as Saal and Menkura were submerged five to six years ago due to uncontrolled mining. He warned that inaction could lead to another environmental disaster.

The environmental threat is further underscored by past research. Dr Madhav Gadgil Committee had previously classified Dodamarg taluka as an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) in its Western Ghats Environmental Study Report. However, the subsequent Kasturirangan Committee removed Dodamarg from the ESA list, opening the doors for large-scale mining operations. Taking advantage of this exclusion, illegal mining has proliferated in Shirange and Khanyale over the past few years.

Numerous stone crushers in the area are allegedly operating without permits, with significant financial backing from Goan investors. A major portion of the extracted gravel is reportedly supplied to hot mix plants in Goa. However, this mining is causing severe environmental degradation and endangering the structural integrity of the Tillari Dam.

The villagers claim that local revenue officials in Dodamarg taluka are concealing crucial information from

senior authorities, forcing them to resort to a hunger strike. They are demanding that the District Magistrate personally inspect the affected areas and take swift corrective measures.

Over the years, large portions of the Shirange mountain have been systematically eroded due to relentless mining. Currently, only the 10-foot section of the mountain remains. The villagers fear that if mining continues, water from the dam could directly flood Khanyale, potentially leading to a catastrophic disaster akin to the Malin landslide tragedy in Maharashtra.

As tensions escalate, the villagers have made it clear: their indefinite hunger strike will continue until the administration takes concrete action.

MAN KILLED, ISRAELI TOURIST AMONG TWO GANG-RAPED NEAR HAMPPI

When the group refused to give them more money, the accused, who spoke Kannada and Telugu, started abusing them. They then allegedly raped the homestay operator and the Israeli tourist and pushed the three male tourists into the canal, a senior police officer said.

"Two of the accused beat the homestay operator, while the third aggressively pushed the three male tourists into the canal. The three accused also hit the homestay operator, leaving her seriously injured," the FIR further stated.

The accused dragged her to the side of the canal, where one of them strangled her and removed her clothes. Two of them beat and raped her. They also snatched her bag, stealing two mobile phones and Rs 9,500 in cash, according to the FIR. Similarly, one of them dragged the Israeli tourist and raped her.

The accused fled on a motorcycle after the assault, the complainant alleged.

The body of one of the male tourists was recovered on Saturday morning, police added.

DESERTED BY FAMILY, 75-YR-OLD FROM SANGUEM SEEKS REFUGE AT BUS STOP

An undeterred Sattarkar contacted the 108 emergency service in Curchorem, which promptly dispatched an ambulance, accompanied by a nurse and two constables from the Sanguem Police Station.

Upon arrival, the emergency team brought a stretcher, prepared to ferry Milu with care. However, in a heart-breaking display of resilience, she refused to lie down and instead walked to the ambulance on her wounded feet, overshadowing her pain by a lifetime of endurance.

Efforts were made to contact her relatives, but they refused to take responsibility for her care. The indifference of her own family, despite her dire condition, raises serious concerns about the neglect of elders and the lack of social accountability. Fortunately, the dedicated doctors and staff at the PHC stepped in to provide the urgent medical treatment she desperately needed.

Dr Trupti Saglani from the Sanguem PHC, said, "Part of Milu's foot has already been amputated, but she now has wounds that require daily dressing. Additionally, she needs to be monitored for diabetes. Her mental condition appears

unstable and requires constant care in this situation."

Milu's case highlights a troubling reality; vulnerable elderly individuals, especially those suffering from physical ailments and mental illness, are often abandoned and left to suffer in silence. Her story is a stark reminder of the need for stronger social support systems, greater awareness, and collective responsibility to protect the most vulnerable members of our society.

Now receiving care at the hospital, Milu's immediate pain has been addressed. But what lies ahead for her? Will she recover only to be left abandoned once again? Or will the community, social workers, NGOs, and kind-hearted individuals step forward to ensure she never has to endure such hardship again?

RS 12 CRORE DRUG HAUL IN GUIRIM

Gautam reportedly began distributing small samples to local peddlers and runners, intending to introduce the drug into the local market. However, this caught the attention of the Crime Branch, which monitored his movements closely leading up to the raid.

This marks the largest seizure by the Crime Branch in recent history, surpassing the 2-kg hydrophobic weed haul previously made by the Anti-Narcotic Cell police. The Crime Branch has registered a case against Gautam under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

MORE OBITS ON PAGE 14

CONDOLENCE
We, the Management, Staff, PTA & Students of
Our Lady of Mercies High School, Mercers
deeply mourn the sad demise of
Mr. Francisco Martins
(Ex-Primary Teacher)
May God grant him eternal peace
Confidant: 9881711706Panjim

CONDOLENCE
"My soul finds rest in God alone..." (Psalm 62:1)
We, the Priests and Staff of
CLERGY HOME, Alto - Porvorim,
Bid eternal happiness to our warm and loving hearted
FR. VENANCIO SANTANA LUIS FONSECA
Requiescat in Pace
ART TRICKS 8390897800