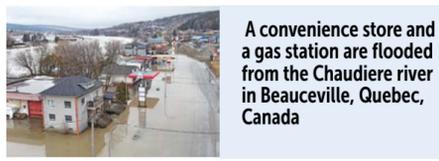




Canada Prime Minister Mark Carney is greeted by British Prime Minister Keir Starmer as he arrives in London



A convenience store and a gas station are flooded from the Chaudiere river in Beauceville, Quebec, Canada



French President Emmanuel Macron speaks to soldiers at the Luxeuil-Saint-Sauveur airbase, in Saint-Sauveur, France



Russian Prez Vladimir Putin gestures at the annual congress of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs in Moscow, Russia

allovertheworld



Anti-bullfighting activists celebrate outside the Mexico City Congress after an initiative to ban bullfighting was approved in the capital. Legislators in Mexico City, home to the world's largest bullring, on Tuesday voted to ban bullfights in the capital where the animals are killed or wounded

Peru declares state of emergency in Lima over extortion

LIMA: Peru on Monday declared a month-long state of emergency in the capital Lima to allow for the deployment of soldiers to help police crack down after a wave of killings linked to extortion. The move came after singer Paul Flores, 39, was shot dead Sunday by hitmen who attacked a bus he was riding with bandmates as they left a concert outside Lima, a city of 10 million people. The musicians had been threatened by a criminal gang who attempted to extort money from them, their representatives said. While extortion is a problem across Latin America, it has taken on alarming proportions in Peru - a phenomenon blamed partly on criminal gangs such as Venezuela's Tren de Aragua which operates in several Latin American countries. Since January, more than 450 murders have been reported, according to government data.

US to execute four Death Row inmates this week

WASHINGTON: A 46-year-old man convicted of rape and murder is to be put to death by nitrogen gas in the southern state of Louisiana on Tuesday, the first of four executions scheduled this week in the United States. Jessie Hoffman, who was sentenced to death for the 1996 murder of Molly Elliott, a 28-year-old advertising executive, will be the first person executed in Louisiana in 15 years. A district court judge last week stayed Hoffman's execution on the grounds that the use of nitrogen gas may amount to cruel and unusual punishment, which is banned under the US Constitution. But the stay was lifted by the conservative-dominated US Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, allowing the execution to proceed. Only one other US state, Alabama, has carried out executions by nitrogen hypoxia, which involves pumping nitrogen gas into a facemask, causing the prisoner to suffocate.

Small plane crash off Honduran island kills at least 12

TEGUCIGALPA: At least 12 people died Monday when a small plane crashed into the sea while taking off from a Caribbean island off Honduras, officials said. The Lanhsa airlines plane departed at nightfall from Roatan, one of the central American country's main tourist destinations, heading for the port of La Ceiba, on the mainland. The aircraft "made a sharp turn to the right of the runway and fell into the water", civil aviation official Carlos Padilla said. "The plane almost fell on us. I was fishing," a fisherman, whose name was not given, told HCH television. The fire department said 12 people were killed in the crash. Five people were rescued, and one is missing. Honduran musician Aurelio Martinez, a popular member of the Garifuna music scene, was among the dead, according to local media reports.

Greek woman given 3 life terms for killing her 3 daughters

ATHENS: A Greek woman sentenced to life last year for murdering her nine-year-old daughter received two additional life terms on Tuesday for killing her two other children. The case had gripped public attention in Greece for years. The court in Athens found that Roula Pispirigou suffocated her infant daughters Malena and Irida in 2019 and 2021, in what were ultimately unsuccessful attempts to prevent her husband repeatedly abandoning her. "The trial... has dispelled any doubts as to her guilt," said Eva Ambazi, the lawyer for Pispirigou's husband Manos Daskalakis. Addressing the three judges and four jurors who unanimously found her guilty, she said she would "fight to the end to win justice" for her daughters.

Militants killed dozens of Rohingya refugees last year: watchdog

DHAKA: At least 65 Rohingya refugees were killed last year in clashes between rival militant groups competing for influence in Bangladeshi relief camps, a regional rights group said Tuesday. Around a million members of the persecuted and mostly Muslim minority live in Bangladesh, most of whom arrived after fleeing a brutal 2017 military crackdown in neighbouring Myanmar. The Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army, the Rohingya Solidarity Organisation and other militant groups have for years waged a deadly battle for control of the camps. Refugee leaders campaigning against their influence have also been attacked and killed.

More than 400 killed as Israel launches airstrikes across Gaza

AP, DEIR AL-BALAH: Israel launched a wave of airstrikes across the Gaza Strip early Tuesday, saying it was hitting Hamas targets in its heaviest assault in the territory since a ceasefire took effect in January. The strikes have killed more than 400 people and wounded over 500, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which says more than half of the dead are women and children. The Israeli military ordered people to evacuate eastern Gaza and move toward the centre of the territory after Israel carried out a wave of airstrikes across the territory. The orders issued Tuesday indicate Israel could launch renewed ground operations.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he ordered the strikes because of a lack of progress in talks to extend the ceasefire. Officials said the operation was open-ended and was expected to expand. The White House said it had been consulted and voiced support for Israel's actions. Hamas warned that Israel's new airstrikes breached their ceasefire and put the fate of hostages in jeopardy. The surprise attack shattered a period of relative calm during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan

SETBACK TO CEASEFIRE

- Israel launched a large-scale attack on Gaza, marking its first such strike since the ceasefire with Hamas began about two months ago
- According to Gaza's health ministry, the airstrikes resulted in at least 400 deaths, including children
- The attack came after weeks of attempts to extend the ceasefire. It remains unclear whether Israel's intention was to pressure Hamas into negotiations or to initiate a new phase of the conflict
- The Israeli government reports that 59 hostages have not been returned, with fewer than half believed to still be alive



and raised the prospect of a full return to fighting in a 17-month war that has killed tens of thousands of Palestinians and caused widespread destruction across Gaza. Egypt and Kuwait slam Israel's attacks on Gaza. The leaders of Egypt and Kuwait say Israel's attacks on Gaza are a "gross violation of international law and the ceasefire deal." The statement from the Egyptian presidency said Israel was resuming the war as part of "premeditated efforts" to make Gaza

unlivable and transfer the Palestinians out of their territories. President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi and Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah spoke by phone Tuesday and warned that the Israeli attacks "could broaden the conflict and undermine prospects of peace and stability in the region." They called for the international community to "bear its responsibility and push for an immediate ceasefire." France condemns' Is-

rael's deadly airstrikes in Gaza. Paris is urging both Israel and the Palestinians to respect the ceasefire and "condemned" Israel's airstrikes for causing "numerous civilian casualties" across Gaza. The French Foreign Ministry statement calls "for an immediate halt to hostilities, which are compromising efforts to free hostages and threatening the lives of Gaza's civilian population." Gaza's Health Ministry says at least 263 of the more than 400 people confirmed dead so far Tuesday were women or children. Islamic Jihad group accuses Israel's Netanyahu of sabotaging the ceasefire. Palestinian Islamic Jihad has lashed out at Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his far-right government, accusing them of "deliberately foiling" ceasefire efforts. The militant group said in a statement that Tuesday's wave of deadly strikes won't lead to a release of the remaining hostages in Gaza. "We affirm that what Netanyahu and his barbaric army were unable to achieve over fifteen months of crimes and bloodshed, they will be unable to achieve again," it said.

Lebanon, Syria agree to ceasefire after two days of border clashes

PTI, BEIRUT: Lebanese and Syrian defense officials reached an agreement late Monday for a ceasefire to halt two days of clashes along the border, Syria's state-run SANA news agency reported. The agreement also stipulates enhanced coordination and cooperation between the two sides, the statement from the Syrian Ministry of Defense said. Lebanon's president earlier Monday ordered troops to retaliate against the source of gunfire from the Syrian side of the border after more deadly fighting erupted overnight along the frontier. Lebanon's Health Ministry reported that seven Lebanese citizens were killed and another 52 injured in the clashes, including a 4-year-old girl. The fighting happened after Syria's interim government accused militants from Lebanon's Hezbollah group of crossing into Syria on Saturday, abducting three soldiers and killing them on Lebanese soil. Hezbollah denied involvement and some other reports pointed to local clans in the border region that are not directly affiliated with Hezbollah but have been involved in cross-border smuggling. It was the most serious cross-border fighting since the ouster of former Syrian President Bashar Assad in

December. Syrian News Channel, citing an unnamed Defense Ministry official, said the Syrian army shelled Hezbollah gatherings that killed Syrian soldiers along the border. Hezbollah denied involvement in a statement on Sunday. Information Minister Paul Morkos said Lebanon's defense minister told a Cabinet meeting that the three killed were smugglers. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based war monitor, said five Syrian soldiers were killed during Monday's clashes. Footage circulated online and in local media showed families fleeing toward the Lebanese town of Hermel. Lebanon's state news agency reported that fighting intensified Monday evening near Hermel. What is happening along the eastern and northeastern border cannot continue and we will not accept that it continues, Lebanon's President Joseph Aoun said on X. I have given my orders to the Lebanese army to retaliate against the source of fire. Aoun added that he asked Lebanon's foreign minister, who was in Brussels for a donors conference on Syria, to contact Syrian officials to resolve the problem "and prevent further escalation."

FROM PAGE 1

OPPN TO DOUBLE-TRACKING GETS LOUDER AFTER EX-MIN'S BACKING

He accused the project of continuing a history of exploitation, claiming that the railway system had been forced on Goa to benefit Western industries while destroying local economies.

It is very heartening to learn that none less than the ex-Railways Minister has made a public statement that post 1998 it was mandatory to conduct public hearing for mega public projects, otherwise these projects could face legal challenges from the aggrieved public

—Orville Dourado Rodrigues, founder of Goencho Ekvott

The entire population of Goa opposes the double tracking, and democracy demands that it must be cancelled... even the relentless coal trains plying on the existing track must be stopped for causing havoc both to densely populated villages and to the Western Ghats

—Abhijit Prabhudesai, co-convenor of Goyant Kollso Naka

Suresh Prabhu should see that this issue is raised in Parliament. Any change in the mindset of people who matter is a welcome step. Already, too much of destruction all along the newly laid second track, more so, in the Velsao-Cansaulim belt, has taken place

—Felix Furtado, member of Ganv Bhavancho Ekvott

Prabhudesai further argued that the double-tracking project would serve only to perpetuate this exploitation. "This railway track was forced on Goa to destroy the self-reliant economies of India for the profits of Western industries," he said, emphasising that the project would harm both the land and the communities living on it. His remarks highlight a widely held belief among activists that the project prioritizes industrial interests, particularly coal transportation, over the welfare of Goan communities and the environment.

Felix Furtado, a member of Ganv Bhavancho Ekvott (GBE), echoed similar concerns, acknowledging Prabhu's statement as a positive development but warning that it might be too little, too late. "Suresh Prabhu should raise this issue in Parliament," Furtado suggested, pushing for higher political intervention. He expressed frustration with the ongoing implementation of the project, particularly in the Velsao-Cansaulim region, which has already seen significant environmental damage despite legal challenges and community resistance. "The government is continuing with the project, despite the REC's rejection of laying tracks in the UNESCO biodiversity hotspot," Furtado stated, underlining the disconnect between regulatory decisions and the reality on the ground.

Orville Dourado Rodrigues, founder of Goencho Ekvott (GE), also welcomed Prabhu's statement but emphasized the legal implications it might carry. Rodrigues noted that Prabhu's comments about the mandatory requirement for public hearings for major projects post-1998 could strengthen the legal case against the double-tracking project. "This statement comes at a time when there is sustained opposition to the railway expansion through heavily populated areas like Dabolim, Issorcim, and Velsao," Rodrigues said, adding that these villages, whose ancestors welcomed the railway in the 1890s, now face severe disruption. Rodrigues suggested constructive alternatives to the project, calling for a public hearing and a moratorium on construction activities until the concerns of local communities were properly addressed. He also advocated for following the recommendations of the Supreme Court-appointed Central Empowered Committee (CEC), which had

suggested using the Krishnapatnam port on the East Coast for transporting hazardous cargo like coal, thereby protecting Goa's UNESCO-recognized biodiversity hotspots. Rodrigues concluded by questioning the purpose of the second track, asserting that it was primarily intended for transporting coal from Mormugao to northern Karnataka.

The Save Mollem group, another key opponent, raised concerns about industrial activities in ecologically sensitive areas, particularly in light of the proposal to handle iron ore at Kalem Railway Station in the Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary and Mollem National Park. The group expressed hope that public concerns would be considered during the upcoming review of permissions for such activities under the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972.

ROSARY EDU COMPLEX DEFENDS SCHOOL EXTENSION, REJECTS NAVELIM FORUM'S ALLEGATIONS

REC further claimed the NCCF's opposition stemmed from 'misleading tactics' and was not representative of the larger community's support for educational development. REC highlighted its long-standing contribution to education in the region, recalling that Rosary High School was established in 1962, followed by the higher secondary in 1988 and Rosary College in 1990. "For decades, these institutions have been a beacon of education, shaping the future of thousands of students across generations who will stand by the institution to reject any selfish attempts to hinder progress," REC added.

Addressing concerns about traffic congestion, REC blamed an increasing number of residential complexes and businesses for the issue, not educational institutions. "The cause of traffic congestion is the massive boom in residential complexes and business enterprises in and around the area. This issue has to be addressed through systematic traffic management rather than needlessly objecting to educational development," REC stated.

They urged better utilisation of the Margao Western Bypass with additional feeder routes and traffic regulations to ease congestion.

REC explained that the extension aligns with the National Educational Policy (NEP) 2020, which mandates improved infrastructure and better learning environments. "The students require expanded facilities, including upgraded classrooms, laboratories, and libraries to provide quality education that meets national standards," they said.

REC further rejected NCCF's claims that the extension lacked approvals. "The proposed extension of the school block has met specified regulations of all concerned civic authorities, which includes the village panchayat, the Town and Country Planning (TCP) Department, health department, conversion sanads, etc," REC stated.

They also pointed out that the new block's parking provisions include both basement and ground-level parking. "The extension plan has provisions for two levels of parking, contrary to the statement made by the NCCF, which now stands exposed," REC said.

Clarifying the purpose of the extension, REC maintained that it was not intended to increase student enrolment but to improve learning conditions for existing students. "The extension block is not meant to increase student enrolment but to provide better facilities for the existing students. It is but a necessary step to ensure that our children receive education in a comfortable and conducive environment," REC explained.

REC accused the NCCF of spreading falsehoods and claimed the opposition appeared 'personal in nature' and driven by 'vested interest'. "This makes it evident that their motives are driven by vested interest rather than genuine concern for the student community. The so-called reported storm by the NCCF has been stirred up in the teacup of one or two disgruntled elements," they added.

Appealing to the public, REC said, "We would like to

urge, as responsible members of society, that we remain vigilant against such deceitful tactics. We should continue to support initiatives that foster education and growth. The future of our children should never be compromised by the narrow-mindedness of a few."

"Let us unite to protect and uplift our educational institutions, ensuring that they thrive for generations to come. Let the voices of those who truly benefit from this school rise above those who try to pull it down. We stand firm, we stand strong, and we stand together for education, for development, and for what is right," REC concluded.

VIOLENT PROTESTS ERUPT IN NAGPUR OVER AURANGZEB'S TOMB, CURFEW IMPOSED

Notably, VHP's Maharashtra-Goa in-charge Govind Shende and several others have been named in one of the FIRs for allegedly inciting religious tensions. The accused also include Amol Thakre, Dr Mahajan, Tayani, Rajat Puri, Sushil, Vrushabh Arkhel, Shubham and Mukesh Barapatre. The charges have been filed under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), although no arrests have been made as yet.

In response to the unrest, Maharashtra BJP president and Nagpur Guardian Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule visited injured police personnel in hospital. He reported that while the situation remains tense, authorities have brought it under control. Police presence has been bolstered across 11 highly sensitive areas, with checkpoints and roadblocks established to monitor movement and prevent further escalation.

Quick Response Teams and Riot Control Police have been deployed in affected neighborhoods to ensure peace. Security forces are patrolling curfew-imposed areas, and shops remained closed throughout the day as a precaution.

The VHP has maintained that their protest was peaceful and accused their opponents of orchestrating violence. VHP Vidarbha Prant Sah Mantri Devesh Mishra denied allegations that any religious text had been burnt, calling such claims 'baseless'. He urged authorities to take strict action against those responsible for the violence and demanded the invocation of the National Security Act (NSA) against offenders.

BITS GOA STUDENTS DEVELOP FILTER TO SCREEN RADICAL CONTENT

He said, "Our tool, the Radical Content Analyser, detects, analyses, and provides a comprehensive report on a video proactively, enabling authorities to take action and decide whether to censor videos."

Dr Hemant Rathore, a faculty member in the Department of Computer Science at the institute's Goa campus, said students developed two innovative solutions — radical content detection and fake URL detection — as part of its outreach programme.

He said, "Security agencies can use the radical content detection solution to identify radical videos, and the general public can use the fake website detection solution to distinguish between malicious or fake websites and original ones."

Rathore thanked the institute's vice-chancellor and director, Suman Kundu, and professor Shantanu Sarkar, head of the Computer Science department, for providing logistic, infrastructure and financial support in developing these solutions.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who was recently shown a presentation on the implementation of newly enacted criminal laws (BNS and BNSS), was impressed with BITS Piani's project, which the Goa police have adopted. Chief Minister Pramod Sawant also took stock of the presentation.

Another third-year student, Utkarsh Dwivedi, said the innovation is designed to stop the spread of radical content among citizens.