



A police officer stands guard as Muslims offer third Friday prayer during the Muslim holy fasting month of Ramadan in Lahore, Pakistan



Iraqi Kurds holding lit torches walk up a mountain during a procession to celebrate their Nowruz (Noruz), the Persian New Year, in the town of Akra, Iraq



Palestinians perform Friday prayers at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in the Old City of Jerusalem, during the holy Muslim month of Ramadan



IOC President Thomas Bach speaks during the final press conference of the International Olympic Committee 144th session in Costa Navarino, western Greece

allovertheworld



AFP

A helicopter drops a bucket to gather water to battle the Pauline Road wildfire, in Cleveland, Texas

Bolsonaro fails to obtain Brazil judges' recusal in coup case

BRASÍLIA: Brazil's Supreme Court on Thursday rejected a bid by ex-president Jair Bolsonaro to have three judges removed from the bench that will decide whether he should be tried for orchestrating an attempted coup. The former far-right leader is one of more than 30 people, including former ministers and high-ranking military members, charged over an alleged plot to overthrow Bolsonaro's left-wing successor, President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. Among the judges whose recusal was sought by Bolsonaro's defense team is powerful justice Alexandre de Moraes, who has led multiple investigations into the country's divisive 2019-2022 president.

Philippine rescuers find German, British hikers, 4 still missing

MANILA: Police in the central Philippines said on Friday that two foreign hikers had been rescued 48 hours after they went missing during a downpour but a search for their four companions was still underway. German Torsten Martin Groschupp, 58, and British national Alexander Radvanyi, 63, were found between 10 and 11 am (0200-0300 GMT), according to a rural health officer in Negros Oriental province. "They are not (dehydrated), they said they were able to drink water from the lake. One of them had packed snacks," the officer, who asked to be identified as Dr. Sheryl, told AFP.

More than 100,000 have fled DR Congo violence: UN

GENEVA: The violence in eastern DR Congo has forced more than 100,000 people to flee to neighbouring countries in just months, the United Nations said on Friday. "In less than three months, the number of Congolese fleeing to neighbouring countries has surged to over 100,000," a spokeswoman for the UN's refugee agency UNHCR said. Violence has roiled the mineral-rich east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for months as the Rwanda-backed M23 armed group has waged a lightning push over the last few months. Their advance has driven the Congolese army out of much of North and South Kivu provinces and has raised fears of a wider regional war.

Slovakia reports first foot-and-mouth cases after 50 years

BRATISLAVA: Slovakia has confirmed its first foot-and-mouth disease outbreak in 50 years at three farms near the border with Hungary, the government said on Friday, following cases there and in Germany. Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is a highly contagious viral infection that is not dangerous to humans but which affects cattle and other cloven-hoofed animals, including sheep and pigs. Symptoms include fever and blisters in the mouth and near the hoof. In January, Germany reported FMD cases in a Berlin water buffalo farm, the first outbreak in the European Union since 2011, prompting several countries to stop German meat imports. Foot-and-mouth disease has been confirmed in three cattle farms in southern Slovakia, agriculture minister Richard Takac said, adding it was a "very serious and a very big problem".

Sudan army recaptures presidential palace from RSF

KHARTOUM: The Sudanese army recaptured the presidential palace in Khartoum from the Rapid Support Forces on Friday, dealing a major blow to the paramilitaries who responded with deadly drone attacks. State television had broadcast scenes of fighters celebrating in the palace, before three of its journalists were killed in a drone strike, according to an army source. They were "covering the army retaking the Republican Palace" when an RSF one-way attack drone struck the complex, also killing or wounding a number of army personnel, the source told AFP on condition of anonymity. In a statement shared to Telegram, the RSF said it had launched a "lightning operation" around the palace which "killed more than 89 enemy personnel and destroyed various military vehicles".

Denmark travel warning for transgender people going to US

COPENHAGEN: Denmark on Friday issued a new travel advisory for the United States that warns transgender and non-binary people to contact the US embassy before departure. "If you have the gender X in your passport, or if you have changed gender, you are advised to contact the US embassy before you travel for information about what applies to you," the Danish foreign ministry said in a statement to AFP. The recommendation was displayed on Denmark's US travel advisory on the foreign ministry's website.

Judge halts deportation of Indian student at Georgetown University

PTI, NEW YORK: A US federal judge has blocked the deportation of an Indian student at Georgetown University who was arrested after federal authorities accused him of actively spreading Hamas propaganda.

Badar Khan Suri is a postdoctoral fellow at the Alwaleed Bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding at the Edmund A Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University, Washington DC.

In a court order dated March 20, United States District Judge Patricia Tolliver Giles said, It is ordered that petitioner shall not be removed from the United States unless and until the court issues a contrary order.

A senior Department of Homeland Security spokesperson earlier said in a statement to PTI that Suri was a foreign exchange student at Georgetown University actively spreading Hamas propaganda and

promoting antisemitism on social media. Suri has close connections to a known or suspected terrorist, who is a senior advisor to Hamas.

"The Secretary of State issued a determination on March 15, 2025 that Suri's activities and presence in the United States rendered him deportable.

Suri's lawyer Hassan Ahmad had filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus on

March 18. According to the petition, the Department of Homeland Security had arrested and charged Suri with removability on March 17.

At the time of filing, Suri alleged he was being detained at the Farmville Detention Center in Farmville, Virginia, Giles' order had noted.

Suri's lawyer said he and his team are working diligently to secure his client's removal from the detention facility.

We welcome Judge Giles' ruling, Ahmad said in a statement to CNN.

It is the first due process Dr Suri has received since he was snatched away from his family on Monday night.

A report in Politico had said that Suri, who was studying and teaching on a student visa, was detained by federal immigration authorities amid the Trump administration's crackdown on student activists whom the government accuses of opposing American foreign policy.

The report said that masked agents arrested Suri from outside his home in Virginia Monday night.

Suri's lawyer said in the petition that he is being punished because of the Palestinian heritage of his wife who is a US citizen and because the government suspects that he and his wife oppose US foreign policy toward Israel.



FILE PIC

Georgetown students march during an on-campus protest in support of Palestinians at Georgetown University in Washington, DC

Pak Army captain, 10 terrorists killed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa operation

PTI, PESHAWAR: A Pakistani Army captain and at least 10 terrorists associated with a banned outfit were killed during a gunfight in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Dera Ismail Khan district, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) has said.

The intelligence-based operation (IBO) was conducted on Thursday following reports of the presence of terrorists in the area, a statement from the military's media wing said.

It said that during the intense fire exchange, Captain Hasnain Akhtar fought gallantly and made the ultimate sacrifice, leading his troops from the front.

Hasnain was a brave officer and renowned for his courage and bold and daring actions during previous operations, it said.

The ISPR said weapons

and ammunition were seized from the killed terrorists who were involved in numerous attacks against law enforcement agencies as well as target killing of innocent civilians.

It further said, A sanitisation operation is being conducted in the area and the security forces are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country. Such sacrifices of brave young officers further strengthen our resolve.

The country has been reeling under increased terrorist attacks especially targeting law enforcers and security forces since the Taliban returned to power in Afghanistan in 2021, particularly in the bordering provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

Fire shuts down London's Heathrow Airport, disrupting travel for hundreds of thousands

PTI, LONDON: A large fire near London's Heathrow Airport knocked out power Friday to Europe's busiest flight hub, forcing it to shut and disrupting global travel for hundreds of thousands of passengers.

Heathrow said it didn't know when power would be restored raising the possibility that the shutdown would last longer than just the day, as previously expected.

At least 1,350 flights to and from Heathrow were affected, flight tracking service FlightRadar 24 said, and the impact was likely to last several days as passengers try to reschedule their travel and airlines work to get planes and crew to the right places.

Authorities do not know what caused the fire but so far found have no evidence it was suspicious.



AFP

Residents in west London described hearing a large explosion, followed by a fireball and clouds of smoke, when the blaze ripped through the electrical substation near the airport.

Some 120 flights were in the air when the closure was announced, with some turned around and others

diverted to Gatwick Airport outside London, Charles de Gaulle Airport near Paris or Ireland's Shannon Airport, tracking services showed.

Lawrence Hayes was three-quarters of the way to London from New York when Virgin Atlantic announced they were being diverted to Glasgow.

It was a red-eye flight and

I'd already had a full day, so I don't even know how long I've been up for, Hayes told the BBC as he was getting off the plane in Scotland.

"Luckily I managed to get hold of my wife and she's kindly booked me a train ticket to get back to Euston, but it's going to be an incredibly long day.

Heathrow is one of the world's busiest airports for international travel. It had its busiest January on record earlier this year, with more than 6.3 million passengers, up more than 5 per cent from the same period last year.

Still, the disruption on Friday fell short of the one caused by the 2010 eruption of Iceland's Eyjafjallajokull volcano, which spewed clouds of ash into the atmosphere and created trans-Atlantic air travel chaos for months.

Indonesia's Mount Lewotobi Laki Laki volcano erupts, prompting alert level to be raised

PTI, JAKARTA: The Mount Lewotobi Laki Laki volcano in south-central Indonesia erupted three times into Friday, sending an ash column 8,000 metres (26,200 feet)

high and prompting authorities to expand the danger zone around the volcano.

The volcano on the remote island of Flores in East Nusa Tenggara province has had

hundreds of earthquakes and visible volcanic activity has significantly increased in the last seven days.

After the three eruptions late Thursday and early Fri-

day, the volcano was quiet during the day. Seismic activity monitored from the observation post in Wulungang showed a decline.

Authorities raised the

eruption alert to the highest level and expanded the danger zone from 7 kilometres (4.5 miles) to 8 kilometres (5 miles) from the crater. No new evacuations were

immediately reported.

Several airlines cancelled flights between Australia and Indonesia's tourist island of Bali due to the eruption.

FROM PAGE 1

AGONDA SHACKS SEALED TO SAVE TURTLE NESTS

Locals, who had gathered in groups, voiced their concerns as the sealing continued. "The nesting site is located at Dhovolkazonvado. Why are they targeting establishments at this end of the beach?" asked Constancio Fernandes, a concerned local.

However, experts maintain that the entire stretch of beach is vital for turtle conservation. Nester Fernandes, Project Coordinator at the Coastal Conservation Foundation, explained, "Turtles can come ashore anywhere along the beach to lay their eggs. Once the eggs are laid, they are relocated by turtle guards to designated hatching sites. That is why the entire beach is declared a nesting site."

Fernandes further elaborated, "No sunbeds or activities that could disturb the turtles are allowed anywhere along the beach. Nesting and hatching are both critical aspects of the conservation effort."

The sealing operation, which began early in the day, faced several logistical challenges. Deputy Collector Narvekar, visibly frustrated, commented, "I think we sealed 20-25 establishments yesterday, and we're continuing today. I've been out here since yesterday, missing meals, just to complete this task as quickly as possible."

Malatdar Manoj Korgaonkar, overseeing the operation, outlined the process: "Once an establishment is identified by a GCZMA engineer, the Electricity Department disconnects the power supply, and if there's a commercial water connection, that's also cut off. This is crucial to prevent any safety hazards, such as a fire, from going unaddressed due to the seals."

Addressing rumors that certain parts of the beach were being targeted more than others, Korgaonkar clarified, "We started in Valvado because it's easier to begin at one end and work our way to the other. The perception that we are only targeting one part of the beach is false. We are simply following the GCZMA's instructions."

A GCZMA engineer, who requested anonymity, confirmed that the authority's role was to identify establishments op-

erating without permission, while the Deputy Collector's office is responsible for carrying out the sealing.

Throughout the day, the emotional toll of the operation was evident on the faces of those affected. Many found solace in the community's solidarity. "If something wrong has been done, it must be corrected," remarked Fr Patrick Luis, the parish priest of Agonda.

GU 'PAPER LEAK': FIR AGAINST TEACHER

"And based on the report submitted by the committee, the University has lodged a complaint before the Police Inspector, Agassaim Police Station, to register an FIR against Dr Pranav Naik to investigate further on the unauthorised unlawful activities carried out by him," the university stated.

The statement also clarified that the university's Executive Council would decide on taking appropriate disciplinary action against the teacher at its meeting in the last week of March.

On Thursday, the government had stepped in to take over the inquiry into the alleged paper leak.

CASH AT JUDGE'S HOME: IN-HOUSE PROBE ON, SAYS SC

To put to rest the supposed conjectures, the top court issued a statement which read, "There is misinformation and rumours being spread with regard to the incident at the residence of Justice Yashwant Varma."

While confirming reports that the apex court collegium met to discuss the matter, the top court said Delhi High Court Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya would submit a report to Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna today.

Upon receiving the information, the apex court said, Justice Upadhyaya "commenced the in-house enquiry procedure collecting evidence and information".

Justice Upadhyaya was stated to have commenced the enquiry prior to the collegium meeting on March 20.

"The report will be examined and processed for further

and necessary action," the statement added.

It said the proposal for transfer of Justice Varma, who is the second senior-most judge in the Delhi High Court, to the Allahabad High Court was "independent and separate from the in-house enquiry procedure".

"Moreover, the reported incident has happened in Delhi," it said.

The apex court said the proposal for transfer him was examined by the apex court collegium comprising the CJI and four senior-most judges on March 20, and thereafter letters were shot off to the consultee judges of the top court, the chief justices of the high courts concerned apart from Justice Varma.

"Responses received will be examined and, thereupon, the collegium will pass a resolution," the court said.

Justice Upadhyaya, while presiding his bench, expressed shock on the matter.

The chief justice's reaction came when a senior lawyer mentioned before him that he and many other advocates were pained and shaken by the incident and urged the chief justice to take some steps on the administrative side.

COMMUNITY EFFORT RESTORES BENAULIM'S FORGOTTEN SPRING

Elzina Fernandes, a Benaulim panch member, pointed out that the panchayat had already passed a resolution on this matter and is monitoring the progress. She assured that the remaining work would be completed soon.

Warren Alemao, who has been at the forefront of the initiative, said "Our natural resources are our heritage, and it's our responsibility to protect them," he said. "By restoring it, we are not only reviving a natural gift but also reconnecting with our roots. Water is life and preserving our natural resources is the need of the hour," he added.

The successful restoration of the spring has inspired hope for similar projects in the area. The villagers have vowed to identify and revive more neglected springs across Benaulim.

