

Israeli airstrikes across Gaza kill 17 people

Huckabee makes first appearance as new US ambassador

AP, DEIR AL-BALAH: Israeli airstrikes across Gaza killed at least 17 people early Friday including children, hospital workers said, as the new US ambassador to Israel made his first public appearance in Jerusalem.

Among the dead were 10 people in Jabalya, including eight from the same house, according to the Indonesian Hospital, which received the bodies.

In the southern city of Khan Younis, seven people were killed, one of them a pregnant woman, according to Nasser Hospital, where the bodies were brought.

The strikes came a day after more than two dozen people died in Gaza as Israel ramps up attacks, pressuring Hamas to return the hostages and disarm.

US Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee on Friday appeared at the Western Wall, the holiest Jewish prayer site in Jerusalem's Old City. Huckabee inserted a prayer into the wall,

which he said was handwritten by US President Donald Trump. "Those are his initials, D.T.," said Huckabee while showing the note to the media.

In his first act as ambassador, Huckabee said Trump told him to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. Huckabee also said every effort was being made to bring the remaining hostages held by Hamas home.

A one-time presidential hopeful, Huckabee has acknowledged his past support for Israel's right to annex the West Bank and incorporate its Palestinian population into Israel but said it would not be his "prerogative" to carry out that policy.

During his first term, Trump recognised Jerusalem as Israel's capital over Palestinian objections and moved the embassy from Tel Aviv.

Palestinians seek the eastern part of the city that Israel captured in the 1967 Mideast war as their future capital.

Huckabee's arrival comes at a pivotal time in the 18-month war, as international mediators including the US are trying to get a broken ceasefire back on track.

Israel is demanding that Hamas release more hostages at the start of any new ceasefire and ultimately agree to disarm and leave the territory. Israel has said it plans to occupy large "security zones" inside Gaza.

Khalil al-Hayya, head of Hamas' negotiating delegation, said Thursday the group had rejected Israel's latest proposal along those lines. He reiterated Hamas' stance that it will return hostages only in exchange for the release of more Palestinian prisoners, a full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and a lasting truce, as called for in the now-defunct ceasefire agreement reached in January.

Fear, panic at Florida State university as deadly shooting sends students fleeing

AP, TALLAHASSEE: When a 20-year-old opened fire at Florida State University, terrified students barricaded doors and fled across campus, abandoning chemistry notes and even shoes, in a shooting that investigators said killed two men and wounded at least six others.

By early Friday, memorials of candles and flowers dotted the campus and a school-wide vigil had been scheduled as students and faculty tried to start healing from the previous day's shooting, which sent shockwaves of fear across the campus.

"I heard some gunshots and then, you know, just



Crime scene vehicle at the Woodward Avenue entrance to the Florida State University campus after a shooting, in Tallahassee, Florida

in the basement, trying to protect ourselves as much as we could."

The shooter, identified by police as Phoenix Ikner, is believed to be a Florida State student and the son of a sheriff's deputy who opened fire with his mother's former service weapon, investigators said. Authorities have not yet revealed a motive for the shooting, which began around lunchtime Thursday just outside the student union.

Officers quickly arrived and shot and wounded the gunman after he refused to comply with commands, said Tallahassee Police Chief Lawrence Revell.

blacked out after," said Carolina Sena, a 21-year-old accounting student who was inside the student union when the shooting

started. "Everyone was crying and just panicking. We were trying to barricade ourselves in a little corner

FROM PAGE 1

STRAY DOGS MAUL 1.5-YR-OLD GIRL. WHEN WILL THE GOVT WAKE UP?

Despite her cries, she was savagely bitten before anyone could come to her rescue. Locals rushed her to the Sub-District Hospital (SDH) in Ponda, where she was declared brought dead. A post-mortem confirmed multiple dog bite injuries as the cause of death.

The tragedy has sparked widespread outrage across Goa. Nabiya, the only child of her parents who had been married for seven years before her birth, was visiting her grandmother's home with her mother. The family, originally from Usgao, now resides in Shapur, Ponda.

Ponda Dy SP Shivram Vaigankar confirmed the extent of the fatal injuries. "She was playing near the gate while her family was inside. As soon as she stepped out, the dogs attacked and dragged her away," he said.

Officials, including Ponda PI Vijaykumar Kavlekar, PMC Chairperson Anand Naik, and Councillor Ritesh Naik, visited the site. Chairperson Naik expressed deep sorrow and emphasised the need for a long-overdue systemic overhaul. "PMC carries out sterilisation drives with help from NGOs like People for Animals. But the dogs are picked up, sterilised, and then dropped back in the same area. This method clearly isn't working," he said.

Though this is the first fatal attack in the area, residents say stray dog incidents have been on the rise, particularly targeting children and the elderly.

According to hospital data, Ponda Sub-District Hospital records an average of 80 to 90 dog bite cases every month—a grim indicator of the growing danger.

Social worker Viraj Sapre criticised the government's hands-off approach: "Stray dogs roam freely in every colony, ward and village. They chase cars, attack bikers, and now we've lost a child. The government cannot leave citizens at the mercy of strays. It must stop outsourcing responsibility to NGOs and take full charge—by building shelter homes and managing feeding, especially since culling is banned."

He also pointed out that improper feeding practices worsen aggression. "When dogs are left hungry or fed on chicken waste—which is banned but still common—they become violent," he said.

Councillor Ritesh Naik echoed the concern. "We had requested land near Goa Dairy for a dedicated dog shelter, but there's been no action. Also, residents need to stop dumping food and wet waste on roadsides—it's attracting strays and escalating the problem." Residents confirm that an isolated stretch in Durgabhat, regularly used for dumping leftovers, has become a magnet for stray packs.

Rajesh Naik, a neighbour of the victim, demanded swift and lasting action. "The government must ensure safety, especially for children. We can't allow another innocent life to be lost like this."

Animal lover Mohan Naik offered a different viewpoint: "Dogs are loyal animals. If properly fed and cared for, they rarely attack. Citizens should be educated and encouraged to adopt strays, so they don't turn aggressive out of hunger."

Nabiya's death has not only devastated her family and community—it has reignited the urgent debate over Goa's failure to control the stray dog population.

The Chief Minister had recently promised a comprehensive dog management policy within three months. But with lives being lost, the question remains: how many more deaths will it take before the government finally acts?

What has happened is sad. But home dogs are more dangerous than strays because they are not let out and not socialised. Stray dogs are friendlier to humans than pet dogs. I am waiting for the report from the District Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (DSPCA), South, to understand exactly what has happened and how to train those feeding stray dogs – Sancheeta Banerjee Rodrigues, Trustee, Panjim Animal Welfare Society

Over the years, crores of rupees have been spent on the stray dog menace, but it has just been getting worse. The so-called sterilisation programme has not worked. It is high time that the authorities address this worrisome situation on a war footing – Adv Aires Rodrigues, Activist, Ribandar

HC ORDERS 3 MINING COMPANIES TO COUGH UP RS 2 CR FOR DAMAGE TO SIRIGAO FIELDS

The companies, however, contested this, arguing that they had already contributed to the DMF and that the fund itself should be used to address environmental degradation resulting from mining activities. The Court emphatically rejected this argument.

The judges stated that under the "polluter pays" principle, the companies themselves must bear the cost of the damage. It is not the government's job—or the taxpayers'—to cover these costs. The Court made it clear: mining is a hazardous activity that naturally causes pollution and affects surrounding communities. The companies cannot hide behind the DMF to avoid responsibility.

The Court rejected the argument that DMF contributions should cover pollution-related expenses, stating that this would amount to using public funds to protect polluters. The purpose of the DMF is to help communities affected by mining, not to shield mining companies from their obligations.

Towards the end of the case, the companies continued to deny responsibility for any damage, even though reports from NEERI and government departments indicated

Motion on report to combat anti-Hindu prejudice tabled in Scottish Parliament

PTI, LONDON: A member of the Scottish Parliament has tabled a motion in the House commending the work of a Glasgow-based Gandhian society that has drafted a report that highlights the "rising levels of prejudice, discrimination and marginalisation" of Hindus in Scotland.

Ash Regan, an Alba Party Member of the Scottish Parliament (MSP) representing Edinburgh Eastern, tabled the motion based on the report by the charity Gandhian Peace Society last week. Such motions are intended to draw attention to issues of importance and

concern.

The report 'Hinduphobia in Scotland' was presented to the Scottish Parliament's Cross-Party Group on Challenging Racial and Religious Prejudice in February by the society promoting Gandhian principles of peace, non-violence and harmony.

"That the Parliament commends the work of the Gandhian Peace Society in addressing prejudice against the Hindu community in Scotland," reads Regan's motion entitled 'Gandhian Peace Society's Report to Address Prejudice Against Scotland's Hindu Community'.

RETURNED TO THE LORD

MARIA FATIMA A. DOURADO

GABRIEL CRUZ WARD (EAST) UTOUDA

Born: 29-12-1966 Died: 18-04-2025

Beloved wife of Pio Dourado; Mother of Karen and Kanisha Dourado.

Funeral cortege will leave her residence on Sunday, 20th April 2025 for Eucharistic Celebration at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Utoada, at 9.30 am, followed by burial.

Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT

Maria Rita Da Cassia Colaco (CASSIA COLACO)

Born: 11/10/1955 Died: 18/04/2025 (Velim, Carxetta / Fatorda)

Loving Wife of late Jorda Jose Colaco. Caring Mother/Mother-in-law of Stancy Colaso/Reuben Dias and Svalbard Colaco/Clarice Pereira e Colaco. Doting Nana of Jiselle, Josiah, Neriah Joan and Eloise. Cherished Sister/Sister-in-law of Diana/late Taumatargo Alemao and Tadeo/Irene Rodrigues. Beloved Sister-in-law of Hector/Betsy Colaco, Rosa (Penny)/late Bruno Colaco and late Linda (Lena) Colaco.

FUNERAL DATE WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

Rebello Publicity & Funeral Services Margao 9822383992

Remembrance

In loving memory of

Dr. Edelweiss Rodrigues Almeida

Fondly remembered by

Husband Suraj Almeida, Son Evan Almeida, Dr Francis Almeida, Trudy Almeida, Dr Sharif & Dr Marielou Almeida, Pooja, Aaron Afanco, Soham Almeida, Evelise & Lilian.

CUNCOLIM CHIEFTAINS MEMORIAL TRUST

Deeply mourn the sad demise of our beloved Trustee

BHICU UTTAM DESSAI

And offer our heartfelt sympathies to his bereaved family

MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE

Galaxy Advt. 9823244657

CONDOLENCES

Bhicu Dessai

Ex-Staff member

Heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. May the Almighty give them the strength & courage to bear this irreparable loss.

From the Faculty & Staff members of the Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, Goa Medical College, Ex - Dean & HoD Dr B N. Reddy, Ex-Dean Dr V N Jindal, Ex- HoDs Dr S D. Sapeco & Dr E J. Rodrigues

GOANRITES 9822136397

THIRD DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In ever loving memory of

Arcanja Desa (La Socorina)

Maddanth, Cortalim

There will be Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved Mother Arcanja

on **Monday 21st April 2025** at **St. Philip & St. James Church, Cortalim** at 8.00 a.m. followed by prayers at the grave, offered by her sorrowful children, grandchildren & fly

Relatives and friends, please accept this as the only intimation.