obituaries / news

Hamas' negotiating dele-

latest proposal along those

lines. He reiterated Hamas'

stance that it will return

hostages only in exchange

for the release of more Pal-

estinian prisoners, a full

Israeli withdrawal from

Gaza and a lasting truce,

as called for in the now-de-

funct ceasefire agreement

reached in January.

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 Ierusalem.

Among the dead were 10 people in Jabaliya, 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, future capital.

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 am-

bassador, 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. Palestinian seek the eastern part of the city that Israel captured in the 1967 Mideast war as their

The report 'Hinduphobia

in Scotland' was present-

ed to the Scottish Parlia-

ment's Cross-Party Group

on Challenging Racial and

Religious Prejudice in Feb-

ruary by the society pro-

moting Gandhian princi-

ples of peace, non-violence

commends the work of

the Gandhian Peace Socie-

ty in addressing prejudice

against the Hindu com-

munity in Scotland," reads

Regan's motion entitled

'Gandhian Peace Society's

Report to Address Prej-

udice Against Scotland's

Hindu Community'.

"That the Parliament

and harmony.

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.

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?

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

Crime scene vehicle at the Woodward Avenue entrance to the

Florida State University campus after a shooting, in Tallahassee,

started.

"Everyone was crying

and just panicking. We

were trying to barricade

ourselves in a little corner

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 investi-Khalil al-Hayya, head of gators said killed two men and wounded at least six gation, said Thursday the others. group had rejected Israel's

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. accounting student who "I heard some gunshots was inside the student and then, you know, just union when the shooting

otherwise. They claimed the villagers were more interest-

Florida

blacked out after," said Car-

olina Sena, a 21-year-old

ed in compensation than farming. The State, represented by Advocate General Devidas Pangam, settled the matter by presenting an agreement signed by the companies. This agreement clearly stated that they would be responsible for any damage caused by their operations, even outside their lease boundaries.

MARINA OR PONTOON? MYSTERY DEEPENS OVER MALIM PROJECT

As for the location of the upcoming structure, Cosme D'Silva, the company's representative in Goa, admitted that the proposed site lies on the riverbank opposite the derelict tourism department premises, beneath the Mandovi Bridge.

D'Silva asserted that the public had been misled and that there were no plans to build a full-scale marina.

Interestingly, a floating pontoon has already appeared near the site mentioned by D'Silva, leaving local residents concerned. When shown a photo of the pontoon by O Heraldo, Rodrigues expressed surprise. "What? The department has not given permission to anyone. I will send my boys to check," he responded.

Locals have expressed frustration over what they perceive as a lack of transparency. "The government thinks they can keep bluffing us every time," said Felicidade Dias, a local fisherman. "I am a fisherman born by this river. If they think they can deprive me of my right to fish, the war is on."

Adding to the confusion, a board has been placed in front of an unused jetty in Malim, stating: "This property belongs to M/s Dhrudev. Private Property. Survey no. 58/0 VP/PDF Bardez, Goa."

Meanwhile, D'Silva argued that the proposed project was not a marina but concrete-supported floating pontoons that will benefit tourism. According to him, the company has already constructed similar pontoons near the Captain of Ports office and this was "the way forward". He claimed that these pontoons do not require permissions from Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) or Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA), and only need clearance from the Captain of Ports.

The IWAI portal, through which Marina India secured its NOC, supports the creation of jetties and terminals by private, public, and joint venture entities to boost logistics infrastructure along national waterways. According to Dutta, the project will adhere to all necessary regulations. "Once the portal opened, we got our NOC and expect to start work. The Centre has not yet detailed what other permissions we need. We will surely take all stakeholders together," he assured.

Despite official denials and assurances, the presence of infrastructure already in place and a divided public narra-

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 investigators weapon, 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.

had left for Dubai in April 2018 and returned to India in February 2019. He went to London in October 2020 and thereafter moved to the US.

Between September and October 2023, Passia, in collusion with Rinda, orchestrated a series of extortion and terror activities in Punjab.

They targeted liquor contractors and businessmen by making extortion calls and executing arson and shooting incidents at liquor vends in Batala and Amritsar to instil fear and force compliance, the sources said.

OPPN SLAMS DHANKHAR'S REMARKS ON JUDICIARY

"If any institution is trusted throughout the country in today's time, it is the judiciary. When some government people do not like the decisions of the judiciary, they start accusing it of crossing its limits..." Sibal wrote.

"Does he know that the Constitution has given the right of Article 142 to the Supreme Court to give complete justice?" Sibal further wrote.

"The President is only a titular head... The President acts on the authority and advice of the cabinet. The President has no personal right of their own. Jagdeep Dhankhar should know this," his X post further said.

TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee also slammed Dhankhar's comments as "objectionable," stating that constitutional authorities are expected to uphold and respect the independence of other institutions.

Dhankhar, who is also the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, had questioned the judiciary's role in setting timelines for the President's assent to bills and accused the courts of acting like a 'super Parliament'. Speaking to Rajya Sabha interns, he described Article 142-which empowers the Supreme Court to deliver complete justice—as a 'nuclear missile' against democratic forces, suggesting that the judiciary is performing legislative and executive functions without accountability.

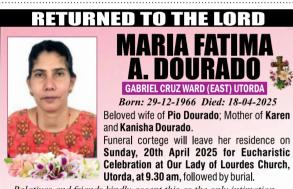
His remarks came in response to a recent Supreme Court observation seeking to limit delays in the President's assent to bills cleared by state legislatures and forwarded by Governors.



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

PTI, LONDON: A member of the Scottish Parliament has tabled a motion in the House commending the work of a Glas-Gandhian gow-based society that has drafted a report that highlights the "rising levels of prejdiscrimination udice. 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





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 Taumaturgo 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.



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.

C 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

2 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 contribu-

tions 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

tive suggest that the controversy in Malim is far from over.

EASTER SHORTAGE LOOMS AS PANJIM BEEF VENDORS LEFT HIGH AND DRY

Another vendor, speaking on condition of anonymity, highlighted the consumer impact. "There's already a shortage of beef. During Eid and Christmas it was the same. Retailers aren't willing to order large quantities because they're unsure of where and how we'll sell it. This Easter, customers will again struggle to get what they need."

Meat vendors recently submitted a formal representation to CCP, requesting that temporary shops be allotted based on earlier site inspections which clearly demarcated their original locations. However, there has been no progress.

Sources within the CCP said that the work of constructing temporary shops has been tendered, and once the process is complete, a work order will be issued to begin construction.

WANTED BY NIA, TERRORIST HAPPY PASSIA **ARRESTED IN US**

Interpol notices are international requests for cooperation or alerts allowing police in member countries to share critical crime-related information.

Passia is also wanted in connection with multiple terror attacks across Punjab and is alleged to have collaborated with Pakistan's spy agency ISI and Khalistani group BKI, they said.

Passia alias Jora, who had illegally entered the US, was arrested by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and US Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Removal Operations in Sacramento.

"He had been evading capture by using untraceable burner phones and encrypted applications. This case reinforces the importance of international cooperation in apprehending those who threaten global security." FBI Sacramento said in a statement on X.

Punjab Police chief Gaurav Yadav said the arrest is a "major milestone in the success of war against terror", adding the matter has been taken up with the Central government and efforts are on to extradite Passia.

Official sources in Punjab said Passia is wanted for orchestrating 16 terror attacks, including 14 grenade strikes in the state and is also suspected to have collaborated with Khalistani terrorist group Babbar Khalsa International (BKI).

Earlier in January, the NIA had announced a cash reward of Rs 5 lakh on Passia in connection with the hand grenade attack on a house in Chandigarh in September last year.

The September 2024 attack was intended to target a retired Punjab Police officer, who the assailants believed to be the occupant of the house in Sector 10, Chandigarh. Hailing from Pashia village in Amritsar district, Passia



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**

