

allovertheworld



Festivalgoers attend the 2025 Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in Indio, California

Indian caught moving \$2 million in cash out of Zambia

LUSAKA: Zambian customs officials said on Saturday they had arrested an Indian national who had attempted to smuggle more than \$2 million in cash and gold worth \$500,000 through the country's main airport. The 27-year-old was on his way to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates when his attempt was thwarted by a multi-agency team at the Kenneth Kaunda International Airport, the Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC) said. He was intercepted with \$2,320,000 in cash and seven pieces of what they suspected to be gold valued at \$500,000, the agency said in a statement. Images shared by Zambian media showed stacks of \$100 bills held together with rubber bands. The money was packed into a black bag, which was then placed inside a larger polypropylene suitcase.

Neighbours improvise first aid for wounded in besieged Sudan city

SUDAN: For a week, eight-year-old Mohamed has suffered the pain of shrapnel stuck in his arm. But he is one of the lucky ones in Sudan's western city El-Fasher, which is under paramilitary attack. "One of our neighbours used to be a nurse. She helped us stop the bleeding," Mohamed's father, Issa Said, 27, told AFP via satellite connection under a total communications blackout. "But his arm is swollen and he can't sleep at night from the pain." Like an estimated one million more people trapped in the city under a year-long siege by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), Said cannot get to a hospital for emergency care. With only the most meagre supplies remaining in El-Fasher, his family is among those whose only medical help has come from neighbours and family members who improvise.

DR Congo authorities suspend party of ex-president Kabila

KINSHASA: The Democratic Republic of Congo government said it has suspended the political party of former president Joseph Kabila, days after his properties were raided by security services. "This decision follows the overt activism" of Kabila, who was president for 18 years up to 2019 and who remains head of his People's Party for Reconstruction and Democracy (PPRD), the interior ministry said in a statement dated Saturday. PPRD activities "are suspended across all the national territory," the statement said. There was no immediate reaction from the party. Current leader President Felix Tshisekedi has accused Kabila of preparing "an insurrection" and backing an alliance that includes the M23 armed group that is fighting government forces in eastern DR Congo. Kabila, 53, left the country before the last presidential election in 2023, according to a spokesman for his family.

NASA's oldest active astronaut returns to Earth on 70th birthday

WASHINGTON: Cake, gifts and a low-key family celebration may be how many senior citizens picture their 70th birthday. But NASA's oldest serving astronaut Don Pettit became a septuagenarian while hurtling towards the Earth in a spacecraft to wrap up a seven-month mission aboard the International Space Station (ISS). A Soyuz capsule carrying the American and two Russian cosmonauts landed in Kazakhstan on Sunday, the day of Pettit's milestone birthday. "Today at 0420 Moscow time (0120 GMT), the Soyuz MS-26 landing craft with Alexei Ovchinnikov, Ivan Vagner and Donald (Don) Pettit aboard landed near the Kazakh town of Zhezkazgan," Russia's space agency Roscosmos said. Spending 220 days in space, Pettit and his crewmates Ovchinnikov and Vagner orbited the Earth 3,520 times and completed a journey of 93.3 million miles over the course of their mission. It was the fourth spaceflight for Pettit, who has logged more than 18 months in orbit throughout his 29-year career.

Social media helps fuel growing 'sex tourism' in Japan

TOKYO: Young women standing idly around a park in Tokyo's west suggest that a giant statue of Godzilla is not the only attraction for a record number of foreign tourists. Their faces lit by the cold glow of their phones, the women lining Okubo Park are evidence that sex tourism has developed as a dark flipside to the bustling Kabukicho nightlife district. There is no official data but anecdotal evidence collected by AFP suggests that increasing numbers of foreign men are flocking to the area after seeing videos on social media. One of the women said that the area near Kabukicho, where Godzilla rumbles and belches smoke atop a cinema, has become a "real tourist attraction" and that around half her customers are foreigners. "Since they can't communicate in Japanese, they write 'how much is it?' on their phones," using an automatic translator, said Risa, who did not use her real name. The men going to Okubo Park are mostly from South Korea, China or Taiwan but also from North America and Europe.

Zelensky says Russia trying to create 'impression of ceasefire' as attacks continue

AP, KYIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky accused Russia on Sunday of creating a false appearance of honouring an Easter ceasefire, saying Moscow continued to launch attacks after Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a unilateral temporary truce. "As of Easter morning, we can say that the Russian army is trying to create a general impression of a ceasefire, but in some places, it does not abandon individual attempts to advance and inflict losses on Ukraine," Zelensky said in a post on X.



Picture shows the interior of a church heavily damaged by shelling in Kostyantynivka, eastern Donetsk region, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine

Despite Putin's declaration of an Easter ceasefire, Zelensky said Sunday morning that Ukrainian forces had recorded 59 instances of Russian shelling and five assaults by units

along the front line, as well as dozens of drone strikes. In later updates, Zelensky said that despite Ukraine declaring a symmetrical approach to Russian actions, "the trend of

increasing the use of heavy weaponry by Russian forces continues". He said, however, that it was "a good thing, at least, that there were no air raid sirens". He noted that some

Ukrainian troops were killed in a Russian "ambush" on Sunday in the Donetsk region, and said the Russian soldiers responsible would be "eliminated".

Russia's Defence Ministry accused Ukrainian forces of overnight attacks in the Donetsk region despite the ceasefire. It said Ukraine had sent 48 drones into Russian territory. According to the ministry, there were "dead and wounded among the civilian population," without giving details. It claimed Russian troops had strictly observed the truce. Russia-installed officials in the partially occupied Ukrainian region of Kherson also said Ukrainian forces had launched attacks.

Zelensky said that Russia must fully adhere to the ceasefire conditions and

reiterated Ukraine's offer to extend the truce for 30 days when it ends midnight Sunday. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said Moscow had not responded to Kyiv's proposal.

"In practice, either Putin does not have full control over his army, or the situation proves that in Russia, they have no intention of making a genuine move toward ending the war, and are only interested in favourable PR coverage," Zelensky wrote.

Just hours after announcing the ceasefire, Putin attended an Easter service late Saturday at Moscow's Cathedral of Christ the Saviour led by Patriarch Kirill, head of the Russian Orthodox Church and a vocal supporter of Putin and the war in Ukraine.

Lion kills 14-year-old girl in Kenya

AFP, NAIROBI: A lion has killed a 14-year-old girl outside the capital Nairobi, the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) said on Sunday.

The incident occurred on Saturday in a ranch to the south of Nairobi National Park. The attack was witnessed by another teenager, who raised the alarm, the KWS said in a statement.

"KWS rangers and response teams were swiftly mobilized and traced bloodstains leading to the Mbagathi River, where the girl's body was recovered with injuries on the lower back," the conservation agency said in a statement.

"The lion was not sighted at the scene," it added. It said a trap had been set for the lion and teams deployed to comb the area, along with additional safety measures.

Six drowning deaths as huge waves hit Australian coast

AFP, SYDNEY: A fisherman died after being swept off rocks near Sydney on Sunday, stretching the Easter weekend death toll of drownings to six as huge waves battered Australia's east coast.

Emergency services winched two people from the surf at Wattamolla Beach, but one of them couldn't be revived, New South Wales Police said in a statement.

The pair had been fishing when swept off rocks on the outskirts of southern Sydney.

The second person, a 14-year-old boy, was in a stable condition in

hospital. It continued a run of fatalities over the holiday weekend, with the search ongoing for two other people still missing in the surf since Friday -- one off Sydney and one off Melbourne.

Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) issued a warning on Thursday that strong swells would create hazardous surf conditions along the coasts of New South Wales and Victoria.

Three people drowned on Friday in New South Wales, while a woman died and a man went missing after they were swept into the sea near Melbourne.

Pro-monarchy RPP stage protests near restricted area of Kathmandu

PTI, KATHMANDU: Hundreds of supporters of a pro-monarchy party in Nepal staged a protest on Sunday near the high-security zone housing the Prime Minister's residence and the Parliament here, demanding the reinstatement of the monarchy and the establishment of the Himalayan nation as a Hindu state. Around 1,500 supporters of the Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) carrying placards gathered at the Bijulibajar-Baneshwor area and shouted slogans like "Down with Republican system," "We want monarchy back" and "Establish Nepal as a Hindu state."

The demonstration was led by RPP chairman Rajen-



Supporters of Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) confront a police personnel standing behind barricades as they stage a pro-monarchy protest to demand the restoration of monarchy and the status of a Hindu state in Kathmandu

dra Lingden, senior leaders Pashupati Shumsher Rana and former Inspector Gen-

eral of Police Dhruva Bahadur Pradhan, among others. Thousands of riot police were deployed in sensitive areas of Kathmandu, including Naya Baneshwor, Bijuligaz, Maitighar, Bhadrakali and Baluwatar, as the demonstrators announced that they would defy the government's order and enter the restricted areas. The government has designated several locations in Kathmandu, including the area around the federal parliament building in New Baneshwar, as restricted zones. At least seven leaders and cadres of RPP, including chairman Lingden, vice-chairman Buddhiman Tamang and spokesperson Gyanendra Shahi, were arrested as they tried to enter the restricted zones.

FROM PAGE 1

VARCA CABBIES DENY ALLEGATIONS OF ₹5K FROM PVT TAXIS

Afonso lamented the devaluation of 'Goenkarponn', noting that allegations against local operators are taken more seriously than their side of the story. He displayed a 2015 letter from the hotel requesting operators to upgrade their vehicles and pointed out their investment in expensive cars. Despite a slower business season, a new taxi group from Margao continues to take passengers from the hotel. Afonso added that while other "mafias" operate unchecked in Goa—referencing casinos and drugs—only taxi operators face this "mafia" label despite operating legitimately.

Afonso clarified that they had not fought with the private taxi operators but simply questioned why five taxis had arrived when local operators were already present.

Social worker Warren Alemoa criticised media reports for negatively portraying local taxi operators. He claimed the private taxi group operates illegally, yet Colva Police filed an FIR against Varca taxi operators without investigating the private taxis' operations.

Alemoa stated, "I strongly stand with our local Goan taxi drivers/owners, true sons of the soil who work with dignity, follow every rule, and support their families through honest means. It's a shame that illegal private taxi operators are flourishing without PAN card, bank account, GST, trade licence, tourism registration, hotel tie-ups, parking and a toilet at their so-called office."

He emphasised that some operators illegally circumvent laws by operating via phone. "This is a direct attack on our local taxi drivers/owners' livelihoods and cannot be tolerated. We demand immediate crackdown on these illegal businesses. We will not stay silent when our people are being robbed of their rightful earnings."

Alemoa and the Varca taxi operators have vowed to prevent private taxis from operating at the hotel and plan to meet with the South Goa Superintendent of Police (SP) on Monday to demand action. Afonso requested authorities to review CCTV footage from the area, which he believes will prove their innocence.

Alemoa questioned how guests are obtaining information about these private taxis, suggesting that certain hotel staff members may be favouring them, despite recent meetings with hotel representatives to address these practices. Alemoa distinguished their current grievances from past conflicts, stating they no longer have issues with GoaMiles, which they now permit to operate. Their specific complaint is against the private taxi group from Margao. He emphasised the need for this clarification to prevent false allegations from tarnishing the reputation of 'niz Goenkars' supporting their families.

Savio Goes, a senior leader of an All Goa Taxi Association, criticised the State government for failing to address the taxi issue in the Assembly. He defended the local operators' pricing, stating they adhere strictly to Government Gazette rates.

Goes highlighted the government's impositions on local taxis—including speed governors, meters, and GPS tracking requirements—while simultaneously withdrawing previous support such as subsidies for new vehicle purchases.

Goes said, "The government is out against us, having asked us to put speed governors, meters, and GPS tracking, all of which we agreed to, yet we're still being defamed with terms like 'taxi mafia'."

Goes noted the double standard where tourism establishments freely adjust their rates seasonally without criticism, while taxi operators face constant scrutiny.

Goes warned that they are prepared to take their protest to the streets if their demands remain unaddressed. With the support of the Varca panchayat, the operators urged government intervention in what they describe as an unjust situation targeting local Goans' livelihoods.

DAD DEVIDAS, WORKER HATCHED PLOT TO KILL SON SHRAVAN: COPS

He said, "At this stage, there are reasons to believe that a conspiracy was planned due to an uncomfortable relationship between the deceased and his family. Shravan had been living separately for nearly five years with very little contact with his family, except for his father, who would occasionally visit him with food."

SP Kaushal said, "We are currently investigating whether Shravan had isolated himself or was isolated by his family members. He resided in Ambede, while the rest of his family lived in Honda."

The SP did not disclose whether the accused confessed to the crime. He said that the post-mortem report indicated that the murder was due to manual compression of the neck.

The SP said, "A team comprising Police Inspectors (PIs) from Porvorim, Bicholim, and Valpoi, along with Sub-Divisional Police Officers (SDPOs) from Porvorim and Bicholim, worked on various aspects that led to the arrest of the accused."

Kaushal said, "The police suspect an economic motive behind the crime and do not rule out the possibility of additional individuals being involved, as more arrests are likely to follow."

NOW, AC 'GLITCH' DISRUPTS DRAMA AT KALA ACADEMY

The member said, "Similar incident happened with 'Purush'. Tell me, the minister himself is an artist. Why don't these people take interest in rectifying things?"

Another audience member confirmed that the air conditioning was not initially switched on and that they had to make noise before it was turned on.

Devidas Amonkar, Convenor of Kala Rakhonn Mandd, strongly condemned the incident and called for Chief Minister Pramod Sawant to dismiss Art and Culture Minister Govind Gaude for allegedly denying the truth.

Amonkar said, "We strongly condemn the recent incidents of light failure and A/C interruption for the commercial shows, considering people pay thousands of rupees on tickets. Kala Academy as an institution should

apologise to the spectators and the performing groups since they pay Kala Academy for booking and that the case should be taken to the Consumer Forum."

The mismanagement of Kala Academy came under scrutiny again as last Sunday a ticketed performance was disrupted mid-show. A lighting glitch halted the Marathi play "Purush" for about 15 minutes at the Dinanath Mangeshkar Auditorium, which forced lead actors Sharad Ponskhe and Spruha Joshi to apologise to the audience during the interruption.

Following that show, actor Sharad Ponskhe conveyed his disappointment to the media, noting that the audience couldn't experience the carefully designed lighting of "Purush" due to the technical issue.

He found it unfortunate that a prestigious venue like the Dinanath Mangeshkar Auditorium continues to operate without a dedicated manager.

Ponskhe appealed to Chief Minister Pramod Sawant to intervene personally and enhance the condition and management of Kala Academy

POPE EMERGES FROM CONVALESCENCE ON EASTER, BLESSES CROWD

In all, he was outside on a sunny spring day for around 50 minutes, with temperatures at 21 degrees Celsius (70 Fahrenheit) in a piazza awash in daffodils, tulips and other flowers donated by the Netherlands for Easter.

On his way to the basilica, Francis met briefly in his hotel with US Vice President JD Vance, who was spending Easter in Rome with his family. The Vatican said the encounter lasted just a few minutes and was designed to allow for an exchange of Easter greetings. Francis has only appeared in public a handful of times since returning to the Vatican on March 23 after a 38-day hospital stay. He skipped the solemn services of Good Friday and Holy Saturday leading up to Easter, but he had been expected to make an appearance on Sunday.

Easter is the most joyful moment on the Christian liturgical calendar, when the faithful celebrate the resurrection of Christ after his crucifixion. This year, Easter is being celebrated on the same day by Catholics and Orthodox Christians, and has been marked by Russia's announced temporary Easter truce in its war in Ukraine.

MORE OBITUARIES ON PAGE 10

DEATH

BORN: 10/04/1942 DIED: 20/04/2025

PHILOMENA LOBO FERNANDES
 PRINCIPAL OF ST RITA'S HIGH SCHOOL, COLVALE
 Loving wife of Late Orlando Fausto. Caring daughter of Late Belarmino / Late Bemvinda. Beloved Mother of Ashley, Annabel / Bernard, Amorette, Audley / Abigale. Cherished sister of Late Joseph, Late Father Fanchu, Late Maggie / Late Oscar, Late Gerard. Doting Grandmother of Lisa, Caleb & Luke. Everloving aunt of Sandra / Edwin, Late Barbara, Late Oswald, Michael / Rowena, Josette / Gerard.

Passed away peacefully on 20th April 2025.
 Funeral Cortège will leave her residence on TUESDAY 22nd April 2025 at 11:00 am to St Francis of Assisi Church, Colvale, for Eucharistic celebration followed by burial.
 Relatives & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.
NO CONDOLENCE VISITS PLEASE

DEATH

BORN: 22/12/1937 DIED: 17/04/2025

THEREZA LOBO
 EX-HEAD CLERK OF ST RITA'S HIGH SCHOOL, COLVALE
 Caring daughter of Late Belarmino / Late Bemvinda. Beloved sister of Late Joseph, Late Father Fanchu, Late Maggie / Late Oscar, Late Gerard, Late Philomena / Late Fausto. Everloving aunt of Sandra / Edwin, Late Barbara, Late Oswald, Michael / Rowena, Josette / Gerard, Ashley, Annabel / Bernard, Amorette & Audley / Abigale.

Passed away peacefully on 17th April 2025.
 Funeral Cortège will leave her residence on TUESDAY 22nd April 2025 at 11:00 am to St Francis of Assisi Church, Colvale, for Eucharistic Celebration followed by Burial.
 Relatives & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.
NO CONDOLENCE VISITS PLEASE