



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan (R) receives Iraq's Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani during his official visit to Turkey



The Head of the Chechen Republic of Russia Ramzan Kadyrov listens to Russian **President Vladimir Putin** during their meeting at the Kremlin in Moscow



Bank of England **Governor Andrew Bailey** attends the central bank's Monetary Policy Report press conference at the Bank of England

Russia declares ceasefire, but attacks Ukraine anyway

AP, Kyiv: Russia struck northeastern Ukraine on Thursday in the opening hours of a 72-hour ceasefire called by Russian President Vladimir Putin, killing one person, Ukrainian officials said.

The unilateral ceasefire coincides with the celebrations in Moscow for the 80th anniversary of victory over Nazi Germany in World War II, Russia's biggest secular holiday. Kyiv has pressed for a longerterm ceasefire.

Putin on Thursday welcomed Chinese President Xi Jinping in the Kremlin. Xi, who Putin earlier described as "our main guest" at Friday's Victory Day festivities, arrived in Russia on Wednesday for a four-day

Russian forces dropped guided air bombs on residential areas near the border in the northeast Sumv region, killing one and wounded two people, the regional prosecutor's office said. Ukraine's air force also said at least one missile hit the Sumy region until early morning on Thursday.

Large-scale missile and drone attacks, which have been a near-daily occur-



Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping exchange documents at the Kremlin in Moscow, on Thursday

rence in Ukraine in recent weeks, were not recorded since 8:30 p.m. (local time) Wednesday, the air force said. Smaller-scale Russian attacks persisted elsewhere in the country closer to the front line, causing civilian casualties, it said.

President Ukrainian Zelenskyv Volodymyr cast doubt on the ceasefire, calling it "manipulation" as U.S.-led peace efforts stalled. "For some reason, everyone is supposed to wait until May 8 before ceasing fire just to provide Putin with silence for his parade," Zelenskyy said.

In March, the United States proposed a 30day truce in the war, which Ukraine accepted, but the Kremlin has held out for ceasefire terms more to its liking.

In Russia, officials said that the regions of Belgorod, Lipetsk, Orenburg, Rvazan and Tambov came under a drone threat alert overnight, but there were no reports of any drones being shot down or intercepted. Russia's civil aviation authority Rosaviatsia also briefly imposed restrictions on flights to and from the airport in Nizhny Novgorod.

FROM PAGE 1 & 2

ROBERT FRANCIS PREVOST IS THE FIRST US POPE

"Habemuspapam, woooo!" howled BrunaHodara, 41, from Brazil, echoing the words to be spoken on the balcony as the new pope is introduced. She, like others, recorded the historic moment on her phone, as others waved flags and cried out "Viva Il Papa!" - "Long live the pope!" in Italian.

"It's a once in a lifetime opportunity to be here to see the pope. It's really special... I'm excited!" said Florian Fried, a 15-year-old from Munich, in

Some 133 "Princes of the Church" from five continents -- the largest and most international conclave ever — began voting on Wednesday afternoon. Sworn to secrecy, on pain of excommunication, their only means of communicating their progress to the outside world was by sending up smoke through the chimney of the Sistine Chapel.

On Wednesday evening and then again on Thursday lunchtime, the smoke was black, eliciting disappointed sighs from the tens of thousands watching. But on Thursday afternoon just after 6 pm (1600 GMT) the smoke emitted was white, confirming that the Catholic Church has a new spiritual leader. It was unknown how many ballots it took to elect the new pope, but it followed recent history in wrapping up in less than two days. In 2005, Benedict XVI, a German theologian, was elected in four ballots

and Francis, in 2013, was elected in five ballots. While the details of the election will forever remain secret, the new pope

had to secure at least two-thirds of votes to be elected.

INDIA FOILS PAK ATTACKS ON THE WESTERN FRONT

Drawing parallels to the tactics of the Palestinian terror group Hamas, the sources said all "cheap" rockets directed at Jammu were successfully intercepted. The missiles were aimed at key areas including Satwari, Samba, RS Pura, and Arnia. Officials alleged that the Pakistani military was operating in a manner reminiscent of a terror organisation, citing a recent meeting between Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and Hamas operatives in PoK.

Hostile drones were also reportedly spotted along India's western border, all of which were neutralised. Evewitnesses described seeing one drone crash near the Jammu Airport, while flares lit up the night sky, drawing residents to their balconies to watch the aerial confrontation unfold.

Pakistan's aerial offensive followed India's precision missile strikes early Wednesday on nine terror targets in PoK and Pakistan, carried out under 'Operation Sindoor'. In a press statement, the Ministry of Defence stated that on the night of 7–8 May, Pakistan attempted to strike military targets in Awantipora, Srinagar, Jammu, Pathankot, Amritsar, Kapurthala, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Adampur, Bhatinda, Chandigarh, Nal, Phalodi, Uttarlai, and Bhuj.

"These attempts were neutralised by the Integrated Counter-Unmanned Aircraft System (Grid and Air Defence systems)," the ministry said, adding that S-400 air defence systems had been deployed in northern India to counter the attacks. Debris from intercepted objects is now being recovered from multiple locations, confirming the Pakistani strikes. The ministry reiterated that "any attack on military targets in India will invite a suitable response."

It also confirmed that Indian forces had targeted and disabled Pakistani air defence radars and systems at several locations. "The Indian response has been in the same domain and with equal intensity as Pakistan's," it said. Intelligence inputs suggest that an air defence system in Lahore was successfully neutralised.

In Islamabad, Pakistan Army spokesperson Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry claimed that Indian drones were downed in Lahore, Gujranwala, Chakwal, Bahawalpur, Miano, Karachi, Chhor, Rawalpindi, and Attock. He added that one drone crashed near Lahore, injuring four soldiers, and that at least four drones had struck the Lahore cantonment area. A statement from the Pakistan Army said, "So far, 25 Israeli-made Harop drones have been shot down by the Pakistani Army's soft kill (technical) and hard kill (weapons)" systems.

In New Delhi, the Ministry of Defence reported unprovoked Pakistani shelling across the Line of Control (LoC), involving mortars and heavy-calibre artillery in the Kupwara, Baramulla, Uri, Poonch, Mendhar, and Rajouri sectors of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Sixteen innocent lives have been lost, including three women and five children, due to Pakistani firing," the ministry stated. It added that Indian forces were compelled to respond proportionately to halt the cross-border shelling. "The Indian Armed Forces reiterate their commitment to non-escalation, provided it is respected by the Pakistani military."

CLASSIFIED CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

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KALA ACADEMY AILING, SHOWS TASK FORCE REPORT

"Actors could perform without microphones and still be heard clearly in the back rows. Post-renovation, however that is no longer the case," it said The audit also found issues with sound isolation – both from external sources and between internal spaces. During quiet moments of the test

drama, ambient noise was distinctly audible: sounds of the HVAC system. "It is crucial to acknowledge that this report is not an exercise in blame, but a professional blueprint for solutions. The Kala Academy Task Force, led by Vijay Kenkre, took the first step by recognising the problems and bringing experts like Roger Drego on board. Now, with these findings in hand, the leadership – from the Government of Goa to the venue administrators - must demonstrate the will to act on them swiftly and thoroughly. There are "no shortcuts to fixing these problems", the report said.

Earlier, the task force met chief minister Pramod Sawant at Mantralaya at Porvorim and submitted the report.

Speaking to reporters at Mantralaya at Porvorim, the Chief Minister said, "The Task Force on Kala Academy has submitted its report today. Will hold a meeting on this tomorrow. I have not gone through the report yet."

Task Force Chairman Vijay Kenkre said, "We had a meeting with the chief

rectification work will start after he will have a meeting with the PWD officials. Now it will have to be decided how much time will take to carry out the rectification work.' Kenkre said, "There are 18 to 20 faults. We have given the details and the CM has assured that he will get them rectified. The task force will super-

vise the work carried out by the PWD. New tender will be issued for the work. Kala Academy may remain closed for some days when the works will be carried out.'

He said the task force has highlighted in its report that there are problems with lights, acoustics, black box, open air auditorium and in air conditioning, among other things.

Kala Rakhonn Mand Convenor Devidas Amonkar said. "In short it is now clear that the claim that all is well has been proved false. The Chief Minister has accepted that there are flaws in the Kala Academy. Today it has been accepted that Kala Academy is not the way it should be. Till today some people are claiming that there is no problem in Kala Academy. But today when the chief minister has said that all the flaws will be rectified it means things in Kala Academy are not in order."

However, Amonkar said that the Kala Rakhonn Maand will hold its protest against the Supari remarks made by Art and Culture Minister Govind

The government had constituted a 12-member task force, chaired by theatre artist Vijai Kenkre, to review the Kala Academy's infrastructure and suggest improvements. The task force was established in response to artists' concerns about the renovation work, which they felt was haphazard despite the large amount of funding. The task force conducted an inspection of the Kala Academy complex before its first meeting on October

The task force includes representatives from various departments and organizations, including the Public Works Department (PWD), Entertainment Society of Goa (ESG), Kala Academy, Kala Rakhonn Mand, and the Charles Correia Foundation. The Charles Correia Foundation subsequently declined to join the task force.

The task force's primary goal was to assess the current infrastructure status of the Kala Academy and make recommendations for its improve-

ment and upgrading. They aim to address issues raised by artists and ensure that the renovation work aligns with the needs of the arts community.

CJI RECOMMENDS IMPEACHMENT OF JUSTICE VARMA

"Chief Justice of India, in terms of the in-house procedure, has written to President of India and the Prime Minister of India enclosing therewith copy of the three-member committee report dated May 3 along with the letter/response dated May 6 received from Justice Yashwant Varma," the apex court said in a statement.

The apex court-appointed panel confirmed the cash discovery allegations against Justice Varma in its inquiry report, sources previously said.

The three-member panel comprised Punjab and Haryana High Court Chief Justice Sheel Nagu, Himachal Pradesh High Court Chief Justice G S Sandhawalia and Justice Anu Sivaraman of the Karnataka High Court. The report was finalised on May 3.

Sources had also said the CJI nudged Justice Varma to step down in view of critical findings in the report, which was forwarded to the judge for his response in line with the principle of natural justice.

The panel analysed evidence and recorded the statements of over 50 people, including Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora and Delhi Fire Service chief who were among the first responders to the fire incident at Justice Varma's Lutyens' Delhi official residence at around 11.35 pm on

He was a judge of the Delhi High Court at that time.

The allegation was repeatedly denied by Justice Varma in his response to the Delhi High Court chief justice and to the apex court appointed panel. The controversy was raised following a news report in the cash discov-

ery row and led to several steps, including a preliminary inquiry by Delhi High Court Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya, judicial work being taken away from Justice Varma in the Delhi High Court, and later his transfer to the Allahabad High Court sans judicial work.

On March 24, the apex court collegium recommended the repatriation of Justice Varma to his parent Allahabad High Court.

On March 28, the top court asked the chief justice of the Allahabad High Court not to assign any judicial work for now to Justice Varma.

While dealing with a case of alleged sexual harassment, the top court had in 2014 laid down the in-house procedure to probe allegations against a judge of constitutional courts.

In the first stage of the in-house procedure, the court said, the prima facie veracity of allegations contained in complaint would be ascertained. The second stage of the in-house procedure relating to sitting judges of

high courts could lead to serious consequences. The second stage is monitored by none other than the CJI, it said.

Only if the CJI endorsed the view expressed by the chief justice of the high court that it required a deeper probe they would constitute a "three-member committee", taking the procedure to the second stage.

WHEN A WOMAN SAYS NO, IT MEANS NO: HC UPHOLDS **CONVICTION IN GANG RAPE CASE**

Sexual intercourse when done without the consent of a woman is an assault on her body, mind and privacy, said the court, terming rape the most

morally and physically reprehensible crime in society. "A woman who says 'NO' means 'NO'. There exists no further ambiguity and there could be no presumption of consent based on a woman's so-

called immoral activities," HC said. The court refused to quash the conviction of the three persons but reduced their sentence from life imprisonment to 20 years in jail.

HC BANS LED FISHING, COMES DOWN HEAVILY ON FISHERIES DEPT

'This includes the area from the coast of Goa, seawards, to a distance of 200 nautical miles. It is therefore the primary duty of the Coast Guard to use such measures as it deems fit, to enforce the provisions of the enactments as are in force in the Maritime Zones in this case the Maritime Act, Ban order under 2016 of the State Government and the Ban order 2017 of the Union," read the order.

"The judgment has exposed the Department of Fisheries and it will go a long way in helping the traditional fishermen who were at the mercy of the corrupt officers of the Department. All staff that helped this illegal LED fishing should be booked," said a relieved Olencio Simoes, President of Goenchea Ramponkarancho Ekvott (GRE).

"The Fisheries Minister, who hails from the fishing community, did nothing for the people of his own community? We hope that at least now, he will amend the Act and ban the carrying of DG sets," hoped Simoes. Despite not prohibiting the use of diesel generator sets on board fishing

vessels, the order clearly stated that there is evidence of "direct correlation of their use in the banned form of LED fishing". Senior High Court counsel Norma Alvares, who appeared for petitioner

Goa Foundation, was happy with the judgment that "severely condemned both the State and Central government authorities for not enforcing the ban on LED fishing and therefore issued a slew of directions to the State of Goa, the Coast Guard and the Department of Fisheries to ensure that LED lights are not used by mechanised trawlers in future." Clearly exposing chinks in the DoF, the judgment states: "The GSL re-

port, which the DOF initially attempted to suppress from this Court, reflects the fact that after several fishing vessels were inspected at Cutbona, Malim and Vasco jetties, almost all were found with LED lighting systems on board. Some of the inspection reports suggest that the LED lighting systems were of high power and of fishing purposes." "The High Court expressed extreme dissatisfaction with the States de-

minister and we submitted our report to him. Chief Minister assured that fence of the use of Diesel Gensets (DG) by the mechanised vessels and instead accepted the Goa Shipyard report which stated that Diesel Gensets are absolutely not required," corroborated senior counsel Alvares. The judgment whilst acknowledging that the Coastal Police, "has practi-

> cally no interceptor boats, instructed that immediate steps should be taken by the Goa Coastal Police and Government of Goa (Home Department) to ensure that interceptor boats are procured in the shortest possible time." "A report of the steps taken by these departments and the time line within which the procurement process would be completed shall be placed be-

> fore this Court on 09.06.2025," detailed the judgment. "It is now for the Government of Goa to act on these observations and amend the Marine Fishing Regulation Act to ban DG sets on board fishing vessels in the interest of protecting marine ecology in Goa," observed Ad-

> vocate Malisa Zemira Simoes, also representing Goa Foundation. "All traditional fishermen are happy that the High Court has heard our cries for help. With the department of Fisheries walking along with those doing LED fishing, we were lost for catch," said a group of traditional fish-

ermen celebrating the verdict in Benaulim beach. "The two judges, Justice Valmiki Menezes, who wrote the judgment and Justice M S Karnik who presided over the Division Bench have done yeoman service to ensure that we Goans can enjoy our fish diet over the years," concluded senior counsel Alvares.

SHIRGAO STAMPEDE: AS USUAL, TEMPLE COMMITTEE IN BLAME GAME MODE

He said "I have video recordings to prove it. Even the temple development works were stalled by these members. Everything is recorded in

Clarifying it was not last year but nine years ago that a woman had fractured her hand during a minor stampede on the zatra day. Ganesh said that there was no fault of the State administration and blamed the current managing committee for the stampede.

"The current managing committee is responsible. Dinanath always onposed us and did not allow us to complete the two projects. I have submitted all these details to the fact-finding committee," Ganesh said.