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British actor Robert Pattinson poses during a photocall for the film "Die, My Love" at the 78th edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France

Portugal holds snap election with centre-right leading polls

LISBON: Voters in Portugal went to the polls on Sunday for the country's third general election in three years, with Prime Minister Luis Montenegro tipped to win, yet without a sufficient majority. Final opinion polls indicate his centre-right Democratic Alliance (AD) is ahead of the Socialist Party (PS) and is likely to pick up more votes than in the last election in 2024. But it is forecast to once again fall short of the 116 seats needed in Portugal's 230-member parliament to obtain a ruling majority. The far-right Chega party is on track to finish third once more, making it a potential kingmaker, although Montenegro has refused to govern with the populist movement.

French minister plans supermax prison in South American jungle

PARIS: France is to build a high-security prison in the South American jungle for the most "dangerous" criminals, including drug kingpins, headline Justice Minister Gerald Darmanin said in remarks published on Sunday. The facility will open in 2028 in Saint Laurent du Maroni in French Guiana, a French overseas territory situated north of Brazil, Darmanin told the JDD weekly. "I have decided to establish France's third high-security prison in Guiana," said Darmanin, who forged his tough-on-crime reputation in his previous job as interior minister. "Sixty places, an extremely strict prison regime and one goal - to remove the most dangerous profiles involved in drug trafficking," he said.

Tunisian 'revolution oasis' palm grove thrives on self-rule

JEMNA: Since the inhabitants of Jemna in southern Tunisia wrested control of their 100-year-old palm grove from the state during the 2011 Revolution, residents say their lives have radically improved. The desert town - where the palms produce some of the North African country's finest dates - ejected businessmen tied to the old regime when the uprising toppled longtime ruler Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. Jemna, population around 8,000, has since become a unique grassroots experiment in Tunisian agricultural self-management - a non-profit project run by a local community to reinvest all benefits locally.

Mexican security consultant who worked for US killed in cartel ambush

MEXICO CITY: A Mexican security consultant who recently did contract work for the U.S. State Department has been shot and killed in what appears to have been a cartel ambush at a restaurant in Guadaluajara. The brazen killing took place Friday night after 9:00 p.m. as the man, César Guzman, was dining with two fellow instructors with whom he had just completed a security and intelligence training course for police from Jalisco state, according to Arturo Fontes, a retired FBI agent who worked with Guzman.

Hundreds of Rwandans who fled to Congo after 1994 genocide return in UN repatriation

GOMA (CONGO): Hundreds of Rwandan refugees who were living in eastern Congo since the 1994 genocide in Rwanda were repatriated on Saturday, the UN refugee agency said, after Rwandan-backed rebels seized key parts of the region. Most of the refugees were women and children, and 360 of them crossed the border in buses provided by Rwandan authorities and were escorted by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and aid group Save the Children, local authorities said. The goal is to repatriate 2,000 people, UNHCR said. "We are happy to welcome our compatriots."

Saudi airline resumes first hajj flights with Iran since 2015: official

RIYADH: A Saudi airline has resumed flights for Iranian hajj pilgrims to the kingdom for the first time in a decade, the latest sign of the warming ties between the countries. "Flights resumed Iranian pilgrims flights from Imam Khomeini (airport) in Tehran on Saturday," a Saudi civil aviation authority official told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity. The official said flights would also be added from Mashhad in Iran, allowing more than 35,000 pilgrims to travel to Saudi Arabia on the airline. The official stressed that the flights were not commercial and were only for the hajj pilgrimage. The hajj is due to begin during the first week of June, and pilgrims from across the globe have already begun pouring into Saudi Arabia. Shiite-dominated Iran and Sunni-majority Saudi Arabia resumed relations in March 2023 under a surprise China-brokered deal after a seven-year rupture.

Zelensky meets US, EU leaders in Rome

AP, KYIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky met with top US officials and European leaders in Rome on Sunday, part of stepped-up diplomatic efforts ahead of a high-stakes phone call Monday between US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin on ending the war in Ukraine.

Zelensky spoke with US Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio at the US ambassador's residence, while German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said he had spoken both to Zelensky and to Rubio on the sidelines of the new pope's inauguration.

Merz said that he had also agreed with the leaders of France and Britain "that we will speak again with the American president in preparation for this



President Volodymyr Zelensky and Vice President of the United States JD Vance talking during their meeting in Rome

conversation". "My firm impression is that both the Europeans and the Americans are determined to work together, but now also in a goal-oriented manner, to ensure that this terrible war ends soon," Merz told reporters in Rome.

Trump said he plans to speak by phone Monday with Putin, and will then speak to Zelensky and leaders of various NATO countries, about ending the war in Ukraine.

The intensified diplomacy came as Russia launched its largest drone barrage

against Ukraine since the start of the full-scale invasion in 2022, after the first direct talks between Moscow and Kyiv in years failed to yield a ceasefire.

Putin spurned Zelensky's offer to meet face-to-face in Turkey after he himself proposed direct negotia-

tions — although not at the presidential level — as an alternative to a 30-day ceasefire urged by Ukraine and its Western allies, including the US.

Talks in Istanbul on Friday broke up after less than two hours without a ceasefire, although both sides agreed on exchanging 1,000 prisoners of war each, according to the heads of both delegations.

Ukraine's intelligence chief, Kyrylo Budanov, said on Ukrainian television Saturday that the exchange could happen as early as next week.

Russia fired a total of 273 exploding drones and decoys, Ukraine's air force said Sunday. Of those, 88 were intercepted and a further 128 lost, likely having been electronically jammed. The attacks targeted the country's Kyiv, Dnipropetrovsk and

Donetsk regions. Yuryi Ihnat, Head of the Communications Department of the Ukrainian Air Force, told The Associated Press that the barrage was the biggest drone attack since the start of the full-scale invasion.

Russia's previous largest known single drone attack was on the eve of the war's third anniversary, when Russia pounded Ukraine with 267 drones.

Kyiv regional Gov. Mykola Kalashnyk said a 28-year-old woman was killed in a drone attack on the region and three other people, including a 4-year-old child, were wounded.

Meanwhile, Russia's Defense Ministry said its air defences shot down seven Ukrainian drones overnight, and a further 18 on Sunday morning.

Trump's clash with courts raises prospect of showdown over separation of powers

AP, DENVER: Tucked deep in the thousand-plus pages of the multi-trillion dollar budget bill making its way through the Republican-controlled U.S. House is a paragraph curtailing a court's greatest tool for forcing the government to obey its rulings: the power to enforce contempt findings.

It's unclear whether the bill can pass the House in its current form — it failed in a committee vote Friday — whether the US Senate would preserve the contempt provision or whether courts would uphold it. But the fact that GOP lawmakers are including it shows

how much those in power in the nation's capital are thinking about the consequences of defying judges as the battle between the Trump administration and the courts escalates.

Republican President Donald Trump raised the stakes again Friday when he attacked the US Supreme Court for its ruling barring his administration from quickly resuming deportations under an 18th-century wartime law: "THE SUPREME COURT WON'T ALLOW US TO GET CRIMINALS OUT OF OUR COUNTRY!" Trump posted on his social media network, Truth Social.

The most intense skirmishes

have come in the lower courts.

One federal judge has found that members of the administration may be liable for contempt after ignoring his order to turn around planes deporting people under the Alien Enemies Act of 1798.

Trump's administration has scoffed at another judge's ruling that it "facilitate" the return of a man wrongly deported to El Salvador, even though the Supreme Court upheld that decision.

In other cases, the administration has removed immigrants against court orders or had judges find that the administration is not complying with their directives.

Dan Bongino, now Trump's deputy director of the FBI, called on the president to "ignore" a judge's order in one of Bongino's final appearances on his talk radio show in February.

"Who's going to arrest him? The marshals?" Bongino asked, naming the agency that enforces federal judges' criminal contempt orders. "You guys know who the US Marshals work for? Department of Justice."

The rhetoric obscures the fact that the administration has complied with the vast majority of court rulings against it, many of them related to Trump's executive orders.

Trump has said multiple times he will comply with orders, even as he attacks by name judges who rule against him.

While skirmishes over whether the federal government is complying with court orders are not unusual, it's the intensity of the Trump administration's pushback that is, legal experts say.

"It seems to me they are walking as close to the line as they can, and even stepping over it, in an effort to see how much they can get away with," said Steve Vladeck, a Georgetown law professor. "It's what you would expect from a very clever and mischievous child."

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BANDHARA WORK NEAR FALNEM SPARKS PROTESTS ACROSS VILLAGES

The Rs 280 crore bandhara project at Falnem aims to divert water to Maisal in the Shiroda constituency to address water scarcity. However, locals argue that the project was launched without adequate public consultation or a proper presentation and claim it threatens the river's ecological balance and the surrounding communities.

This is not the first time the bandhara proposal has met with resistance. In 2024, a similar project on the opposite bank at Mirabag was scrapped following public protests, community disputes, and allegations against panchayat members, including MLA and local panch Sanjay Naik, for allegedly failing to inform villagers.

Previously, the issue had been raised in the gram sabha, which resulted in the Mirabag project being shelved.

Now, Sanjay Naik alleges that the same group which had opposed the Mirabag plan is now supporting the Falnem bandhara, raising questions about their motives.

Naik further claimed, "These same people told the media that they oppose the Falnem bandhara too, but they haven't attended a single public meeting. If they really care about the village, why aren't they standing with the people now?"

According to villagers, multiple village-level meetings have been held where the project was unanimously opposed. A letter signed by over 300 residents was submitted to the Sanvordem Panchayat.

The Panchayat, in turn, forwarded the villagers' concerns to Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, the WRD, and the Deputy Collector of Sanguem.

However, their efforts appear to have been in vain, as construction continues to progress rapidly, with increased machinery activity reported on Sunday.

Curchorem MLA Nilesh Cabral and Sanguem MLA Subhash Phal Desai recently visited the site and assured the community they would look into the matter.

Villagers say these assurances have yet to translate into any tangible action. A meeting between Sanjay Naik and the Chief Minister also failed to resolve the issue.

The villagers clarified that they are not opposed to supplying water to other areas through pumping methods. Their protest is specifically against the construction of the bandhara, which they believe puts the river and their communities at risk.

The issue has taken on a political dimension. The Panchayat, local MLA, and most residents are aligned with the BJP. However, Sanvordem MLA Ganesh Gaonkar has neither attended any public meetings nor visited the project site, leading to sharp criticism from villagers who accuse him of ignoring their concerns.

The controversy dominated discussions at Sunday's gram sabha meeting of the Sanvordem Village Panchayat. The absence of Sarpanch Chinmayi Naik and the presence of only three out of nine panchayat members drew strong condemnation from villagers, who saw it as a sign of irresponsibility.

At the meeting, villagers once again unanimously voiced their opposition to the project and reiterated their demand for an immediate stop to the work.

Sanvordem Congress Block President Sanket Bhandari criticised both the panchayat and the BJP government, accusing them of proceeding with the project despite public opposition. He questioned why no action was being taken even though the panchayat and MLA belong to the ruling party.

Bhandari reminded panchayat members of their earlier pledge during the 2024 Mirabag protest, when they had vowed to go on a hunger strike if any project was initiated along the Zuari River within Sanvordem.

He demanded that, if the government continues to ignore the public, all BJP-backed panchayat members should resign in protest.

Following the gram sabha, residents of Falnem, Solim, Mugoli, and Mirabag held another meeting to plan their next steps. They resolved to submit letters and meet the MLAs of Sanvordem, Sanguem, and Curchorem on Monday. They warned that if their concerns are not addressed, they will halt construction work at the Fal-

nem site the following day.

DRIBBLING THEIR WAY INTO THE FUTURE

"We all love football. In fact, this year, our school represented Goa in New Delhi for the Subroto Cup. However, hockey is our national sport and it hasn't received its due. Goans like Joaquim and Merwyn have made us proud in the past. It's time we produced Olympians from Goa again," he said.

Over the past month, Carvalho and Fernandes have visited several schools across the state, encouraging principals to introduce hockey early. Their simple but powerful message: "Start early, build wide, and the quality will come," said Merwyn Fernandes.

Some schools have already started building turfs and practising regularly. With every visit, the two legends — once stars on the international stage — kneel beside young players, guiding them with patience and passion.

"This is about more than sport," said Carvalho. "It's about giving kids a dream, a purpose, and maybe even a future in hockey. With more support from the authorities, the game can grow much faster."

As the sun rises over school grounds across Goa, a new generation picks up hockey sticks for the first time — not out of obligation, but out of joy. Thanks to the combined efforts of a visionary principal and two sporting icons, Goa is rediscovering its place on the hockey map — one little footstep at a time.

PAK WAS DEVELOPING JYOTI AS 'ASSET': HARYANA POLICE

But she was directly in touch with PIOs, he said. "Certainly, they were developing her as an asset. She was in touch with other YouTube influencers. They were also in touch with PIOs," the SP said.

"This is also (a kind of) warfare, in which they try to push their narrative by recruiting influencers," he said.

Hisar-based Malhotra (33), who runs a YouTube channel, "Travel with JO", was arrested from New Aggarsain Extension on Friday, she said.

She has been booked under relevant sections of the Official Secrets Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, police said.

She was sent to a five-day police remand after being produced before the court on Saturday.

POPE OFFERS MESSAGE OF COMMUNION IN INAUGURAL MASS

He turned his hand to look at the ring and seal and then clasped his hands in front of him in prayer.

US Vice President JD Vance, one of the last foreign officials to see Pope Francis before he died, led the US delegation honouring the Chicago-born Leo. Vance paid his respects at the Argentine pope's tomb upon arriving in Rome late Saturday.

In his homily, Leo said he wanted to be a servant of the faithful through the two dimensions of the papacy, love and unity, so that the church could be a force for peace in the world.

"I would like that our first great desire be for a united church, a sign of unity and communion, which becomes a haven for a reconciled world," he said. "In this our time, we still see too much discord, too many wounds caused by hatred, violence, prejudice, the fear of difference, and an economic paradigm that exploits the Earth's resources and marginalises the poorest."

His call for unity was significant, given the polarisation in the Catholic Church in the United States and beyond. Francis' radical 12-year pontificate, which emphasised care for the poor and marginalised and disdain for the capitalist economic system, often alienated conservatives and traditionalists.

Leo's May 8 election, after a remarkably quick 24-hour conclave, appears to have pleased conservative Catholics who seem to appreciate his more disciplined, traditional style and Augustinian background, emphasising core

truths of Catholic doctrine.

Leo drove that message home further by wearing the formal red cape of the papacy, or mozzetta, to receive Vance and official government delegations after the Mass.

Francis had eschewed many of the formalities of the papacy as part of his simple style, but Leo's return to the traditional garb pleased conservatives and traditionalists who cheered when he came out of the loggia on May 8 wearing the red cape.

Leo did break protocol when he gave his older brother, Louis Prevest, a self-described political "MAGA-type," a bear hug in the basilica when he and his wife came up to greet the pope.

"Let us build a church founded on God's love, a sign of unity, a missionary church that opens its arms to the world, proclaims the word, allows itself to be made restless by history, and becomes a haven of harmony for humanity," Leo said, referencing some of the themes of Francis' pontificate as well.

Strict diplomatic protocol dictated the seating arrangements at the inaugural Mass, with both the United States and Peru getting front-row seats thanks to Leo's dual citizenship.

Vance, a Catholic convert who tangled with Francis over the Trump administration's mass migrant deportation plans, was joined by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who arrived in Rome ahead of time to try to advance Russia-Ukraine peace talks.

Peruvian President Dina Boluarte was one of around a dozen heads of state who attended, as well as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. Russia had planned to send its culture minister but was represented by its ambassador, reports said.

EIGHT CHILDREN AMONG 17 KILLED IN HYDERABAD BLAZE

There were shops on the ground floor while the first and second floors were residential spaces, he said.

"Prima-facie cause of the fire is short circuit in the mains in the shopping area," Reddy said, adding the victims were sleeping when the fire broke out.

According to the relatives of the victims, some of the children had come to the house that caught fire for summer holidays, which ended in tragedy.

A total of 21 people were in the building when the fire erupted, and of them 17 were shifted to hospitals by the fire department in an unconscious state.

There was only one escape route, the staircase, which was very narrow and the inmates could not run to safety, he said.

Telangana Fire Department in a statement said the fire broke out on the Ground floor (G+2 building) and spread to the floors above.

Addressing reporters after visiting the spot, Transport and Hyderabad District in-charge Minister Ponnamm Prabhakar said a short circuit caused the fire. "We will order an inquiry into the fire accident. There is no conspiracy angle in it... Four families related to one another were residing in the building and many of them came to spend their vacation."

Shortly after the fire broke out, Zahid, who is into bangles business in Gulzar Houz area and an eyewitness to the fire incident told reporters that at around 6.10 am when he along with friends were passing by, a woman told them about the fire that erupted in the building and there were family members with children inside.

"As the main door of the building was engulfed in flames, we broke the shutter and also a wall and entered inside. As the blaze was high we went to the first floor. We found seven people in one room and six others in another room. We were not able to save them due to the fire. Had we saved them it would have been good," he said.

He further said he saw a dead woman hugging some lifeless children.

The Osmania Hospital mortuary, where bodies from different hospitals were sent for autopsy, wore a grim look as relatives burst into tears in shock.