

allovertheworld



British actor Benedict Cumberbatch during a photocall for the film "The Phoenician Scheme" at the 78th edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, France

Four killed in Vietnam landslide after flash floods

HANOI: A landslide following flash floods in a mountainous area of northern Vietnam has killed four people, the government said on Monday, as forecasters warned of further downpours. The landslide occurred early Sunday in Ba Be district of Bac Kan province following torrential rain on Saturday. "A very big (noise, like an) explosion was heard from the top of the mountain. Then soil, rock and water poured down from the mountain," a statement on the government's website quoted local official Tieu Xuan Tai as saying. Tai said local residents had been aware of a two-metre-wide (six-foot-wide) crack on the top of the mountain that appeared several years ago.

Migrant dies seeking to cross Channel: France

LILLE: A migrant has died after a boat carrying would-be asylum seekers attempting to cross the Channel broke apart overnight Sunday to Monday, French authorities said. Sixty-one migrants were rescued after the accident off the French coast, said France's Maritime Prefecture of the Channel and the North Sea. "There were a lot of departures. An overloaded boat broke apart," the prefecture added. "One person died." Authorities were notified at around 2:30 am (0030 GMT) Monday, with a French rescue tugboat, the Abeille Normandie, British vessels and a French navy helicopter deployed to assist the migrants.

Man arrested for stabbing four in South Korea

SEOUL: South Korean police said Monday a man was arrested after stabbing four people, leaving two dead. Around 9:30 am Monday, the suspect stabbed a convenience store owner, a woman in her sixties, and fled the scene in Gyeonggi Province, west of Seoul. After police responded to that stabbing, they went to the home of the car owner linked to the suspect's vehicle. They discovered a body there which "is believed to be that of the car owner", a Siheung Police Station official told AFP, adding that the body appeared to have been left for several days. About two hours later, the suspect stabbed another man in his seventies, before again fleeing the scene. Shortly after that, police discovered another body inside the suspect's house, close to the convenience store.

South Africa's talks with Trump will seek to salvage trade: minister

JOHANNESBURG: Securing South Africa's trade ties with the United States will be a key aim of President Cyril Ramaphosa's visit to Washington this week to meet Donald Trump, a minister in the delegation said Monday. Ramaphosa was to be accompanied by four cabinet ministers on the high stakes visit and was expected to meet Trump at the White House on Wednesday. Ties between Pretoria and Washington have plummeted since Trump took office in January and Ramaphosa's visit is seen as an attempt to reset the relationship. A priority is securing trade relations in order to "protect jobs, grow the economy and expand employment opportunities", Agriculture Minister John Steenhuisen said.

One dead, three missing in Argentina floods: authorities

BUENOS AIRES: Rescuers in Argentina were searching on Sunday for three people missing in floods that killed one man and forced almost 2,000 to flee their homes, authorities said. Heavy rain has pounded the capital Buenos Aires and the surrounding province, cutting off main roads, submerging fields and causing rivers to burst their banks. The director of Civil Defense for Buenos Aires province, Fabian Garcia said Sunday in a radio interview that a missing man had been found dead, with three others still unaccounted for. Garcia said 1,945 people had sought shelter in evacuation centers, and that "a very large number" of other residents had fled their homes to stay with relatives.

Train strike ends after snarling New York travel

UNITED STATES: Train service in New Jersey will resume Tuesday after striking transit workers and officials came to a tentative agreement following several days of mass misery for New York area commuters. Train engineers seeking higher pay went on the first statewide transit strike in more than 40 years on Friday at a minute after midnight as contract talks fell apart. Many area commuters were caught unaware and left scrambling to get into nearby New York using other means of transportation such as Uber or Amtrak, the national rail system, both of which can be many multitudes more expensive.

UK, EU hail new chapter as they ink fresh deals

AP, LONDON: Britain and the European Union hailed a new chapter in their relationship Monday after sealing fresh agreements on defence cooperation and easing trade flows at their first formal summit since Brexit.

Five years after the UK left the EU, ties were growing closer again as Prime Minister Keir Starmer met European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and other senior EU officials in London for talks.

The deals will slash red tape, grow the British economy and reset relations with the 27-nation trade bloc, Starmer said, while von der Leyen called the talks a "historic moment" that benefits both sides.

"Britain is back on the world stage," Starmer told reporters. "This deal is a win-win."

He hailed Monday's agreements - the third package of trade deals



European Council President Antonio Costa (L), Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer (C) and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen at UK-EU Summit in London

struck by his government in as many weeks following accords with the US and India - as "good for jobs, good for bills and good for our borders."

But Britain's opposition parties slammed the deals as backtracking on Brexit and "surrendering" anew to the EU. "We're becoming a rule-taker from Brussels once again," Conservative Party leader Kemi Badenoch said.

Here are the main takeaways from the summit: Cutting red tape on food trade

Officials said they will remove some routine border checks on animal and plant products and align with EU regulations, which will reduce costs on food imports and exports and make it easier for goods to flow freely across borders.

Businesses have complained about trucks wait-

ing for hours at borders with fresh food that cannot be exported to the EU because of laborious post-Brexit certifications.

The changes will mean the UK can sell products like raw British burgers, sausages and seafood to the EU again, officials said. The benefits will apply also to movements between the British mainland and Northern Ireland, where post-Brexit

customs checks have been a thorny issue for years.

While the EU is the UK's largest trading partner, the government said the UK has been hit with a 21 per cent drop in exports since Brexit because of more onerous paperwork and other non-tariff barriers.

A new security and defence partnership will pave the way for UK defence firms to access a new EU loan programme worth 150 billion euros (USD 170 billion.) That will allow Britain to secure cheap loans backed by the EU budget to buy military equipment, in part to help Ukraine defend itself.

The EU has said that the loan program will help boost the readiness of European defense as well as enable more coordinated support for Ukraine.

Fisheries The deal included a 12-year extension of an agreement allowing EU fishing

vessels to operate in UK waters until 2038, which angered UK fishermen and their supporters.

While economically minor, fishing has long been a sticking point and symbolically important issue for the UK and EU member states such as France. Disputes over the issue nearly derailed a Brexit deal back in 2020.

Elsbeth Macdonald, head of the Scottish Fishermen's Federation, called the agreement a "horror show for Scottish fishermen" that was granted in order to secure other objectives. Scottish First Minister John Swinney said the deal was "the direct opposite of what was promised by Brexit."

Easing movement for young people Post-Brexit visa restrictions have hobbled cross-border activities for professionals such as bankers or lawyers, as well as academic and cultural exchanges, including touring bands.

FROM PAGE 1

MHAJI BUS SCHEME SET FOR ROADBLOCKS AHEAD

As per the court directive, a Rs 3 per kilometre fuel subsidy and a Rs 20,000 annual insurance subsidy were announced. "But the insurance hasn't been paid since 2017, and the fuel subsidy is pending since 2018," he pointed out.

While Kaskar noted that the earlier scheme was a limited pilot involving just 56 operators and that the new scheme is open to all private operators with valid stage carriage permits and vehicles under 20 years old, Tamankar remained unconvinced. Under the revised plan, eligible operators are promised a Rs 3 per kilometre fuel subsidy, an annual insurance reimbursement of up to Rs 30,000, and Rs 10 lakh for replacing buses older than 15 years with a minimum seating capacity of 27.

Tamankar questioned the government's credibility, citing repeated failures to honour previous commitments. "We told the government we're capable of managing on our own. We just want to be left alone," he said. Recalling an old bus replacement scheme introduced in 2000 under then Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar, which initially offered Rs 2.5 lakh and was later raised to Rs 3.5 lakh, Tamankar said, "I proposed increasing that to Rs 10 lakh, considering we're providing a public service. KTCL receives substantial government grants, controls bus stands, toll booths and parking fees, and still runs at a loss. That's why we oppose the new scheme."

He added that while the file for subsidies from June 2018 to March 2019 is currently being processed, dues from March 2020 onwards remain untouched. "Unless both files are cleared, we will not consider any new proposals," he stated. Asked about the association's next steps if the government failed to act, Tamankar said a decision would be taken in due course.

Stage Carriage Bus Operators Association President Sudesh Kalangutkar echoed this frustration. "I lost faith in the government when our members did not receive dues under the first scheme. During the pandemic, our buses were off the road, but we still had to repay bank loans," he said. Kalangutkar, who operates two buses on the Calangute-Panjim route, said he had replaced one of his vehicles under the earlier bus replacement scheme but was still waiting for the Rs 4.5 lakh subsidy. "It's been eight years, and I've submitted all the necessary documents. With interest, the amount now exceeds Rs 10 lakh," he said.

He also raised concerns about the financial mechanics of the new scheme. Under the earlier programme, operators had to buy the new vehicle first and then apply for reimbursement. "In the current scheme, we've had no consultation. Will the Rs 10 lakh be given before or after purchasing the bus? If it's post-purchase, how are we expected to repay the bank loan? We need two guarantors just to get a loan, and without upfront funds, it's impossible," he explained. He added that bus prices have also risen sharply in recent years.

Kalangutkar clarified that the operators are not against the new scheme in principle. "We're not opposed to the scheme itself. But the government must first settle all outstanding dues. We've spoken to the Chief Minister and conveyed our concerns. So far, we've only received vague assurances. Unless the dues are cleared, we cannot take this any further," he said.

THAT DIRTY ICE MAY END UP IN YOUR FOOD AT SANGUEM'S PURUMENTACHEM FEST!

They have urged the department to enforce hygiene standards, to ensure that vendors follow basic food safety protocols.

They have urged the authorities concerned to take swift action to prevent any outbreak or health-related incidents during the feast. Furthermore, the locals have requested the authorities to ensure regular monitoring during all future public events involving the sale of food and beverages.

The Sanguem Municipal Council (SMC) councillor has raised concerns over the unhygienic storage and transportation of ice

blocks used in popular refreshments.

Councillor Fauzia Shaikh, said, "Following reports on Herald TV about the unhygienic use of ice at feasts, I request the municipality to take immediate action to ensure that ice used in items like lemon soda and ice gola is handled hygienically and never placed directly on the ground. Additionally, I urge health officials to supervise all food items sold during the feast to protect public health and safety."

Flazer da Costa, a resident of Molcornem, said, "A video from the event shows ice blocks stored on dirty surfaces, leaving them susceptible to contamination from dust, mud, and other unsanitary elements. It appeared that vendors were operating without any hygienic measures. There was a lack of glove usage, clean storage containers, or protective coverings, which poses a significant health risk to the public."

Da Costa said "Despite the large crowd and numerous food stalls, it seems that no health inspections were conducted by the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA), or local municipal officials. This apparent lack of oversight from these departments and the municipal council is deeply concerning."

"It is crucial that the FDA and local administration take immediate corrective action to address these issues. This should include thorough inspections, strict enforcement of hygiene standards, and appropriate penalties for any violations. Such measures are essential to prevent potential health outbreaks and ensure the safety of the community," da Costa added.

It is pertinent to note that the feast is a large and well-known annual event in Sanguem, celebrated on the third Saturday of May. It features a week-long fair at the Church of Our Lady of Miracles, with various stalls selling goods and attracting crowds from Sanguem and surrounding areas.

SC SLAMS MP MINISTER OVER 'FILTHY' REMARK ON QURESHI

Meanwhile, a wave of outrage swept across social media following the arrest of M A A Khan, associate professor and head of the political science department at Ashoka University, for a Facebook post that critically examined the gap between symbolic representation and the lived realities of Muslims in India.

This crackdown has drawn sharper scrutiny when contrasted with the state's far more lenient handling of Madhya Pradesh minister Vijay Shah, who faced intense criticism — including from the Supreme Court — for his 'crass' and 'filthy' comments against Colonel Sofiya Qureshi, the Army officer who represented Operation Sindoor in a recent press conference.

This contrast — a minister receives protection despite scathing judicial criticism, while a professor is detained by a police team of over a dozen officers for a nuanced critique on social media — has fueled allegations of selective law enforcement and a broader assault on dissent.

Professor Khan's May 8 post questioned the 'optics' of appointing Colonel Sofiya Qureshi as a spokesperson while violence and systemic discrimination against Muslims persisted. "The optics of two women soldiers presenting their findings is important," he wrote, "but optics must translate to reality on the ground otherwise it's just hypocrisy."

Following backlash, Khan clarified on May 14 that his post was misinterpreted. He said he intended to appreciate the military's inclusive gesture, but urged for broader consistency in upholding the republic's founding values of justice, diversity, and accountability. "Contrary to the allegations, my post appreciated the fact that the armed forces chose Colonel Sofiya Qureshi and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh... to highlight that the dream of an India united in diversity is still alive."

Over 1,100 academics, activists, and public intellectuals — including Romila Thapar, Ramachandra Guha, Jayati Ghosh, and Harsh Mander — have signed a petition demanding an end to what they describe as the harassment of Professor Khan. They

emphasize that Khan's re-remarks did not malign the armed forces but instead called attention to the disconnect between symbolic gestures and lived experiences. Ashoka University has stated it is "ascer-

taining details of the case" and will cooperate with authorities, though it has previously distanced itself from Khan's views, even as he stressed they were in defense of constitutional principles.

MORE OBITS ON PAGE 12

CONDOLENCE

Management and Staff of
RESORTE MARINHA DOURADA
O' CAMARAO BEACH RESORT
RESORT PRIMOBOM
TERRA VERDE
HOTEL CELI

deeply mourn the sad and
untimely demise of
our beloved Director

JOSÉ CONCEIÇÃO GOES PROENÇA
(ZECO)

Porba Vaddo, Calangute

we convey our heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family.

MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE.

REMINISCENSES OF SEVENTEEN YEARS



PIE DADE D'COSTA

BANDORA, PONDA - GOA.

You were the embodiment of strength, compassion
and wisdom - a guiding light in our lives.

Your gentle presence, unwavering love and endless
grace shaped who we are.

We miss you..

Fondly remembered by her beloved Husband, Children and Family