

allovertheworld



A participant attends the "Moto Legende" motorcycle races on the Dijon-Prenois motor racing circuit in Prenois, central-eastern France

Indonesia seizes record two tonnes of crystal meth

BATAM, INDONESIA: Indonesian authorities seized two tonnes of crystal methamphetamine hidden on a fishing boat and arrested six people in the country's biggest-ever drug bust, a senior narcotics official said Monday. The National Narcotics Agency, or BNN, said Thai authorities had notified them that the Indonesian-flagged vessel, sailing from the Andaman Sea to Batam Island, could be carrying a huge haul of narcotics. Indonesian authorities intercepted the boat in waters off the Riau islands last Tuesday, and found 2,000 packages of crystal meth stuffed into cardboard boxes hidden within the ship. "The result of the search is two tonnes of crystal methamphetamine," BNN chief Marthinus Hukom told a press conference. "This is the biggest haul in Indonesia's narcotics bust history."

Finland summons Russian ambassador over suspected airspace violation: ministry

HELSINKI, FINLAND: Finland's foreign ministry said on Monday it had summoned the Russian ambassador over suspicions that two Russian military aircraft violated its airspace last week. Finland, which dropped decades of military non-alignment to join NATO in 2023, following Russia's fully-fledged invasion of Ukraine, has a 1,340-kilometre (830-mile) border with Russia. The defence ministry reported on Friday there had been a suspected airspace violation off the coast of Porvoo, around 50 kilometres (30 miles) from the capital, Helsinki. It said an investigation into the incident was ongoing.

Austrian court overturns ex-chancellor Kurz's conviction

VIENNA, AUSTRIA: An Austrian court on Monday overturned former chancellor Sebastian Kurz's conviction for giving false testimony, clearing the politician once hailed as a conservative "wunderkind" — though he still faces a separate corruption investigation. Kurz, 38, resigned as chancellor in 2021 amid a series of accusations. He was found guilty last year of giving false testimony to a parliamentary inquiry and handed an eight-month suspended jail sentence. But he appealed against the verdict, insisting he was innocent. "Sebastian Kurz... is acquitted," a three-member panel of judges said, announcing the decision after hearing Kurz's appeal.

Germany, France, Poland condemn 'democratic backsliding' in Georgia

BERLIN, GERMANY: The leaders of Germany, France and Poland on Monday criticised actions by the Georgian government which they said had undermined democratic institutions. In a joint statement marking Georgia's Independence Day, the trio said they "condemn all activities of the Georgian authorities resulting in the democratic backsliding and the attacks against civil society, media and government critics". German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, French President Emmanuel Macron and Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk said they supported "the democratic and European aspirations of the Georgian people".

Venezuela elects representatives for Guyana-administered Essequibo

EL DORADO, VENEZUELA: Venezuela elected officials on Sunday for the first time for Essequibo region, an oil-rich territory that Caracas claims from neighboring Guyana as part of a centuries-old dispute. The vote took place in a micro-district of 21,403 voters in Venezuela's Bolivar state, on the Guyanese border. Caracas had specially created it for Sunday's legislative and regional elections. There were no polling stations in the 160,000-square-kilometre territory of (62,000-square-mile) Essequibo, which is administered by Guyana. "Today, Essequibo has a governor," Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro told his supporters on Sunday evening moments after the country's results were announced.

King Charles to open Canada parliament tasked with countering Trump

OTTAWA, CANADA: King Charles III was set to land in Ottawa Monday for a historic visit to open Canada's parliament, a brief trip seen as part of the pushback against US President Donald Trump's annexation threats. The 76-year-old monarch, who is also Canada's head of state as part of the Commonwealth, was invited by Prime Minister Mark Carney to deliver the throne speech, an address that outlines the government's priorities. The speech is typically given by the British monarch's representative in Canada, the governor general. Queen Elizabeth II, the king's late mother, delivered a throne speech in Canada just twice during her long reign, in 1957 and 1977. Charles, making his first visit to Canada since his coronation, has never commented on Trump's repeated talk of making Canada the 51st US state.

Israeli strikes kill 52 in Gaza, 36 in school shelter: medics

AP, DEIR AL-BALAH: Israeli strikes killed at least 52 people in the Gaza Strip on Monday, including 36 in a school-turned-shelter that was struck as people slept, igniting their belongings, according to local health officials. The military said it targeted militants operating from the school.

Israel renewed its offensive in March after ending a ceasefire with Hamas. It has vowed to seize control of Gaza and keep fighting until Hamas is destroyed or disarmed, and until it returns the remaining 58 hostages, a third of them believed to be alive, from the October 7, 2023, attack that ignited the war.

Israel began allowing a trickle of humanitarian aid into Gaza last week after blocking all food, medicine, fuel or other goods from entering for 2 1/2 months. Aid groups have warned of famine and say the aid that has come in is nowhere near enough to



A man sits amid the rubble at the Fahmi Al-Jarjawi School in Gaza City on Monday, following an Israeli strike

meeting mounting needs.

A new aid system supported by Israel and the United States but rejected by UN agencies and aid groups is expected to begin operations as soon as Monday, despite the resignation of the American leading the effort, who said it would not be able to operate independently.

Israel says it plans to seize full control of Gaza and facilitate what it describes as the voluntary migration of its over two million population, a plan rejected by Palestinians and much of the international community.

Israel's military campaign has destroyed vast areas of Gaza and internal-

ly displaced some 90 per cent of its population. Many have fled multiple times.

The strike on the school in the Daraj neighbourhood of Gaza City also wounded dozens of people, said Fahmy Awad, head of the ministry's emergency service. He said a father and his five children were among the dead. The Shifa and al-

Ahli hospitals in Gaza City confirmed the overall toll.

Awad said the school was hit three times while people slept, setting their belongings ablaze. Footage circulating online showed rescuers struggling to extinguish fires and recovering charred remains.

The military said it targeted a militant command and control centre inside the school that Hamas and Islamic Jihad used to gather intelligence for attacks. Israel blames civilian deaths on Hamas because it operates in residential areas.

A separate strike on a home in Jabalya in northern Gaza killed 16 members of the same family, including five women and two children, according to Shifa Hospital, which received the bodies.

Palestinian militants meanwhile fired three projectiles from Gaza.

UN says Israeli protesters broke into Jerusalem

AP, DEIR AL-BALAH: The UN agency for Palestinian refugees says Israeli protesters have broken into its compound in east Jerusalem.

UNRWA West Bank coordinator Roland Friedrich said around a dozen Israeli protesters, including a member of parliament, forcefully entered the compound on Monday.

The Israeli protesters who stormed the UNRWA compound in east Jerusalem were joined by Yulia Malinovsky, one of the legislators behind an Israeli law that banned UNRWA.

Israel has accused the agency, which is the biggest aid provider in Gaza, of being infiltrated by Hamas, allegations denied by the UN.

There was no immediate comment from Israeli police.

FROM PAGE 1

3 PANJIM BUILDINGS FACE DEMOLITION

Eleven shop owners obtained a temporary stay order from the High Court, stalling further eviction until May 27. Among those affected is long-time leaseholder Pravin Pednekar, whose father first signed the agreement in 1968.

Pednekar, who now operates eight units on the third floor converted from a single office space, expressed shock over the abruptness of the action. "This time, the authorities moved very fast," he said. "Earlier we'd get at least eight to fifteen days to respond. Now they gave us just 24 hours. That's not enough time to even move our goods or seek legal help."

With the monsoon closing in, Pednekar described the timing as "unfortunate" and questioned how businesses could vacate without being offered alternatives. "Everything is at a standstill. How can I — or anyone — move without alternative arrangements?"

The urgency followed a May 21 order from the CCP, invoking Section 272 (1) of the City of Panaji Corporation Act, 2002, citing imminent danger and directing immediate evacuation. The order was issued in the name of Glen Madeira GCS.

While 11 of the 13 tenants secured a temporary stay, their legal battle continues. They are set to present their case before the Minister of Urban Development on May 27, when the stay period will come to a close.

'HAMAS AGREES TO GAZA CEASEFIRE PROPOSAL'

The source added that mediators presented the proposal "over the past few days".

The United States, Egypt and Qatar have all had a hand in mediating the ceasefire talks throughout the war.

The proposal, the second source said, would involve the release of "five living Israeli hostages during the first week of the agreement's implementation, and five others before the end of the truce period".

Israel had said last week that it was recalling its senior Gaza hostage negotiators from talks in Doha "for consultation", while leaving some lower-level members of its team in the Qatari capital.

Israel has recently intensified its campaign in Gaza, calling it an "expansion of the battle" against Hamas.

The last ceasefire between the sides fell apart amid disagreements over how to move forward, with Israel resuming its operations in Gaza on March 18.

On March 2, Israel imposed a total aid blockade on the territory that it said was aimed at forcing concessions from Hamas, with UN agencies since warning it has created critical shortages of food, clean water, fuel and medicines.

Israel partially eased the blockade last week, and aid trucks have begun to trickle back into Gaza, though humanitarian groups have urged it to allow more supplies to enter faster.

STOP-WORK ORDER HALTS ODXEL PROJECT

They warned that the Anantam construction site poses an "imminent landslide threat," pointing to a 40-foot-deep excavation and unstable soil dumped above residential areas.

They further pointed out that rainwater had accumulated in the pit, forming a temporary reservoir and increasing pressure on already fragile soil walls—potentially triggering a catastrophic collapse during the monsoon.

The developer has since taken the step of covering the pit as a preventive measure. But as officials examine the site's legality and the rains close in, Odxel continues to be in the spotlight.

GAUDE'S CHARGE SPARKS STORM, CM VOWS ACTION

He further accused the government of failing to fulfil promises made to the tribal community, including the long-pending construction of a Tribal Bhavan, and even threatened to launch an agitation if their demands continued to be ignored.

Gaude's remarks have not only embarrassed the ruling BJP but also handed the opposition a political opportunity. Several opposition leaders have demanded that the Anti-Corruption Branch immediately probe the allegations and take action against those involved in bribery.

BJP State president Sadanand Naik echoed the CM's stand, stating that disciplinary action would be taken against Gaude. "Such indiscipline will not be tolerated in the future. BJP is a disciplined party. Grievances should be aired through the proper forum," Naik said.

Velim MLA Cruz Silva also responded sharply to the controversy, demanding an independent and transparent inquiry into both the bribery allegations and the delays in the Tribal Bhavan project. He said the tribal community had

waited far too long for basic infrastructure and fair treatment.

"These allegations are serious and must not be swept under the carpet. We need accountability at every level," Silva said.

He further criticised the lack of implementation of tribal welfare schemes and renewed the long-standing demand for ST reservation in the Goa Legislative Assembly, saying the Scheduled Tribe community in Goa continues to be neglected despite constitutional safeguards.

The incident has fuelled sharp criticism from the opposition. Goa Forward Party president and MLA Vijai Sardesai called Gaude's remarks a reflection of the "institutionalised corruption" in the BJP-led government.

"This is not a revelation, but a sign of utter frustration with his own government," Sardesai said, in a social media post. "Since the corruption he mentioned falls under the Chief Minister's portfolio, Goa is now waiting to see whether @DrPranodPSawant takes any stern action—or whether this cabinet will proudly retain its title as the most corrupt government Goa has ever seen."

AAP Goa secretary Francis Coelho went a step further, blaming the Chief Minister directly for the alleged corruption. "Minister Gaude is just a pawn in a larger money-making system. This reflects deep differences between him and the CM. We hold the CM responsible," Coelho said, adding that AAP would begin efforts to educate Goans on the issue.

As the storm brews within the Cabinet, all eyes are now on Chief Minister Sawant—whether he will act firmly to defuse a crisis triggered from within his own government, and whether Gaude has any other moves up his sleeve.

These allegations are serious and must not be swept under the carpet. We need accountability at every level

— Cruz Silva, Velim MLA

Minister Gaude is just a pawn in a larger money-making system. This reflects deep differences between him and the CM. We hold the CM responsible

— Francis Coelho, AAP Goa secretary

BRIJ BHUSHAN POCSO CASE CLOSED

She had said that she was not opposed to the closure report.

Delhi Police on June 15, 2023, filed the report seeking cancellation of the case involving the girl after her father made a startling claim midway through the probe that he had made a false complaint of sexual harassment against Singh to get back at him for perceived injustice to the girl.

The police had recommended dropping the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act case against Singh but charged him with sexual harassment and stalking in a separate case lodged by six women wrestlers.

The police had recommended the cancellation of the complaint involving the minor wrestler, saying "no corroborative evidence" was found.

The POCSO Act provides for a minimum imprisonment of three years, depending on the sections under which the case has been registered.

Singh, a former BJP MP, has consistently denied the allegations.

FARMERS LEFT TO FEND FOR THEMSELVES AFTER UNSEASONAL RAINS FLOOD S GOA PADDY FIELDS

In Salcete, although many farmers had completed harvesting before the rains, fields where sowing was delayed — particularly in Chandor — remains waterlogged.

Government officials have estimated around 10 to 15 hectares in the region were still submerged. Velim, known for its rice cultivation, also experienced flooding, but officials said prior preparations for the upcoming kharif season had helped mitigate the worst of the damage.

The forecast of more rain in the coming days has further unsettled the farming community, though some experts believe the softened soil might aid ploughing for the next sowing cycle. But for those already affected, the immediate concern is compensation and relief. Goyche Fuddle Pillge Khatir (GFPK), a local organisation working closely with farming communities, has raised alarm over the vulnerability of small and marginalised farmers in the face of climate unpredictability. The group pointed out that while many government schemes claim to support agriculture, the benefits often bypass the most affected and reach only the influential.

GFPK President Jack Mascarenhas said it has submitted detailed suggestions to the agriculture minister while working with gram sabhas to ensure that farmers' voices

are heard in shaping the state's draft agriculture policy. Their efforts include pushing for organic farming, better water infrastructure, and land-use regulation, alongside calls for integrating dairy, poultry, and livestock with crop cultivation.

The organisation has appealed to the government to act swiftly, not only to compensate affected farmers like Xavier and Guirdolina but also to ensure that future losses are minimised through timely interventions, transparent policies, and localised planning. With climate change making weather patterns more erratic, the resilience of Goa's agrarian communities hinges on proactive governance and genuine support.

SC REJECTS RTI PLEA FOR INQUIRY PROBE REPORT

Earlier this month, the then CJJ Khanna had wrote to the President and the Prime Minister besides sharing the report of the committee along with the response received from Justice Varma.

Now, it is up to the executive and Parliament to decide the future course of action.

The in-house procedure entails that the CJJ writes to President and the Prime Minister for impeachment after the advice to the judge to resign is not complied with.

"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 on May 8.

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 then CJJ Khanna 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 official residence in Lutyen's Delhi at 11.35 pm on March 14.

Justice Varma 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 discovery 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.

INVASIVE SPECIES COST TRILLIONS IN DAMAGES: STUDY

Europe is by far the continent most affected by the phenomenon, followed by North America and Asia.

"Plants were the most economically damaging group, both for damage and management," Soto said. "Cost hot-spots include urban coastal areas, notably in Europe, eastern China, and the US."

Animals can cause devastating damage too. Wild boar, for example, destroy crops, cornfields and vineyards, while mosquitoes — with expanding ranges due to global warming — impose direct costs to human health by spreading diseases such as dengue and malaria.

Another example is Japanese knotweed, an invasive plant that is very common in Europe and requires costly eradication programmes.

"Our study is based on only 162 species," Soto noted. "Our figure is probably still an underestimate of a wider problem, and therefore the real economic costs could be even higher."

Using a broader definition — including indirect costs such as lost income — the UN's biodiversity expert group, IPBES, has calculated the total cost to society of invasive species at about \$400 billion annually.