

allovertheworld



US actress Jenna Ortega attends "Netflix TUDUM 2025: The Live Event" at the Kia Forum in Inglewood, California

Australia gifts patrol boat to strategic Maldives
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA: Australia's defence minister announced Monday the gifting of a naval patrol boat to the Maldives to "maintain regional security", during a visit to the strategically-located Indian Ocean archipelago. Global east-west shipping lanes pass the nation's chain of 1,192 tiny coral islands, stretching around 800 kilometres (500 miles) across the equator. Australia is part of the Quad grouping - alongside the United States, Japan and India - seen as a bolster against China's growing presence in the wider Indian Ocean. "In line with our national defence strategy, Australia is working with partners across the Northeast Indian Ocean to maintain regional security and stability", Richard Marles said in Male.

Spain records highest May temperature on record
BARCELONA, SPAIN: Mainland Spain experienced its hottest May day ever on Friday, with the average temperature surpassing 24 degrees Celsius (75 degrees Fahrenheit), national weather agency AEMET said on Monday. The average temperature across the country hit 24.08C, breaking the previous record for the month of 23.73C set on May 21, 2022, according to provisional data from the agency. "This was the hottest day for a month of May across mainland Spain since the beginning of the data series in 1950," AEMET wrote on social media. The average temperature on Saturday reached 23.91C, making it the second-hottest May day on record. A mass of hot air moving north from Africa pushed temperatures in some areas of Spain more than 10C above normal for the time of the year.

Gunmen kill 25 in restive central Nigeria state
JOS, NIGERIA: Gunmen killed 25 people in two attacks across north-central Nigeria's Benue state over the weekend, local authorities told AFP Monday, the latest violence in a region known for deadly land disputes and reprisals. Attackers killed 14 people on Sunday in the community of Ankpal, said Adam Ochea, chairman of the Apa local government council, warning that "there are still some threats here and there". Muslim ethnic Fulani nomadic herders have long clashed with settled farmers, many of whom are Christian, in Benue over access to land and resources. In a recent report, Amnesty International tallied 6,896 people killed over the last two years in Benue, part of Nigeria's so-called Middle Belt, a mixed-religious region where such disputes often take on a sectarian dimension.

Swedish probe suggests banning international adoptions
STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN: A Swedish probe ordered by the government recommended Monday banning international adoptions, citing serious irregularities spanning decades. Children brought to Sweden have been adopted from abroad without the free and informed consent of their parents, erroneously declared dead, or put up for adoption by someone other than their parents, the head of the probe, Anna Singer, told a press conference. "In some cases, they have also been given up by parents who did not understand the implications of consenting to international adoption," Singer said, as she handed her report to Social Services Minister Camilla Waltersson Grönvall.

Hindu community in Pak's Sindh protests against illegal occupation of temple land
KARACHI: Members of the Hindu community in Pakistan's Sindh province held a protest against the illegal occupation of six acres of land belonging to a historical temple in Hyderabad city. The protest took place on Sunday in the Tando Jam town of the Musa Khattian district, about 185 kilometres from Karachi. "These people have already started illegal construction on the land belonging to the Shiv Temple Shivala in Musa Khattian," Hindu community leader Seetal Meghwar told the media. The protesters, including women and children, came out on the call of the Pakistan Dalit Ittehad (Pakistan Dravid Alliance), which fights for the welfare and rights of the Hindu community.

Geneva airport landing capacity cut due to technical glitch
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND: Geneva's airport, Switzerland's second-largest, will cut the number of aircraft that can land by 20 percent starting Monday due to a technical issue, the country's air traffic controller said. The reduction is a "temporary safety measure that will remain in effect until a solution to a latent technical problem can be implemented", Skyguide, the company responsible for Swiss air traffic control, said in a statement. "Air traffic safety has not been compromised at any time" by the technical glitch, it added. Skyguide said it would update its systems in the coming days, first in Geneva and then at Zurich Airport, which is Switzerland's largest. A taskforce has been established to monitor the situation, it said.

Israeli strike on Gaza kills 14

AP, DEIR AL-BALAH (GAZA STRIP): An Israeli strike on a residential building in the Gaza Strip on Monday killed 14 people, mostly women and children, according to health officials.

The Shifa and al-Ahli hospitals confirmed the toll from the strike in the built-up Jabaliya refugee camp in northern Gaza, saying five women and seven children were among those killed.

The Israeli military did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Israel says it only targets militants and tries to avoid harming civilians. It blames civilian deaths on Hamas because the militant group is entrenched in populated areas.

The Israel-Hamas war began when Palestinian militants stormed into Israel on October 7, 2023,



Smoke and debris rise following an Israeli strike on a house west of Jabalia, in the northern Gaza Strip, amid the war between Israel and the Palestinian Hamas militant movement

killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting 251. Hamas is still holding 58 hostages, around a third of them

believed to be alive, after most of the rest were released in ceasefire agreements or other deals. Israel's military cam-

paign has killed over 54,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which

does not say how many of the dead were civilians or combatants. The offensive has destroyed vast areas of Gaza and displaced around 90 per cent of the population.

Hamas has said it will only release the remaining hostages in return for more Palestinian prisoners, a lasting ceasefire and an Israeli pullout.

Israel has vowed to continue the war until all the hostages are returned, and Hamas is defeated or disarmed and sent into exile. It has said it will maintain control of Gaza indefinitely and facilitate what it refers to as the voluntary emigration of much of its population.

Palestinians and most of the international community have rejected the re-settlement plans, viewing them as forcible expulsion.

South Korea presidential candidates rally in final stretch

wAFP, Seoul: Candidates running in South Korea's snap presidential election made a last push for votes on Monday, the eve of a poll triggered by ex-leader Yoon Suk Yeol's martial law declaration.

South Koreans are desperate to draw a line under six months of political turmoil sparked by Yoon's brief suspension of civilian rule in December, for which he was impeached and removed from office.

All major polls put liberal Lee Jae-myung well ahead in the presidential race, with the latest Gallup survey showing 49 percent of respondents viewed him as the best candidate.

Karol Nawrocki wins Poland's prez election

AP, WARSAW: Conservative Karol Nawrocki won Poland's weekend presidential runoff election, according to the final vote count on Monday. Nawrocki won 50.89% of votes in a very tight race against liberal Warsaw Mayor Rafal Trzaskowski, who received 49.11%.

The race had Poland on edge since a first round of voting two weeks earlier, revealing deep divisions in the country along the eastern flank of NATO and the European Union.

An early exit poll released Sunday evening suggested Trzaskowski was headed to victory before updated polling began to reverse the picture a couple of hours later.

The outcome suggests that Poland can be expected to take a more populist and nationalist path under its new president, who was backed by US President Trump.

Trzaskowski conceded defeat and congratulated Nawrocki on Monday, thanking all those who voted for him. "I fought for us to build a strong, safe, honest and empathetic Poland together," he wrote on X. "I'm sorry I wasn't able to convince the majority of citizens of my vision for Poland. I'm sorry we didn't win together."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was among the leaders offering their congratulations to Nawrocki on Monday.

Canadian wildfires: Thousands evacuated in 3 provinces

AP, FLIN FLON (CANADA): More than 25,000 residents in three provinces have been evacuated as dozens of wildfires remained active Sunday and diminished air quality in parts of Canada and the US, according to officials.

Most of the evacuated residents were from Manitoba, which declared a state of emergency last week. About 17,000 people there were evacuated by Saturday along with 1,300 in Alberta. About 8,000 people in Saskatchewan had been relocated as leaders there warned the number could climb.

Smoke was worsening air quality and reducing visibility in Canada and into some US states.

"Air quality and visibility due to wildfire smoke can fluctuate over short distances and can vary considerably from hour to hour," Saskatchewan's Public Safety Agency warned Sunday.

"As smoke levels increase, health risks increase."

Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe said ongoing hot, dry weather is allowing some fires to grow and threaten communities, and resources to fight the fires and support the evacuees are stretched thin.

"The next four to seven days are absolutely critical until we can find our way to changing weather patterns, and ultimately a soaking rain throughout the north," Moe said at a Saturday news conference.

In Manitoba, more than 5,000 of those evacuated are from Flin Flon, located nearly 645 km northwest of the provincial capital of Winnipeg. In northern Manitoba, fire knocked out power to the community of Cranberry Portage, forcing a mandatory evacuation order Saturday.

The fire menacing Flin Flon began a week ago near

Creighton, Saskatchewan, and quickly jumped the boundary into Manitoba. Crews have struggled to contain it. Water bombers have been intermittently grounded due to heavy smoke and a drone incursion.

The US Department of Agriculture's Forest Service deployed an air tanker to Alberta and said it would send 150 firefighters and equipment to Canada.

In some parts of the US, air quality reached "unhealthy" levels Sunday in North Dakota and small swaths of Montana, Minnesota and South Dakota, according to the US Environmental Protection Agency's AirNow page.

"We should expect at least a couple more rounds of Canadian smoke to come through the US over the next week," said Bryan Jackson, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in the US.

FBI says eight injured in Colorado attack

AP, BOULDER: A man with a makeshift flamethrower yelled "Free Palestine" and hurled an incendiary device into a group that had assembled to raise attention for Israeli hostages in Gaza, law enforcement officials said Sunday. Eight people were injured, some with burns.

The suspect, Mohamed Sabry Soliman, 45, was booked into the Boulder

County jail north of Denver and expected to face charges in connection with the attack the FBI was investigating as a terrorist act. Online records did not immediately show when he would make a court appearance.

The burst of violence at the popular Pearl Street pedestrian mall, a four-block area in downtown Boulder, unfolded against

the backdrop of a war between Israel and Hamas that continues to inflame global tensions and has contributed to a spike in antisemitic violence in the United States.

The attack happened on the beginning of the Jewish holiday of Shavuot, which is marked with the reading of the Torah and barely a week after a man who also yelled "Free Palestine" was

charged with fatally shooting two Israeli embassy staffers outside of a Jewish museum in Washington.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu issued a statement Monday saying he, his wife and the entire nation of Israel were praying for the full recovery of the people wounded in the "vicious terror attack" in Colorado.

"This attack was aimed

against peaceful people who wished to express their solidarity with the hostages held by Hamas, simply because they were Jews," Netanyahu said.

Attack leads to increased security elsewhere

Across the US, the New York Police Department said it has upped its presence at religious sites throughout the city for Shavuot.

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APP-WARY CABBIES PROTEST, BUT GROUND SUPPORT LIMITED

The three MLAs – Panjim MLA Babush Monserrate, Taleigao MLA Jennifer Monserrate and Santa Cruz MLA Rudolfo Fernandes – apart from Saligao MLA Kedar Naik.

Revenue Minister Babush Monserrate remarked, "Try aggregator as an experiment before drawing conclusions. The guidelines will help the sector. Stopping rent-a-bike and rent-a-car services in Goa would benefit local taxi operators. Rented vehicles occupy most parking spaces at Patto, Panjim and are often involved in accidents."

For his part, Naik said, "In the next few days I will meet and discuss this issue with other coastal belt MLAs and also meet the CM. We will put forth their issues to the CM and the transport minister and the government will take appropriate steps."

A delegation of tourist taxis from South Goa met Cortalim MLA Anton Vas and urged him to oppose the government's move to permit taxi aggregators. However, Vas told them to submit a written representation and assured them that he would raise the issue with the State government. "Taxi is a traditional business of Goa, passed on from one generation to another," said Vas.

But with no MLA stating explicitly that the aggregator guidelines were unnecessary, the ball is definitely in the taxi association's court to either fight it out or fall in line. Mohan said, "Drivers would continue to engage with their elected representatives. We are voters and we work 24x7," he said, emphasising the strength of the taxi driver community, which he claimed numbered 23,000 across the State. Speaking against the aggregator model, Mohan pointed out that Goa was not a metro city like Mumbai, Delhi or Bengaluru. He said if he received a booking from Panjim to the airport via the app, he wouldn't know where he would end up next or how long it would take to return.

However, it seems the opposition is not total. A few taxi associations had appealed to taxi drivers across the state to submit objections en masse on June 2, 2025. However, the call received limited response, with only 1,607 objection letters submitted — representing less than 10% of the total taxis registered in Goa. Many drivers expressed support for the government's initiative to regulate aggregators and offered specific, practical suggestions for improvement.

Director of Transport Pravimal Abhishek IAS, stated that the draft guidelines were published to elicit comments,

objections, and suggestions from all stakeholders, and affirmed that the government will duly consider all feedback before finalising the regulations.

They stressed the need for the guidelines to consider practical difficulties faced by drivers, operators, and passengers – especially in the context of Goa's unique challenges. Furthermore, they emphasized that the concerns and sentiments of the local community should be taken into account to avoid negatively affecting the state's cultural and economic fabric.

Data privacy was another key issue. The drivers expressed fears that once the app became operational, individuals' personal data would be in the hands of aggregators without any guaranteed protection of privacy. They also pointed out the lack of provisions for zoning or designated operational areas. Since the guidelines did not define zones of operation, app-based taxi services were reportedly refusing long-distance trips or bookings to interior regions. These trips were being cancelled post-booking, as return fares and return trips were not guaranteed.

Taxi owners from Saligao constituency met MLA Kedar Naik and demanded that the government discontinue plans to bring in more cab aggregators in the State as it would affect their livelihood.

Assuring them he was with them, MLA Naik said, "In the next few days I will meet and discuss this issue with other coastal belt MLAs and also meet the CM. We will put forth their issues to the CM and the transport minister and the government will take appropriate steps."

A delegation of tourist taxis from South Goa met Cortalim MLA Anton Vas and urged him to oppose the government's move to permit taxi aggregators. They told him that aggregators if allowed would threaten their livelihood and undermine the traditional taxi business that has served tourists for generations.

However, Vas told them to submit a written representation and assured them that he would raise the issue with the State government. "Taxi is a traditional business of Goa, passed on from one generation to another," said Vas.

When asked whether the MLAs, being part of the ruling coalition, would ultimately toe the government line, Mohan said, "Drivers would continue to engage with their elected representatives. We are voters and we work 24x7," he said, emphasizing the strength of the taxi driver community, which he claimed numbered 23,000 across the State.

Speaking against the aggregator model, Mohan pointed

out that Goa was not a metro city like Mumbai, Delhi or Bengaluru. He said if he received a booking from Panjim to the airport via the app, he wouldn't know where he would end up next or how long it would take to return. He also cited personal responsibilities, including caring for elderly family members, as reasons why the aggregator model wasn't feasible for many.

Anticipating the demonstration, North Goa District Magistrate Ankit Yadav, IAS had issued a prohibitory order prohibiting gatherings of five or more people in and around Junta House, Panjim, and other areas under the jurisdiction of the Panaji Police Station.

The Junta House and the surrounding area were turned into a heavily guarded fortress with the police presence.

The Department of Transport had set up a special desk outside the Junta House to receive objections and suggestions from taxi owners across the State, who waited to submit their representations.

However, it seems the opposition is not total. A few taxi associations had appealed to taxi drivers across the state to submit objections en masse on 2nd June 2025. However, the call received limited response, with only 1,607 objection letters submitted — representing less than 10% of the total taxis registered in Goa. Many drivers expressed support for the government's initiative to regulate aggregators and offered specific, practical suggestions for improvement.

A recurring concern in the letters was that the scope of aggregators should be limited strictly to point-to-point pickup and drop services, and they should not be allowed to operate or facilitate bookings for local sight-seeing tours, event transportation, cruise bookings, and other specialized services traditionally handled by local operators. Some drivers also pointed out practical challenges on the ground, such as poor mobile network coverage in certain areas, lack of access to smartphones, and limited digital literacy among a segment of the workforce. Others raised concerns about the need to revise the fare structure in future in tandem with the rising fuel costs. Several letters proposed eco-friendly reforms, suggesting that the guidelines should promote sustainable transport practices, including incentives for electric vehicles. Additionally, drivers emphasized the importance of protecting driver welfare and rights, and some suggested that the government consider a phased implementation of the guidelines.

