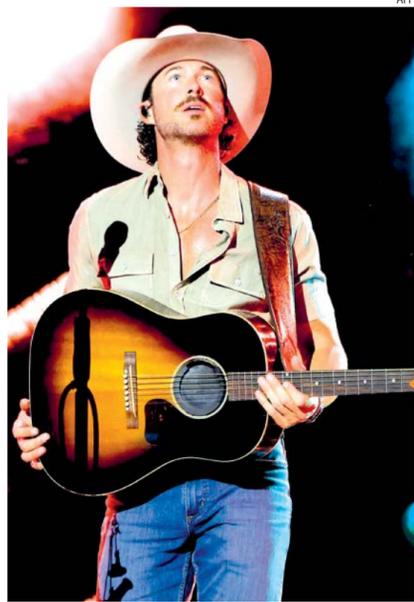


allovertheworld



Riley Green performs on the main stage during CMA Fest 2025 at Nissan Stadium in Nashville, Tennessee

UK art dealer jailed over art sold to suspected Hezbollah donor

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM: A British art dealer who appeared on BBC television shows appraising antiques was jailed Friday for two years and six months for failing to report "high-value" art sales to a suspected Hezbollah donor. Oghenochuko Ojiri, 53, was sentenced by London's Old Bailey criminal court for selling artwork worth almost £140,000 (\$190,000) to Nazem Ahmad, suspected of financing Lebanon's Hezbollah which is banned as a terrorist group in the UK. "You knew about Ahmad's suspected involvement in financing terrorism and the way the art market can be exploited by people like him," the sentencing judge, Bobbie Cheema-Grubb, said.

Togo police bring an end to rare anti-government protests

LOME, TOGO: In a show of strength, police officers in Togo deployed in large numbers across the capital Lome on Friday, putting an end to a rare demonstration against the government. President Faure Gnassingbe has led Togo since 2005, succeeding his father who ruled for nearly four decades. Young people and civil society activists had called for Friday's protests on social media to denounce the arrest of critical voices, fuel price hikes and a recent constitutional reform that critics say is just a means for Gnassingbe to extend his grip on power. On Friday morning, police dispersed a few dozen protesters with tear gas in different parts of the capital, particularly near the president's office.

South Korea's new leader talks tariffs in Trump call

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA: South Korea's new leader Lee Jae-myung and Donald Trump agreed in a phone call to work towards a tariff deal, Seoul said Friday, as a deadline approaches to avoid punishing US levies. Lee won a thumping victory in South Korea's election this week after months of political turmoil in Asia's fourth-largest economy. Seoul was hit in April with a 25 percent tariff by the United States, as part of Trump's sweeping global duties, before the country-specific rates were put on hold for 90 days. In a call between the two leaders Friday, they "agreed to work towards a mutually satisfactory agreement on bilateral tariff negotiations," according to Lee's office.

Norway steps closer to defining rape as lack of consent

OSLO, NORWAY: Norwegian lawmakers on Friday adopted a bill that would change the definition of rape to lack of consent, rather than the current standard focusing on violence, threats or taking advantage of a vulnerable person. The legislation, backed by a majority in the country's parliament, is modelled on the "only yes means yes" law in neighbouring Sweden. Once adopted in a second parliamentary vote, the amendment would be applied to the existing criminal statute. Violators would face a maximum prison term of six years in cases where consent was not given. Denmark, Greece and Spain already treat non-consensual sexual acts as rape.

Trade war pushes Canada jobless rate to seven percent

MONTREAL, CANADA: Canada's unemployment rate rose to seven percent in May, the statistics agency said Friday, the highest level since 2016 excluding the pandemic, as sectors most vulnerable to President Donald Trump's trade war lost jobs. Statistics Canada said that in May there were 1.6 million unemployed people in the nation with a population of 41.6 million. That marked a 13.8 percent increase compared to May of last year and the highest unemployment rate Canada has recorded in a decade, excluding 2020 and 2021, when the Covid-19 pandemic upended the labor force. Royal Bank of Canada senior economist Claire Fan said the data highlighted the early impact of Trump's tariffs. "Sectors that are the most exposed to trade headwinds, namely manufacturing and transport and warehousing shed jobs," Fan said.

Police smash ring smuggling cocaine to Spain's Canaries

BARCELONA, SPAIN: Police forces from several countries have dismantled an international drug trafficking ring which smuggled "large quantities" of cocaine from Brazil and Colombia to Spain's Canary Islands, Spanish police said Friday. The gang is suspected of using 11 speedboats to pick up the drugs from larger "mother ships" in different points in the Atlantic and then bring it to the archipelago located off northwestern Africa, police said in a statement. It is believed to be "one of the largest criminal organisations dedicated to cocaine trafficking operating from South America to the Canary Islands" using this method, the statement added. Officers arrested 48 people as part of the operation carried out in cooperation with Britain's National Crime Agency, the US Drug Enforcement Administration and pan-European police agency Europol.

Russian missile, drone attack across Ukraine kills 3 in Kyiv

AP, KYIV: Russia bombarded six regions of Ukraine in one of its largest aerial attacks of the three-year war, Ukrainian officials said Friday.

The nighttime assault lasted for hours and killed three emergency responders in the capital Kyiv, according to authorities.

The barrage included 407 drones and 44 ballistic and cruise missiles, Ukrainian air force spokesperson Yuriy Ihnat said. Ukrainian forces said they shot down about 30 of the cruise missiles and up to 200 of the drones.

Ukrainian cities have come under regular bombardment since Russia invaded its neighbour in February 2022. The attacks have killed more than 12,000 civilians, according to the United Nations.

"Russia doesn't change its stripes," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said.



A firefighter extinguishing a blaze in an industrial facility following Russian strike in Ternopil region, amid Russian invasion in Ukraine

Zelenskyy, as well as the Ukrainian Interior Ministry and the general prosecutor's office, said three emergency workers were killed in Kyiv while responding to the Russian strikes. "They were working under fire to help people," the Interior Ministry said in a statement.

The war has continued unabated even as a US-led

diplomatic push for a settlement has brought two rounds of direct peace talks between delegations from Russia and Ukraine. The negotiations delivered no significant breakthroughs, however, and the sides remain far apart on their terms for an end to the fighting.

Ukraine has offered an unconditional 30-day

ceasefire and a meeting between Zelenskyy and Russian leader Vladimir Putin to break the deadlock. But the Kremlin has effectively rejected a truce and hasn't budged from its demands.

"The Kremlin continues efforts to falsely portray Russia as willing to engage in good-faith negotiations to end the war in Ukraine, despite Russia's repeated

RUSSIA CUTS INTEREST RATES FROM TWO-DECADE HIGH AS ECONOMY SLOWS

AFP, MOSCOW, RUSSIA: Russia's central bank on Friday cut its key interest rate to 20 percent – down from a two-decade high of 21 percent – as the economy slows and officials say months of rapid price rises are coming under control. Russia's economy has been marked by volatility since it launched its full-scale military offensive on Ukraine in 2022, with growth now slowing after a period of what officials called "overheating". The Kremlin has massively ramped up military spending to support the campaign, pouring funds into weapons production and the army – outlays which have helped secure strong growth despite a barrage of Western sanctions. "The Russian economy is gradually returning to a balanced growth path," the bank said in a statement, acknowledging the slowdown. Inflation is still running above 10 percent, though it noted that price "pressures" were "continuing to decline."

refusal to offer any concessions," the Institute for the Study of War, a Washington-based think tank, said late Thursday.

Putin said in a phone call with US President Donald Trump earlier this week that he would respond to Ukraine's daring long-range

attack on Russian air bases on Sunday.

Russia's Defence Ministry claimed it had aimed at Ukrainian military targets with "long-range precision weapons" and successfully struck arms depots, drone factories and repair facilities, among other targets.

Japanese court rejects damage claims against utility executives over Fukushima disaster

AP, TOKYO: A Japanese court ruled former executives at the utility managing the tsunami-wrecked Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant were not accountable for the 2011 meltdown crisis and do not need to pay damages to the company.

The Tokyo High Court ruling on Friday reversed a lower court decision in 2022 ordering four former executives of the Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings to pay 13 trillion yen (\$90 billion) to the company, saying they had failed to take the utmost safety precautions despite knowing the risks of a serious accident in a major tsunami.

A magnitude 9.0 earthquake and tsunami in March 2011 destroyed

key cooling systems at the Fukushima Daiichi plant, causing its three reactors to melt down, spreading large amounts of radiation in the area and keeping tens of thousands of residents from returning home due to radioactive contamination and other safety concerns.

The Tokyo District Court ruling three years ago was the only ruling that held the former TEPCO liable for the Fukushima disaster. It upheld the plaintiffs' argument that the executives had neglected to heed experts' long-term tsunami predictions and failed to take adequate tsunami precaution measures soon enough.

The court said, however, the long-term tsu-

nami prediction was not considered pressing data requiring immediate tsunami measures and it was understandable the executives had no sense of urgency from the data they had at that time, Kyodo News reported.

Friday's ruling is a major disappointment for Fukushima residents and anti-nuclear activists seeking the management's responsibility in nuclear safety.

Plaintiffs and their lawyers criticized the ruling as "unjust" and said they planned to appeal to the Supreme Court.

Hiroyuki Kawai, a plaintiffs' lawyer, criticized the ruling as "logically flawed," saying it means nobody can be held liable for any safety negligence

because tsunami and earthquake predictions are still impossible today.

A group of more than 40 TEPCO shareholders filed the lawsuit in 2012 demanding five former executives pay the company 22 trillion yen (\$153 billion) in damages. The amount of the 2022 ruling against four of the executives was the highest ever ordered in a lawsuit.

Japan's top court in March found two former TEPCO executives not guilty of negligence over the Fukushima meltdowns, saying a tsunami of the magnitude that hit the plant was unforeseeable. It was the only criminal trial related to the nuclear accident and the only criminal case related to the nuclear accident.

India-Sri Lanka dialogue to enhance maritime security

PTI, COLOMBO: India and Sri Lanka explored ways to further expand their bilateral defence cooperation, especially in areas of maritime security, the island nation's defence ministry said.

The deliberations took place at the Sri Lanka-India Defence Dialogue held in Colombo on Thursday.

It was the first high-level meeting after India and Sri Lanka signed the first ever defence partnership on April 5.

A statement from the Defence Ministry said that the Sri Lankan delegation was led by Defence Secretary Air Vice Marshal Sampath Thuyacontha (Retd), while the visiting Indian Defence

Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh led the Indian delegation.

"The high-level dialogue focused on strengthening bilateral defence cooperation, enhancing maritime security, and exploring new avenues for collaboration in training and strategic engagement," the statement said.

Senior officials from both sides participated in the discussions, reaffirming the longstanding defence partnership between Sri Lanka and India, it said.

The Indian Defence Secretary also met the Deputy Minister of Defence, Major General Aruna Jayasekara (Retd) and Thuyacontha separately.

FROM PAGE 1

'THEY HIT MY WIFE; SHE STILL TRIED TO SAVE ME'

Despite the chaos, the couple say their thoughts remained fixed on each other and their unborn child.

"I did not react and kept trying to reason out with them because I was worried about my wife and our baby," Vivek said. "The blows did not matter, as their safety was more important."

Vivek, who is scared that the police complaint they lodged will lead to reprisals, added, "All I could see was that they kept hurling my wife away from me and she kept coming back to protect me from them."

As four-five men kept raining blows on them as the others formed a circle to cordon off outsiders, Shruthi's fear turned into something more than physical. "My biggest fear at that moment was, would I manage to bring a child into this world without a father," she said. "I pray that our baby will not be psychologically scarred by my trauma."

Adding to their anguish was the silent apathy of the crowd nearby. According to the couple, dozens of on-lookers remained passive as the violence unfolded. "She [Shruthi] kept pleading with the 30-odd people watching us being beaten up for help but none dared come forward as the group pulled her by the hair," Vivek recounted.

After the attack, visibly bruised and shaken, the couple closed their food cart and drove home on their two-wheeler. "Once we reached, he refused to file a complaint. We were so scared," Shruthi said. "But a cousin of ours gave us the confidence to proceed."

Their ordeal continued through the night as they navigated police stations and hospitals. Around 3 am, Shruthi began vomiting – an episode that prompted her family to rush her back to the hospital. "Our focus is on our baby because this is the fruit of our eight years of love which we want to save from these men," Shruthi said, still visibly bruised but determined.

The incident has left the local community in shock. "Goa has reached a stagewhere politics becomes important, while all that is expected is a token of care."

As dusk falls on the Shirodkar residence, neighbours continue to stop by, expressing concern and solidarity. One elderly woman, walking away into the night, said simply, "Hi amchi paristhiti (this is our fate)."

AMBERGRIS WORTH 10 CR SEIZED IN DABAMOL, 3 ARRESTED

Police sources indicate that Ratnakant Karapurkar, a retired government servant now working as a draftsman at a fisheries company in the area, played a pivotal role in orchestrating the transaction. Leveraging his familiarity with the region, Karapurkar allegedly chose the secluded location. Sainath Seth is employed as a driver, while Yogesh Redkar is known to be a businessman.

Sangum MLA Subhash Phal Dessai condemned the illegal activity, stating, "The accused came to our area specifically for this unlawful transaction. I have urged the

police to take stringent action, inform senior authorities and conduct a thorough investigation to determine if the ambergris was sourced illegally."

The proximity of the transaction to a fisheries company has raised suspicions of a larger smuggling racket potentially using the fish trade as a cover. Advocate Amar Naik commended the swift action of Police Inspector Dittendra Naik and the Sanguem police team, noting, "Seizing ambergris worth Rs 10 crore is a major achievement. However, the choice of a remote inland location, far from the coastline, for such a high-value deal raises critical questions. This suggests a possible deeper connection to the area or a broader network operating covertly. A detailed investigation is essential to uncover the full extent of this operation."

The three accused were produced before the Sanguem Court on Friday, which remanded them to four days of police custody for further investigation.

POLICE ARREST RCB, EVENT MANAGEMENT COMPANY OFFICIALS

Meanwhile, two more FIRs were registered against RCB, DNA Entertainment Private Limited and Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) based on the complaints of two victims in the stampede incident.

Earlier in the day, Sosale, who was taken into custody from the Kempegowda International Airport, had moved the High Court challenging his arrest. However, he did not get immediate relief and the case was adjourned to June 9.

The stampede occurred on Wednesday evening in front of the stadium, where a large number of people thronged to participate in the RCB team's IPL victory celebrations.

The RCB and event management officials were nabbed in a joint operation by the crime branch and Bengaluru Police. After medical examination, they were produced before the court amid tight security.

Police action followed the FIR registered on June 5 against RCB, DNA Entertainment Private Limited and KSCA. On Thursday, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah instructed the DGP and IGP of the state to immediately arrest the representatives of RCB and DNA event managers and KSCA for the stampede, as prima facie there was "irresponsibility" and "carelessness" on their part.

MUSK'S STARLINK GETS LICENCE FOR INDIA OPS

The companies that have received the licence would, however, have to wait a tad longer for commercial satcom spectrum as the TRAI just recently sent its recommendations on pricing, and terms and conditions, to the government for its consideration.

The players will be able to start their services after the allocation of radio wave frequencies.

Typically, even before the commercial spectrum, the trial spectrum is required to test, and verify the systems and processes on security parameters to demonstrate that all

norms and requirements, are being complied with.

The status of the Starlink's final nod from the Indian space regulator, In-SPACe could not be immediately ascertained.

Starlink is a satellite internet service developed by SpaceX – the American aerospace manufacturer and space transportation company founded in 2002 by the world's richest man Musk. It provides high-speed, low-latency broadband internet worldwide using satellite technology and is aptly described by some as broadband beamed from the skies.

Unlike conventional satellite services that rely on distant geostationary satellites, Starlink utilises the world's largest low Earth orbit or LEO constellation (550 km above Earth).

This constellation of LEO satellites (7,000 now but eventually set to grow to over 40,000) and its mesh delivers broadband internet capable of supporting streaming, online gaming, and video calls.

Starlink, which had been vying for an India licence for some time now, recently signed pacts with Ambani's Reliance Jio and Mittal's Bharti Airtel, which together control more than 70 per cent of the country's telecom market, to bring the US satellite internet giant's services to India.

The nod for the satcom offering – known for its resilience in harsh conditions and conflict zones – coincides with escalation of Donald Trump-Elon Musk feud in the US.

Early last month, the government had issued stringent security norms mandating legal interception of satellite communication services and barred companies from linking connection of users in any form with any terminal or facility located outside the country's border as well as processing of their data overseas.

The tighter security rules also mandate service providers to indigenise at least 20 per cent of their ground segment of the satellite network within years of their establishment in the country. The satcom service licence holders will require security clearances for specific gateway and hub locations in India and compliance to monitoring, interception facilities and equipment requirements.

India's rules mandate satcom firms to demonstrate system capabilities with respect to security aspects, including monitoring, to the Department of Telecom (DoT) or its authorised representatives before starting operations in India.

It is pertinent to mention that Telecom regulator TRAI last month recommended that satellite communication companies like Starlink pay 4 per cent of their adjusted gross revenue (AGR) as spectrum charges to the government – a rate steeper than what these firms had been lobbying for.

Operators offering satellite-based broadband internet services in urban areas would have to shell out an additional Rs 500 per subscribers annually, TRAI recommended. No additional levy would be applicable for services in rural areas.

COAI, whose members include Reliance Jio and Airtel, recently approached the telecom department to raise concerns over TRAI recommendations on the satcom spectrum.