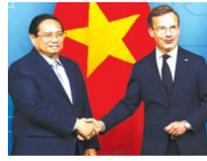




External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar during a session at the Raisina Mediterranean 2025 conference, in Marseille, France



Germany's Foreign Minister Johann Wadepuhl looks on during his meeting with Egypt's Foreign Minister at the Foreign Ministry headquarters in Tahrir Palace



Sweden's Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson shakes hands with Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh as they meet in Stockholm, Sweden



France's Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Noel Barrot during a conference "Paris Call for the Two-State Solution in Paris"

allovertheworld



AnnaSophia Robb attends the "Jean Jacket" premiere during the 2025 Tribeca Film Festival at Spring Studios in New York City

10 dead in Texas flooding

WASHINGTON: Flooding from heavy rains in the southern US state of Texas led to at least 10 deaths, officials reported Friday, with several additional people reported missing. Intense downpours hit Thursday morning in the city of San Antonio, Texas, causing flash flooding on roads which pushed vehicles off the streets into a nearby creek bed, according to local broadcaster KENS5. The station reported the San Antonio Fire Department was searching for at least four additional victims. City officials reported the death toll had reached 10 fatalities by Friday afternoon. "Our hearts are with the families of those we've lost to this week's flash floods and the families who continue searching for their loved ones," San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg said in a post on X.

Niger jails two radio journalists for 'plotting' against state authority

ABIDJAN, (IVORY COAST): Niger on Friday jailed two journalists who were part of a trio detained in early May for plotting against state authority, their employer told AFP. Reporters have regularly been detained since a junta seized power in a 2023 coup, a practice denounced by free speech activists across the world. The three journalists worked for the Sahara FM private radio and were arrested in the central city of Agadez. They had reported that security contacts between the west African country and Russia - a key junta ally - had ended. "A military court judge remanded the two men to Kollo prison," Sahara FM owner Air Info said on Friday, referring to a jail some 50 kilometres south of the capital Niamey.

France court jails two teens over rape of Jewish girl

NANTERRE: A French court on Friday sentenced two teenagers to nine and seven years in prison over the gang rape of a 12-year-old Jewish girl last year outside Paris. The crime, when both were 15, shocked France's Jewish community at a time of rising antisemitic attacks. The presiding judge justified the harsh sentence against the two boys as being due to their "worrying" personalities, "the immense social disturbance" they caused to society, and the crime being committed on religious grounds. She undoubtedly "would not have been raped if she had not been Jewish", the judge said at a juvenile court in Nanterre, a suburb of western Paris. A third boy, an ex-boyfriend of the girl who was also aged 12 at the time, was found guilty of being complicit in the crime but not sentenced to jail due to his young age.

Ecuador to probe income of judges who free criminal suspects

QUITO: Ecuador said Friday it will probe the finances of any judge or prosecutor who releases a suspected violent criminal, amid allegations of bribery frustrating the government's fight against organized crime. Once-peaceful Ecuador averaged a killing every hour at the start of the year as drug cartels battle for control over cocaine routes that pass through the nation's ports. "On countless occasions, the national police has had to apprehend the same criminal up to 10 times because they received benefits from the justice system. This is over," President Daniel Noboa's office said in a statement Friday. In future, there will be an "analysis of the origin of assets and the legality of the source of funds of all those judges, prosecutors and associates who grant... freedom" to people accused of murder, kidnapping, extortion or drug trafficking, it added.

Google turns internet queries into conversations

SAN FRANCISCO: Google on Friday began letting people turn online searches into conversations, with generative artificial intelligence providing spoken summaries of query results. With Audio Overviews, Gemini AI models quickly sum up query results in conversational style, according to Google. "An audio overview can help you get a lay of the land, offering a convenient, hands-free way to absorb information whether you're multitasking or simply prefer an audio experience," Google said in a blog post. "We display helpful web pages right within the audio player on the search results page so you can easily dive in and learn more." Google is beefing up online search with generative artificial intelligence, embracing AI despite fears for its ad-based business model.

Marines deployed in LA ahead of mass anti-Trump protests

AFP, LOS ANGELES, UNITED STATES: Armed Marines arrived on the streets of Los Angeles Friday, part of a large deployment of troops ordered by Donald Trump that has raised the stakes between the US president and opponents criticizing him of growing authoritarianism.

Men in fatigues and carrying semiautomatic rifles were seen around a federal building, where passersby questioned why they were in an area 11 miles (18 kilometers) from the protests against immigration raids. "Taxpayer dollars could be used for other things," RonNell Weaver told AFP. "Is this really necessary?"

AFP witnessed Marines temporarily detaining one man at the federal building before they handed him over to law enforcement.

The US military would not say why he was detained, despite multiple requests, but the incident appeared to be a minor - albeit extremely rare - exam-



US Customs and Border Protection agents hold less-lethal weapons in front of the Metropolitan Detention Center during ongoing demonstrations in response to federal immigration operations in downtown Los Angeles

ple of federal troops detaining a US civilian.

Seven hundred Marines - normally used as crack troops in foreign conflicts - along with 4,000 National Guard soldiers are tasked with protecting federal buildings, while local po-

lice handle protests over Trump's sweeps for undocumented migrants.

An intense legal battle is underway over Trump's authority to deploy troops on US soil as the country braces for widespread protests Saturday, when the Repub-

lican will be overseeing a rare large-scale military parade in Washington.

The parade celebrates the 250th anniversary of the US Army but also coincides with Trump's 79th birthday, and will be the first time tanks and oth-

er heavy weaponry have rolled through the capital city in three decades.

In response, a "No Kings" movement has sprung up promising to stage protests in more than 2,000 places across the country, including a large demonstration expected in Los Angeles, which organizers say will feature a "20-foot-tall balloon of Trump wearing a diaper."

"Unprecedented" crowds could attend, Los Angeles Police Chief Jim McDonnell told reporters Friday.

Los Angeles County Sheriff Robert Luna, whose deputies are part of a large law enforcement response in the enormous city, urged protesters to behave properly.

"It's a good cause, but we do not want violent agitators out there destroying property or committing acts of violence," he said.

Mayor Karen Bass said demonstrations are expected to be "even larger because of what has happened in our city."

Iraq in contact with Iran, US in bid to stay out of conflict: Officials

AFP, BAGHDAD, IRAQ: Iraq has approached the Iranian and US governments in a bid to prevent being caught up in a regional escalation, officials said Saturday, as Washington's ally Israel and Iran traded blows.

The government in Baghdad is a close ally of Tehran, but also a strategic partner of Iran's arch-foe the United States, which has some 2,500 troops in Iraq as part of an anti-jihadist coalition.

A senior Iraqi security official told AFP that Baghdad had asked Tehran not to strike US targets in its territory.

"The request was made. They promised us positive things," the official said, requesting anonymity to discuss sensitive matters.

An Iraqi government official, also requesting anonymity, said "Iraq officially asked the United States of America not to allow Israeli aircraft to violate Iraqi airspace".

Baghdad on Friday lodged a complaint with the United Nations over Israel's use of its airspace to attack Iran.

FROM PAGE 1

HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE TO FIND 'ROOT CAUSE' OF AI PLANE CRASH

As investigators pore over wreckage at the BJ Medical College hostel and canteen complex for clues after the crash, Air India officials said the ill-fated airplane underwent comprehensive maintenance checks in June 2023 and was due for the next scheduled comprehensive checks in December this year.

The right side engine of the nearly 12-year-old aircraft was overhauled and installed in March 2025, while an inspection of the left side engine was done as per the engine manufacturer's protocol in April 2025, the officials said. The aircraft was powered by GE engines, manufactured by GE Aerospace.

The officials, who did not want to be named, also claimed there were no issues with the engines or the aircraft.

"Around 270 bodies have been brought to the Ahmedabad Civil Hospital so far from the plane crash site," President of Junior Doctors association of BJ Medical College, Dr Dhaval Gameti, told PTI.

The death toll in the country's worst ever air disaster in three decades was earlier put by authorities at 265.

With probe agencies looking into all possible causes for the crash, including loss of thrust in both engines of the aircraft, multiple bird strikes, or a potential flap issue, Naidu told reporters in Delhi that decoding of the Black box is going to give "in-depth insight" into what happened moments before the tragedy.

The Digital Flight Data Recorder (DFDR), commonly known as Black Box, was recovered from the "rooftop" of the hostel building at the crash site on Friday.

There was no word yet on recovery of another Black box- the Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR). This instrument records radio transmissions and other sounds in the cockpit, such as conversations between the pilots and engine noises.

Naidu said India has very strict aviation safety standards and robust protocols, and everything will be done to further improve safety.

The central panel headed by the Union home secretary will also suggest comprehensive guidelines to prevent incidents like the Ahmedabad crash in the future. It will have its first meeting on Monday. The panel will publish its report in three months, a statement by the Civil Aviation ministry said.

The panel will ascertain the root cause of the crash and assess the contributing factors, including mechanical failure, human error, weather conditions, regulatory compliances and other reasons, it said.

It will also recommend necessary improvements and formulate suitable Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to prevent such incidents in the future. The SOPs would also include best international practices regarding preventing and handling such incidents, the statement said.

The panel has the civil aviation secretary and the additional secretary in the home ministry as members, according to an order dated June 13.

Representatives from Gujarat home department, state disaster response authority, Ahmedabad police commissioner, Indian Air Force's director general of inspection and safety, director generals of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), and DGCA are part of the committee.

Other members include special director of the Intelligence Bureau and director of the Directorate of Forensic Science Services.

The panel will assess emergency response of various stakeholders, including rescue operations, and coordination.

According to the statement, the panel will have access to all records, including, among others, flight data, cockpit voice recorders, aircraft maintenance records, ATC (Air Traffic Control) log and witness testimonies.

Civil Aviation Secretary Samir Kumar Sinha said the investigation is going on smoothly. The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) is probing the crash.

DNA testing to establish the identity of the victims is underway as many of the bodies are charred beyond recognition

Dr Rajnish Patel, Professor of Surgery, told reporters that the process of matching DNA has to be done meticulously. It has legal and medical implications and so one cannot rush through it, he said.

IRAN LAUNCHES MISSILE, DRONE STRIKES ON ISRAEL, 3 KILLED

Iran retaliated by launching waves of drones and ballistic missiles at Israel, where explosions lit the night skies over Jerusalem and Tel Aviv and shook the buildings below.

The Israeli military urged civilians, already rattled by 20 months of war sparked by Hamas' October 7 attack, to head to shelter for hours.

Both Israel and Iran said their attacks would continue, raising the prospect of another protracted Mideast conflict. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Friday that his objective was to eliminate any Iranian threat to Israel, but he also urged Iranians to rise up against their leaders.

Israel would welcome the government's overthrow even if it is not actively seeking it.

Israel's strikes also put further talks between the United States and Iran over a nuclear accord into doubt before they were set to meet Sunday in Oman.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman called further nuclear talks with the United States "meaningless" after Israeli strikes on the country, state television said.

MISSING DEADLINES: SMART CITY WORKS STILL ON DURING MONSOON

He clarified that they were not undertaking any excavation work.

"We are doing some work to connect the cable to the main section. The work would be completed within the next two days and by Monday it would be all over," said Rahul.

When asked whether they had taken adequate safety measures and neon lights particularly during night in view of the rains, Rahul said they have installed barricades around the site. To another question whether they had obtained permission to carry out the work in the monsoon, he declined to comment and disconnected the call.

EX- MINNESOTA HOUSE SPEAKER, HUBBY KILLED IN SHOOTING: GUV

Drew Evans, superintendent of the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, said that authorities were actively searching for a suspect.

Autopsies will be done to determine extent of injuries, but Hortman and her spouse died from gunshot wounds, Evans said. A "shelter in place" order was in effect early Saturday.

Public Safety Commissioner Bob Jacobson said the suspect was posing as a law enforcement officer.

"Suspect exploited the trust of our uniforms, what our uniforms are meant to represent. That betrayal is deeply disturbing to those of us who wear the badge with honour and responsibility," he said.

Police Chief Mark Bruley said the suspect fled out of the back of Hortman's house after an exchange of gunfire with police.

RAINS, GUSTY WINDS DISRUPT POWER SUPPLY ACROSS GOA

At some places, power supply disruption was reported as trees and branches fell on overhead electricity wires and poles.

At Bicholim, the fire and emergency services representing the Disaster Management Authority conducted a comprehensive demonstration aimed at educating the public on emergency preparedness and safety measures to be taken during disaster.

SILENT ONLINE GAMBLING FEVER SWEEPS OVER GOA

Borges highlighted parents' crucial role in monitoring children's gaming activities, tracking online spending, and preventing unlimited access to banking applications and cards. He called for regulated screen time and promotion of offline activities such as outdoor sports and family outings. Extended gaming periods, he warned, contribute to negative impacts on children's physical and mental health, necessitating professional support systems for parents, teachers, and children.

The human cost of this digital epidemic is illustrated by affected families' experiences. A housewife from rural South Goa, speaking anonymously to protect her son's

identity, described online gambling addiction's insidious nature. She explained how parents often remain unaware of their children's activities, particularly when online education necessitates unrestricted phone access.

Her family discovered the problem when their son began borrowing money under false pretences, claiming it was for school or tuition fees. The deception became evident when requested amounts exceeded reasonable educational expenses, and verification revealed that claimed activities never existed. Only after hearing about a suicide in a neighbouring village related to online gambling did the family recognise their son's true behaviour. Their quick intervention prevented potential tragedy, but they discovered a network of third parties facilitating account setup and payments, leading to substantial debts.

"We trusted him completely because he was always a good student," said a mother from Margao whose son fell into online gambling, while studying outside Goa. She also wished to remain anonymous to protect her son's identity as they have sent him to a centre for de-addiction.

"When he asked for money for books or coaching, we never questioned it. It's only when the amounts became unreasonable that we realised something was wrong. These platforms make it so easy for children to get trapped," she lamented further.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant had previously acknowledged in the Assembly, the challenge of controlling app-based online gambling, particularly as players download games directly onto mobile devices. He admitted that youth face financial ruin risks despite ongoing crackdowns, directing the Goa police department and Cyber Crime police to take comprehensive action against online gambling locations, lottery sites, and online casinos.

Opposition leaders raised alarming statistics in the Assembly, about the problem's scale, with some claiming online gambling operated through over 500 locations with daily turnovers approaching Rs 30 crore. MLAs across party lines expressed concerns about youth falling prey to these platforms and committing suicide when faced with losses, demanding immediate crackdowns on illegal online gaming operations.

The progression from small stakes to substantial losses represents a particularly dangerous aspect of online gambling addiction. Legislative discussions revealed how players could begin with modest amounts of Rs 5 to Rs 10,000 but quickly escalate to daily limits exceeding Rs 40,000. This rapid escalation, combined with easy mobile access, creates a perfect storm for financial devastation among young people.

The current government response, while more robust than previous efforts, faces the challenge of staying ahead of rapidly evolving digital platforms. Website blocking represents a reactive measure, as new platforms can quickly emerge to replace shut-down sites. The appeal for public reporting suggests recognition that enforcement requires community participation and vigilance.

Experts argue that the current enforcement approach, while necessary, remains largely reactive to an industry thriving on technological innovation and jurisdictional loopholes. They suggest a more proactive strategy combining education, mental health support, and stricter age verification mechanisms could prove more effective in preventing tragedies.

Goa's struggle mirrors a nationwide crisis, with states like Karnataka, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh reporting similar youth suicides linked to online gambling losses. The problem extends globally, with countries like the UK implementing stricter age verification and spending limits on gambling platforms.

Mental health professionals across India report increasing cases of gambling addiction among teenagers, often masked as gaming addiction. The easy availability of digital payment methods and the normalization of online transactions during the pandemic have created an environment where young people can quickly accumulate massive debts without parental knowledge.

As Goa continues battling this crisis, the latest tragedy highlights the need for sustained prevention measures and comprehensive support systems. The challenge now involves developing solutions that address both technological and behavioural aspects of this growing epidemic, learning from global best practices while adapting to local contexts.