

Over 45 Palestinians killed while waiting for aid in Gaza

AP, KHAN YOUNIS (GAZA STRIP): At least 45 Palestinians were killed in the Gaza Strip while waiting for UN and commercial trucks to enter the territory with desperately needed food, according to Gaza's Health Ministry and a local hospital. The circumstances of the killings were not immediately clear. It did not appear to be related to a new Israeli- and US-supported aid delivery network that rolled out last month and has been marred by controversy and violence. Palestinians say Israeli forces have repeatedly opened fire on crowds trying to reach food distribution points run by a separate US and Israeli-backed aid group since the centres opened last month. Local health officials say scores have been killed and hundreds wounded.

In those instances, the Israeli military has acknowledged firing warning shots at people it said had



Smoke billows in Al-Bureij camp in the central Gaza Strip after the area was targeted by an Israeli strike

approached its forces in a suspicious manner. Israel says the new system is designed to prevent Hamas from siphoning off aid to fund its militant activities. UN agencies and major aid groups deny there is any major diversion of aid and have rejected the new system, saying it can't meet the mounting needs in Gaza

and that it violates humanitarian principles by allowing Israel to control who has access to aid. Experts have warned of widespread famine in Gaza. The UN-run network has delivered aid across Gaza throughout the 20-month Israel-Hamas war, but has faced major obstacles since Israel loosened a total blockade it had imposed

from early March until mid-May. UN officials say Israeli military restrictions, a breakdown of law and order, and widespread looting make it difficult to deliver the aid that Israel has allowed in. Israel's military campaign since October 2023 has killed over 55,300 Palestinians, more than half of them women and children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. Its count doesn't distinguish between civilians and combatants. Israel launched its campaign aiming to destroy Hamas after the group's Oct 7, 2023, attack on southern Israel, in which militants killed around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking another 251 hostage. The militants still hold more than 50 hostages, fewer than half of them alive, after most of the rest were released in ceasefire agreements or other deals.

Rains wreak havoc in Kerala

PTI, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: While the intensity of the rains gradually decreased in Kerala on Tuesday, families hit by heavy inundation were shifted to relief camps and people staged a protest by blocking road using a country boat to press for a solution to waterlogging and sea incursion. People waded through hip-level water in Kannamaly and they had to tackle damage caused by high tidal waves. Kannamaly, a fishing hamlet in Ernakulam district, witnessed protests by locals on Tuesday demanding a permanent solution to the long-standing issues of waterlogging and coastal erosion. They blocked a road with a country boat, fishing nets and logs as a mark of protest. A number of houses were also damaged following high tidal waves, the residents said.

Overnight Russian attack on Ukraine kills 15, injures 156

AP, KYIV: An overnight Russian missile and drone bombardment of Ukraine killed 15 people and injured 156, local officials said Tuesday, with the main barrage demolishing a nine-story Kyiv apartment building in the deadliest attack on the capital this year. At least 14 people were killed as explosions echoed across the Ukrainian capital for almost nine hours, Kyiv City Military Administration head Tymur Tkachenko said, destroying dozens of apartments. Russia fired more than 440 drones and 32 missiles, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said, calling the Kyiv attack "one of the most terrifying strikes" on the capital. Ukraine's Interior Ministry said 139 people were injured in Kyiv. Mayor Vitalii Klitschko announced that Wednesday would be an official day of mourning. The attack came after two rounds of direct peace talks failed to make progress on ending the war, now in its fourth year. Russia has repeatedly



Ukrainian rescuers conduct a search and rescue work in a heavily damaged residential building following the Russian missile strike in Kyiv



A plume of smoke rises behind residential buildings following the Russian missile and drone strike in Kyiv

hit civilian areas of Ukraine with missiles and drones. The attacks have killed more than 12,000 Ukrainian civilians, according to the United Nations. Russia says it strikes only military targets.

Alert raised to highest level after Indonesia's Mount Lewotobi Laki Laki volcano erupts

AP, LEMBATA (INDONESIA): Mount Lewotobi Laki Laki volcano in south-central Indonesia erupted on Tuesday, spewing towering columns of hot ash into the air. Authorities raised the eruption alert to the highest level and expanded the danger zone to 8 km from the crater. Indonesia's Geology Agency said in a statement it recorded the volcano unleashing 10,000 metres of thick grey clouds on Tuesday afternoon, following significant volcanic activities, including 50 in two hours, rather than the usual daily 8 to 10 activities. The ashes expanded



Volcanic smoke billows from Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki during an eruption, as seen from Lembata, Indonesia

into a mushroom-shaped ash cloud that could be seen from the cities located 90 km to 150 km from the

mountain. There were no casualties reported. Residents were warned

to be vigilant about heavy rainfall triggering lava flows in rivers originating from the volcano. An eruption of Mount Lewotobi Laki Laki in November killed nine people and injured dozens. The 1,584-metre (5,197-foot) mountain is a twin volcano with Mount Lewotobi Perempuan in the district of Flores Timur. Indonesia is an archipelago of 270 million people with frequent seismic activity. It has 120 active volcanoes and sits along the "Ring of Fire," a horseshoe-shaped series of seismic fault lines encircling the Pacific Basin.

Russian media says N Korea to send military construction workers, deminers to Russia

AP, SEOUL: North Korea will send thousands of military construction workers and deminers to support reconstruction work in Russia's Kursk region, Russian media reported, another sign of expanding military partnership between the two nations. Russian state news agency RIA Novosti cited top Russian security official Sergei Shoigu as saying that North Korea will dispatch 1,000 deminers as well 5,000 military construction workers to the Kursk region. RIA Novosti said Shoigu made the comments during a visit to

North Korea has already sent thousands of troops and conventional weapons to support Russia's war against Ukraine. Washington and Seoul have expressed concern that, in return, Kim may seek Russian technology transfers that could enhance the threat posed by his nuclear-armed military. Pyongyang for a meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. North Korea has already sent thousands of troops and conventional weapons

to support Russia's war against Ukraine. Washington and Seoul have expressed concern that, in return, Kim may seek Russian technology transfers that could enhance the threat posed by his nuclear-armed military. During a visit to Pyongyang earlier this month, Shoigu and Kim Jong Un had discussed rebuilding the Kursk region, according to Russian state media. Russia's Tass news agency earlier reported Shoigu arrived in the North Korean capital on Tuesday on an unspecified "special" mis-

sion from Putin and was expected to meet with Kim. North Korean state media didn't immediately confirm the visit. In April, Pyongyang and Moscow officially confirmed the deployment of North Korean troops to Russia for the first time, saying that soldiers of the two countries were fighting alongside each other to repel a Ukrainian incursion into Russia's Kursk border region. Putin thanked North Korea at that time for its participation in the war and promised not to forget their sacrifices.

FROM PAGE 1

ARE WOMEN SAFE FROM VIOLENT CRIME ANYWHERE?

The taxi driver grew suspicious of his behaviour, asked for his Aadhaar card, and took a photo of it — a crucial detail that later aided the investigation. After reaching Hubli, Sanjay boarded a bus to Bengaluru. Meanwhile, the police investigation picked up speed. CCTV footage from locals confirmed the couple had disembarked at Dharbandora, and further evidence was found in the victim's belongings, including a bus ticket paid via UPI, which provided key mobile and bank transaction details. With technical surveillance, mobile tracking, and support from the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) and dog squad, the police identified and tracked the suspect. Sanjay was arrested in Bengaluru early Tuesday morning with the help of Karnataka police. During interrogation, Sanjay confessed to the crime, stating that the murder followed an argument related to their strained relationship. The crime took place shortly after they arrived in Goa, perhaps highlighting the premeditated nature of the act. SP South Goa Tikam Singh Verma, IPS, led the investigation alongside Ponda SDPO Shivram Vaigankar, PI Vijaynath Kavlekar, and the Ponda Sub-Division team, whose coordinated efforts resulted in solving the case in record time. The police continue to investigate further angles, while the accused remains in custody.

DGCA CHECKS GROUND 7 AIR INDIA INT'L FLIGHTS

It did not detail the issue that came to light during pre-flight checks. "However, in view of the flight coming under the restrictions on night operations at Paris Charles de Gaulle (CDG) airport, the said flight has been cancelled," Air India said. The airline said it is providing hotel accommodation and also offering full refunds on cancellations or complimentary rescheduling if opted by the passengers. Air India also said it is making alternative arrangements to fly passengers to their destination at the earliest. The airline, which on Monday resumed flights from Ahmedabad to London Gatwick with a new code AI159 instead of AI171 of the flight that crashed on June 12, had to cancel the flight on Tuesday due to unavailability of aircraft. It denied claims that a technical snag led to the cancellation and maintained that it has made alternative arrangements for the affected passengers to their destination and offered full refunds on cancellations or complimentary rescheduling if opted by them. Air India's official website confirmed that the AI-159 flight from Ahmedabad to the Gatwick airport in London stands cancelled after being rescheduled. The plane was scheduled to depart at 3 pm from the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport (SVPIA). Separately, an Air India flight from San Francisco to Mumbai via Kolkata, carrying 211 passengers, suffered a technical snag early Tuesday, requiring passengers to de-board during a scheduled halt at the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport in Kolkata. The termination led to chaotic scenes at the Kolkata airport as passengers on the Boeing 777-200 LR tried to convince officials to let them reach their destination at the earliest. The Tata Group-owned carrier did not issue an official

statement. Sources said Air India is making "special arrangements" to fly the stranded passengers to Mumbai. No further details were available. Usually, the carrier flies directly to Mumbai from San Francisco but the ongoing geopolitical events, including the closure of Pakistani and Iranian airspace, have led AI to reroute it and take a "technical halt" in Kolkata. Iran has closed its airspace due to its ongoing war with Israel, affecting flights headed to Europe. Flight AI-180 landed in Kolkata at the scheduled time of 12.45 am, even though it took off one hour late from San Francisco. According to sources, a technical issue was detected during routine post-landing checks, and the airline decided to do a comprehensive check. It was scheduled to depart for Mumbai at 2 am, but passengers came to know of the problems only after 2.40 am when the crew announced there was a problem with the left engine, according to a PTI reporter who was on the flight. However, this announcement was accompanied by a specific promise, that the snag will take up to 25 minutes to get sorted, the reporter said. However, as the clock ticked by, distraught passengers having connecting flights from Mumbai started enquiring about the progress of the work with the cabin crew, but there was no clear response, the reporter said. With the Ahmedabad accident being fresh, some passengers also said a delay is better than a mishap, while some wondered how an aircraft which had travelled thousands of kilometres could face problems in the last leg from Kolkata to Mumbai. The next announcement came at 4.20 am when the pilots sought another 15-20 minutes for rectification of the problem. The engineers could be seen working on the left engine even as a drizzle continued, but the problem persisted. Finally, around 5.20 am, the pilots announced that a resolution was not possible and asked all passengers to deplane. After disembarking and passing the mandatory immigration, collecting baggage and passing the customs channels, the passengers were asked to sit in a designated area. A few passengers pleaded with officials asking for the earliest option to travel to Mumbai. Some got lucky, while others continued to wait. Finally, an Air India official announced that Mumbai-bound flights were mostly full and convinced a bulk of the passengers to check into a hotel. **RULE OF LAW, NOT MOB RULE, MUST PREVAIL: SC** Justice Manmohan said, "Rule of law demands that any film which has a CBFC certificate must be released and the State has to ensure its screening. You cannot put a gun on people's head and say don't watch the movie." The judge went on, "It can't be that at the fear of burning down the cinemas, that the film can't be shown. People may not watch the film. That is a different matter. We are not passing any order that people must watch the film. But the film must be released." The counsel representing Karnataka said a plea filed by the film producer was scheduled to come up for hearing in the high court on June 20. The bench then indicated to transfer the petition pending before the high court to the apex court. It was also critical of the observations made by the high court on June 3, asking for an apology from Haasan for his

remark suggesting that "Kannada was born out of Tamil". "It is none of the business of the high court to seek an apology from him (actor)," Justice Manmohan said. The judge continued, "This issue is concerning the rule of law and fundamental rights. Therefore, this court is intervening. That is what the Supreme Court is meant for to be a custodian of the rule of law and fundamental rights. It is not just about a film." The bench said if Haasan had uttered anything inconvenient it couldn't be taken as gospel truth and the enlightened people of Karnataka should have debated and said he was wrong. "There is something wrong in the system, that one person makes a statement and it is treated as a gospel truth. Let there be a debate on the issue. Let people say he is wrong," Justice Manmohan said. Justice Bhuyan chipped in, "All the enlightened people of Bengaluru can issue a statement that he is wrong. Why should they resort to threats?" Underlining the importance of the rule of law, the bench put the onus on the state to ensure the release of a film, which has received a CBFC certificate. After the state's counsel said the film producers on their own chose not to release the film in the state till Haasan resolved the issue with the Karnataka Film Chamber, the bench said people were entitled to have different views but for that reason a film couldn't be stopped from screening. Justice Bhuyan referred to the March 28 verdict quashing the FIR against Congress MP Imran Pratapgarhi for posting a clip of a poem alleged to be provocative and said in the verdict the apex court cited a Bombay High Court judgement setting aside the ban on the plea "Me Nathuram Godse Boltoy". He said, "There were critical references to the Father of the Nation. There was hue and cry and the Maharashtra government had banned the play. The high court set aside the ban order saying he may be revered as the Father of the Nation. But you can't stop a different view. That is freedom of speech." The top court would continue with the hearing on June 19. "Thug Life" released in cinema halls across the country on June 5. The Tamil movie, which reunites Haasan with filmmaker Mani Ratnam after 1987's "Nayakan", could not be released in Karnataka after the 70-year-old's comments about Kannada language sparked a major controversy. On June 3, the high court pulled up Haasan for his remark suggesting that "Kannada was born out of Tamil", and observed that a "single apology could have resolved the situation". The remark, reportedly made by Haasan at a promotional event in Chennai for his film, sparked a backlash in Karnataka, prompting the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC) to announce that the film would not be screened in the state unless Haasan apologised. Reddy in his plea before the apex court, filed through advocate A Velan, contended that despite the movie being granted certification by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), the state government has allegedly prevented its theatrical release through oral instructions and police interference, without issuing any official prohibitory order or any registration of an FIR qua the same. He argued that such actions by the state amount to an unconstitutional restriction on free speech and expression under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution.

AI CRASH TREMORS REACH DABOLIM HIGHRISES IN AIRPORT FUNNEL ZONE

These warnings, addressed to local authorities including the Mormugao Port Development Authority (MPDA), the Chicalim Panchayat, and the State government, were largely ignored, according to the court. According to advocate Barbara Zuzarte, who represents Alexander Michael, petitioner of Writ Petition 10 of 2018: "It is extremely saddening that the authorities are not willing to execute the orders of the High Court. All they say is demolition orders are being pursued when the issue is serious. We had to file a Contempt Petition in 2021 and yet they are dragging their feet. If they respect the courts, they should have demolished the structures." Petitioner Alexander Michael alleges that political backing may be shielding the violators. "These buildings are being approved without naval permission, and occupancy certificates are being issued with impunity. The local MLA is clearly complicit," he claimed. MPDA Member Secretary Sanjay Halarnekar countered this, stating that some demolition work has already been undertaken and more is in the pipeline. "We are committed to implementing court directives. The process is complex and time-consuming," he said, though he could not explain the years-long delay. Documents accessed by O Herald, including "Reports on Obstacles Infringing Obstacle Limitation Surfaces (OLS) around Dabolim Airport" prepared by the Indian Navy, reveal that several buildings have been granted occupancy without securing the necessary NOC. The High Court noted that Kamla Prasad Yadav, now Sarpanch of Chicalim Panchayat and a former deputy sarpanch and MPDA member, was directly linked to at least one such construction. In his defence, Yadav denied any wrongdoing. "I have not built anything in the funnel zone without Navy permission. These are baseless allegations by my political opponents. There are many buildings that have come up around the periphery of the airport. The big building with my company's name is not in the funnel zone. You can ask the Navy," Yadav claimed. However, officials familiar with the matter contest this claim. When asked specifically about structures linked to Yadav, MPDA's Halarnekar responded evasively: "Demolition works on some of those structures have not been carried out for certain reasons, which I can explain in person." A senior Indian Navy officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, expressed frustration: "We've issued multiple notices. These constructions violate both safety norms and the law." The High Court further admonished authorities for failing to address serious allegations made not just by the petitioner, but also by the Flag Officer of the Navy. "Rather than focusing upon questioning bonafides of the Petitioner, these statutory authorities, should have responded to the serious charges of inaction made not only by the Petitioner, but by the Flag Officer, particularly in relation to the constructions undertaken by one Dinesh Nadar and Kamla Prasad Yadav (Builder)," reads part of the judgment. The consequences of these oversights are now being felt on the ground. Residents of several high-rise buildings near Dabolim airport report growing anxiety. "We were shown an occupancy certificate and assumed everything was legal. Only later did we discover our building is in a funnel zone and exceeds the permitted number of floors," said one apartment owner, requesting anonymity. "We've been assured everything will be resolved — but we're living in fear," she added, her concern evident.