

# European powers meet Iran in Geneva to seek conflict resolution

AFP, TEHRAN: European powers hoped to offer a "diplomatic solution" as they met with Iran in Geneva on Friday, according to French President Emmanuel Macron, as Israel again came under Iranian missile fire.

The meeting, which is expected to focus on Iran's nuclear programme, comes as US President Donald Trump mulls the prospect of entering the war between the two foes.

Israel, saying Iran was on the verge of developing nuclear weapons, launched a massive wave of strikes



France's Minister for Europe, Britain's Foreign Secretary David Lammy, Germany's Foreign Minister Johann Wadepuhl and EU High Representative, Kaja Kallas, in Geneva

a week ago, triggering an immediate retaliation from Tehran.

French Foreign Minister

Jean-Noel Barrot will meet his Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi in Geneva "to make a complete diplomat-

ic and technical offer for negotiations", Macron told reporters.

France and its allies Germany and Britain were "putting a diplomatic solution on the table", he added.

On the ground, Israel's military said it struck dozens of targets in Tehran overnight, including what it called a centre for the "research and development of Iran's nuclear weapons project".

In Israel, sirens sounded in the afternoon after missiles were launched from Iran for the second time on Friday, and rescuers reported two

injured, including a 16-year-old in serious condition.

A military official said that "approximately 20 missiles were launched towards Israel" in the latest salvo.

On Iranian state TV, a news anchor described footage of "Iranian missiles arriving" in the sky over Israel, as the channel broadcast the footage with military music playing in the background.

Trump has said he would decide "within the next two weeks" whether to involve the United States in the fighting.

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### SITUATIONS VACANT

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## SpaceX Starship explodes on Texas launch pad

AFP, HOUSTON: A SpaceX Starship rocket exploded during a routine ground test in Texas late Wednesday, the company said, in the latest setback to billionaire Elon Musk's dream of sending humans to Mars.

The explosion – which sent a towering fireball into the air – happened at the Starbase launch facility at about 11:00 pm (0400 GMT Thursday), SpaceX and law enforcement officials said.

As the company prepared for a static fire test, "a sudden energetic event resulted in the complete loss of Starship and damage to the immediate area surrounding the stand," it said Thursday, updating its initial statement.

"The explosion ignited several fires at the test site which remains clear of personnel," it said.

"As is the case before any test, a safety zone was established around the test

site and was maintained throughout the operation. There are no reported injuries, and all personnel are safe and accounted for."

During a static fire test, part of the procedures preceding a launch, the Starship's first-stage Super Heavy booster would be anchored to the ground to prevent it from lifting off during the test-firing.

Starbase, on the south Texas coast near the border with Mexico, is the headquarters for Musk's space project. The company was preparing for the 10th test flight of Starship.

"Initial analysis indicates the potential failure of a pressurized tank known as a COPV, or composite over-wrapped pressure vessel, containing gaseous nitrogen in Starship's nosecone area, but the full data review is ongoing," SpaceX said.

Musk appeared to downplay the incident on Thurs-

## Appeals court lets Trump keep control of National Guard

AP, LOS ANGELES: An appeals court on Thursday allowed President Donald Trump to keep control of National Guard troops he deployed to Los Angeles following protests over immigration raids.

The decision halts a ruling from a lower court judge who found Trump acted illegally when he activated the soldiers over opposition from California Gov. Gavin Newsom.

The deployment was the first by a president of a state National Guard without the governor's permission since 1965.

In its decision, a three-judge panel on the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals unanimously concluded it was likely Trump lawfully exercised his authority in federalising control of the guard.

It said that while presidents don't have unfettered power to seize control of a state's guard, the Trump administration had presented enough evidence to show it had a defensible rationale for doing so, citing violent acts by protesters.

**The court rightly rejected Trump's claim that he can do whatever he wants with the National Guard and not have to explain himself to a court**

"The undisputed facts demonstrate that before the deployment of the National Guard, protesters pinned down" several federal officers and threw concrete chunks, bottles of liquid, and other objects' at the officers. Protesters also damaged federal buildings and caused the closure of at least one federal building. And a federal van was attacked by protesters who smashed in the van's windows," the court wrote.

"The federal government's interest in preventing incidents like these is significant."

It also found that even if the federal government failed to notify the governor of California before federalising the National Guard as required by law, Newsom had no power to veto the president's order.

Trump celebrated the

decision on his Truth Social platform, calling it a "BIG WIN".

He wrote that "all over the United States, if our Cities, and our people, need protection, we are the ones to give it to them should State and Local Police be unable, for whatever reason, to get the job done".

Newsom issued a statement that expressed disappointment that the court is allowing Trump to retain control of the Guard. But he also welcomed one aspect of the decision.

"The court rightly rejected Trump's claim that he can do whatever he wants with the National Guard and not have to explain himself to a court," Newsom said. "The President is not a king and is not above the law. We will press forward with our challenge to President Trump's authoritarian use of US military soldiers against citizens."

The case started when Newsom sued to block Trump's command, and he won an early victory from US District Judge Charles Breyer in San Francisco.

## Climate change could double summer rainfall in the Alps: study

AFP, GENEVA: Short, intense summer rainfall in Alpine regions is likely to become more frequent and severe in the future because of global warming, according to a study released Thursday by the University of Lausanne (UNIL).

Researchers said that in a scenario where temperatures

rise by two degrees Celsius (about 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit), the Alps and nearby regions could experience episodes of intense summer rainfall twice as often as currently.

"With such warming, an intense storm currently expected once every 50 years could occur once every 25 years in the future," said

the Swiss university, which conducted the study in collaboration with the University of Padua in Italy.

"Hot air holds more moisture (around seven percent more per degree), intensifying storm activity", the researchers said.

"As the Alpine environment warms faster than the

global average, it is particularly affected," they added.

The study used summer rainfall data collected from nearly 300 meteorological stations across the European Alps in Switzerland, Germany, Austria, France and Italy.

They focused on record-breaking rainfall events – lasting from 10

minutes to an hour – that occurred between 1991 and 2020, as well as the temperatures associated with these episodes.

Researchers recommend "preparing urban water management systems and other infrastructures" that are ill suited to handle significant rainfall volumes.

### FROM PAGE 1

## 16 BUILDINGS IN PANJIM DECLARED UNSAFE

The CCP is now awaiting further directions based on this finding.

In the case of La Marina II, part of the La Marina Cooperative Housing Society in Miramar, the CCP sent its fourth reminder to GEC on April 4, urging the institution to expedite its structural stability assessment.

## ISRAEL, IRAN TRADE STRIKES, AS DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS UNDERWAY

Britain's foreign secretary said he met at the White House with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and envoy Steve Witkoff to discuss the potential for a deal that could cool the conflict.

Before his flight, Araghchi said on Iranian State television that his country was "not seeking negotiations with anyone" as long as Israel's attacks continued, underscoring the diplomatic challenges ahead. He also accused the US of collaborating with Israel, noting that Trump regularly used "we" in social media posts and interviews talking about the attacks on Iran.

"It is the Americans who want talks," he said in comments Thursday that were broadcast Friday. "They've sent messages several times – very serious ones – but we made it explicitly clear to them that as long as this aggression and invasion continue, there is absolutely no room for talk or diplomacy."

## CCP TO REIN IN UNRULY TOURISTS IN LATIN QUARTERS

"It is so noisy and this is largely a residential area. Let's hope for the best," the resident said.

It may be recalled that in October last year, the Panjim Police had deployed a robot vehicle and two constables to manage and regulate unruly tourists at São Tomé and Fontainhas.

The action was taken following complaints from the residents that tourists are causing nuisance and even invading their privacy. The residents had written to the CCP Mayor seeking his intervention in the issue.

In the letter, 80 members of the Communi-

ty Association of Residents and Establishment (CARE), São Tomé - Fontainhas had stated, "The unstructured and unregulated tourism activity being unleashed in the area is greatly affecting the lives of the residents in the Latin Quarters, Sao Tome and Fontainhas wards of Panjim."

The residents had met the Mayor demanding streamlining of tourism-related activities in their areas. They had also demanded a centralised parking solution for tourist vehicles and other non-resident vehicles.

The Mayor had assured the residents that he would collaborate with relevant departments to facilitate direct interactions between residents and officials. The goal was to devise effective solutions to the ongoing challenges posed by tourism in the Latin Quarters, ensuring that the unique character of São Tomé and Fontainhas is preserved while addressing the needs of both residents and visitors.

## OUTRAGE IN NAVELIM AS MAN SHOOT'S DOG WITH AIRGUN

The DSPCA has filed a parallel complaint. Acting on these reports, Margao Police have registered an offence under Section 323 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2025, and Section 11(1)(c) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. PSI Sanjay Velip of the Margao Town Police Station is conducting the investigation.

On Thursday morning, a group of local residents, animal lovers, and activists marched to the Margao Police Station, demanding immediate arrest of the accused. Police assured them that the case is being taken seriously.

Pravita Vernekar, an animal lover, expressed her anguish over the incident. "I'm deeply shocked and angry that an incident like this has happened in Goa. How could a person just pick up a gun and shoot at a dog without remorse? I hope that the person responsible for this cruel act will be booked so that such incidents do not happen again," she said.

This is not the first such instance of violence against animals in the state. In May, two men from Madhavpur, Uttar Pradesh, were arrested for assaulting a stray dog with a wooden stick – an incident that was also caught on CCTV and

went viral on social media. The accused were later released on bail.

Amid rising instances of cruelty, the DSPCA (North Goa) had issued cautionary notices to 30-40 housing societies where residents have reportedly harassed dog feeders and caregivers. The agency has urged communities to follow co-existence guidelines under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, and the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023.

## 'DON'T WANT NEW POLICE STATION IN OLD GOA': CITIZENS GROUP

Peter Viegas, Coordinator of SOGAC, underlined the committee's core concern: "We want to make it clear that construction of a police station and renovation of a police station are two different things. The objection of the Save Old Goa Action Committee is to the construction of a new building."

Jennifer Lobo, another member, expressed concerns about ongoing illegal construction in the area. "We have seen many illegal projects come up here. We have condemned them because we do not want such developments in a World Heritage area. We are not saying that there is no need for a police station—there is. But it should not be in the buffer zone. It should be beyond 300 metres from the Basilica of Bom Jesus."

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