



Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Amir Saeid Iravani speaks during a Security Council meeting at the UN Headquarters



Assemblyman Zohran Mamdani talks to people at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in the Gerald W. Lynch Theater



NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte speaks with the media as he arrives for the NATO summit in The Hague, Netherlands



France's Minister for the Interior, Bruno Retailleau delivers a press conference at France's Ministry for the Interior, Place Beauvau in Paris

allovertheworld



Priyanka Chopra Jonas attends the world premiere of "Heads of State" at Alice Tully Hall

Cable theft in north France disrupts Eurostar traffic

LILLE: The theft of cables along train tracks in northern France on Wednesday disrupted Eurostar trips between London and Paris for a second day in a row, the company and French railway operator said. Overnight, "more than 600 metres (650 yards) of cable were stolen or severed south of the Lille Europe station" on the way between the two capitals, French railway operator SNCF said. "The impact is essentially on high-speed train traffic," it added. Around 15 workers, including cable layers, were dispatched to solve the issue, but repairs were expected to take a good part of the day, the operator added.

Russia arrests two Moldovans on suspicion of spying

MOSCOW: Russia said on Wednesday that it had arrested two Moldovan citizens on suspicion of being foreign agents, and accused the country's pro-EU authorities of attempting to "undermine" its security. Chisinau did not immediately comment, but has itself accused Moscow of espionage. Ties between the two countries have deteriorated dramatically in recent years. Moldova has repeatedly accused Russia of trying to destabilise the former Soviet republic, including by interfering in government institutions and elections. The Kremlin has dismissed allegations of interference in Moldova as anti-Russian "hysteria" and accused Chisinau of deliberately trying to sabotage bilateral relations.

US marine jailed in Japan over sexual assault

TOKYO: A Japanese court sentenced a US marine to seven years in prison, a spokesperson for the judiciary said Wednesday, in the latest sexual assault case involving American military personnel. Jamel Clayton, 22, who pleaded not guilty, was accused of choking and attempting to rape a woman in her 20s last year in Okinawa, according to Kyodo News and other local media. The Naha District Court on Tuesday sentenced Clayton to seven years in jail for "the crime of causing injury by attempting to have non-consensual sexual intercourse", a spokesman for the court told AFP. Presiding judge Kazuhiko Obata described Clayton's behaviour as "so dangerous that it could have threatened her life, and highly malicious", Jiji Press reported.

At least 10 dead in Colombia landslide

BOGOTÁ: A landslide triggered by heavy rains killed at least 10 people and injured eight others Tuesday near the Colombian city of Medellin, government officials said. Locals were warned to evacuate the area in the municipality of Bello, which remained vulnerable to landslides, the governor of the Antioquia department Andres Julian Rendon said while confirming the casualties. At least 15 people were still missing after the tragedy, which was caused by flooding in a ravine, according to media reports. Images shared by local media showed houses buried under earth on a mountain bordering Colombia's second-biggest city. A picture shared by Medellin's disaster management department showed a car and a street caked in mud.

UK carbon emissions cut by half since 1990: experts

LONDON: The UK has cut its carbon emissions by 50.4 percent since 1990 levels, a group of experts tasked with advising the government said on Wednesday. The figures are included in the first assessment of the new Labour government's progress on reducing emissions by the Climate Change Committee (CCC) since it took office last July. The report covers carbon pollution from power generation, industry, road transport, residential buildings, aviation and farming. It does not take account of emissions from UK consumption of goods, wherever in the world this pollution arises along the supply chain.

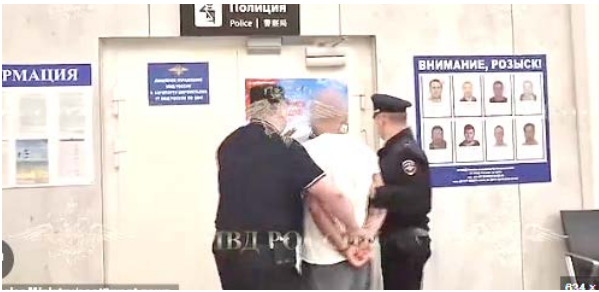
Lebanese army says arrested IS Lebanon leader

BEIRUT: The Lebanese army said on Tuesday it had arrested the suspected leader of the Islamic State group in Lebanon after implicating him in planning several operations. "Following a series of security, surveillance and monitoring operations, the Intelligence Directorate arrested citizen R.F., nicknamed "Qasoura," a prominent leader of the terrorist organisation Daesh," the army said, using the Arabic acronym for IS. Weapons and ammunition were also seized. According to the army, Qasoura took over the group's Lebanon branch after the arrest of several prominent figures in December.

Toddler from Iran in coma after brutal attack at Moscow airport

Agencies, Moscow, Russia: A 2-year-old Iranian boy is in a coma after a shocking and violent assault at Sheremetyevo International Airport in Moscow. The toddler, who had just arrived in Russia with his pregnant mother after fleeing conflict in Iran, sustained serious skull fractures and spinal injuries after a man picked him up and slammed him to the ground.

The horrifying incident was captured on security footage and has since circulated on social media, sparking widespread outrage. The video shows the young boy quietly holding onto his small trolley bag in the arrivals area. A man, later identified as



Vitikov was caught by police after the attack on two year old

Vladimir Vitkov, 31, from Belarus, is seen standing behind the child, glancing around to check his surroundings. Moments later, he suddenly scoops up the boy and hurls him violently to the floor.

The boy's mother was retrieving his stroller nearby and did not witness the attack immediately. A by-

stander rushed in to help the severely injured child. Emergency services were called to the scene, and the boy was transported to a hospital where he remains in critical condition, fighting for his life.

According to the Iranian Embassy in India, the family had arrived in Russia seeking refuge from bombings in Iran. The embassy issued a strong statement, condemning the assault as a brutal act against a refugee child.

Russian authorities have detained Vitkov and are investigating the motive behind the attack. Police are reportedly considering whether the assault was racially motivated or linked to drug use, as the suspect was allegedly under the influence at the time.

This tragic event has raised serious concerns over public safety, especially for vulnerable refugee families arriving in transit hubs. As the child remains in a coma, global attention is now focused on whether justice will be swiftly served.

FROM PAGE 1

WITH GFP'S MOVE, ALL EYES NOW ON MARGAO CIVIC CHESSBOARD

In both 2015 and 2021, Kamat, then the Margao Congress MLA, and Sardesai operated under the Margao Civic Alliance banner, successfully keeping BJP influence at bay while securing comfortable majorities. This collaboration enabled both leaders to consolidate their territorial strengths, with the alliance yielding sufficient numbers to maintain civic control.

However, Kamat's return to the BJP fold fundamentally altered these dynamics, creating the current scenario where former allies now find themselves on opposing sides with Sardesai becoming one of Kamat's most vocal critics.

The BJP's position appears considerably strengthened compared to previous cycles. The party now enjoys an established presence across both constituencies, enhanced by Kamat's political homecoming and the elevation of former Fatorda MLA Damu Naik to BJP State President. This dual leadership structure provides significant organisational depth and local credibility that could prove decisive.

Significantly, Damu Naik's role as State President positions him as a formidable force in mobilising BJP resources and organisational machinery.

When asked about Sardesai's challenge, Kamat maintained characteristic composure, stating that in a democratic setup, any citizen retains the right to contest elections. His measured response, emphasising that "it is the public who will determine the fate of any candidate," reflects the confidence of a seasoned politician who has navigated seven successful Assembly campaigns. Yet beneath this calm exterior lies recognition that municipal control serves as a barometer of broader political strength, particularly crucial given the approaching Assembly elections.

The Congress party's position adds another dimension to the municipal contest. With former Margao Municipal Chairperson Savio Coutinho maintaining the party's presence in Margao and the recent induction of businessman Chirag Naik, Congress appears positioned to field candidates across multiple wards with the duo repeatedly targeting Kamat as well. Chirag Naik's statement about Congress's intention to contest comprehensively in the 2026 municipal polls indicates the electoral battlefield may become a three-way contest rather than a direct BJP-GFP confrontation.

Political analysts view Congress's positioning as potentially decisive in determining the final outcome. The party's recent organisational activities, including Chirag Naik's recruitment, suggest preparation for a comprehensive municipal campaign. "The three-way contest could significantly alter seat calculations, particularly if voting patterns fragment along constituency lines," noted a political commentator.

For Sardesai, the municipal elections represent both opportunity and necessity. Without establishing a foothold in Margao's municipal wards, GFP's prospects for broader political expansion remain limited. The regional party's current strength in Fatorda alone proves insufficient for municipal control, making expansion into Margao territory essential for political survival and growth.

GFP's indication that they will field candidates in MMC wards falling under Curtorim constituency reveals intent to ensure councillors from this area can help make the difference. However, in Curtorim, sitting independent MLA Aleixo Reginaldo Lourenco, who backs the BJP government, is known not to get too involved in MMC functioning except for handling Sodsodo legacy dump site issues. Lourenco has also downplayed the impact of GFP's entry in Curtorim.

The stakes extend beyond immediate municipal governance. Control over MMC provides crucial advantages in resource allocation, development project implementation, and grassroots organisational building. These factors become particularly significant when considering the 2027 Assembly elections, where municipal control often translates into enhanced electoral machinery and voter outreach capabilities.

In the long run, municipal elections will serve as a critical testing ground for all parties ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections, with control over the MMC likely determining political momentum for the larger electoral battle.

PATTO'S ROADS SINK AT THE FIRST SIGN OF RAIN

"Instead of enjoying the benefits of a Smart City, we are overwhelmed by the foul smell," said a hotel executive, who requested anonymity. "Tourists mock the situation. Some call it a swimming pool, others a sea."

Mohit Savoikar, an office employee in the area, shared his frustration: "Even light rain causes flooding. It usually starts in the morning and lasts until the afternoon. The problem gets worse when rainwater mixes with sewage. This happens every year — and sometimes even when there's no rain. During high tide, the roads turn into rivers." "People often ask about the source of the stench. It's embarrassing. And we feel helpless when we see people fall-

ing or their scooters getting stuck," he added.

Sidhesh Sawant, a private firm executive, echoed similar concerns: "Flooding is routine here. When the sewage chambers overflow, water remains stagnant for longer. It doesn't matter whether it rains or not — there's always water on the roads."

Rohit Naik, a security guard, said, "The stench from the sewage is unbearable. This is a daily issue. We don't know when it will be resolved."

When contacted, a CCP official told O Herald that the Water Resources Department is planning to construct a pump room in the area, which could help alleviate the problem to a certain extent. "The area is low-lying, and water accumulation happens even in May, when there's no rain. We are aware of the issue and are working on a solution," the official added.

The big question is: when will that long-promised solution finally become a reality?

TRIGGER-HAPPY CRUELTY? CALLS GROW TO CLAMP DOWN ON AIRGUNS AFTER RECENT DOG SHOOTING INCIDENTS

Months later, he was booked again for throwing boiling water on a puppy and killing it, but that case also failed to progress.

"In May, a dog we were feeding was shot and killed in Benaulim-Pedda. Since the pellets were not found during the autopsy, the case was closed," recalls Pereira. Another community dog was killed with an airgun near Taulaulim bridge last year, but there were no witnesses.

"There have been so many such cases," says a feeder from the Colva-Benaulim area, who asked not to be named. "I've been threatened with an airgun for feeding and medicating strays. One man said he'd shoot me and the dogs I feed. I didn't report it — I'm not an Indian citizen and just want to do my work quietly."

Virginia Simoes of the DSPCA believes the police must create and maintain a registry of airgun owners. "They're too easily bought online, and many use them to kill pigeons, cranes, and small wild animals for fun or food. The police need to acknowledge them as weapons, and have a database of people who own them," she says. Simoes, who has been liaising with the police regarding last week's shooting, reports that the airgun surrendered by the accused was not the one used in the crime. The police have now sent the gun for ballistic matching, which is expected to further delay the resolution of the case.

Retired PSI Madhuker Baiker notes that police do have the power to investigate, search premises, seize weapons, and file charges under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

Legal experts agree that stronger deterrents are necessary. Seoula Vaz, advocate for the DSPCA (North), says, "Though these areailable offences and the accused may cooperate, the use of a weapon to kill a defenceless animal must not be taken lightly. Violence against animals is not a private matter — it reflects a deeper threat to public safety and civil society."

The legal classification of airguns adds further complexity. Advocate Prasad Naik points out that under Indian law, airguns with a muzzle energy below 20 joules and a calibre of 0.177 inches do not require a licence. Higher-calibre weapons do. However, a recent Supreme Court stay on an order classifying all airguns as firearms has further clouded enforcement.

"There is no requirement to register an airgun of below 20 joules with the police," Naik says. "But if one is used to shoot an animal, the accused can be booked under Section 325 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, along with the relevant provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act."

CBSE CLASS-10 BOARD EXAMS TWICE A YEAR FROM 2026

"Students whose result in the first examination is compartment will be allowed to appear in the second examination under the compartment category. Additional subjects will not be permitted after passing Class-10, students will not be allowed in stand-alone subjects," he added.

According to the approved norms, Class-10 students from winter-bound schools will get an option to appear for the board exams in any of the two phases.

Similarly, sports students will be allowed to appear in the second phase in subjects which coincide with their sports events.

The internal assessment will be conducted only once during the academic session.

The CBSE announced the draft norms in February, which were put in the public domain for stakeholders' feedback, including from schools, teachers, parents, students and the public.

The draft norms said the two phases will be optional and students will get the choice to either appear for both, or any of the two.

The new NEP recommended that to eliminate the "high-

A fragile ceasefire between Iran, Israel

Gives rise to hopes for longer peace

AP, DUBAI: The fragile ceasefire between Israel and Iran appeared to be holding Wednesday after a rocky start, giving rise to cautious hope it could lead to a longer term peace agreement, even as Tehran insisted it would not give up its nuclear programme.

The ceasefire took hold Tuesday on the 12th day of the war between Israel and Iran, with each side initially accusing the other of violating it until the missiles, drones and bombs finally stopped.

On Wednesday, US President Donald Trump, who helped negotiate the ceasefire, told reporters at a NATO summit in the Netherlands that it was going "very well."

"They're not going to have a bomb and they're

not going to enrich," Trump added.

Iran has insisted, however, that it will not give up its nuclear program and in a vote underscoring the tough path ahead, Iranian parliament agreed to fast-track a proposal that would effectively stop the country's cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Vienna-based United Nations organisation that has been monitoring the Iranian nuclear program for years.

Ahead of the vote, parliamentary Speaker Mohammad BagherQalibaf criticized the IAEA for having "refused to even pretend to condemn the attack on Iran's nuclear facilities"

that were carried out by the US on Sunday.

stakes" aspect of the board exams, all students will be allowed to take the exams on up to two occasions during any given school year.

Both the examinations will be conducted on the full syllabus meant for the year and the scheme of studies and scheme of examinations will remain the same.

The Board has clarified that no separate supplementary exams will be conducted under this system. Instead, the second session of the Board exam will serve as the supplementary exam for those who wish to improve their scores.

At present also, students have an opportunity to improve their scores in supplementary exams.

"Presently, students can improve scores in two subjects and the improvement exams are conducted in July, the results of which are announced in August.

"So, in the new setup, the second phase of exams will be conducted in May and the results will be declared in June. Also, students can attempt to improve their scores in three subjects instead of two," Bhardwaj said.

INDIAN ORIGIN MAMDANI WINS NYC MAYORAL PRIMARY

US Senator Bernie Sanders congratulated Mamdani and his thousands of grassroots supporters for their "extraordinary campaign".

"You took on the political, economic and media Establishment - and you beat them. Now it's on to victory in the general election."

"My friends, we have done it. I will be your Democratic nominee for mayor of New York City. We have won from Harlem to Bay Ridge," a report in the New York Times quoted Mamdani as saying at a victory party in Queens.

As Cuomo conceded the race, he said: "Tonight was not our night. Tonight is his night. He deserved it. He won."

His website says he fought for the working class in and outside the legislature and his efforts include hunger striking alongside taxi drivers to achieve more than USD 450 million in transformative debt relief, winning over USD 100 million in the state budget for increased subway service and a successful fare-free bus pilot, and organising New Yorkers to defeat a proposed dirty power plant.

"The cost of living is crushing working people, but Zohran believes that government can lower costs and make life easier in our city — he'll use every tool available to bring down the rent, create world-class public transit, and make it easier to raise a family," his website said.

Mamdani has vowed that as Mayor, he will immediately freeze the rent for all stabilised tenants, and use every available resource to build the housing New Yorkers need and bring down the rent.

Promising fast, fare-free buses, his campaign said that as Mayor, he'll permanently eliminate the fare on every city bus — and make them faster by rapidly building priority lanes, expanding bus queue jump signals, and dedicated loading zones to keep double parkers out of the way.

Mamdani would also implement free childcare for every New Yorker aged 6 weeks to 5 years, ensuring high-quality programming for all families.

With food prices out of control, his campaign also promised that as Mayor, he would create a network of city-owned grocery stores focused on keeping prices low, not making a profit.

Before the flight, Shukla said that he hopes "to ignite the curiosity of an entire generation in my country" and drive innovation.

"I truly believe that even though I, as an individual, am travelling to space, this is the journey of 1.4 billion people," he said.

SHUBHANSHU SHUKLA SOARS INTO HISTORY

The Lucknow-born Shukla, former NASA astronaut Mission Commander Peggy Whitson, Slawosz Uznanski-Wisniewski of Poland, and Tibor Kapu of Hungary are part of the Axiom-4 mission that marks the return to space for the three nations.

Shukla became the first Indian astronaut to travel to the International Space Station, a journey that comes 41 years after Rakesh Sharma's eight days in orbit as part of the then Soviet Union's Salyut-7 space station in 1984.

"Namaskar, my dear countrymen; we have reached space after 41 years. It was a great ride," Shukla said.

"We are orbiting Earth at a speed of 7.5 km per second, I have the Indian tricolour embossed on my shoulders that tells me that I am with all of you," he said in Hindi.

"It is not just the start of my journey to the ISS but also of India's human spaceflight. I want each one of you to be part of this journey, let us embark on India's human space programme together," Shukla said.

Once in orbit, the astronauts revealed the name they gave to their brand-new capsule — Grace.

"Good things come to those who wait. Godspeed to the maiden crew of Grace," SpaceX told the crew.

The astronauts will spend 14 days at the International Space Station and conduct 60 experiments during their mission.