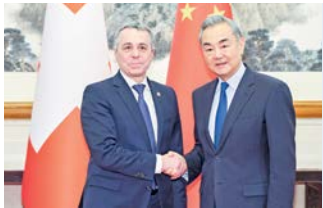




Russian Prez Vladimir Putin chairs a meet on economic issues via videoconference at Novo-Ogaryovo state residence outside of Moscow



Swiss Federal Councillor and Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis (L) shakes hands with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi, in Beijing



Harvey Weinstein appears for his retrial in Manhattan Criminal Court, in New York



US VP J D Vance stops at Ramstein Air Base, Germany to refuel while en route to Joint Base Andrews, Maryland

allovertheworld



UK Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport Lisa Nandy speaks at a reception celebrating the India-UK cultural partnership, in London, on Wednesday evening

Man gets life sentence after admitting to shooting at 2022 July Fourth parade

WAUKEGAN: The suburban Chicago man who admitted to fatally shooting seven people and wounding dozens of others during a 2022 Independence Day parade was sentenced Thursday to life in prison without the possibility of parole. Lake County Judge Victoria Rossetti handed down the sentence after emotional testimony from survivors and the relatives of those killed in the shooting. After years of unpredictable legal proceedings, Robert E Crimo III, 24, changed his plea to guilty last month just moments before opening statements at his trial. Dozens were wounded in the shooting in the suburb about 30 miles (50 kilometres) north of Chicago. They ranged in age from their 80s to an 8-year-old boy who was left partially paralysed. Crimo refused to attend his sentencing hearing Wednesday or Thursday despite a judge's previous warnings that the case would proceed without him.

AP, KYIV: Russia pounded Kyiv with an hourslong barrage of missiles and drones on Thursday, killing at least 12 people in its deadliest assault on the Ukrainian capital since July and drawing a rare rebuke of Moscow from US President Donald Trump just as peace efforts were coming to a head.

The attack kept residents on edge for about 11 hours, with many staying awake all night while loud explosions reverberated around the city and flashes of light punctuated the sky.

UKRAINE CONFLICT

Families gathered in public air-raid shelters, some of them bringing cats and dogs. The strikes that began around 1 am hit at least five neighbourhoods and heavily damaged multiple residential buildings. Around 90 people were wounded.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he would cut short his official trip to South Africa and return home as the city reeled from the bombardment. It appeared to be Russia's biggest attack on Kyiv in nine months, and Zelenskyy called it one of Russia's "most outrageous".

Trump, who has long been reluctant to criticise the Kremlin, said he was "not happy" with it. He implored Russian President Vladimir Putin, to cease the



Ukrainian rescuers carry the body of a victim as they operate at the site of a Russian missile attack in Kyiv on Thursday, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine

devastating strikes.

"Not necessary, and very bad timing. Vladimir, STOP!" Trump wrote on his social media platform Truth Social.

Senior US officials have warned that the Trump administration could soon give up its efforts to stop the war if the two sides do not come to agreement to halt the fighting.

The Ukrainian air force said Russia fired 66 ballistic and cruise missiles, four plane-launched air-to-surface missiles, and 145 Shad and decoy drones at Kyiv and four other regions of Ukraine. Rescue workers with flashlights scoured the charred rubble of partly collapsed homes as the

blue lights of emergency vehicles lit up the dark city streets.

The attack came as weeks of peace negotiations appeared to be culminating without an agreement in sight and hours after Trump lashed out at Zelenskyy, accusing him of prolonging the "killing field" by refusing to surrender the Russia-occupied Crimea Peninsula as part of a possible deal.

Kyiv Mayor Vitalii Klitschko announced that Friday would be an official day of mourning in the capital.

Zelenskyy says future of negotiations depends on Moscow Zelenskyy has repeated

more than three-year war that recognising occupied territory as Russian is a red line for his country. He noted Thursday that Ukraine agreed to a US ceasefire proposal 44 days ago, as a first step to a negotiated peace, but that Russia's attacks continued.

He said in South Africa that the latest attack meant the future of negotiations "depends on Russia's intention because it is in Moscow where they have to make a decision".

During recent talks, Russia has hit the city of Sumy, killing more than 30 civilians gathered to celebrate Palm Sunday, battered Ode-

In rare criticism of Putin, Trump urges him to 'STOP!'

AP, WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump on Thursday offered rare criticism of Vladimir Putin, urging the Russian leader to "STOP!" after a deadly barrage of attacks on Kyiv, Ukraine's capital.

"I am not happy with the Russian strikes on KYIV. Not necessary, and very bad timing. Vladimir, STOP! 5000 soldiers a week are dying," Trump said in a post on his Truth Social platform. "Lets get the Peace Deal DONE!"

Trump's frustration is growing as a US-led effort to get a peace agreement between Ukraine and Russia has not made progress.

Trump lashed out at Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Wednesday and accused him of prolonging the "killing field" by refusing to surrender the Russia-oc-

cupied Crimea Peninsula as part of a possible deal.

Zelenskyy has repeated many times during the war that began when Russia invaded in February 2022 that recognising occupied territory as Russia's is a red line for Ukraine. Zelenskyy noted Thursday that Ukraine had agreed to a US ceasefire proposal 44 days ago as a first step to a negotiated peace, but that Moscow's attacks had continued.

Trump's criticism of Putin is notable because Trump has repeatedly said Russia, the aggressor in the conflict, is more willing than Ukraine to get a deal done.

"I thought it might be easier to deal with Zelenskyy," Trump told reporters Wednesday. "So far it's been harder, but that's OK. It's all right."

sa with drones and blasted Zaporizhzhia with powerful glide bombs.

The European Union's foreign policy chief, Kaja Kallas, said the latest attack underscored that the main obstacle to ending the war is Russia.

"While claiming to seek peace, Russia launched a deadly airstrike on Kyiv," she wrote on social media. "This isn't a pursuit of peace, it's a mockery of it."

French President Emmanuel Macron said Putin should "stop lying" when he claims to want peace while continuing to bomb Ukraine.

"Putin demonstrates through his actions, not words, that he does not respect any peace efforts and only wants to continue the war," Sybiha said on X. "Weakness and concessions will not stop his terror and aggression. Only strength and pressure will."

FROM PAGE 1

PAHALGAM FALLOUT: PAKISTAN PUTS SIMLA ACCORD ON HOLD

That call was taken by India after the attack Tuesday in Pahalgam that killed 26 people, mostly tourists. The Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy of the banned Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba claimed responsibility for the attack.

As tensions escalated, Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar postponed his visit next week to Bangladesh. The stock market in Pakistan saw a sharp dip Thursday.

A statement issued after the Islamabad meeting, which included key minister and the three services chiefs, said Pakistan's armed forces "remain fully capable and prepared to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity against any misadventure".

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said there were reports that India was planning to target different cities through terrorist acts. "If our citizens are targeted then Indian people will also suffer," he told reporters after the meeting. Pakistan pointedly mentioned the 1972 Simla Agreement that said differences will be settled through negotiations, and recognised the Line of Control between the two countries.

"Pakistan shall exercise the right to hold all bilateral agreements with India, including but not limited to the Simla Agreement, in abeyance till India desists from its manifested behaviour of fomenting terrorism inside Pakistan; transnational killings; and non-adherence to international law and UN Resolutions on Kashmir," it said.

The statement said Pakistan will close down the Wagah border post with immediate effect. On Wednesday, India had closed the Attari border point.

"All cross-border transit from India through this route shall be suspended, without exception. Those who have crossed with valid endorsements may return through that route immediately but not later than April 30," Pakistan said.

Pakistan said all visas under the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme (SVES) issued to Indian nationals were deemed cancelled, with the exception of those given to Sikh pilgrims.

Pakistan declared the Indian military advisers at New Delhi's mission in Islamabad persona non grata, asking them to leave by April 30, replicating the Indian move. Their support staff would also leave. New Delhi, in any case, had announced the previous evening that it is pulling its own personnel from the high commission.

The strength of the Indian High Commission in Islamabad will be reduced to 30 diplomats and staff members, the same as that of Pakistan in India.

"All trade with India, including to and from any third country through Pakistan, is suspended forthwith," the statement said.

Pakistan's NSC "rejected" the Indian decision to suspend the Indus Waters Treaty, and called it a lifeline for 240 million Pakistanis. "Any attempt to stop or divert the flow of water belonging to Pakistan as per the Indus Waters Treaty and the usurpation of the rights of lower riparian will be considered as an Act of war," it said.

A Notice to Airmen, or NOTAM, issued later in the day indicated that the airspace was being closed to Indian aircraft for a month. It was not immediately clear that the ban would be extended after this period.

Pakistan said it unequivocally condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

"It remains committed to peace but will never allow anyone to transgress its sovereignty, security, dignity, and their inalienable rights," it said.

"Any threat to Pakistan's sovereignty and to the security

of its people will be met with firm reciprocal measures in all domains. India should refrain from its reflexive blame game and cynical, staged, managed exploitation of incidents like Pahalgam to further its narrow political agenda," Pakistan said.

Pakistan accused India of putting out a "worn-out narrative of victimhood", fomenting terrorism on Pakistan's soil borders, carrying out "state oppression" in Kashmir and persecuting Muslims. "Attempts at forced passage of Waqf Bill are the latest effort to marginalise Muslims across India.

It alleged that Indian attempts to link Pakistan to attempts to link the Pahalgam attack with Pakistan are "frivolous, devoid of rationality and defeat logic".

WE WILL IDENTIFY, TRACK, PUNISH EVERY TERRORIST & THEIR BACKERS: PM

He said, "India's spirit will never be broken by terrorism. Terrorism will not go unpunished."

In the stern message, he said, "Every effort will be made to ensure that justice is done. The entire nation is firm in this resolve. Everyone who believes in humanity is with us. I thank the people of various countries and their leaders who have stood with us in these times."

In a message to Pakistan without naming the country, Modi said he will state it categorically that the terrorists who carried out the attack and those who hatched the conspiracy, they will be punished beyond their imagination. "Punishment will definitely be served."

HC PETITION CHALLENGES TRANSFER OF PARKING SPACE TO CASINO

Following these developments, a May 24, 2017, notification by the District Magistrate formally designated a 627 square metres section of the site as a pay parking zone for public use.

Despite this official designation, the petitioner claims that the CoP went on to lease out the same section, including the designated parking zone, to the casino operator without conducting a proper public bidding process or adhering to the legal framework governing public property transfers.

Sukhija has alleged that subsequent orders issued by the District Magistrate — one on December 13, 2023, and another on March 22, 2024 — revoked the parking designation without public notice or publication in the Official Gazette, effectively clearing the way for the casino to use the area for its operations.

The petition argues that such actions have stripped citizens and tourists of a vital parking facility in the heart of the city and amount to a misuse of authority by the concerned officials. "This arbitrary decision to divert a public facility for private commercial use not only affects accessibility but also represents a gross disregard for statutory obligations," the PIL asserts.

Among the reliefs sought, the petitioner has asked the High Court to nullify the de-notification orders and the No Objection Certificate (NOC) granted to the casino firm, and to restore the public parking facility.

Sukhija also demanded the removal of temporary and permanent structures erected at the site and called for a judicial probe into the conduct of the CoP and the District Magistrate. He has urged the Court to initiate disciplinary and criminal proceedings against the two officials for what he describes as an illegal handover of public land.

Pending final adjudication of the case, the petitioner has requested interim measures including a stay on the de-notification orders and a halt to all business activities by the casino within the disputed area.

MANY GOANS CANCEL THEIR KASHMIR BOOKINGS

According to it, about 62% Indian families who had planned to visit Kashmir between May and December 2025 have cancelled their trips. In Goa too, flight cancellations have surged and mercifully, travel agents report that private airlines are readily refunding the charges.

Mahesh Mahambre, a tour operator said, "Some Goans who had planned a trip to Kashmir in May have cancelled. They are now thinking of visiting some other domestic destination."

Despite most Goans cancelling bookings, Trade Wings general manager Veligno Dias claimed that a few of them were brave enough to go ahead with their plan to visit the scenic Valley.

"A group sent by us to Kashmir returned four days ago and others are lined up though we have told them to exercise caution. The Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI), Jammu & Kashmir Chapter, has given us an assurance on safety. My groups are now planning to leave on May 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. Another group which was scheduled to leave on April 30 will now leave on May 10. I am also planning to visit Kashmir along with one of the groups in order to rebuild confidence among the tourists."

According to Dias, the Travel Agents Association of India, Jammu & Kashmir Chapter has set up a helpline and is providing all the required help and assistance to the tourists.

ARCHBISHOP FERRAO LEAVES FOR ROME

The Archbishop also shared that Pope Francis was not even bothered of his security, saying that "God will take care of me". Secondly, he was a man for others. His life was a perfect self gift of Love. In his apostolic exhortation 'EvangeliiGaudium' he exhorted the Church to soil their hands while serving the people and witnessing the Gospel. He himself put this into practice in his life, he lived a humble life and made himself available to all. He gave special attention to the Old, disabled and children. In his encyclical 'FratelliTutti' he highlighted that the church has to be merciful,

Urging the people to carry on the legacy of Pope Francis, the Archbishop said, "The Pope Francis called us to make the church not a museum of saints but a hospital for sinners. The pontiff wanted the Church to be an all embracing, inclusive church. He was also a pope of Peace hoping that there would be peace in the world. Pope Francis was a man of Inter-religious dialogue and wanted to build bridges of friendship. Finally through his encyclical 'Laudato Si' he called everyone to protect and preserve nature."

The Archbishop highlighted that the Pope often spoke of ecological Justice and intergenerational justice, calling earth as our home and that it is the duty of the members of the church to protect and preserve nature.

Archbishop Ferrao called upon everyone to thank God for such a humble, holy and exemplary Pope and pray that God may grant him eternal rest.

He urged them to follow him in becoming humble, loving, understanding and service oriented followers of Christ.

Auxiliary Bishop SimiaoPurificacaoFernandes,who is in Jerusalem for a seminar, through a communication, expressed his grief and offered prayers for beloved Pope Ponicis while spiritually uniting himself with the faithful of the Archdiocese.

The atmosphere was filled with prayerful Gregorian chants and soul touching Konkani and Latin Hymns by the choir led by Fr Romeo Monteiro. The Liturgy was organised by Fr AfonsoMendonca and commentary was done by

Fr Henry Falcao.

Sources added that the Cardinal left Goa for Rome on Thursday night.

PROHIBITORY ORDERS IMPOSED IN MANIPUR

"The 24-hour bandh will start from the intervening night of April 24 and April 25," the statement said.

The JAC asserted that Khoisnam was a "village volunteer" who was sent to Manipur Central Jail at Saijai on April 10 and was admitted to Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences on April 13, where he was pronounced dead. Protests were held for the past few days at various parts of the Khurai constituency in Imphal East district in connection with the death.

Orders issued by Imphal East district magistrate said, "There is information and apprehension regarding likelihood of serious breach of peace, disturbance to public tranquillity and grave danger to human lives and properties because of the 24-hour bandh called by the JAC against the death of KhoisnamSanajaoba."

The orders prohibited the assembly of five or more people, carrying sticks, stones, firearms, sharp weapons and explosive materials from midnight of April 24 to midnight of April 25. The prohibition shall apply in the area of Khurai, Lamlong and Porompat in Imphal East district, it said.

SC TO UGC: NOTIFY DRAFT REGULATIONS ON DISCRIMINATION AND RAGGING

The top court said it goes without saying such suggestions will be considered.

Senior advocate Indira Jaising, appearing for the mothers of students RohithVemula and PayalTadvi, who allegedly died by suicide after facing caste-based discrimination, said the UGC had merged the guidelines for sexual harassments, ragging and discrimination.

While Vemula, a PhD scholar at Hyderabad Central University died on January 17, 2016, Tadvi, a student at TN Topiwala National Medical College, died on May 22, 2019, after she was subjected to purported discrimination by three doctors in her college.

NOISE FROM BAGA SHACKS RATTLES RESIDENTS OF RETREAT

Fr Pereira recounted a brief period of silence following the April 4 NMC meeting, when members of the Pollution Control Board and the police visited the site. "There was silence during the visit, and we were shocked. But once they left, the loud music resumed. I even contacted the Tourism Police, who acknowledged the noise but claimed that action could only be taken by the SDPO or SP," he said. The disturbances are not limited to music. Residents in the area have also reported late-night fireworks. "I get startled awake in the middle of the night by the sound of firecrackers. It's disturbing," said local resident Aeldrid Pinto.

Newly appointed resident members of the NMC, Captain Gerald Fernandes (Retd) and Kamlakar Naik, noted that the responsibility for maintaining public peace does not rest with the police alone. They emphasized the roles of the GSPCB, the Excise Department, the Tourism Department, and officials implementing the Goa Shops and Establishments Act.

The minutes from the April 4 meeting also record that the Additional Collector-I directed GSPCB and SDM representatives to ensure that CCTV installation is made a condition for future permissions issued to establishments.

