

France Prison Break: Inmate Hides In Cellmate's Laundry Bag, Escapes Jail

A prisoner hid himself in the laundry bag of his cellmate, who was being freed after serving his time in Corbas prison near the French city of Lyon, and escaped the jail premises. The escaped inmate was serving his sentence for multiple crimes, including suspected links to organised crime, according to a report by CNN.

France prison administration director Sebastien Cauwel told BFMTV that the staff noticed on Saturday that the 20-year-old inmate was missing and admitted there had been negligence on their part. He said the man "took advantage" of his fellow inmate's release to escape from prison.

Highlighting the prison's overcrowding, he said that it sometimes gets difficult for the staff to manage the inmates. The prison is designed to hold 678 inmates but currently houses around 1,200, 170 per cent more than it was supposed to hold, he said.

Mr Cauwel said, "This is an extremely rare event that we have never seen in this administration and which clearly shows a whole series of serious failures." He added that the prison launched an immediate internal investigation.

Last year, a group of armed men attacked a prison convoy in Normandy, France, to help a prisoner escape. The incident led to the killing of two prison guards and left three others injured.

According to France's Justice Minister, Eric Dupond-Moretti, the incident took place while the inmate was being taken from court to a nearby prison.

CNN obtained a video from the scene in which a black SUV was seen in flames that looked like it had crashed into the prison van near a toll booth on the highway. Later, the escaped prisoner, who was nicknamed The Fly, was caught again in Romania in February 2025, Reuters reported.

Huge Fireball In Sky As Small Plane Crashes At London Southend Airport

LONDON: Emergency services raced Sunday to the scene of a small plane crash at London Southend Airport.

In a statement on social media, the airport confirmed a "serious incident" involving what it termed a general aviation aircraft.

Images posted on social media show a plume of fire and black smoke emanating from the crash site. The plane involved is said to be 12 meters (39 feet) long.

Witness John Johnson, who was at the airport with his family, said he saw a "big fireball" after the plane "crashed head first into the ground."

"It took off, and about three or four seconds after taking off, it started to bank heavily to its left, and then within a few seconds of that happening, it more or less inverted and crashed just head first into the ground," he said. "There was a big fireball."

Johnson said the airport's fire service responded straight away, with two fire engines sent to the crash site, followed by local police, ambulance and fire services.

Essex Police said it had been alerted just before 4 p.m. local time to the "serious incident" at the relatively small airport, which is around 45 miles (72 kilometers) east of the capital.

No details on where the plane was heading or how many people were on board were immediately disclosed.

"We are working with all emergency services at the scene now and that work will be ongoing for several hours," Essex Police said.

As a precaution due to their proximity to the incident, police evacuated a local golf club and rugby club.

The local member of parliament, David Burton-Sampson, urged people to stay away and let the emergency services do their work. "My thoughts are with everyone involved," he said.

New Sicilian Law Challenges Italy's Abortion Taboos



Monia, a Sicilian woman in her early forties, was overjoyed when she discovered in October 2022 she was expecting her first child. Her doctor, however, recommended a genetic test due to her age, and the result was one no parent wants to receive.

The foetus had a genetic syndrome. Monia, who declined to give her surname, asked her gynaecologist what she could do.

"Nothing. You don't want to terminate, do you?" the doctor asked her, she said.

He was a conscientious objector, Monia said, one of hundreds on the southern Italian island. More than 80% of gynaecologists in Sicily refuse to perform abortions for moral or religious reasons, according to the latest health ministry data, which dates to 2022, even though the procedure has been a legal right for women in Italy since 1978.

To address that situation, in late May Sicily's regional council - run by a centre-right coalition - passed a law in a secret ballot requiring all

public hospitals to create dedicated abortion wards and to hire staff willing to provide the service.

Under the national rules, abortion is permitted within the first 90 days of a pregnancy, or later if there are risks to the mother's health or foetal abnormalities. The latter circumstance applied to Monia, who went to the Sant'Antonio Abate hospital in the city of Trapani, in western Sicily, to terminate her pregnancy.

"All the gynaecologists were objectors," she said. "An obstetrician gave me a bed with only a mattress cover and said they would administer a pill every three hours until I went into labour." She was told she would receive no further assistance. Her story is far from unique in southern Italy, where cultural traditions are more conservative than in the Catholic country's richer north and centre.

At first, Monia's pills were ineffective, but after five days and a change of treatment she finally miscarried, attended to by a doctor and a

midwife.

Hospital staff referred to her as "Article 6," she said, after the provision in the law that allows abortions beyond 90 days.

In response to a request for comment, the Sant'Antonio Abate hospital said it was sorry for Monia's "difficult experience". However, the hospital said it was unable to verify the facts because both the hospital manager and the head of the gynaecology department at that time had left.

The hospital said it now has three non-objecting doctors and was able to provide abortion services.

Abortions are only available in around half of Sicily's hospitals, health ministry data shows, a figure much lower than in central and northern Italy, where rates are around 70%. Like most of his colleagues, Fabio Guardala, a 60-year-old doctor, refuses to perform abortions. He operates at the Cannizzaro hospital in the Sicilian city of Catania, on the east coast of the island.

"A doctor's job is to heal," said Guardala, who is also deputy head of a healthcare unit at his local Catholic church. "Abortion is not treatment but killing. Nobody can force a doctor to kill." Silvia Vaccari, president of the Italian federation of midwives, FNOPO, said health outcomes can be grim in areas where legal abortions are hard to access.

Prince George's Dramatic Courtside Reaction At Wimbledon Goes Viral

He beat Novak Djokovic, the only active member of "the Big Four of men's tennis", in what many said could turn out to be the seven-time Wimbledon champion's last game at the iconic tournament. A day-and-a-half later, when Jannik Sinner took to the court to face Carlos Alcaraz, the two-time defending champion for Gentlemen's Singles, he - once again - took no prisoners.

Despite losing the first set to the world number 2 on Sunday, Sinner scripted a dominant comeback, beating the man who came better off him only a few weeks ago at the Roland Garros.

While the 23-year-old's breakthrough win had tennis fans cheering, it was Prince George's dramatic courtside reaction that lit up the internet.

The 11-year-old heir to the throne was seen with his family, Prince William, Kate Middleton, and Princess Charlotte, watching the high-stakes final on Centre Court. A particularly tense moment saw Prince George rise from his seat, both hands pressed on the table, his face etched with stress. A snapshot of the moment quickly went viral on social media. One user on X imagined Prince George thinking, "Once this kingdom is mine we shan't play these silly peasant games. We shall refine the forges and the wheels of industry shall turn once more."

"Putin Talks Nice, Then Bombs Everybody": Trump To Send Patriots To Ukraine

UNITED STATES: President Donald Trump on Sunday said Washington would send Patriot air defense systems to Kyiv and hinted at new sanctions on Russia, once again voicing displeasure with Russian leader Vladimir Putin over Moscow's war in Ukraine.

The US president's announcement of the much-needed weapons for Ukraine came after he earlier said he would make a "major statement... on Russia" on Monday.

The announcement could come amid a diplomatic flurry set for Monday, with the US special envoy starting his latest trip to Ukraine and Trump set to meet with NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte in Washington.

Moscow's offensive on Ukraine has lasted for more than three years, with attacks intensifying this summer and US-led negotiations so far yielding no results to end the fighting.

"We will send them Patriots, which they desperately need," Trump said Sunday, without specifying how many weapons he would send to Ukraine.

"I haven't agreed on the number yet, but they're going to have some because they do need protection," he told reporters



at Joint Base Andrews, as he returned from watching the FIFA Club World Cup final in New Jersey.

The White House has U-turned from an announcement earlier this month that it would pause some arms deliveries to Kyiv, instead announcing a new deal which would involve NATO paying the United States for some of the weapons it sends to Ukraine.

"We basically are going to send them various pieces of very sophisticated military and they're going to pay us 100 per cent for them," Trump said.

"It'll be business for us," he added.

Earlier this week, President Volodymyr Zelensky said Ukraine was "close to reaching a multi-level agreement on new Patriot systems and missiles for them."

Trump also repeated that he was "disappointed" in the Russian leader, as he grows increasingly exas-

perated with Putin.

"Putin really surprised a lot of people. He talks nice and then he bombs everybody in the evening," said the disgruntled Trump.

When he first returned to the White House in January, Trump insisted he could work with the Russian leader to end the war, holding off on hiking sanctions unlike European allies.

But Russia has for months refused a ceasefire proposed by the United States and Kyiv.

Trump has repeatedly voiced displeasure with Putin in recent days, and on Sunday hinted he might finally be ready to toughen sanctions as momentum grows for a deterrent package in Congress.

When asked about whether he would announce any sanctions against Russia, Trump responded: "We're going to see what we will see tomorrow, OK?" and repeated plans to meet with Rutte.

Rajasthan Man Among 3 Indians Kidnapped By Al Qaeda-Linked Group In Mali

Three Indian nationals, including a resident of Rajasthan, a man from Telangana, and an engineer from Odisha, were kidnapped on July 1 in the West African nation of Mali. The kidnappings took place during an armed assault by suspected terrorists affiliated with Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimeen (JNIM), a group linked to Al-Qaeda. The incident occurred at the Diamond Cement Factory, located in the Kayes region of western Mali.

As of today, there has been no public claim of responsibility by the group, but the attack has been linked to recent operations carried out by JNIM. The group has previously targeted foreign workers, government installations, and military outposts across Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso.

One of the victims has been identified as Prakash Chand Joshi, a native of Jaipur. Another is Amaralingeswara Rao, a 45-year-old resident of Miryalaguda, Telangana, who had been working in Mali since 2015. The third is P Venkataraman, 28, from



Odisha's Ganjam district, employed with Mumbai-based Blue Star Pvt Ltd. He had been stationed at the Diamond Cement facility for about six months.

The Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has confirmed the identities of the kidnapped individuals and stated that it is in regular contact with the Malian authorities, local law enforcement, and the families involved. Speaking from Jaipur, Suman Joshi, wife of Prakash Chand Joshi, told said that her husband was taken "forcibly by armed men" from the premises of the cement factory. There has been no direct contact with him since the kidnapping, she said. The family has reached



out to the Ministry of External Affairs for assistance and has appealed to the Indian government to secure his release at the earliest.

In Miryalaguda, Amaralingeswara Rao's wife Venkataramana said she was informed of the kidnapping by the company he worked for. "I last spoke to him on the night of June 30. Since then, there has been no contact. We've received no official update from the government so far," she told news agency PTI. The couple has three children, and the family has appealed publicly for intervention.

In Odisha, P Narasamma, mother of Venkataraman, said she received a call from a company official on July 4

informing her that her son was "in police custody," only to later hear unconfirmed reports that he may have been abducted. "First they said he is in custody, now we hear he is in captivity," she said, visibly distressed.

The Diamond Cement Factory, where the kidnapping took place, is operated by the Prasadiya Group, an Indian business conglomerate with commercial interests in several African nations. It employs foreign technical staff, including Indian nationals. The company has not issued any public statement as of July 14.

The Sahel region, which includes Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso, has seen a steady escalation of violence since 2012, when insurgencies began to spread from northern Mali. The conflict has been fuelled by political instability, the rise of militant Islamist groups, and weak state presence in rural areas. The Global Terrorism Index (GTI) earlier this year described the region as the current epicentre of global terrorism, accounting for more than half of all terrorism-related deaths globally.

US Teacher Charged With Multiple Counts of Sexual Abuse Against Minors

A former US teacher has been charged with multiple counts of sexual abuse after a female relative came forward to report her to the police.

Taji Hillson was arrested on July 2 on one count of sexual assault against a minor under the age of 14, one offence of sexual assault, and three charges of lewdness with a minor under the age of 14, according to public records from the Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO).

Hillson, a 62-year-old former substitute physical education teacher at Roy Gomm Elementary School in the Washoe County School District in Reno, Nevada, was employed there from September 2022 through June 2025. She admitted to drugging the victim and touching at least a dozen youngsters inappropriately over the years. The Reno Police Department released an arrest report against Ms Hillson on Friday and set her bail at \$5 million, KOLO News 8 reported.

On April 30, an adult female relative reported Hillson to authorities, alleging the former PE teacher had drugged her using Benadryl and sexually abused her for decades. The sexual abuse allegedly started when the victim was a youngster and continued into adulthood.

"Throughout her childhood and adulthood, she would feel sexual pleasure while sleeping and often wake up with... (Hillson) hovering over her," the sexual assault report said.



The relative provided police several text exchanges in which Ms Hillson acknowledged "drugging her and touching her inappropriately."

In the two months that followed, she submitted four more complaints, each including more text disclosures from the defendant about Ms Hillson "inappropriately touching other children."

Hillson eventually admitted to drugging and harassing her cousin, including incidents of penetration around the age of 8, in a police interview on June 25, according to PEOPLE. She also told police that she continued doing the same when a relative came home from college in 2014.

She also admitted that she had sexually touched a neighbour's two-year-old child in a public pool in the past few years, as well as at least a dozen other children, most of whom were family.

According to the report, the defendant claimed she carried out "all of the actions because she has never felt 'seen' and desired to be close with another person."

AI Drives 38% Decline In White- Collar Jobs In UK, Finds McKinsey

UK businesses are dialing back hiring for jobs that are likely to be affected by the rollout of artificial intelligence, a study found, suggesting the new technology is accentuating a slowdown in the nation's labour market. Job vacancies have declined across the board in the UK as employers cut costs in the face of sluggish growth and high borrowing rates, with the overall number of online job postings down 31% in the three months to May compared with the same period in 2022, a McKinsey & Co. analysis found.

But it has been the most acute for occupations expected to be significantly altered by AI: Postings for such jobs - like white-collar ones in tech or finance - dropped 38%, almost twice the decline seen elsewhere, according to the consulting firm. "The anticipation of significant - albeit uncertain - future productivity gains, especially as the technology and its applications mature, is prompting companies to review their workforce strategies and pause aspects of their recruitment," said Tera Allas, a senior adviser at McKinsey. The trend appears to be exerting another drag on the UK job market just as tax increases prompt cuts in lower-skilled sectors like retail and hospitality and the

pace of economic growth stalls. Occupations considered to be highly exposed to AI - meaning the technology can replace at least some of the tasks involved - have recorded the sharpest contractions in vacancies, McKinsey's analysis showed. Demand for jobs such as programmers, management consultants or graphic designers fell more than 50% over the last three years. Some of that may also be due to industry-specific issues and a challenging macroeconomic backdrop. But McKinsey said in some sectors, like professional services and information technology, the number of job openings dropped even as businesses reported healthy growth rates.

Data shared by job-search website Indeed also indicated early signs that AI is affecting hiring decisions. It showed that employers tend to cut hiring in fields that involve building or using AI tools, according to Pawel Adrijan, director of EMEA economic research at the Indeed Hiring Lab.

For example, vacancies in mathematics, which mainly consist of data science and analytics roles, had the highest share of AI mentions in job descriptions but are down almost 50% from pre-pandemic levels.

Amid Air India Probe, Etihad To Check Fuel Switch Locks On Boeing 787 Planes



Etihad Airways has advised its pilots operating Boeing 787 Dreamliners to "exercise caution" when handling the aircraft's fuel control switches. In a safety directive, the Dubai-based airline also ordered a fleet-wide inspection of the locking mechanisms on these switches as a precaution. This came after preliminary findings from India's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) into the crash of Air India Flight 171 were published on June 12.

The AAIB report revealed that both engine fuel control switches on the Air India aircraft were moved from the 'RUN' to 'CUTOFF' position seconds after takeoff from Ahmedabad. This led to a complete loss of engine thrust. Audio from the cockpit voice recorder captured

one pilot asking the other, "Why did you cut off fuel?" to which the response was, "I didn't."

Etihad has now taken an "abundance of caution" approach. It has also released a separate engineering bulletin ordering a fleet-wide inspection of the locking mechanisms of the fuel control switches.

The directive, dated July 12 and reviewed by NDTV, instructs engineers to check whether the left and right fuel control switches on Boeing 787 aircraft can be moved between 'CUTOFF' and 'RUN' without lifting the locking mechanism. If the switches move freely without lifting, the locking feature is considered faulty, and the Thrust Control Module (TCM) must be replaced. If the switches stay locked unless lifted, no

action is needed.

"Exercise caution when operating the fuel control switches or any other switches/controls in their vicinity," the airline says.

The action by Etihad comes amid renewed scrutiny of a 2018 advisory issued by the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), which warned operators of certain Boeing aircraft to inspect the locking mechanisms on fuel control switches.

The AAIB report said that Air India failed to act on this advisory. While both the FAA and Boeing have since claimed that the existing switch design does not present an unsafe condition requiring a formal airworthiness directive, airlines including Etihad and Singapore Airlines have initiated precautionary inspections across their 787 fleets.

A recent message from the FAA said the current fuel switch locking system is working as intended, as per Reuters.

It reminded global aviation bodies of its earlier 2018 safety advisory. Boeing also sent a similar note to airlines, saying the locks meet safety rules and do not need changes.

Tesla Shareholders To Have An Option To Invest In xAI: Elon Musk

UNITED STATES: Tesla will give its shareholders the option to invest in artificial intelligence startup xAI, billionaire owner of both companies Elon Musk said on his social media platform X.

"It's not up to me... We will have a shareholder vote on the matter," Musk said in response to a social media user suggesting that the electric car maker take a stake in xAI, which recently acquired X.

"If it was up to me, Tesla would have invested in xAI long ago," the world's richest man said.

According to the Wall Street Journal, another company controlled by Elon Musk, SpaceX, will invest \$2 billion into xAI as part of its \$5 billion capital raise.

Responding to an X user who cited the WSJ's news story, Musk said that "it would be great" but "would depend on board and shareholder approval."

Since the launch of xAI -- which developed the generative AI assistant Grok -- Musk has floated the potential synergies between the AI start-up and his two crown jewels, SpaceX and Tesla.

According to the Financial Times, the businessman is seeking a valuation between \$170 and \$200

billion for xAI in a new funding round.

Launched in July 2023, xAI is hoping to catch up with its major generative AI competitors, OpenAI (ChatGPT), Anthropic (Claude) and Google (Gemini).

The start-up has invested heavily in a gigantic data center in Memphis, Tennessee, which Musk claims will become the "most powerful AI training system in the world."

He has purchased another plot of land nearby to create more data centers, which are essential for developing and running large-scale artificial intelligence models.

According to Bloomberg, xAI is costing over a billion dollars every month as it builds upgraded models, with its expenses far exceeding its revenues.

xAI's virtual assistant Grok has been the source of a series of controversies.

After an update on July 7, some of the chatbot's responses praised Adolf Hitler and suggested that people with Jewish surnames were more likely to spread online hate.

On Saturday, xAI apologized for offensive posts, announcing that it had corrected the instructions that had led, according to the company, to these slip-ups.