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OECD SEES GLOBAL GROWTH SLOWING AS INFLATION, MONETARY TIGHTENING BITE

Global Recession Ahead

The global economic slowdown is beginning to dampen demand for the region's exports of commodities and manufactured goods, a report noted.

Now we have to weather what looks like an oncoming recession. I think a global recession. That's what I think we are edging into. But at the same time, we have to start thinking of the recovery. We have to restore growth. We have security shocks, we have climate shocks, we have energy shocks, we have food price shocks, and all of this hitting countries at the same time, so we cannot afford to do business as usual.

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director-General, WTO



ECB EXPECTS ECONOMIC ACTIVITY TO SLOW, INTEREST RATES TO INCREASE FURTHER

Brussels: The European Central Bank (ECB) expects economic activity in Europe to slow down substantially in the coming months, due to skyrocketing prices, decreased spending power and overall uncertainty, ECB President Christine Lagarde said.

PARIS | Agencies

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has said that global economic growth is projected to remain subdued in the second half of 2022, before slowing further in 2023 to an annual growth of just 2.2 per cent.

A key factor slowing global growth is the generalised tightening of monetary policy, driven by the greater-than-expected overshoot of inflation targets, the OECD added on Monday in its latest Economic Outlook.

Annual gross domestic product (GDP) growth is projected to slow sharply to 0.5 per cent in the US in 2023, and to 0.25 per cent in the eurozone, with risks of output declines in several European economies during the winter months.

The organisation noted that inflation has become broad-based in many economies, Xinhua news agency reported.

The OECD acknowledged that

WORLD BANK DOWNGRADES GROWTH FOR EAST ASIA & PACIFIC

Washington: The World Bank has downgraded growth for developing East Asia and Pacific to 3.2 per cent in 2022. The region's growth is projected to slow this year from 7.2 per cent in 2021, before accelerating to 4.6 per cent next year, according to the World Bank's newly released East Asia and Pacific Economic Update.

with the global economic cycle turning, energy price inflation subsiding and monetary tightening by most of the major central banks increasingly taking effect, consumer price inflation is expected to moderate gradually.

However, it still predicted that "annual inflation in 2023 will remain well above target almost everywhere".

BANK OF ENGLAND 'WILL NOT HESITATE' TO RAISE RATES AS POUND FALLS

London: The Bank of England (BoE) said that it "will not hesitate to change interest rates as necessary" after the British pound plunged to its lowest level against the US dollar since decimalisation in 1971.

It will make a full assessment at its next scheduled meeting of the impact on demand and inflation from the government's announcements, and the fall in sterling, and act accordingly, the central bank said in a statement on Monday while dampening the prospects of an emergency rate rise to shore up the pound.

SC Constitution bench to hear petitions against demonetisation

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A five-judge Constitution bench will on Wednesday hear petitions challenging Centre's decision to demonetise currency notes of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 in November 2016.

A bench of Justices S. Abdul Nazeer, B.R. Gavai, A.S. Bopanna, V. Ramasubramanian, and B.V. Nagarathna, will hear the petitions against demonetisation. This is the fourth Constitution bench which has been constituted in the apex court.



measure to curb the circulation of black money in the economy. The bench will also hear a matter in connection with issues relating to freedom of speech of public/state functionaries. It will hear another matter raising an issue, whether the immunity to legislative Assembly

members, under Article 194(2), in connection with any vote given by them in the legislature includes immunity against prosecution for bribery. The top court will also hear a matter in connection with questions under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

ABU SALEM GETS THREE-YEAR TERM IN FAKE PASSPORT CASE

Team Absolute | Lucknow

Former underworld don Abu Salem has been sentenced to three years in prison in a fake passport case. CBI's special judicial magistrate Samridhi Mishra pronounced the sentence here on Tuesday.

Apart from Abu Salem, another convict Parvez Alam has also been sentenced in the fake passport case.

Abu Salem a.k.a Abdul Qayoom Ansari, along with his associates Parvez Alam and Sameera Jumani, had applied for a passport in the name of Aqeel Ahmed Azmi at the Lucknow passport office in 1993. Salem affixed forged documents of fake name and address with the application and obtained passport, which he later used.



NIA conducts pan-India raids against PFI, several detained

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) was conducting raids in over eight states and at multiple locations linked to the Popular Front of India (PFI) members on Tuesday. Sources said that several people have been detained and the arrests will depend on their questioning.

The raids started early Tuesday morning and were going on. NIA sources said that in a few states the local police were con-



ducting raids at their instruction. Hiren Nath, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) (Special Branch), Assam said that they have detained five PFI members from the Nagarbera area. The DGP said that the raids were going on in many districts of Assam.

As many as 11 persons were held by the NIA in its recent raid. In Western Uttar Pradesh, four

persons have been taken into custody. In Maharashtra the Anti-Terror Squad (ATS) and the local police were conducting the raids in Aurangabad, Jalana and Parbhani districts. In Delhi, raids were on in Nizamuddin, Rohini, Jamia and in Shahin Bagh. Raids were being conducted after the NIA got fresh information during the questioning of the arrested PFI members.

ASHA PAREKH TO BE CONFERRED DADASAHEB PHALKE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Veteran Hindi film actress-director-producer Asha Parekh will soon be feted with the Lifetime Achievement honour for her contribution to cinema at this year's Dadasaheb Phalke Awards by President Droupadi Murmu. Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur took to his Twitter to announce the honour for the actress.



Hussain (Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan's uncle) cast her as the heroine in 'Dil Deke Dekho', opposite Shammi Kapoor, which made her a huge star. In 1992, she was honoured with the Padma Shri for her contribution to cinema. Three years later, Asha Parekh featured in 'Andolan' and subsequently hung up her boots after her cameo appearance in the 1999 film 'Sar Aankhon Par'.

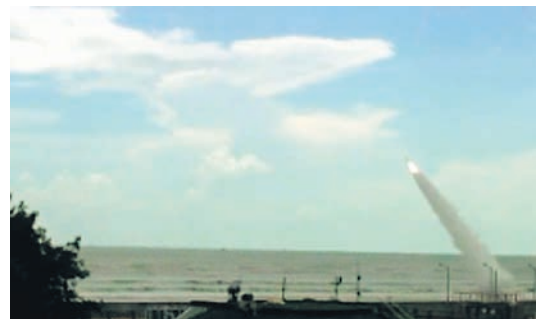
debut as a heroine, but she was rejected from Vijay Bhatt's 'Goonj Uthi Shehna' because the filmmaker claimed she was not star material. Later, film producer Subodh Mukherjee and writer-director Nasir

DRDO conducts successful test flight of short-range air defence missile

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The DRDO on Tuesday conducted two successful test flights of the very short range air defence system (VSHORADS) missile from a ground portable launcher at the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, off the Odisha coast, a statement said. Both the flight tests have completely met the mission objectives, the Defence Ministry statement said.

VSHORADS is a man-portable air defence system (MANPAD) designed



and developed indigenously by the Defence Research and Development Organisation's Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad in collaboration with other DRDO

laboratories and Indian industry partners. The missile incorporates many novel technologies including miniaturised reaction control system (RCS) and integrated avionics, which have been

successfully proven during the tests.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh complimented and appreciated the efforts of the DRDO and industry partners, saying that this new missile equipped with modern technologies will give further technological boost to the armed forces. The missile, meant for neutralising low-altitude aerial threats at short ranges, is propelled by a dual-thrust solid motor. The design of the missile and its launcher has been highly optimised to ensure easy portability.

Terrorist killed in encounter in J&K's Kulgam

Srinagar: One terrorist was killed in an ongoing encounter - the second in two days - between terrorists and security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district on Tuesday, police said.

"One terrorist killed. Operation in progress," police said. Earlier Jammu and Kashmir Police in a tweet, quoting Additional Director General Police Kashmir zone, Vijay Kumar, said that two local terrorists of proscribed terror outfit JeM were trapped in the ongoing encounter in Ahwatoa area of Kulgam. Both the trapped terrorists are involved in several terror crime cases.

A Pakistani terrorist belonging to terrorist outfit Jaish-e-Muhammed was killed in an encounter between terrorists and security forces at Batpora area in Kulgam on Monday.

Tuesday's firefight started after a joint team of police and security forces got an input about the presence of terrorists in that area, and cordoned it off. At this, terrorists hiding there started firing, and security forces retaliated.

There have been a series of encounters between terrorists and security forces across Kashmir in the recent past in which many terrorists have been eliminated.



RAJASTHAN CRISIS

Maken recommends disciplinary action against Dhariwal, two others

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Congress' Rajasthan in-charge Ajay Maken has recommended disciplinary action against three MLAs including Shanti Dhariwal, Mahesh Joshi and Dharmendra Rathore...



indiscipline by hosting a parallel MLAs meeting at your residence pressuring them not to attend the official meeting...

Sitharaman directs banks to enhance coverage of SCs in all schemes

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday called upon public sector banks to enhance coverage of Scheduled Castes (SCs) in all schemes...



take these up on priority through special drives from October 2 onwards. The minister also asked banks to fill up all backlog vacancies...

ONE HELD IN AHMEDABAD FOR HELPING ISI OPERATIVES

Ahmedabad: The Ahmedabad Crime Branch has arrested a person for providing access to new Indian cellular numbers to Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI)...

Delhi Liquor Scam: CBI makes first arrest, nabs businessman Vijay Nair

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In a latest development in the alleged excise policy scam in Delhi, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) made its first arrest on Tuesday by nabbing businessman Vijay Nair...



On behalf of Nair, Sameer Mahendru, Director of Indospirits, allegedly paid around Rs 2-4 crore to Arjun Pandey...

Sexual harassment allegations surface against K'taka varsity Vice-Chancellor

Mysuru | Agencies

Sexual harassment charges surfaced against the Vice-Chancellor of the Karnataka State Open University (KSOU) on Tuesday with a former syndicate member of Mysuru University, K Mahadevu releasing an audio clip...



Mahadevu has lodged a police complaint about the incident with the K R police station. Sudhakar Hosalli, the regional director who attempted to stop the press conference...

NGT slaps Rs 100 cr fine on Hry govt over improper legacy waste management

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has imposed a fine of Rs 100 crore on Haryana government with regard to unremediated legacy waste, which is damaging the environment and public health...



burnt, causing air pollution which has the potential to affect not only the inhabitants, but also the Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary having 193 species of birds...

Telangana Police officers paid over Rs 28 lakh in traffic fines

Hyderabad | Agencies

Telangana Police officials have paid a penalty of over Rs 28 lakh for violation of various traffic rules since 2018, a senior official said on Tuesday. The police officers have cleared 11,601 pending challans...



paid by the police officer concerned. He pointed out that even the TSRTC is being regularly fined and they had cleared off all the pending challans in April 2022...

CALCUTTA HC CAUTIONS BENGAL HOME SECY OF CONTEMPT IN FORENSIC LAB RECRUITMENT

Kolkata | The Calcutta High Court on Tuesday cautioned West Bengal's Additional Chief Secretary, Home, B.P. Gopalika of contempt of court proceedings in case the process of recruitment for 10 posts in the state forensic science laboratory is not started before the forthcoming festive season of Durga Puja...

BJP rally to Nabanna: HC asks Bengal govt to refrain from unnecessary arrests

Kolkata | Agencies

A division bench of Calcutta High Court on Tuesday directed the West Bengal government to refrain from further unnecessary arrests and harassments of any individual in connection with the BJP's march to the state secretariat of Nabanna against corruption issues on September 13...



Court's Chief Justice Rajasekhara Mantha and Justice Rajarshi Bharadwaj, BJP's counsel Subir Sanyal alleged that that the police have continued arresting people even days after that day of the agitation...

Sanyal informed the division bench. Countering his argument, state's Advocate General (AG), S.N. Mukhopadhyay informed the bench that most of the people detained in the matter have been released at a later stage. 'None has been arrested without any reason. Let the petitioner provide the names of those arrested and the state government will examine when and under what circumstances they were arrested...' the AG argued. He also said that arrests were made on the basis of specific complaints and the law had taken its own course in those cases. However, the BJP counsel informed the bench that the police have harassed a number of BJP supporters in the Bowbazar and Burrabazar areas in central Kolkata. 'They were not arrested on grounds of disturbing the law & order. Being a part of any protest rally is the constitutional right of the citizens of the country. At least the harassment should stop on the occasion of the forthcoming Durga Puja festival,' the BJP counsel argued. After hearing both sides, the division bench directed the state government to ensure that there are no further unnecessary arrests or harassments in the matter. The same bench will hear the matter again on October 31.

CHANGE OF NAME The general public is informed that in my 10th, 12th and B.Sc (CS) marksheet my name is marked as MOHIT S/o DEVIRAM. Whereas my correct name is MOHIT JATAV S/o DEVIRAM JATAV. Which is recorded in all my official documents. So let me be known and recognized by MOHIT JATAV S/o DEVIRAM JATAV. Address : Ward - 01, Azad colony, near Saraswati School, Sultanpur, Raisin (M.P.)-464986



EDITOR'S SPECS

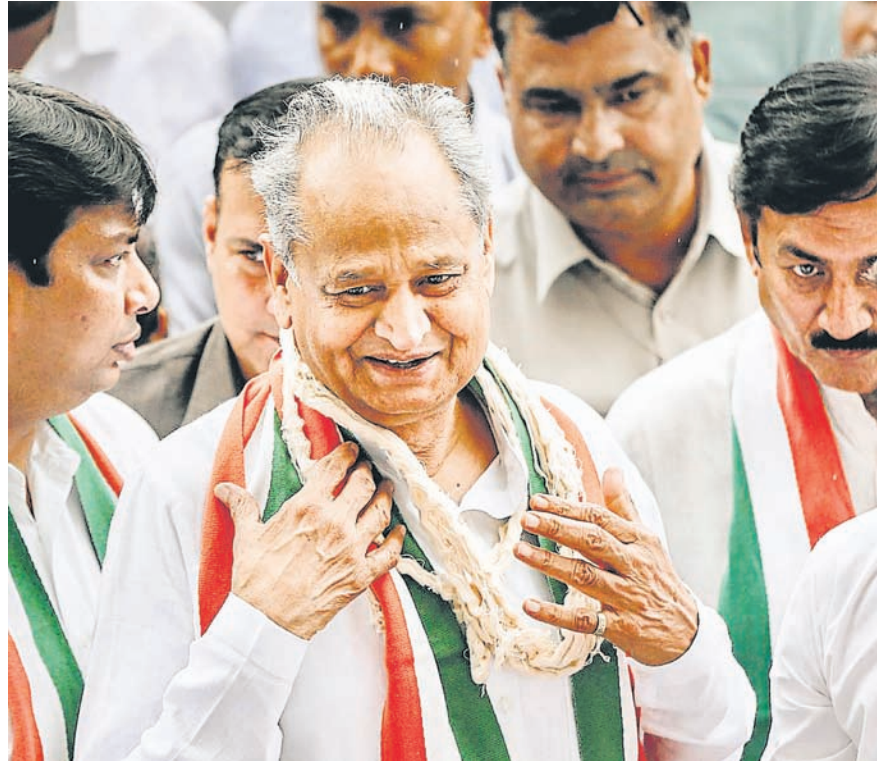
Selja, KC Venugopal front-runners for Cong Prez post after Gehlot snub

Congress sources on Tuesday said that Ashok Gehlot is being ruled out from the Congress' president post and it is likely that Kumari Selja could be considered for the top post while Rahul Gandhi's choice is said to be K.C. Venugopal. However, no final decision has been made yet and Senior Congress leader Kamal Nath who met Sonia Gandhi on Monday said that he doesn't want to become the party president and wants to continue to work for the party in Madhya Pradesh. "I want to remain in MP," Kamal Nath, a former Chief Minister of the state, said. The escalating drama in Rajasthan has made the Congress leadership think about a plan B for the top party post, for which Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot was being seen as a contender. Kamal Nath, who was one of the probables, has ruled out himself and now the party has limited options with Mukul Wasnik and Mallikarjun Kharge, but the time is running out as the election process has started and September 30 is the last day of nomination. The party was left red-faced as the Congress Legislature Party in Jaipur on Sunday to decide Gehlot's successor had to be called off after his supporting MLAs came out strongly against Sachin Pilot succeeding him. Congress interim President Sonia Gandhi has sought a detailed report from state in-charge Ajay Maken, following a meeting held at her residence on Monday with Maken, senior leader Mallikarjun Kharge and General Secretary, Organisation, K.C. Venugopal.

HAS GEHLOT DEFIED GANDHIES OR THE MOVE ORCHESTRATED?

Vinod Kumar Shukla

Contrary to the perception that Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot is working on the commands of the Gandhi family, it turned out to be a complete defiance of Gandhies by the Rajasthan chief minister. The person who has been taking vows in the name of Gandhies is embarrassing them like never before by any leader of the party. The way drama was played out in Rajasthan is unprecedented and would have its bearing in the future as well. However, various theories are doing rounds that Gandhies are still in command and Gehlot is dancing to their tunes which will reflect when dust is settled. But there are some contradictions in it as well. Proposal to make Gehlot party president came from Sonia Gandhi herself after Rahul Gandhi declined to take up the responsibility and even after long persuasive attempts, he did not relent. The way Gehlot was posturing for Gandhis, he seems to have foxed them just to remain in the saddle in Rajasthan firmly as Rahul wanted Sachin to replace him. He was playing pro-Muslim politics to confuse them. But the moment Gandhies decided to replace him with Sachin Pilot, he somersaulted. However, there are various theories about the development in the Congress. The first theory that is discussed in the Congress circle and also in media is that the Congress wants to send a perception in the public that despite every attempt made by the top brass of the Congress, no name could have been zeroes in on. So a drama is being enacted in Rajasthan with one of the most trusted lieutenants of Gandhies Ashok Gehlot taking care of every move. With this, the message will be that the only option remains with the Congress that a Gandhi, however unwilling he/she is, must take over reins of the party once again as infighting in the Congress started. And if Rahul Gandhi is unwilling then Priyanka Gandhi should take up the responsibility. Second story that is being discussed is that by bringing Gehlot to Delhi as party president and appointing Sachin Pilot as chief minister of the state, the long pending commitment of Rahul Gandhi with Pilot is fulfilled and Gehlot is also cut to size. But Gehlot is not ready to let



go CM's post at any cost and even by defying the venerable Gandhies. Over 90 MLAs of the Congress threatened to resign in support of Gehlot who refused to meet central observers. They put forth conditions before observers to meet them. This comes under indiscipline but no disciplinary actions were initiated. Because this was not possible without Gehlot asking them to do so, he used to say that his (Gehlot's) resignation letter is always with Sonia Gandhi. Actually Gehlot was ready to become party president but was not ready to relinquish the post of chief minister of Rajasthan and certainly not for Sachin Pilot. But it is interesting to note that moves of Ashok Gehlot made every Hulk in the Congress a pigmy, so the Congress seems to have options of accepting his offers or be ready for further embarrassments. Now, the Congress leadership has started saying that Gehlot is not in the reckoning. Moreover, most of the leaders trying to salvage the situation are either junior to him

except a few or electorally irrelevant anywhere in the country. Gehlot knows the facts very well, so he did not hesitate to challenge their authorities. The other thing that makes Congress leadership and Gandhies vulnerable and Gehlot in the commanding situation is that of Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra. It needs financial support and cadre support. If the crowd doesn't turn up well, the Gandhies and the Congress will be embarrassed furthermore. So it is very important for the Congress to not only keep Gehlot in good humor but also stop pricking him. This was the reason that Gehlot was dictating terms and the Congress conceded to his wishes. This is a really very rare occasion when any Congress leader defies the Gandhies and sustains it as well. Gehlot is well aware that Gandhies failed to deliver in their home turf that is Uttar Pradesh. Vote share of the Congress has come down to 2.5

per cent in 2022 Assembly elections from an average 10 per cent in the previous elections despite Priyanka Gandhi leading the campaign in the state. Rahul Gandhi lost his pocket borough Amethi in 2019 Lok Sabha elections. The Congress base is shrinking with Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh being two states where the Congress is in power on its own and destabilizing party in these state is suicidal. The entire Congress of Punjab has joined the BJP and most of its important leaders too have either joined the party or are hobnobbing in Gujarat. After the demise of Ahmed Patel, the Gujarat Congress too is in tatters. No attempt is being made to wrest power in the state and if the infighting in the party continues, the anti-incumbency votes will shift to AAP in these two states. The Rajasthan chief minister knows very well that the Congress president will have a bumpy ride ahead not only during Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh Assembly elections but also in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan elections next year. So he has around a year as CM of Rajasthan where he is solidly in the saddle. Who will buy Ashok Gehlot's answers to the Central leadership that he is not in control of the behaviors of MLAs of Rajasthan who threatened to resign if Gehlot doesn't remain their CM. A well-played drama scripted by Gehlot is successful and he is out of Congress President's race. Now with Gehlot ruled out as party president, the Congress is considering candidates like Mallikarjun Kharge and Digvijaya Singh. Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath's name has also come up but he met with Sonia Gandhi and requested her that he would prefer to focus on Madhya Pradesh where Assembly elections are next year. But amid all these developments, if the name of Priyanka Gandhi pops up which means Gandhies prevailed and Gehlot is still their man and move was orchestrated by them else Congress is heading towards hitting a rock. (Vinod Kumar Shukla is a freelance journalist based in Delhi. The views expressed are personal)

international

UN CHIEF CALLS FOR ALL-OUT EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE NUCLEAR THREAT

United Nations | New York

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called for the use of every means to eliminate the nuclear threat. Guterres made the appeal at a UN General Assembly high-level meeting to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, which falls on September 26. "We come together on this international day to speak with one voice. To stand in defence of our world -- and our future. And to reject the claim that nuclear disarmament is some impossible utopian dream," he said on Monday. He noted that the elimination of nuclear weapons would be the greatest gift "we



could bestow on future generations". In late August, the 10th Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons failed to result in the adoption of an outcome document. Expressing disappointment

Guterres also called for a new vision for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, Xinhua news agency reported. He highlighted the need to take into account the evolving nuclear order, including all types of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery, as well as the need to address the blurring lines between strategic and conventional weapons, and the nexus with new domains of cyber and outer space. The UN chief urged General Assembly delegates to seize the opportunity and make new commitment to work toward a peaceful future. "Without eliminating nuclear weapons, there can be no peace. There can be no trust. And there can be no sustainable future," he added.

15 KILLED IN RUSSIAN SCHOOL SHOOTING

Moscow: At least 15 people were killed, including 11 children, in a shooting at a school in the Russian city of Izhevsk, TASS news agency reported, citing the Russian Investigative Committee. According to the committee, 22 children and two adults were injured in the attack at the No. 88 school located near the city administration building of Izhevsk, the capital city of western Russia's Udmurt Republic on Monday. It was reported earlier that 13 people were killed and nearly 20 others wounded in the shooting, Xinhua news agency reported. Investigators identified the shooter as Artem Kazantsev, born in 1988, a native of Izhevsk and a graduate of the school. Kazantsev brought two pistols and a large number of cartridges with him and committed suicide after the attack, the committee said. The school has 982 students and 80 teachers, and they have been evacuated. Russian President Vladimir Putin expressed deep condolences for the tragedy, the Kremlin said in a statement. The Governor of the Udmurt Republic declared three days of mourning beginning on Monday.

Russia expels Japanese consul for espionage

Moscow | Agencies

A Japanese diplomat based in Russia's far eastern city of Vladivostok is being expelled after being detained for espionage, the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) announced. A consul of the Consulate General of Japan in Vladivostok was "detained red-handed while receiving, for a money reward, information of limited distribution about the current aspects of Russia's cooperation with one of the Asia-Pacific countries, including the impact of Western sanctions, on the economic situation in (Russia's) Primorsky territory," an FSB statement said on Monday. The Minister Counselor of the Japanese Embassy in Moscow was summoned to the Russian Foreign Ministry on Monday and was



informed that the consul in question must leave Russia within 48 hours for activities incompatible with the status of a consular officer and detrimental to Russia's security interests, the Ministry said in a statement. The Russian Foreign Ministry has lodged a strong protest over the incident to the Japanese side, Xinhua news agency reported.

DEATH TOLL FROM B'DESH BOAT CAPSIZE REACHES 61

Dhaka: The number of deaths due to a boat capsizing in Bangladesh's Karatoya river increased to 61 on Tuesday, after 10 more bodies were recovered, a senior police official said. The official told Xinhua news agency said the bodies were recovered from several parts of the Karatoya river in the Panchagarh district, 468 km away from the capital Dhaka. The search operation is still underway for the five to six people still missing, he said, adding the vessel has been dragged to the bank. SM Sirajul Huda, superintendent of Panchagarh District Police, earlier said the jam-packed boat, carrying some 100 passengers, overturned due to overloading and sank on Sunday afternoon. Ferry and boat disasters are common in Bangladesh. Ferries are still a key means of transport in the South Asian country and most of them are often overcrowded.



TYPHOON NORU KILLS 8 IN PHILIPPINES

Manila | Agencies

Super typhoon Noru slammed Luzon island in the Philippines with heavy rainfall and winds over the weekend, leaving eight people dead and three others missing, a government agency said on Tuesday. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council confirmed the deaths of five rescuers swept by a flash flood in Bulacan, a province north of Manila, a few hours after Noru made landfall on Sunday afternoon, reports Xinhua news agency. The Council said it received reports of additional three typhoon-related deaths, one in Quezon province and two in Zambales province. It did not provide details on how the three died. The Council added that three more people remained missing in the Bicol region, southeast of Manila. Noru exited the Philippines on Monday night after crossing the central Luzon region. It is the 11th and the most powerful



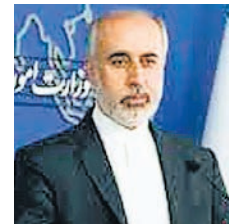
cyclone hitting the Philippines this year. It destroyed crops, damaged houses, knocked down power transmission lines, and flooded several areas on central Luzon island. The Philippines is one of the most

disaster-prone countries globally, mainly due to its location in the Pacific Ring of Fire and Pacific typhoon belt. On average, the archipelagic country experiences 20 typhoons yearly, some of which are intense and destructive.

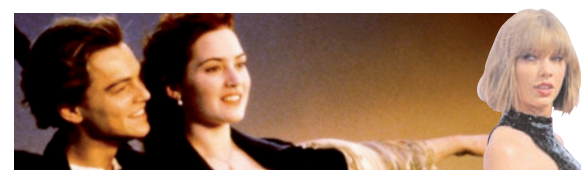
Iran slams West's 'interventionist' policy against it

Tehran | Agencies

The Iranian Foreign Ministry has slammed the "interventionist" remarks of American and other Western politicians against Iran, the official IRNA news agency reported. "The enemies' approach against the Islamic Republic and the Iranian nation has always been accompanied by hypocrisy and double standards," Nasser Kanaani, the Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, said on Monday in reference to the remarks made by Western officials over the protests that followed the death of a young girl in the police



custody in Iran. Political leaders of the US and some European countries, their media, and the West-backed hostile Persian-language media "misused a tragic incident under investigation" and spared no efforts in supporting disruption of Iran's security, the spokesman was quoted as saying as quoted by Xinhua news agency report. He also noted that "those who claim to be advocating the Iranian nation's rights should put their false, threadbare slogans and put an end to decades of tyrannical and anti-human sanctions against the Iranian people".



Amy Jackson expresses solidarity with Iranian women

London | Agencies

Actress Amy Jackson has expressed her support for the women of Iran, who have been protesting the brutal killing of Mahsa Amini. Twenty-two-year-old Mahsa Amini was brutally killed by the "morality police" of Iran for showing a bit of her hair, not adhering to the strict dress code laws.

Mahsa Amini's killing has sparked nationwide protests. Protesters are standing against the totalitarian regime, chanting slogans such as 'Let women live their freedom' and 'I will kill whoever killed my sister.'

The actress took to Instagram to express her solidarity with the women of Iran who are now cutting their hair short and burning their hijabs in protest.

Sharing a series of pictures and text passages explaining what was happening in Iran, the actress wrote, "We

see you, we hear you and we are with you #MahsaAmini".

The actress seemed to take exception in particular to the US government's decision to roll out the red carpet for Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi at the United Nations General Assembly session and the fact that the western media was staying relatively quiet about what

was happening in Iran.

I & COLIN JUST THREW A BUNCH OF LETTERS TOGETHER & NAMED SON: SCARLETT

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Scarlett Johansson and her husband Colin Jost have revealed the naming technique for their son. They told Entertainment Tonight they thought the naming technique had led to a "charming" moniker that met with the approval of all their friends - but not her mother-in-law.

She said: "We just threw a bunch of letters together. I just really thought it was charming and our friends liked it."

Admitting her mum-in-law was not so fond of the name, she said: "Colin's mom had a little bit of a harder time with it. She kept suggesting other versions of it for a while. I was like, 'He's already here. He's out. Like, it's past that time!'"

Colin has also told how his mum "didn't quite understand" their choice for their son's name.

He said: "After three or four days, she would be like, 'Cosmo? Is it final? Did you submit the birth certificate?'"

"We were like, 'Oh yeah, we did that at the hospital'. She's like, 'OK. Interesting. Because I was reading that there's also a name, Cosimo, with an 'I'. So that could also be an option."

Maybe you call him Cosimo, that's his real name, and then you could call him still Cosmo?"

The comic added it was only after his mum consulted

ed others she gave the name her approval.



I didn't feel exploited, while filming nude scenes: Ana De Armas

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Ana de Armas felt "safe and protected" when filming the nude scenes in 'Blonde'. Flashing the flesh in her portrayal of Hollywood icon Marilyn Monroe in Andrew Dominik's film, the actress suggested viewers will find it more uncomfortable than she did.

"It's harder for people to watch (those scenes) than for me to make them, because I understood what I was doing and I felt very protected and safe," Ana said when speaking to Entertainment Weekly.

"I didn't feel exploited because I was in control. I made that decision. I knew the movie I was doing. I trusted my director. I felt like I was in a safe environment."

She added, "We had hundreds of conversations about these scenes. Everyone felt a deep respect

for the movie we were making. And in that sense, I had no fear. I didn't feel uncomfortable at all, even though they were really hard scenes."

The actress was full of praise for the intimacy coordinators on set and claimed that shooting sexual scenes felt no different from the rest of the movie.

She explained, "We had an intimacy coordinator with us all the time, and she was very helpful." "But I wouldn't even say these scenes were more difficult than any other scene. It was just a part of a whole story. I knew exactly what the shot was going to be." Ana had recently expressed disappointment that intimate scenes from the movie are likely to be posted online and be taken out of context.

She said, "I know what's going to go viral, and it's disgusting. It's upsetting just to think about it. I can't control it; you can't really control what they do and how they take things out of context."

Simu Liu is going through a breakup

Los Angeles | Agencies

'Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings' star Simu Liu shared that he is going through a breakup, just two months after making his red carpet debut with Jade Bender. Simu Liu made his red carpet debut with 'Senior Year' star Jade Bender just two months ago at the ESPY Awards, but now it appears they have split after making a handful of public appearances together.

As reported by SFGate.com, Liu was speaking at the Dreamforce 2022 conference in San Francisco last week when he

was asked about mental health following a social media post addressing the need to "prioritise" his health.

He replied: "I'm OK, I'm OK. I'm learning to prioritise myself, I'm becoming more and more comfortable with the idea of therapy and support systems. It really just hit me recently just how burnt out I was. I experienced moments where I'm living my dream and it didn't quite feel like I was where I needed to be with myself."

"I'm also going through a breakup. That's probably also contributing to it but that's OK, I'll be OK." His comments come after he recently opened up about the impact

'Shang-Chi' has had on his life as he learns to deal with fame.

Earlier this month, he explained on Instagram: "Exactly one year ago, this little movie came out and completely changed my life. It's been nothing short of the absolute best ride... but after having some time to reflect I know that this life also comes at a massive cost. "So today on the anniversary of the release of 'Shang-Chi', I'm especially excited because I'm in therapy and prioritising my health. I'm healing and well on my way to becoming something more than a superhero; I'm on my way to becoming a good and decent man."



Alec Baldwin could face charges for 'Rust' fatal shooting

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood actor Alec Baldwin may well potentially face charges in the fatal shooting that occurred last year on the sets of Spaghetti-western movie 'Rust', according to Santa Fe County District Attorney Mary Carmack-Altwhies. During a New Mexico Board of Finance meeting held on September 20, Carmack-Altwhies requested emergency funding in excess of \$635,000, reports a local magazine. The request for funding was to continue the investigation into the tragedy that took place on October 21 - when Baldwin, was holding the gun that discharged and killed 42-year-old cinematographer Halyna Hutchins and injured director Joel Souza. Baldwin has maintained that he did not pull the trigger. As per a video recording of their meeting seen by 'People', Carmack-Altwhies shared, "We are within weeks, if not days, of receiving the final report from the sheriff's office." Carmack-Altwhies further said that, while awaiting the final report, "it's become apparent that we will be potentially charging between one and four people with criminal charges, and each of those charges will probably include some variation of our homicide statute." In a letter to the New Mexico Board of Finance, obtained and published by 'Deadline', the district attorney's office stated, "One of the possible defendants is well-known movie actor Alec Baldwin," adding that the case "could require up to 4 separate jury trials." 'People' further states that on Monday, Baldwin's lawyer, Luke Nikas of Quinn Emanuel, said in a statement: "Some media reports today draw false conclusions based on a letter from the Santa Fe Dist. Attorney." "The DA has made clear that she has not received the sheriff's report or made any decisions about who, if anyone, might be charged in this case," the statement continued.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Megan Fox



Aishwarya is picture perfect: Vikram

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Chiyaan Vikram, who was in the national capital to promote his film 'Ponniyan Selvan I', talked about sharing screen space with Bollywood star Aishwarya Rai Bachchan again after 'Raavanan' and said that the actress is picture perfect.

Vikram said: "There have been many beauty queens but I must say Aish has something that has stolen everyone's heart. She is picture perfect and I have seen her films, so it is not just about beauty but everything. She is always under a microscope and constantly being watched. So, she needs to be perfect all the time and I have seen how she does it in her own style."

He also said that he is often told by fans about how they both look fantastic on screen. "All our fans keep saying you both look so nice together but the thing is I don't get her in movies so easily."

Vikram also praised her dancing skills and added: "She dances so beautifully that during a shot, I just forgot myself and was lost watching her dance moves. It is music in motion. She is just perfect."

He called his role of Aditha Karikalan (Chola emperor in 10th century) in Mani Ratnam's 'Ponniyan Selvan I' a 'dream role' as he always wanted to play a prince or a character of a warrior on-screen.

He said: "We all are playing very interesting characters in this film and I must say I am playing my dream role as I always wanted to play a character which is regal and beautiful. Every movie Mani Ratnam sir has done is so enthralling and very different and I am glad to be part of his film. You know we call him Steven Spielberg of India."



Navratri 2022 Special

Sayantani Ghosh: The festival is about vanquishing the 'Asuras' or 'Demons' within us

Aakruti Bagla | Mumbai

Navratri has begun, and today is the third day of the celebration. Maa Chandraghanta, the third manifestation of Devi Durga, is worshipped today. Sayantani Ghosh opened up about her excitement, cultural diversity observed during nine days, the radiance of triumph of good over evil, and much more.

The actress tied the knot with her beau Anugrah Tiwari on December 6, 2021. Sharing her excitement about the first Durga Puja post-wedding, the actress said, "I am super-excited for Durga Puja as being a Bengali it is a big festival for us. The two reasons that make it even more special this year are it's my first Durga puja with my hubby after our wedding. Also, I will be visiting Kolkata after many years and celebrating it with my family."

Later talking about the cultural diversity Sayantani quipped, "I think one of the most beautiful aspects of India is its cultural diversity. While a particular festival, celebration, ritual, or worship of a particular deity may belong to one particular section, these 9 auspicious days are observed by everyone in their own way. We do have different forms of God, but I believe there is one higher force. Everybody believing in this force during the festive season gets a sense of unity."

On a parting note, the actress wished everyone a happy Navratri and said, "I genuinely believe that such festival instils hope or faith in us. As humans, we have good as well as bad sides. So it's not only about vanquishing the 'asuras' or 'demons' residing in society but also within us."



Keep chasing your dreams: Kaniha

Team Absolute | Chennai

Actress Kaniha, who is known to be someone who chooses to live life on her own terms, disclosed that she had realised another dream of hers, to learn to ride a bike a

year ago despite people discouraging her by asking her why she was doing it.

Talking to Instagram, Kaniha said: "Dreams know no age, dreams



know no fear. Keep chasing your dreams!! A year ago, I taught myself to ride bikes. When many said, 'Why? Why NOW?', I smiled..."

Only recently, the actress had shared a video in which she was seen learning the musical instrument Ukulele all by herself.

The actress, who has been a part of some critically acclaimed hits in Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam, had then said, "Why should everything be perfect? Why should I showcase everything perfect?"

"Here's me being goofy and self-teaching myself from YouTube tutorials and taking baby steps with my new found love 'Uke'. When I got the weekend free... Why waste it? Learning something new. Feel good factor! This might seem super elementary for music professionals (please excuse moi) but what if this motivates and pushes someone like me to learn something new?!"

We need to relook Indian mythology, folklore: Hrithik

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood superstar Hrithik Roshan, who is currently awaiting the release of his upcoming film 'Vikram Vedha', feels that India as a country is culturally very rich and has a treasure of folk tales and mythology that can act as a fodder to tell stories on the celluloid.

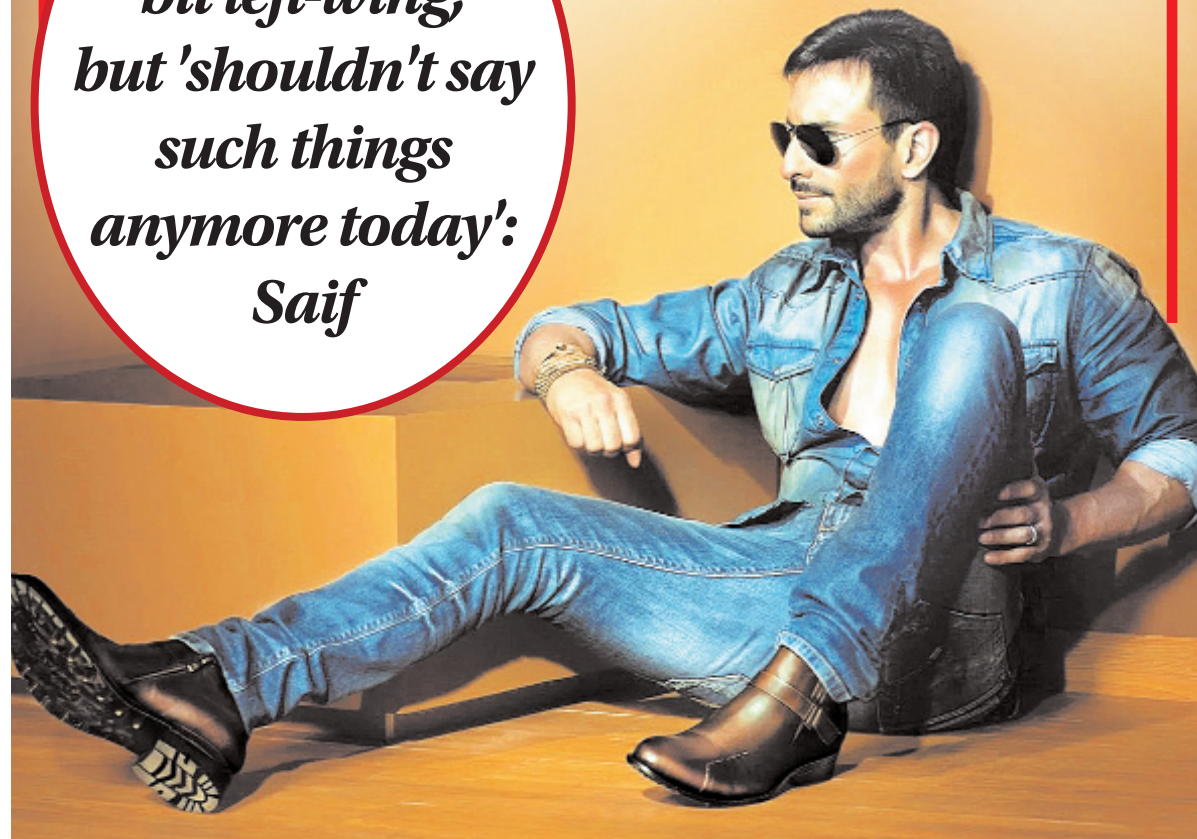
The basic idea of 'Vikram Vedha' is based on the Indian mythological story of Vikram and Betaal.

Elaborating on the same, Hrithik said in an interview, "To take something like this that we have all heard in our childhood and create this entire story of 'Vikram Vedha' and to use it as a device, it's so sharp."

He further mentioned, "We have so many of such stories in our mythology and folklore. I think we need to relook at this treasure, there's so much fodder in there from a storytelling point of view."

Director Pushkar of the film's director duo, Pushkar-Gayatri, added, "What intrigues us as directors is that our mythology or folklore majorly have no demarcation about who is wrong or right. As creators, it's refreshing to install the stories that are in the grey zone."

"I'm probably a bit left-wing, but 'shouldn't say such things anymore today': Saif



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood star Saif Ali Khan has said that he is "left wing" and a "liberal" but he followed it up by saying that he knows he "shouldn't say such things anymore today". While promoting his upcoming film 'Vikram Vedha', Saif in an interview talked about how he doesn't agree with the thoughts and principles of his character in the film, where he plays an encounter specialist Vikram while Hrithik Roshan is Vedha, a gangster.

Saif said, "When the mafia problem was getting so out of control, there was this urban legend that we won't show whether the 'criminal' was shot genuinely trying to escape, or executed, and later on, do the paperwork to show that he was trying to escape and we had to shoot him."

"That's called an 'encounter', a 'fake encounter'. It's kind of a horrific judicial... I'm sure it's completely illegal. But it's cinematically quite disturbing as well, and that's kind of what my character does. But he's convinced he's a good guy, because (he thinks) it's required."

He added: "I'm much more... probably a bit left-wing, I suppose... I don't know, I probably shouldn't say these things anymore today."

The actor, who is married to Bollywood diva Kareena Kapoor Khan, called himself "liberal".

"But yes, I'm really liberal and easygoing, and I think everyone is entitled to a fair trial before judgement. I'm certainly not for executing suspected criminals, which my character seems to love to do," Saif said.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Surveen Chawla