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91 KILLED AS HANGING BRIDGE IN GUJARAT'S MORBI COLLAPSES

A private trust named Orega renovated the bridge last week after getting the government's tender, according to reports. The bridge had been shut for seven months for renovation, officials said.

THIS HANGING BRIDGE WAS CONSTRUCTED BY MORBI DYNASTY RULER SIR VAGHAJI THAKOR SOME 150 YEARS AGO, AND ITS LENGTH IS 233 METRES AND IT IS 4.6 FEET WIDE.

IN A VIRAL VIDEO, MANY PEOPLE WERE SEEN SWIMMING TOWARDS SAFETY AFTER THE BRIDGE COLLAPSED. A GROUP OF PEOPLE WERE ALSO SEEN CLINGING ON TO THE BROKEN END OF THE BRIDGE, WHICH WAS PARTLY SUBMERGED. WOMEN AND CHILDREN COULD BE SEEN IN THE VISUALS.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES' APPREHENSION IS THAT THE BRIDGE HAS COLLAPSED RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE RIVER, WHERE THE WATER LEVEL IS 15 TO 20 FEET DEEP, AND DUE TO THIS THE DEATH TOLL IS LIKELY TO RISE.



GOVT TAKES RESPONSIBILITY: GUJARAT MINISTER

New Delhi: The Gujarat government takes responsibility for the bridge collapse in which more than 60 people were killed and several others injured, a state minister said on Sunday. "The bridge was renovated last week. We are also shocked. We are looking into the matter," Brijesh Merja, Minister of State, Labour and Employment said.

PM CALLS UP GUJ CM, ANNOUNCES COMPENSATION

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken cognisance of the hanging bridge collapse on Sunday evening and announced a compensation of Rs 2 lakh to the next of the kin of the dead from the PM's Relief Fund, and Rs 50,000 for the injured. According to the Prime Minister's office, the Prime Minister called up Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel for a briefing on the incident. Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel announced Rs 4 lakh compensation to the kin of the deceased and Rs 50,000 financial help to those injured in the accident.

FITNESS CERTIFICATE NOT ISSUED: CIVIC OFFICIAL

Morbi: In wake of the hanging bridge crash, the Morbi Municipal Committee's Chief Executive Officer S.V. Zala, in a shocking revelation, said that the bridge was opened for the public without a fitness certificate. Zala, addressing the local media, said: "For a long period, this bridge was closed for the public... seven months ago, a private company was given contract for renovation and maintenance, and the bridge was reopened for the public on October 26 (Gujarati New year day) by the private company. The Nagar Palika has not issued a fitness certificate."

He even claimed that it is possible that the company might have got a fitness certificate from the engineering company, but it was not submitted to the municipality till date. The company, on its own and without informing the civic body, reopened the bridge for the public, he alleged.

Fire teams from surrounding districts too were rushed to Morbi to speed up the rescue work.

A total of seven fire brigade teams were pressed into rescue services, and one State Disaster Response Force team, and two NDRF teams from Gandhinagar rushed to the spot. Local authorities have started a helpline number - 02822-243300 - on which people can seek help to know about their missing relatives.

Musk to expand 280-character limit, to allow longer videos on Twitter



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Elon Musk on Sunday said that Twitter can soon expand or even get rid of the 280-character limit on the platform. He also confirmed that the company under him will look into increasing the length of videos so that users can post longer videos. Responding to a user who asked if we can get rid of character limits, or at least greatly expand it, Musk said: "Absolutely".

Another user asked him about posting longer videos on Twitter, to which he said: "100 per cent".

Musk, who has acquired Twitter for \$44 billion after a bitter battle, said in April this year that the micro-blogging platform needs long-form tweets which is "way overdue". Twitter currently allows people to post in 280 characters. Reacting to a follower's tweet thread, Musk said: "My most immediate takeaway from this novella of a thread is that Twitter is way overdue for long form tweets!" Earlier, Musk demanded an Edit button, and the micro-blogging platform announced that it is working on such a feature that will allow users to correct errors in their tweets, albeit with some rules. Twitter launched 280 char-

JACK DORSEY TO TAKE ON TWITTER WITH NEW APP

San Francisco: As Tesla CEO Elon Musk took over as Twitter CEO, the microblogging site's co-founder Jack Dorsey is reportedly testing another social network App to compete with the Blue Bird. According to People, a week before Musk finalised his acquisition deal, the 45-year-old former CEO Dorsey announced that he is looking for beta testers for his decentralised social App Bluesky. "The next step is to start testing the protocol. Distributed protocol development is a tricky process. It requires coordination from many parties once a network is deployed, so we're going to start in private beta to iron out issues," the company was quoted as saying.

"As we beta test, we'll continue to iterate on the protocol specs and share details about how it works. When it's ready, we'll move to the open beta, sharing a link to sign up for the beta test's waitlist," it added.

acters in November 2017 to all users in supported languages, including English.

MORBI (GUJARAT) | Agencies

At least 91 people, including children, were killed and over 100 were missing (at time of going for print) as the hanging bridge on the Machhu dam in Gujarat's Morbi collapsed on Sunday evening, officials said.

Rescue and medical emergency personnel were rushed to the spot.

Morbi's former MLA Kantilal Amrutia told the local media that he and his team had fished out at least 8 bodies and more than 80 persons are trapped in the Machhu river, after the bridge collapsed.

The bridge was closed for the last two years and was reopened after renovation just a day ago. As it was Sunday and Diwali vacations are on, more than 500 people, including children, had come to see the bridge when the accident occurred, Morbi city Congress chief Rajeshbhai Kavar said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has

learned about the incident and has instructed the state machinery to rush all help to Morbi administration and speed up rescue and emergency medical services.

Morbi MLA and Minister Brijesh Merja said that due to night and water flow in the river, locals and fire brigade teams are finding difficulty in carrying out rescue opera-

Covid-19: Omicron's XBB variant emerges as dominant in India, TN tops

Chennai | New Delhi

The XBB subvariant of Covid-19's Omicron variant is fast emerging as the dominant in India, with nine states reporting cases of it and Tamil Nadu topping the number. International research organisation GISAD, that has been monitoring the changes in the virus, has reported that there were 380 confirmed cases of XBB in India. Tamil Nadu has reported 175 cases, followed by West Bengal with 103 cases.

The other states that have detected XBB virus are Odisha (35), Maharashtra (21), Delhi (18), Puducherry (16), Karnataka (9), Gujarat (2), and Rajasthan (1). India reports 1,604 fresh Covid cases, 8 deaths.

New Delhi: India reported 1,604 fresh Covid-19 infections on Sunday in the last 24 hours, against 1,574 cases recorded



previous day, Union Health Ministry said.

In the same period, the country has recorded eight more Covid-related deaths, taking the toll to 5,29,016, as per the report.

Active caseload presently stands at 18,317 cases, accounting for 0.04 per cent of the country's total positive cases.

The recovery of 2,081 patients in the last 24 hours took the cumulative tally to 4,41,04,933.

Consequently, India's recovery rate stands at 98.77 per cent.

India's daily positivity rate has been reported to be 1.02 per cent, while the weekly positivity rate in the country currently stands at 1.08 per cent.

'Delhi brokers' tried to buy Telangana's self-respect: KCR

Hyderabad | Agencies

Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Reddy said 'Delhi brokers' tried to buy Telangana self-respect by offering Rs 100 crore to four MLAs of Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS). In his first reaction to the 'MLAs poaching' case, KCR said those working for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and playing key roles in RSS came to buy the MLAs have landed in jail. He said there should be a thorough investigation to find out where the money came from and who is behind it. "Those behind it have no right to continue in office even for a minute," he said.

KCR paraded four MLAs at an election rally in Munugode Assembly constituency on Sunday and praised them for refusing to be sold like cattle and upheld Telangana self-respect and democracy.

Three alleged agents of BJP including two godmen were arrested by Cyberabad police on October 26 while trying to 'buy' four MLAs.

The TRS chief wanted to know from where these hundreds of crores came to buy the MLAs. He alleged that the BJP is buying MLAs to topple governments in various states.



Sea back to normal in Kozhikode after receding, tsunami ruled out

Thiruvananthapuram | Agencies

After a day of the Arabian Sea suddenly and inexplicably receding from the shores of Kerala's Kozhikode, the situation returned to normal on Sunday, and authorities also ruled out the threat of a tsunami.

It was around 4 p.m. on Saturday that the sea suddenly withdrew till the horizon with no waves coming up and large area of land emerging.

People had come in large numbers to witness the phenomenon from in and around Kozhikode district.

As the crowds swelled up, the police and fire force personnel reached the spot and police put up a barricade to prevent people from ventur-



ing into the area sea, warning that the water could come back with double the vigour and that this could be dangerous.

The Indian Ocean 2004 tsunami was fresh in the minds of the people but the State Disaster Management Authority clarified that there was no tsunami warning or possibility.

An disaster management authority official told reporter that this was a phenomenon not related to tsunami and that the sea has now returned to normalcy.

On Sunday, large number of people reached Kozhikode beach only to find large number of fish in the place where the sea had withdrawn.

Statue put up in UK's Victoria Park to honour Sikh soldiers in World Wars

Sikhs from India played a key role in the British army during the two World Wars. They accounted for less than 2 per cent of India's population during the Great War, but made up almost 20 per cent of the British Indian Army at the outbreak of hostilities.

The statue will be placed on a granite plinth within the grounds of Victoria Park, which is next to the University of Leicester campus.

It will form part of the Centenary Walk which leads to the Arch of Remembrance and many other memorials already set within the grounds.



LONDON | Agencies

To recognise the contributions of Sikhs who fought in World Wars for the UK, a bronze statue of a Sikh soldier will be unveiled on Sunday at the Victoria Park, Leicester, the city that witnessed communal clashes in August this year. The idea of the statue, which was envisaged by late Councillor Culdipp Singh Bhatti MBE and designed by artist Taranjit Singh, took shape with the help of the Sikh Troops Memorial Committee. It has been funded by donations from Sikh congregations, the wider public and city council community ward funding. The unveiling will begin at De Montfort Hall and will be open to the public. It will be

attended by families of the Sikh World War heroes and a number of dignitaries, including Leicester's deputy city mayor for culture, leisure and sport, Councillor Piara Singh Clair. The Sikh community takes part in the annual remembrance commemorations at Victoria Park in November each year. Punjabis of all faiths -- including Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs -- made up about a third of the Indian army, and about one sixth of all the British empire's overseas forces, The Guardian reported. Recently, records of 320,000 troops from Punjab (undivided) who fought in the first World War were disclosed by UK-based historians to offer new insight into the contribution of Indian soldiers to the allied war effort. They

were lying in a basement in Lahore for 97 years. In the 1951 Census, just 624 people with South Asian heritage were recorded as living in Leicester. Now, 70 years on, the city has one of the highest proportions of British South Asians. Leicester has long been heralded as a socially cohesive unit with a sizeable number of Muslims, Sikhs and Hindus from India and Pakistan living harmoniously alongside each other. The recent clashes, following an India-Pakistan cricket match in August, came as a shock to many and upset the multicultural apple cart. Britain's Indian-origin Home Secretary, Suella Braverman, had blamed the riots on uncontrolled migration into the UK and the failure of newcomers to integrate.

DJB DIRECTOR TAKES BATH IN YAMUNA WATER AMID BJP'S TOXIC CHEMICAL CLAIM

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Jal Board (DJB) Director Sanjay Sharma on Sunday took a bath in water from the Yamuna, with a chemical defoaming agent added, in response to a Delhi BJP MP's allegation that the river water is toxic and challenging him to use it to bath in.

The DJB Director collected water from the Yamuna in a container and then took a bath on the bank to show the water is not hazardous.

The war of words between the two erupted when the defoamer chemical was sprayed in the river to destroy the foam ahead of the Chhath Puja.

"This is not any message to (MP) Pravesh Verma ji. He is our honorable MP. This message is for the people of Delhi," the DJB Director Sharma said after taking the bath.

As the toxic foam had risen on the Yamuna's surface, the DJB officials sprayed the river water surface with chemicals to remove it. However, it was objected by by BJP leaders saying it would affect the devotees, and leading to a controversy between DJB official and the BJP leaders.

The DJB Director also filed a complaint against Verma and Delhi BJP leader Tajinder Pal Singh Bagga for "obstructing discharge of official duty and criminal intimidation" on Saturday.



DELHI GOVERNMENT BANS CONSTRUCTION, DEMOLITION ACTIVITIES UNDER GRAP

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Amid rising air pollution in the capital, the Delhi government on Sunday banned construction and demolition activities in line with the GRAP.

The sub-Committee for invoking actions under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) of the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR & Adjoining Areas (CAQM) had held an emergency meeting on Saturday to address the deteriorating air quality and had recommended all actions envisaged under Stage III of the GRAP -

'Severe' Air Quality of the National Capital Region.

Environment Minister Gopal Rai said: "Construction and demolition activity has been prohibited in Delhi due to the city's rising pollution. 586 teams have been formed to monitor the construction-demolition ban. Water sprinkling has been intensified in view of the pollution situation. 521 water sprinklers, 233 anti-smog guns, and 150 mobile anti-smog guns have been deployed to tackle pollution in Delhi."

Rai assured that the third phase of GRAP's restrictions would be put into effect in Delhi per the CAQM's direc-

tives.

"The CAQM system had earlier announced that during this winter season, the GRAP system will be set in three days earlier based on the Air Quality Index (AQI) at the time. Right now, according to the information that we are getting from experts, after November 1, the speed of the wind is likely to be in the range of 4-8 kmph, the direction is likely to turn towards the northwest, and based on the available information, we have been told that the AQI levels are likely to cross 400, which comes in the 'severe' category. "Today in Delhi, we held a

meeting with all the stakeholders, particularly those who are engaged in the construction business - PWD, CPWD, MCD, DDA, Railways and all the agencies working in the construction sites and informed them about the ban on construction and demolition work," he said. "According to the CAQM order, we will implement all the regulations for Delhi. This year, we have also worked towards ensuring better implementation of the order. In previous years, we had noticed that despite a ban being enforced, there were some sites where work was still ongoing," Rai said.

FOUR PUNJAB OFFICIALS SUSPENDED FOR STUBBLE BURNING

Chandigarh: Punjab's Agriculture Department on Sunday suspended four officials for dereliction of duty in detecting stubble burning incidents in the state.

The government has adopted a zero-tolerance policy against stubble burning and has been organising campaigns to sensitise farmers not to burn the stubble.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has asked the agriculture officials to ensure crop residue is not set ablaze in the fields. But the government found these four officers were not adhering to the directions. The suspended officials are Chief Agriculture Officer Harbans Singh and Agriculture Officers Satish Kumar, Harpal Singh, and Bhupinder Singh.

Amid rising pollution, Delhi Fire Service starts sprinkling water at 13 hotspots

Team Absolute | New Delhi

To combat the rising air pollution in the capital, the Delhi Fire Service has begun sprinkling water at 13 hotspots.

According to fire officials, the 13 identified pollution hotspots include Narela, Anand Vihar, Mundka, Dwarka, Punjabi Bagh, R.K. Puram, Rohini, Bawana, Okhla, Jahangirpuri, Wazirpur, and Mayapuri. "Due to high level pollution, DFS has been asked to sprinkle water in Delhi, preferably at and around hot spot areas. Accordingly as ordered, so far 13 fire tenders have been rushed for the same," DFS Director, Atul Garg, said.

Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Sunday directed the fire brigade to start sprinkling water at specified spots.

Rai said that the MCD has installed 7 water sprinklers and they will also engage



the fire brigade in the act of sprinkling water on roads.

"According to the information that we have from all the agencies working in this area in Delhi, we are using 521 water sprinklers, 233 anti-smog guns, and 150 mobile anti-smog guns to curb pollution in Delhi," he said.

Yellow alert in 6 districts as Northeast monsoon hits Kerala

Thiruvananthapuram | Agencies

With the Northeast monsoon hitting Kerala, the weather department has issued yellow alert in six districts of the state. Heavy rains lashed Ernakulam district, bringing traffic to a halt after the city was inundated with water.

The Indian Meteorological Department predicted heavy rains in the state till November 2 and yellow alert issued for districts like - Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Kottayam, Idukki and Palakkad.

The weather department has also predicted heavy rains in the state in isolated areas till Wednesday.

Thunderstorm with lightning is very likely to occur in isolated areas of the state



from October 30 to November 2.

It may be noted that the Northeast monsoon started over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal area on

Saturday.

With heavy rains and thunderstorms predicted, the state revenue department has warned people to be cautious.

PM launches Rs 22K cr project to build C-295 transport aircraft in Vadodara

Vadodara | Agencies

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday laid the foundation stone for a C-295 transport aircraft manufacturing plant here, expressing hope that soon passenger aircraft will be manufactured in India with the 'Make in India' tagline.

The C-295 transport aircraft for the Indian Air Force (IAF) will be manufactured by Tata-Airbus with an investment of Rs 20,000 crore.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said that along with the manufacturing of transport aircraft for the IAF, additional aircraft too will be manufactured at the facility for Air Force requirements, adding that aircraft manufactured here will also be exported in the future.

"Today, a message is being sent to the world that there is a golden opportunity in India. Defence and aerospace are going to be the two important pillars for 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'," Modi said, as he expressed hope that by 2025, the country's defence manufacturing scale will cross \$25 billion with defence corridors being developed in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.



"India is fast becoming a hub of defence equipment manufacturing. Today we are manufacturing tanks, submarines, and soon transport aircraft will be added to the list. Medicines and vaccines manufactured in India have saved the lives of millions of

people across the globe," Modi said.

Earlier, Modi kicked off his three-day visit to Gujarat with a 4.5 km road show in Vadodara, for which hundreds of people turned up to have a glimpse of the Prime Minister.

The first 16 fly-away C-295MW aircraft are scheduled to be received between September 2023 and August 2025. The first 'Make in India' aircraft is expected from September 2026.

C-295MW is a transport aircraft of 5-10 tonne capacity with contemporary technology that will replace the IAF's ageing Avro aircraft. It has a rear ramp door for quick reaction and para dropping of troops and cargo. Short take-off/landing from semi-prepared surfaces is another of its features. The aircraft will strengthen the logistic capabilities of the IAF. This is the first project of its kind in which a military aircraft will be manufactured in India by a private company. The total cost of the project is Rs 21,935 crore. The aircraft can be used for civilian purposes as well.

The aircraft will be flight tested and delivered through a Delivery Centre at the Tata consortium facility.

Ayodhya traders asked to vacate shops for road widening

Ayodhya | Agencies

Ayodhya traders, who own commercial establishments on the Ram Janmabhoomi Bhakti Marg, have been asked to vacate their shops for the demolition drive by the district administration.

This drive is part of the state government-approved road-widening project.

The affected shopkeepers have already received compensation from the Ayodhya administration. Shopkeepers have also been allotted land behind their existing shops for constructing new shops.

About 50 per cent of shopkeepers have already vacated their establishments.

Around 170 shopkeepers will be completely displaced while 330 others will be partially displaced.

The additional district magistrate



(administration) Amit Kumar has asked the traders to vacate their shops, and added that the demolition

drive would start from Sunday.

Meanwhile, traders have sought extension till the festive occasion of

Kartik Purnima on November 8.

The two annual Parikramas in Ayodhya will start from November 1. The Chaudah Kosi Parikrama will start on November 1 at midnight and end the next day at 10 p.m.

Similarly, the Panch Kosi Parikrama will start on November 4 early in the morning and end on the same day.

Several lakh devotees from Ayodhya and adjoining regions are expected to attend these two parikramas. Nand Lal Gupta, trader leader, said, "The Parikrama is starting from November 1. Traders have requested for more time to vacate their shops, but the Ayodhya administration is firm."

"This year, we are expecting a large turnout of devotees for the two parikramas. In the past two years, these two events were curtailed due to the pandemic," he said.

Telangana withdraws general consent to CBI to investigate cases

Hyderabad | Agencies

Telangana government has withdrawn the general consent to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to investigate cases in the state.

The move is seen as an attempt by the KCR-led government to prevent any intervention by the Centre in MLAs poaching case.

The development came amid the political heat generated by the arrest of three alleged agents of BJP while trying to bribe four MLAs of the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) to make them defect to the BJP. The BJP has been demanding that the investigation be handed over to the CBI in the 'MLAs poaching' case.

Though the Government Order (GO) was issued on August 30, it was kept confidential. It was made public on Saturday when the state



government informed the Telangana High Court about the withdrawal of general consent to the CBI during hearing on a petition filed by the BJP seeking direction to transfer the investigation to the Central agency.

The High Court on Saturday stayed investigation in the case till further orders and directed the state government to file its counter by November 4.

As per rules under the

Delhi Special Police Establishment Act of 1946, in accordance with which the CBI was formed, the investigating agency has complete jurisdiction over Delhi. But it can also enter the other states with the general consent of that state's government.

In the absence of the permission, the CBI now cannot interfere with any case that takes place within the limits of Telangana.

The Wire files police complaint against its ex-consultant

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Police have received a complaint from the news website 'The Wire' against its former consultant Devesh Kumar in connection with its fabricated story related to BJP IT cell chief Amit Malviya.

"The complaint was filed by the news website late Saturday evening through email," said a senior police official.

Delhi Police on Saturday had registered an FIR against 'The Wire' and its senior editors based on a complaint filed by Malviya, alleging that the portal forged documents with a view to malign and tarnish his reputation. The complaint has been filed against 'The Wire' founder Siddharth Varadarajan, founding editor Siddharth Bhatia, editor M.K. Venu, deputy editor and executive news producer Jahnvi Sen, Foundation for Independent Journalism and other unknown persons.

"I am filing the complaint for the offences of cheating, forgery for the purpose of cheating, forgery for the purpose of harming reputation, using forged document or



electronic record as genuine, and defamation, among other provisions of IPC ('The Wire', Siddharth Varadarajan, Siddharth Bhatia, MK Venu and Jahnvi Sen shall be collectively termed as 'Accused')," Malviya stated in his complaint.

On Thursday, Malviya had said that he will file a case against 'The Wire', claiming that the media outlet tried to tarnish his image and reputation. "After consultation with my lawyers and seeking their advice, I have decided to file criminal and civil proceed-

ings against 'The Wire'. Not only will I be setting the criminal process in motion, but I will also sue them in a civil court seeking damages as they forged documents with a view to malign and tarnish my reputation," Malviya had said in a statement.

'The Wire' had in a series of reports alleged that Malviya had certain privileges to take down posts from Meta-owned Instagram, a claim which was later denied by Meta, the parent company of Instagram and Facebook.

Numbers swell at PoK with Lashkar, Jaish camps; major infiltration likely

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Pakistan was recently removed from the Financial Action Task-Force's (FATF) grey list. The chances of increased cross border terrorist activities are once again looming.

Sources from intelligence agencies said that in the last few days, there has been a stir in the terrorist training camps and launch pads present in PoK. Terrorists involved with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) are hatching major infiltration plans in India.

According to sources, training camps of such organisations across the border have increased by 50 per cent. There has also been an increase in the number of terrorists and more than 200 are trying to infiltrate into the country before heavy snowfall.

According to the information, terrorist camps and launch pads have been shifted to many places in the vicinity of the border. Houses along the other side of the border are used as bases for operations.

Apart from this, terrorists are also searching for new routes to infiltrate Indian territory.

The training camps of LeT, JeM



and Harkat-ul-Mujahideen (HuM) in Muzaffarabad, Kotli, Mansehra, Bimber etc. of PoK have started working actively. There are more than 20 launch pads in PoK, where there has been a sudden increase in the number of terrorists. Both Pakistan's army and Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) are providing help to them, sources said, adding that ISI is conspiring to infiltrate terrorists into India through PoK.

Within the last few days, more than 100 terrorists have reached the launch pads across the border in Machil, Keran and Gurez sectors of

Jammu and Kashmir.

With Pakistan removed from the list, security forces on the International Border (IB) and Line of Control (LoC) have increased their vigilance. Under the cover of dense fog and snowfall, security forces have been instructed to patrol the border with full alertness in anticipation of an increase in infiltration attempts. Sources said that infiltration routes get closed after heavy snowfall, which is why new routes are being searched.

A huge decrease was recorded in infiltration of terrorists in J&K and

their funding was also tightened. But now, Pakistan has again been trying to carry out its terror plans.

According to security agencies, in view of the intensified movement by the terrorists in the past one week, it is believed that there may be an increase in incidents like infiltration, terror funding and narco-terrorism.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah recently said that after the abrogation of Article 370, there has been a 34 per cent reduction in terrorist activities and 54 per cent drop in the deaths of security forces.



STUDENT ARRESTED FOR OBJECTIONABLE POSTS AGAINST EKNATH SHINDE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra cyber wing has arrested a 29-year-old PhD student of a university in Ahmednagar for allegedly posting objectionable comments against Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis on Twitter, an official said on Sunday.

The cyber cell had received a complaint on October 14 about an unidentified person using a particular Twitter handle to post the objectionable comments, he said.

The accused was also using the handle on the micro-blogging site to abuse women and female journalists, he said.

To avoid legal action, the accused was using Wi-Fi-VPN (virtual private network) and trying to create an impression that he was posting the content from Mumbai, the official said.

The cyber wing conducted a technical analysis of the tweets and found the accused was posting them from the Mahatma Phule Agricultural University at Rahuri in



the state's Ahmednagar district, he said.

Accordingly, a cyber team went to Ahmednagar on Friday and conducted raids on some suspects on Saturday, the official said.

The cyber team detained two suspects and brought them to Mumbai for further investigation into the matter.

The probe team later arrested the main accused in the case from the university, he said, adding that two mobile phones and a laptop were also seized.

The police also are conducting a probe into the possibility of some of the content posted by the accused being created by other persons abetting the crime, the official said.

The police have sent the seized gadgets to cyber forensic experts to investigate whether more persons were involved in creating the content of the tweets, he said.

After the arrest, the accused was on Saturday produced before a local court which remanded him in police custody till November 2, the official said.

Merchant Navy aspirant duped of Rs 4.5L for job

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A Merchant Navy aspirant was duped of Rs 4.5 lakhs by three men who promised him his dream job.

The victim, Sumit Kumar Sonkar of Ashiana locality, was also made to stay in a five-star hotel in Mumbai and then taken for an interview in Delhi by the connen.

According to police reports, Sonkar was introduced to the prime accused Avani Singh of Gorakhpur through a common acquaintance when he was in the final years of his Merchant Navy course three years ago.

Avani took Rs 50,000 from Sonkar as fee for processing his application for the job.

Later Avani, along with co accomplices Nitish Kumar Singh and Prateek Singh, took Sonkar to the office of



Frontline Ship Management Office in Andheri East in Mumbai and introduced him to their 'senior' Ajay Verma.

Sonkar was made to go through an interview and a medical test.

"Later Ajay and Avani called me inside their chamber and asked to pay Rs 4 lakh for medical, joining fee, surety and for other expenses," the victim said in his complaint. By June 2019, Sumit paid all the money and was asked to reach Mumbai.

"I stayed in Mumbai for two months and spent Rs

65,000 on food and lodging there. I kept asking Avani to give the appointment letter. Initially, he dilly dallied and later gave me a fake appointment letter," Sonkar alleged. Sonkar said the fraud came to light when he contacted the company for which he had been selected and was told that the appointment letter was fake.

"I confronted Avani and after some time, he agreed to pay back the money. However, I never got a penny back following which I contacted the police," he said.

Second Leopard captured in Aarey, days after baby mauled to death

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The forest department caught a male leopard from Aarey Colony in Mumbai early Sunday morning, the second feline to be captured in the last five days, an official said.

The leopard walked into a cage trap set up in unit 15 of the Aarey Colony, a green belt in Mumbai's western suburb of Goregaon and located close to the sprawling Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP), he said.

It was later taken to a rescue centre at the SGNP, the official said. Earlier, a one-and-a-half-year-old girl was attacked and killed by a leopard in a forested area in unit number 15 of the Aarey Colony on Monday morning when the child followed her



mother, who was on her way to a temple nearby.

On Wednesday, a male leopard was captured in Aarey's unit number 17 and was also taken to the rescue centre in the SGNP, the official said. Forest officials suspect it is the same animal that killed the girl, he said.

After the incident on Monday, the forest department had put up three cages at strategic locations in and

around the site to capture the animal, the official said.

Forest officials will continue to monitor the movements of other leopards through 30 camera traps and a cage put up in the area, he said.

Nearly 30 wildlife volunteers, members of NGOs, forest department officials, and staff of the SGNP are working together to deal with the incidents of human-animal conflict in the area, he added.

MLA Kadu seeks apology after being accused of taking money to cross over to Shinde

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Prahar Janshakti Party MLA Bachchu Kadu has sought an apology from independent legislator Ravi Rana after the latter accused him of taking money to switch over to the Shiv Sena camp led by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

Both the leaders are seeking a resolution of the issue from senior leaders of the Shinde-BJP government. Rana arrived in Mumbai on Sunday and Kadu is expected to come later in the day.

In June this year, Shinde led a rebellion against the Sena leadership which led to the collapse of the then Uddhav Thackeray-headed Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in which Kadu served as a minister.

Shinde later formed government with the BJP's support.



Rana and Kadu represent Badnera and Achalpur Assembly seats respectively in Amravati district and are supporting the Shinde-led coalition government.

Kadu has dared Rana to submit a

proof of the allegations or apologise and withdraw the charges levelled against him. He has also said it is up to Chief Minister Shinde and Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis to say whether MLAs who went to Guwahati

(as part of the rebellion) were paid money.

On Sunday, Rana reached state capital Mumbai from Amravati.

"Shinde and Fadnis are my leaders and I have been called to Mumbai, hence I have come," Rana told reporters. Kadu, who is expected to arrive here later in the day, said in Amravati that Rana's allegations have defamed him and if there is no satisfactory resolution of the issue, he will be forced to take a "big step".

He also claimed that seven to eight MLAs were in touch with him, but did not elaborate.

Kadu's Prahar Janshakti party has two MLAs in the 288-member Maharashtra Assembly. Shinde has the support of 39 rebel Sena MLAs as well as some independents and legislators from smaller parties.

The BJP has 106 MLAs in the House.

Upset over poor returns, Guj farmers distribute garlic for free

Gandhinagar | Agencies

Upset over a sharp fall in garlic prices in the open market as well as in the Agriculture Producer Market Committee (APMC), the farmers are distributing their produce for free among the poor.

On Saturday, Gujarat Kisan Sangathan will distribute 4000 kilogram of garlic in Gandhinagar.

Gujarat Kisan Sangathan state president Gajendrasinh Zala told IANS that per acre garlic production cost comes to Rs 37,100 and the per acre garlic yield is 3000 kilogram. Today, the market rate of garlic has crashed with 20 kilogram costing just Rs 150. So, the farmer is hardly earning Rs 22.50 for crops harvested on one acre of land. His grievances are that farmers are making a net loss of Rs 14,600 per acre. The farmers' long-pending demand that the state and central government announce MSP for horticulture crops too, also have fallen on deaf ears. Sadly, even when the mar-



ket prices are crashing, the governments are not stepping in to help.

If in this season, the farmers don't fetch good prices, the cultivation in December will be comparatively less, this will lead to shortage in next year, creating other problems, he said.

According to the State Horticulture Director's official data in the year 2021-22, farmers had cultivated garlic on 26,013 hectares of land and the production was 2,02,828 Metric ton.

Reacting to the crisis, Agriculture Minister Raghavji Patel told media persons in Rajkot that as it is a central government's subject, he will take up the matter with the Centre to fix MSP for garlic. Expressing shock over the protest, Gujarat State Cooperative Marketing Federation (GujCOMASol) chairman Dilip Sanghani assured the farmers of finding out a solution by producing value added products and manufacturing it so that the farmers don't have to sell their produce at a throw away price.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra reported 319 new Covid-19 cases and two infection-related deaths on Saturday, the state health department said. The fresh cases took the tally in the state to 81,31,458 and death toll to 1,48,385.

On Friday, the state had reported 273 new cases and a single fatality.

Among new cases, the highest 216 were reported from Mumbai circle, followed by Pune (62 cases), Nagpur (10), Akola (9), Nashik (8), Kolhapur (7), Latur (4) and Aurangabad (3).

Both the fatalities were reported from the Mumbai circle. One death was reported in Thane city while another death was reported in Vasai-Virar area.

The number of Covid-19 patients who have recovered



in the state so far rose to 79,81,541 with 406 patients recovering since previous evening. Maharashtra has now 1,532 active Covid-19 cases including the highest 561 in Mumbai, followed by 307 and 294 active cases in Pune and Thane districts, respectively.

Recovery rate in the state is 98.16 per cent and case fatality rate is 1.82 per cent.

With 14,162 new coronavirus tests conducted in the last 24 hours, the number of samples tested so far in Maharashtra rose to 8,52,27,694.

Coronavirus figures of Maharashtra are as follows: Positive cases 81,31,458; fresh cases 319; death toll 1,48,385; total recoveries 79,81,541; active cases 1,532; total tests 8,52,27,694.

CONTRACTOR ACCUSES L&T OF FRAUD IN WORLD BANK-AIDED TSUNAMI PROJECT

Quaid Najmi | Mumbai

Larsen & Toubro group entity, L&T Construction, Chennai, which is building the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, has been accused of perpetrating an alleged fraud by its consortium contractor, while implementing Indias World Bank-aided tsunami alert projects in two eastern states.

The WB-funded project -- first in India as part of a global initiative for safety in coastal regions -- was intended to sound an advance warning to the disaster management authorities and people living on shoresides of any impending tsunami threats following earthquakes.

The backdrop was the massive devastation caused in many countries, including south India, by the deadly tsunami triggered after the Japan earthquake on March 11, 2011.

The multi-crore rupees prestigious pilot project -- Alert Siren Systems, part of a comprehensive Early Warning & Dissemination System (EWDS) -- came up in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, around 2018, touching the Bay of Bengal.

In February 2016, the Central PSU, Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd (TCIL), appointed L&T Construction as the main contractor, along with Telegrafia of Slovakia and its sole distributor for the sophisticated EWDS, Spectral India, New Delhi, to execute the project within nine months.

Spectral India named a representative, Pankaj Agrawal, to handle the routine work on its behalf with both Telegrafia and L&T Construction, and initially everything apparently worked smoothly.

"Somewhere, without our knowledge, Telegrafia quietly bypassed us to deal directly with Agrawal through his entity, Stalworth Systems, Mumbai. Later,



Stalworth Systems claimed it is the India partner of Telegrafia," Spectral India Chairman B.C. Yesudas said.

Owing to the unholy dispute, the work on the critical WB project languished as Yesudas sacked Agrawal and pursued the matter with Telegrafia and L&T Construction, which bagged the contract to build the Lord Ram Temple in UP, around 2019/2020. As the EWDS work halted, on April 2, 2018, the L&T shot off

a stinker to Telegrafia, expressing surprise' at the Slovakian company's agreement with Stalworth Systems of which it had no inkling.

"The bid document submitted by L&T qualifies only Telegrafia and Spectral India... Stalworth (Agrawal) came into the project as an authorised representative of Spectral India, to take the order and act on behalf of Spectral India," pointed out K. Rajaram, Executive Vice-President of L&T Construction. Rajaram also complained to Telegrafia as to how Stalworth System's Agrawal had taken advance payments at all stages in the project, and yet was spreading canards to extract more money. "He is not cooperating with our site staff, not involving them in commissioning activities, not following any QA procedures. Further, Stalworth, under silly pretexts, has abandoned the (Odisha) project since January 26, 2018," Rajaram said. As Spectral India had terminated the services of Stalworth Systems, L&T Constructions said it was not possible to have any further dialogue with them. "nor we can hope to getting the (Odisha) project completed by Stalworth".

Rajaram urged Telegrafia to advise Spectral India to take over the Odisha project to help L&T Construction complete and hand it over to the government.

"Later, we were requested by the Odisha government to help out at the last-minute before top VVIPs from the Centre and state arrived for the inauguration. We obliged them as our national duty. However, till date, L&T has not cleared our dues of around Rs 20 crore -- though we saved their public reputation at a critical juncture," rued Yesudas.

Despite repeated attempts made by correspondent, L&T Construction, Telegrafia and Stalworth Systems' Agrawal failed to respond to the issues raised by Spectral India.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Now, Varanasi prepares for Dev Deepawali

After 'Deepotsav' in Ayodhya, it is now time for 'Dev Deepawali' on the ghats of Varanasi. The 'Dev Deepawali' festival, this year, will be special since President Draupadi Murmu will grace the occasion. The festival falls on the full moon of the Hindu month of Kartika (November - December) and takes place 15 days after Diwali. The steps of all the ghats on the riverfront of the Ganges River, from Ravidas Ghat at the southern end to Rajghat, are lit with more than a million earthen lamps (diyas) in honour of Ganga River, and its presiding goddess. Mythologically, the gods are believed to descend to earth to bathe in the Ganges on this day. The festival is also observed as Tripura Purnima Snan. During Dev Deepawali, houses are decorated with oil lamps and coloured designs on their front doors. Firecrackers are burst at night, processions of decorated deities are taken out into the streets of Varanasi, and oil lamps are set afloat on the river. Owing to the significance and the growing socio-cultural popularity of this festival, it has now also come to be celebrated in nearby districts such as Mirzapur. 'Dev Deepawali' is also a major tourist event and people from all over the world come to see this world-famous festival.

This year the Dev Deepawali festival will be celebrated on November 7. State ministers Ravindra Jaiswal, Dayashankar Mishra Dayalu and MLA Saurabh Srivastava along with the divisional commissioner Kaushal Raj Sharma, municipal commissioner Pranay Singh and other officers have inspected the entire riverfront. The work of removing the silt deposited on the steps of the ghat due to floods is being done on a war footing by the Varanasi Municipal Corporation.

BOGIES OF DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND MUST BE CALLED OUT TO BE A BANE!

Despite India's buoyant growth story with some hiccups during global COVID-19 pandemic, uncontrolled population growth has not only become the biggest impediment for growth on certain parameters, causing security threat with unabated infiltration from Bangladesh and Myanmar to India but also plaguing future prospects of the country.

Vinod Kumar Shukla

Voice in this regards are being raised from various quarters including Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) when the organization recently shared its view on the matter in Prayagraj in its Akhil Bharatiya Karyakarini Mandal meeting urging the government of the day to come up with a population policy. There is pressure from all across on the government to do something about this. Apparently for the first time, the executive head of the RSS i.e. Sarkaryawah (general secretary) Dattatreya Hosabale officially made an announcement that demographic imbalance has become a matter of concern and the government of the day must come up with a policy to deal with this problem. The most important concern shown by the RSS is that these demographic imbalances had already once led to the partition of India and the threat still persists as unabated population explosion and infiltration is continuing. Now the general opinion of people about population explosion has become that demographic dividend has turned into bane. Because it is difficult to provide skills to such a huge number of population as a developing country like India which has limited resources with growing burden. It is also leading to demographic change.

Due to this, there have been reports when certain areas were termed as areas belonging to a particular community and others were asked to behave in a particular way not freely as one is allowed to behave in a secular democracy. The court had to intervene to allow the procession of the Hindu community in Tamil Nadu. Can this even be justified in a secular country that there are certain pockets claimed by any particular community that they belong to them only. But this is becoming a reality and turning a blind eye on this

would tantamount to behaving like an ostrich. The reason for this uneven population growth is obvious. Besides high birth rate, two other reasons have been outlined - conversion and infiltration. Demography of three bordering states - Uttarakhand, Assam and West Bengal - is changing very fast. For these states, infiltration from Bangladesh and using Nepal as transit route are the sole reason that are causing many other criminal activities across the country including terror acts. The Central government has extended the jurisdiction of the Border Security Force (BSF) to deal with such outlaws. Bangladesh is surrounded by five Indian states - West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura - on three sides and infiltration is happening everywhere. Rajya Sabha on November 16, 2016 was informed that there were around 2 crore Bangladeshi immigrants staying illegally in India. The estimated number of illegal Bangladeshi citizens in India was 1.2 crore in 2004 as per the then UPA government which withdrew this soon for obvious reasons of its Muslim appeasement policy. These numbers are official numbers, the actual number is mind boggling and you can find Bangladeshi in every nook and cranny of the country including in the protected areas like forests and banks of river, government land etc. The number must have gone beyond 2 crore since 20016. The menace is so widespread that recently the Tamil Nadu government initiated a crackdown on them for them being a big law and order issue in the state. They were mostly found in Coimbatore, Erode, Tiruppur, and Cuddalore districts, where they were working in various industries.

The rising number of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants is such that the number has almost crossed over to the entire population of Australia way back in 2016. Numerous cases have been reported about Bangladeshi

nationals entering India without any valid document. Since entry of such Bangladeshi nationals into India is clandestine and surreptitious, it is not possible to have accurate data of such Bangladeshi nationals living in the various parts of the country. The 2 crore estimate far surpasses the figure of 1.2 crore cited by the then Union minister of state for home Sriprakash Jaiswal in 2004 in the Rajya Sabha. Assam alone accounted for over 50 lakh Bangladeshi squatters, while their number in West Bengal was estimated to be the highest at 57 lakh. Besides Assam and West Bengal, their presence in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Bihar, Karnataka, Uttarakhand and Tamil Nadu is sizable. There has been several cases of their involvement in terrorist, dacoity, loot, trafficking, and rape in the country.

There are Public Interest Litigations in this regard in the courts by Amber Zaidi, Firoz Bakht Ahmed and Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay. Upadhyay is of the opinion that Population explosion is the root cause of most of the problems in India due to resource crunch including shortage of drinking water, decreasing forest cover, density of population on land, food scarcity, cloth shortage, house, poverty, unemployment, hunger, malnutrition, clean air and sound pollution. Amber has her views that the population by high birth rate is not only a burden on resources but a threat to the security of the country as demographic imbalance is helping such things to happen unhindered. She also finds it a big health hazard for women who are bearing more children and threatening their lives. Upadhyay too echoed the same view as far as security of the country is concerned, planned demographic imbalance is also being executed especially in the border areas. Due to this, intelligence agencies have recommended increasing the jurisdiction range of Border Security Forces

(BSF) to 100 KM, owing to the unexpected demographic change in the border areas.

Uttar Pradesh and Assam police have sent separate reports to the Union Home Ministry depicting the change in demographics in the last ten years in the border areas of Nepal and Bangladesh. As per the reports, the population of Muslims in border districts has increased by around 32 per cent since 2011. On the contrary, the population change across the country has been somewhere between 10 per cent and 15 per cent. The change in demography is not just about the increase in population. It could be a new design of infiltration in India. This is happening in a planned way by the forces wanting to destabilise India. Change in demography allowed terrorists to flourishing in J&K and Hindus chased away from there. There are eight out of 29 states in India - Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh where the majority Hindus are minority now and overall Hindu population has come down to 79.8 per cent from 84.1 per cent in 1951 while the population of Muslims from 9.8 to 14.2. Christian at 2.3 percent remain the same while numbers of Sikhs and Jains have come down.

Actually the bogie of demographic dividend must be called out as it is just befiling people. It has become more of political narrative than anything else. With such a huge population, no government will have enough resources to train these people with some skill and provide jobs. The number is piling up by the day so we must accept the reality that the burden of population is becoming a bane for the country which is under severe duress of growing population, demographic change and scarcity of resources.

international

LABOUR PUTS PRESSURE ON RISHI SUNAK OVER SUELLA BRAVERMAN REAPPOINTMENT

London | Agencies

Labour is urging the government to publish its assessments of Suella Braverman's security breach following her controversial reappointment as UK home secretary just six days after she was forced out, local media reported.

New Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is under growing pressure over reinstating Braverman as home secretary after a former party chair claimed she had committed "multiple breaches" of the ministerial code, Sky News reported.

He has so far resisted demands to launch an inquiry after she shared a sensitive document with a Tory backbencher from a personal email without permission, Sky News reported.

Both Labour and the Liberal Democrats have raised "national security" concerns over the breach, as well as called for a Cabinet Office probe.



Labour will try to push ministers to share risk assessments of this and other alleged leaks, as well as the information given to Sunak before he reinstated her at the Home Office, with a "humble address" motion in Parliament. Braverman has so far refused to appear before MPs to explain the circumstances surrounding what hap-

pened. Shadow Home Secretary Yvette Cooper said: "Rishi Sunak and Suella Braverman cannot keep running away from these questions. It is far too serious for that, and raises serious doubts about the prime minister's judgement."

"People need to know they can trust the Home Secretary with highly sensitive information and our national security. Rishi Sunak's decision to reappoint Suella Braverman was deeply irresponsible." Labour will use every parliamentary mechanism open to force government to come clean over her reappointment, to get answers and to require detailed documents to be released to the Intelligence & Security Committee", Sky News reported. Braverman resigned from her post just over a week ago after using her personal email address to forward sensitive government documents, breaking the rules that ministers have to abide by.

5 KILLED, 28 INJURED AS BUS FALLS INTO GORGE IN NEPAL

Kathmandu: At least five people were killed and 28 others injured when a bus, they were travelling in, plunged into a gorge in Nepal's Nawalparasi district on Sunday.

The bus, proceeding towards Manakamana Temple in Gorkha district from Hungi in Palpa district, met with the accident at 3 a.m., The Kathmandu Post reported quoting police.

The injured were rushed to Narayani Community hospital.

100 killed in Mogadishu car bomb attacks: Somalia PM

Mogadishu | Agencies

At least 100 people have been killed over 300 injured in twin car bomb explosions targeting Somalia's Education Ministry building here, Somalia President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud said on Sunday.

The fatalities in Saturday's car bomb attacks are likely to rise, Mohamud told media after visiting the bombing site early Sunday.

Several government offices, hotels and restaurants are situated near the bombing site, Xinhua news agency reported.

An unspecified number of

people, including journalists and police officers were among the casualties, Sadiq Dudihe, spokesperson of the Somali Police Force, said earlier.

The al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab Islamist group, which often targets the capital and controls large parts of the country, claimed responsibility. Somali Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre, while condemning the attack, said such action by al-Shabab won't stop the government's commitment to eradicating terrorism in any form.

The African Union Transition Mission in

Somalia in a statement called for sustained military operations against the insurgents, so as to suppress surging terror attacks in the country.

Extending its condolences to the families of the victims, the UN Assistance Mission in Somalia tweeted it "wishes a speedy recovery for those injured, and stands resolutely with all Somalis against terrorism."

The blasts came as the Somali president and leaders of the federal member states, including security officials, were meeting to discuss ongoing offensive operations against al-Shabab.

ROAD ACCIDENT KILLS 7, INJURES 9 IN AFGHANISTAN

Kabul: Seven passengers were killed and nine others sustained injuries as a mini-bus plunged into a ravine in Afghanistan's central Daykundi province.

The accident took place in the mountainous Miramor district late Saturday when the mini-bus fell into the ravine, killing the seven travelers including a woman on the spot, reported the state-run Bakhtar news agency on Sunday.

Locals often blamed reckless driving and congested road on the ragged terrain for traffic accidents, saying that driving on congested roads in the mountainous province claimed scores of lives annually in the central highland, Xinhua news agency reported.

Death toll in Seoul halloween stampede mounts to 153

Seoul | Agencies

The death toll in the halloween stampede in South Korea's capital Seoul has mounted to 153 and could rise further, as 19 people sustained serious injuries.

The deadliest stampede in South Korea's history happened Saturday night in a narrow four-meter-wide downhill alley near Hamilton Hotel in the famous nightlife district after tens of thousands of people visited the area for Halloween, Yonhap news agency reported.

The stampede marked the worst tragedy in South Korea since the 2014 sinking of the ferry Sewol that killed 304 people, mostly high school students.

It was the first Halloween event in Seoul in three years after the country lifted many COVID-19 restrictions. Most of the people on the streets were wearing Halloween costumes.

Of those killed, a majority of at least 97 were female, and observers said women took a bigger blow due mainly to their relatively smaller frame, combined with usually heavier



Halloween costumes.

The number of foreigners killed rose to 22, according to the fire authorities. They are four each from China and Iran; three from Russia;

and one each from the United States, France, Australia, Vietnam, Uzbekistan, Norway, Kazakhstan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Austria, they said. The nationality of the last victim

HEART BROKEN, TRAUMATISED BY HAMMER ATTACK ON HUSBAND: NANCY PELOSI

Washington | Agencies

US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has said she is "heartbroken and traumatised" by the violent attack on her husband in which he suffered a fractured skull and injuries to his right arm and hands. She said that her family was "grateful for the quick response of law enforcement" and for his medical care.

Taking to Twitter, she posted, "We are grateful for the quick response of law enforcement and emergency services, and for the life saving medical care he is receiving." "Please know that prayers and warm wishes from so many are a comfort to our family and are helping Paul to make progress with his recovery, she posted.

Paul remains in hospital receiving "life-saving" care, The BBC reported quoting Nancy Pelosi as saying.

Paul was struck with a hammer at his home in San Francisco home on Friday.



The attacker arrested at the scene has been identified as David Depape, 42, and booked into custody under attempt to murder, assault, burglary charges, among others.

Depape is said to have demanded to see Nancy Pelosi - stoking fears about political violence in the run-up to the November 8 midterm polls.



CM CHOUHAN LAYS FOUNDATION STONE FOR 69 'CM RISE SCHOOLS'

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has laid the foundation stone for building 69 new schools under the 'CM Rise Yojana' in Indore for which the state government will spend an estimated Rs 2,519 crore.

The project is the part of the first phase of the scheme, which will be completed by 2024. The BJP-led Madhya Pradesh government has decided to open as many as 9,095 new schools in different phases across the state, and these schools would be called 'CM Rise School'.

As per the official information, 274 CM Rise schools have already been operational from the current academic year. 'CM Rise School' is the dream project of CM Chouhan.

These schools would be facilitated at par with luxury private educational institutions as reiterated by the officials in state Education Department, and the Chief Minister also will enroll students from KG to Class 12.

The state government has planned



to open 'CM Rise School' at a distance of every 10 to 15 km radius. A total of 360 schools would be opened in the first phase by 2024, while 2031 would be the deadline for the learning schools.

Addressing the gathering of students and teachers on this occasion,

Chouhan claimed that 'CM Rise Schools' would bring a social revolution. He reiterated that these schools would be better than any private school in the state.

'CM Rise Schools will have proper facilities which include a grand building, proper laboratory, library, smart

classrooms, playgrounds, sports equipment and good teaching faculty," the Chief Minister said, adding that, "CM Rise Yojana is a new social revolution in the field of education in Madhya Pradesh."

Meanwhile, Chouhan also asserted that there is no dearth of ability and talent in the teachers and children of government schools, but they need to be given opportunities and facilities.

"Shikshakarmi culture has been abolished in the state. Teachers are being given more respect and facilities," he said, taking a jibe at former Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh without mentioning his name, during whose tenure the Shikshakarmi (ad-hoc) system was introduced in Madhya Pradesh.

Chouhan also appealed to the teachers to leave no stone unturned in shaping the future of the students.

"This is not only a job, but it is a penance, austerity, a great mahayagya for building a new India. He also asked the parents of the children to behave in a friendly manner with the children," he added.

Tribal Pride Day will be celebrated with pomp: Chief Minister

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the birth anniversary of Lord Birsa Munda will be celebrated with pomp in the state as Tribal Pride Day. Chief Minister Chouhan said that Madhya Pradesh will always be indebted and grateful for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision to celebrate Tribal Pride Day on November 15.

Chief Minister Chouhan tweeted that our Prime Minister Modi spoke to the countrymen on many important topics including India's culture, lifestyle, solar energy, youth power, environment protection and many other important topics through Mann ki baat. Prime Minister Modi said that Lord Birsa Munda taught us how to live in harmony with our surroundings and be proud of our culture. Inspired by him, work is being done in the country to fulfill his dreams and to



empower tribal communities.

Prime Minister Modi had taken an important decision to celebrate the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda as Tribal Pride Day. Prime Minister Modi had come to Madhya Pradesh on November 15

last year and took part in the celebration in the Bhopal.

Lord Birsa Munda had sacrificed his life to unite the tribals and tribal community against the British rule and to get freedom for the country. It is also our responsibility to always remember his contribution.

Woman Delivers Baby On Roadside As Ambulance Runs Out Of Fuel

Team Absolute | Raipur

A woman had to deliver her baby on the roadside after the ambulance taking her to the nearest town hospital ran out of diesel, in Panna district on Friday.

In the viral video of the incident from Banauli in Shahnagar area of the district, some health workers accompanying the woman are seen helping her as she delivers the baby on a cloth sheet on the rocky ground. The ambulance is parked right next to them, its doors open and lights on.

The tribal community woman, identified only as



Reshma, was being taken in the Dial 108 ambulance - run on contract as part of a gov-

ernment scheme - to the Shahnagar Community Health Centre.

FIRE IN KHARGONE FUEL TANKER, NUMBER OF DEATH INCREASED TO 10

Team Absolute | Khargone

The death toll in the fuel tanker fire incident in the Khargone district of Madhya Pradesh rose to 10 on Sunday after three more persons succumbed to injuries during treatment at an Indore-based hospital, a senior official said.

The fuel tanker had caught fire on Wednesday morning after it overturned near a village in Khargone district, some 125 kilometers from here, killing a woman on the spot, while another person died in the hospital the next day. The tanker exploded when people were collecting spilt fuel, officials had said. On Saturday, five persons died during treatment at the Maharaja Yeshwantrao Hospital (MYH) in Indore. "Three more persons, including a woman, succumbed to



burn injuries on Sunday during treatment at the MYH, taking the toll in the incident to 10," said

Khargone district collector Kumar Purushottam. The district collector said that of the 17 persons who

were shifted to the MYH for treatment, nine have succumbed to the injuries so far.



The Chhath festival was celebrated with zest & zeal in entire Madhya Pradesh including Bhopal. After two years of the Corona period, Chhath Puja was celebrated in many places in the city. Sun God is worshiped with prayers and religious rituals, and is considered to be one of the most eco-friendly festival. Chhath Puja lasts for 4 days

Everyone should be good to oneself and others- CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that Bhagavad Gita gives us the message to not to run away from life but to work continuously as a sattvik worker. It is important that our actions should be such that it does good to us as well as others. Kamlesh Daji of Ramchandra Mission gives us the light of knowledge and wisdom and inspires us to stay on the right path through Heartfulness campaign. By following the path shown by him, we can continue on the path of spiritual progress while fulfilling our family and professional responsibilities. The method of walking on the spiritual path propounded by him is complete in itself. CM Chouhan was addressing the programme after a meditation session organized at Kanha Shanti Vanam of Heartfulness Institute in Hyderabad. Revered Kamlesh Daji of Ramchandra Mission, Sadhana Singh



were special guests in the programme. Chief Minister Chouhan released the Hindi translation of the book 'Yes You Can Do It' 'Ji Haan Aap Kar Sakte Hain' focusing on methods of deaddiction through yoga and meditation. The book is published by Heartfulness Institute. Chief Minister Chouhan said that material progress alone cannot give happiness and joy to a person. One wants maximum age and a life full of happiness, peace and joy. All thought streams and methods lead to the pursuit of happiness and joy. The path shown by Pujya Daaji paves the way for reaching the highest level of spiritual advance-

ment and one's happiness, peace and joy amidst the busy schedule of present life. The Heartfulness Programme is full of love, compassion and kindness.

Praising the activities carried out by Ramchandra Mission for the promotion of agriculture, environment-conservation, yoga, meditation and Pranayama, CM Chouhan said that the mission has launched a campaign for environment-protection in Jaora in Ratlam district in the state. With the help of the mission, there is a plan to conduct activities for education, agriculture, environment, life building and de-addiction in Madhya Pradesh. Praising the activities carried out by CM Chouhan in the field of environment-protection, education, agriculture etc. in Madhya Pradesh, Kamlesh Daji said that Madhya Pradesh, the heart of the country, would be developed as a heartfelt state. Daji said that if a person is disturbed and worried, then he cannot remain happy.

THIEF RETURNS VALUABLES STOLEN FROM TEMPLE WITH APOLOGY NOTE

Balaghat: A thief returned silver and brass items stolen from a temple in MP's Balaghat district along with an apology letter saying his act caused him sufferings, police said on Sunday.

The unidentified thief had stolen 10 decorative pieces of silver, including 'chhatras' (an umbrella-shaped decoration piece), and three brass items from the Shantinath Digambar Jain Temple under Lamta police station limits on October 24. Additional Superintendent of Police Vijay Dabar said.

Since then, the police were searching for the culprit, he said.

On Friday, members of a Jain family spotted a bag lying in a pit near the panchayat office in Lamta following which they alerted police and the community members, the official said.

The stolen goods were recovered from the bag along with an apology letter from the thief, he said.

The letter, a photo of which surfaced on social media platforms, stated, "I am seeking an apology for my act. I made a mistake, forgive me. I have suffered a lot after the theft."

Dabar said the police have seized the stolen items and efforts are on to arrest the thief.

3 ex-principals of Rewa's British-era TRS College in jail for corruption

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Three ex-principals of Thakur Ranmat Singh, popularly called T.R.S. College in Madhya Pradesh's Rewa district, were convicted by a district court and sent to jail on the basis of a complaint regarding financial irregularities during their tenures.

It is probably the first such instance in the history of this over one and a half century old educational institution when the persons occupying the top post were sent to jail on corruption charges.

The three former principals, who were sent to jail on charges of corruption and other financial irregularities during their tenures are S. U. Khan, Satyendra Sharma and Ramlala Shukla.

Khan and Sharma were retired a few years back. Shukla, who was suspended in 2020 on corruption charges, is now attached to a state government-run college in Sagar district.

However, it may not be the last list of the persons associated or serving in T.R.S. College, which is also called the heritage of Vindhya Pradesh. Before Independence, Rewa was the capital of Vindhya Pradesh, which was merged with Madhya Pradesh in 1956. Some more prominent professors and staff members are also facing allegations of corruption.

We have learnt that at least 18 more persons, including professors and HoDs (head of the



department) of several departments and administrative staff members are facing corruption charges, which are being probed by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW).

A case of corruption and other financial irregularities against the three principals, professors and other staff members was registered on the direction of the Rewa district collector Ilaia Raja T. in 2020, who is currently posted in Jabalpur district. The conviction of the three ex-principals came at a time when the incumbent principal of the college - Dr. K. K. Sharma - is set to retire on October 31, and the new principal of TRS college is going to be appointed soon. "TRS college is not only one of the oldest edu-

cational institution in Madhya Pradesh but also a heritage of this region, but for the last few years, it has become like a football between the lobbies of local politicians. What could be a worse thing than even the principal of this reputed college would be decided by the local politicians," said a senior professor of the college on condition of anonymity.

What is more ironic is that despite being one of the oldest and most prominent educational institution in the state, T.R.S. College has been waiting for a regular principal for nearly a decade. A temporary principal has been appointed every time. "Why has T.R.S. College not got a regular principal for nearly a decade? It is because of two reasons. First, the promotion of regular professors associated with the college is pending since the last many years. Second, the hierarchy system is not followed in appointing a principal and therefore every time conflicts arise. It is my personal view that if the government really wants to protect the integrity of this college, a regular principal should be appointed and he/she should be from outside," said another senior professor of the college, requesting not to be named.

Some other professors, who have been associated with T.R.S. College for long, said that the college can regain its reputation if a principal is appointed from outside the state and he remains free to take decisions without the influence of the local politicians.

CLEANLINESS SHOULD BE AT EVERY STEP- SHRIKANT PATIL, MD CRISP



Bhopal| A clean environment is an indicator of human progress. We all know the importance of cleanliness, but many times we unknowingly do dirt and when it comes to our houses we keep our homes clean but do not care about public place hygiene or cleanliness.

To make people aware of cleanliness and sanitation, the Centre for Research and Industrial Staff Performance (CRISP) organized the "Cleanliness Drive" at Kaliyasot Dam on Saturday. More than 70 staff members of CRISP collected the garbage and plastics around the dam and joggers' area.

Managing Director, CRISP, Shrikant Patil said, "Every month we organize a such program to promote cleanliness and contribute our bit to 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan'. This is an excellent way to raise awareness among people to maintain hygiene and cleanliness. We have collected 8 to 10 bags of plastic from today's drive. We should keep our surroundings, houses, colonies, parks, and streets clean. Together let us all take a step towards cleanliness.



All eyes on Danielle Mason, as she dons skintight corset and fishnet tights for Halloween

Los Angeles | Agencies

Danielle Mason ensured all eyes were on her as she attended a Halloween bash at the Ascot Racecourse on Saturday. The former Page 3 girl showcased her jaw-dropping figure as she donned a black skintight corset with a bow detail. The model added height to her frame with a pair of black heels along with matching fishnet tights.

The star dressed as a racy version of Little Red Riding Hood as she also sported a burgundy cloak for the event. Letting her blonde locks fall loose down her shoulders, Danielle also donned eye-catching makeup for the evening. Danielle also sported some fake blood on her lips and chest as she posed up a storm for the cameras. The reality star is mother to children Rudy, and Delilah, and previously revealed that 'loyalty' is an ultimate deal-breaker when it comes to men. Danielle found fame on Gypsies Next Door star shares her children with cage fighter Tony Giles, whom she split from in 2019. The former couple tied the knot in 2012 after getting engaged in Thorpe Park, but split in 2016 and later reunited.

Danielle confessed she struggled to fit in with the gypsy community she married into, as she was expected to limit her career prospects and take care of housework and cooking like a traditional traveler woman. After a couple of traumatic experiences, which included Tony getting shot in what was thought to be a war between rival gypsy gangs, Danielle asked him if they could leave their caravan site and live in a house.

However, the pair decided to split for good after the differences in their cultures became too much for Danielle to cope with. Danielle was previously in a relationship with reformed ex-con Ben Hatchett, but the couple split last year.

TESS DALY LOOKS SENSATIONAL IN BLACK VELVET DRESS AS SHE HOSTS HALLOWEEN WEEK

Los Angeles | Agencies

Tess Daly cut a stylish figure as she joined co-host Claudia Winkleman for Saturday's episode of Strictly Come Dancing. The TV presenter, looked incredible as she took to the ballroom stage in a black velvet midi dress with a high leg split.

The garment featured an off the shoulder detail while Tess added height to her frame with a pair of eye-catching black boots. The host styled her platinum locks into loose waves for the evening and added to her outfit with silver hoop earrings. Tess looked in good spirits as she struck a series of poses backstage in the outfit, which she wore for the show's Halloween week. Her co-host Claudia, 50, looked trendy in a black long-sleeved mini dress which she wore with a pair of bright green heels. Last week was the end of the road for comedian Jayde Adams, who became the fourth star to be eliminated after going head-to-head with Molly Rainford in the dance-off. After both couples performed again, the judges voted to save Molly and her professional partner Carlos Gu, meaning Jayde and Karen were sent home.

Following on from last week's public vote, the pressure is well and truly on to get their steps right as the phone lines will once again open after the show for fans to vote for their favourite routines.

This week, the remaining pairs take to the dancefloor with spooktacular Halloween-inspired performances, in a bid to survive the next public vote, after last week's episode celebrated 100 years of the BBC, with special dances honouring a number of popular shows from the broadcaster. The 20th series of Strictly once again sees Shirley Ballas, Craig Revel Horwood, Motsi Mabuse and Anton Du Beke returning as judges.



'What happened to her accent?': Millie Bobby Brown confuses fans

Los Angeles | Agencies

Millie Bobby Brown confused fans with her changing accent as she appeared on Thursday's episode of The Tonight Show to promote her new film, Enola Holmes 2. The British beauty, 18, grew up in Dorset, England, and plays an English detective in her new movie, yet sounded like a born and bred California girl as she chatted away to Jimmy Fallon. Viewers were quick to take to Twitter to express their shock, with one fan remarking they didn't even know Millie was British as she's best known for her role in the American Netflix series, Stranger Things. 'Why are people crying about Millie Bobby Brown losing her Br*ish accent?? That should be a blessing;', 'Wait, why is Millie Bobby Brown now speaking with an American accent?; What happened to her accent?'. Millie previously revealed that she was losing her British accent after relocating to Florida with her family at the age of eight and then starring in Stranger Things. Speaking to Radio Times, she said: 'For the last five years I've been playing an American character in Stranger Things and I found it really challenging being British in this, even though I am a Brit. I had to learn how to speak again because I'm so used to speaking in an American accent.' Ironically, Millie initially struggled to perfect an American accent, admitting she learnt by mimicking Miley Cyrus in Hannah Montana. She told Jimmy Fallon in 2020: 'I watched Bugsy Malone and Godfather when I was like eight and my parents were like, you know, watching all these movies with me and I was like 'Yeah but Hannah Montana is like Oscar-nominating, like it's so good.' Hannah Montana is the best, the film, everything. Everything about it is amazing.' Millie isn't the only British star that's struggled to keep their accent after moving across the pond.

Brooklyn Beckham showed off his multitude of accents during a candid interview about his love for cookery. The star, who was raised between London, Madrid and Los Angeles, said: 'My favourite thing to cook a lot, she loves angel hair pasta with pink sauce.'



Los Angeles | Agencies

Simon Cowell says becoming a father changed his life and helped him overcome an all-encompassing obsession with work that left him 'depressed, miserable' and unable to sleep.

Cowell's straight-talking appraisals as head judge on The X Factor helped earn him a reputation as TV's Mr. Nasty, but behind the scenes he admits to working round the clock in a frantic bid to help the show stay one step ahead of the competition.

And the music mogul, says becoming a father late in life helped steer him away from his dark, desperate and ultimately doomed attempt to salvage the former ITV flagship from a rapid decline in popularity by toying with its once

MY SON ERIC HELPED SAVE MY LIFE WHEN SHOW LEFT ME 'DEPRESSED AND MISERABLE': SIMON COWELL

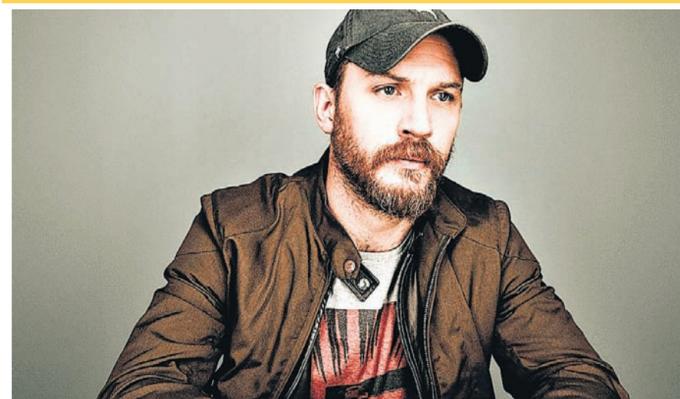
successful format. Simon said: 'Before Eric, my life was 99 percent work - I was obsessed with it. I got to that point where everything was about, "If you're not rating against this then you're a failure" and I stopped enjoying what I was doing and I was miserable the whole time. I was obsessed with beating the competition. I took it to a ridiculous level and I would get really down about that stuff, to the point I was depressed.' Cowell welcomed son Eric - named after his late father - in New York City on Valentine's Day 2014. To date he remains the mogul's only child with fiancée Lauren Silverman. But while his birth resulted in fans seeing a softer side to Cowell's character, he admits to 'tearing his hair out' while trying to devise new concepts for The X Factor and would often stay up all night while doing so.

He said: 'I'm not a wall puncher but I'd tear my hair out, and then be sitting there at 4am saying, "What am I going to do?", coming up with ridiculous ideas like the six chair challenge.'

'I was really unhappy. But now Eric is around, I don't work through the night anymore. If he hadn't come along, God knows what would have happened. It's sad now to think of me at my age, still working till 4am, obsessed with the TV ratings. The thought of it - I can't deal with that.'

'VENOM' FRANCHISE TO DEVELOP THIRD FILM BY KELLY MARCEL

Tom Hardy in titular role



Los Angeles | Agencies

Kelly Marcel, who served as the writer and producer on the first two parts of the anti-hero movie 'Venom', is set to take the director's chair for the third instalment of the franchise.

The film will also star the franchise regular Tom Hardy in the titular role. Marcel and Hardy will also produce, with Marcel writing the screenplay from a story developed by Marcel and Hardy.

According to a leading website, plot details are under wraps but it's certain that Hardy will return as the lethal protector Venom following the first two films grossing a combined \$1.36 billion worldwide at the box office.

It is also unknown who will be joining Hardy from previous films or whether any

characters from the Sony Pictures Universe of Marvel Characters will be joining the film.

The first two films had their own director, with Ruben Fleischer directing the first and Andy Serkis helming the most recent pic, but Marcel has been there from the start as Venom's journey was being mapped out.

Hardy and Marcel have always been on the same page when it comes to shaping Venom's story, and that heading into the final chapter the two were in step with what direction they wanted to head.

Hardy announced on his social media channels earlier this year that Marcel was back at work on the script, and as the two were developing the story, sources say it became clear that it made sense for Marcel to take over directing duties as well.



Vicky Pattison



T20 WORLD CUP

SOUTH AFRICA REACHES TOP OF GROUP 2 WITH FIVE-WICKET WIN OVER INDIA

Perth | Agencies

David Miller and Aiden Markram smashed fifties to lead South Africa to top of Group 2 points table in Super 12s with a five-wicket victory over India in a thrilling win at the Men's T20 World Cup at Perth Stadium on Sunday.

After Suryakumar Yadav slammed a brilliant counter-attacking 68 off 40 balls to help India post a decent 133/9 after Lungi Ngidi led a fine Proteas bowling performance with 4/29, Miller (59 not out off 46 balls) and Markram (52 off 41 balls) rescued South Africa from a shaky 24/3 with a 76-runs stand off 60 balls for the fourth wicket to complete the chase with two balls to spare.

Chasing 134, Arshdeep Singh struck on his first ball of the second over, finding the outside edge of Quinton de Kock's drive on a full, swinging away delivery and was caught at second slip.

On the third ball, the left-arm pacer hit Rilee Rossouw on the back leg after missing a flick, which captain Rohit Sharma reviewed and replays showed ball hitting top of leg and middle stump, giving Arshdeep his second wicket in three balls.

Captain Temba Bavuma never looked comfortable at the crease and in a bid to make room and lap Mohammed Shami in the final over of power-play, he gave an inside edge to the keeper diving to his left.

Despite Markram finding delightful boundaries, twice off Arshdeep and one against Hardik Pandya, India's bowlers kept the run-rate tight and were flawless with their lengths as well as extracting extra bounce as South Africa reached 40/3 in ten overs.

After the drinks break, Markram and Miller showed signs of changing gears as the duo took a four each off Pandya in a 16-run 11th over. Markram then danced down the pitch against Ravichandran Ashwin in the 12th over



and smashed a four over the bowler's head.

Markram's charmed life at the crease came

Brief scores

India 133/9 in 20 overs (Suryakumar Yadav 68; Lungi Ngidi 4/29, Wayne Parnell 3/15) lose to South Africa 137/5 in 19.4 overs (David Miller 59 not out, Aiden Markram 52; Arshdeep Singh 2/25, Mohammed Shami 1/13) by five wickets

to an end when he holed out to deep mid-wicket off Pandya in the 16th over, departing for 52. Miller smacked successive sixes off Ashwin's first two balls in the 18th over - a straight loft down the ground was followed by smashing hard over wide long-off.

PAKISTAN CRUSH NETHERLANDS BY SIX WICKETS

Perth: Pakistan logged their first points in the ICC T20 World Cup, crushing the Netherlands by six wickets with more than six overs to spare in their Super 12 Group 2 match at the Perth Stadium on Sunday.

Riding on a superb bowling performance, Pakistan restricted Netherlands to 91/9 and then knocked off the runs for the loss of four wickets to earn their first victory in the T20 World Cup.

Brief scores: Netherlands 91/9 in 20 overs (Colin Ackermann 27; Shadab Khan 3/22, Mohammad Wasim 2/15) lost to Pakistan 95/4 in 13.5 overs (Mohammad Rizwan 49, Fakhar Zaman 20) by six wickets.

Abierto Tampico: Cocciaretto clinches her first WTA 125 title



Tampico (Mexico) | Agencies

Italy's Elisabetta Cocciaretto won the first WTA 125 title of her career at the Abierto Tampico with a 7-6(5), 4-6, 6-1 victory over No.5 seed Magda Linette in the singles championship final, here.

The third time was the charm for 21-year-old Cocciaretto, who had finished as a WTA 125 runner-up at 2020 Prague and Makarska earlier this year. After a two-and-a-half-hour battle with Linette on the Mexican hard courts, Cocciaretto became a WTA 125 champion at last on late Saturday night.

Linette is the fourth seeded player Cocciaretto has defeated this week. Cocciaretto ousted No.2 seed Marie Bouzkova in the second round, No.7 seed Camila Osorio in the quarterfinals and No.6 seed Zhu Lin in the semifinals.

Cocciaretto has won eight of her last nine matches in Mexico. Last week at the WTA 1000 Guadalajara Open

Akron, Cocciaretto won two qualifying matches and breezed past Anastasia Potapova in the first round before falling to Top 10 player Coco Gauff in two close sets.

In Tampico's final, Linette came back from 3-1 down to serve for the first set at 5-3, but Cocciaretto broke back en route to a tiebreak. Linette took a 5-1 lead in the breaker behind powerful forehands, but Cocciaretto prevailed in lengthier rallies to sweep the last six points of the set.

Linette again served break points when she served for the second set at 5-4, but she regrouped and leveled the match with an unreturnable serve. However, Cocciaretto extended rallies and drew errors to take early control of the third set, breaking for 3-1 after Linette led 40-0.

Cocciaretto continued to come out on top in gritty rallies as the decider progressed. The Italian claimed the last five games of the match, and she collapsed on the court in joy after Linette netted a backhand on the first championship point.

Unhappy return to Brighton for Chelsea boss Potter in Premier League

London | Agencies

Graham Potter suffered an unhappy return as he led his Chelsea side to Brighton, just seven weeks after swapping the south-coast club for south-west London.

Brighton won 4-1 to claim their first win under Potter's replacement, Roberto De Zerbi, with two own goals not helping Chelsea's cause.

Leandro Trossard fired Brighton in front in the fifth minute before first Ruben Loftus-Cheek and then Trevoh Chalobah turned crosses into their own net to make it 3-0 before halftime, reports Xinhua.

Kai Havertz gave Chelsea hope with a 48th minute shot, but Brighton defended well and Pascal Gross scored Brighton's fourth goal in second half injury time.

Kevin de Bruyne scored the only goal of the game as Manchester City won 1-0 away to Leicester City to go top of the table ahead of Arsenal's game on Sunday.

Pep Guardiola's side were without Erling Haaland with a foot injury, but De Bruyne won the match with a spectacular 49th minute free kick.

Rodrigo Bentancur's 92nd minute goal saw Tottenham come back from 2-0 down to win 3-2 away to Bournemouth.

Crysencio Summerville scored an 89th minute winner for Leeds United away to Liverpool to stun the home side 2-1 and prob-



ably save the job of Leeds' coach Jesse Marsch.

Callum Wilson scored twice as Newcastle United won 4-0 at home to Aston Villa, while Diego Costa was sent off in injury time as Wolverhampton took a point with a 1-1 draw away to Brentford.

Eisewhere, Jordan Pickford produced a series of second half saves as Everton clung on for a 0-0 draw away to Fulham. Odsone Edouard scored the only goal of an even game to give Crystal Palace three points at home to Southampton.

BAYERN BEAT MAINZ TO JUMP ATOP BUNDESLIGA STANDINGS

Berlin | Agencies

Defending champions Bayern Munich take the lead in the Bundesliga after cruising 6-2 past hapless Mainz in the 12th round of Bundesliga. The German record champions started brightly on home soil as Sadio Mane teed up for Serge Gnabry, who made no mistake and tapped home the opener from close range in the fifth minute.

Bayern dictated the pace on the pitch on Saturday evening, but Mainz responded well and came close through Karim Onisiwo and Jonathan Burkardt. The hosts eventually turned their dominance into a two-goal lead as Jamal Musiala benefited on Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting's good build-up work in the 28th minute.

However, Mainz made it 3-1 before the half-time whistle as Silvan Widmer turned in the subsequent corner in the injury time. Mainz came out with its guns blazing after the restart, but Widmer failed to secure a brace despite a promising opportunity in the 49th minute.

Mainz's chance was a wakeup call for the hosts, who pressed forward and created momentum as Choupo-Moting hit the crossbar before Mane curled the ball narrowly wide. Mane



remained in the thick of things as his pinpoint cross into the box allowed Leon Goretzka to head home the 4-1 lead at the hour mark. The Bavarians were still not done with the scoring as joker Mathys Tel finished off a counterattack to extend the lead to 5-1. The visitor's resistance still wasn't broken as Marcus Ingvartsen pulled one back after capitalising on a moment of madness from Ulreich in the 82nd minute.

Meanwhile, clinical Borussia Dortmund moved up to third in the league rankings after Jude Bellingham's winner ended Eintracht Frankfurt's four-game winning streak 2-1 in the 12th round of Bundesliga.

Frankfurt remained in control after the restart but lacked in accuracy in front of the target whereas the BVB flabbergasted the hosts against the run of the game in the 52nd

minute when Bellingham finished off Youssoufa Moukoko's through ball to make it 2-1.

Elsewhere, Leipzig extended their unbeaten run to overall nine games after beating Bayer Leverkusen 2-0. Felix Nmecha's brace paved the way for Wolfsburg's 4-0 victory over bottom side Bochum.

Relegation threatened Stuttgart reaped vital points after coming from behind to beat Augsburg 2-1.

PRIYANKA NUTTAKI SHOCKS TOP SEED TANIA SACHDEV IN ASIAN CONTINENTAL CHESS



New Delhi: After a five-hour gruelling battle, 11th seed Woman Grandmaster Priyanka Nuttaki shocked top seed and former Asian women's champion Tania Sachdev, while Saina Salonika downed fourth seed and 2016 edition winner Bhakti Kulkarni in the fourth

round of the Asian Continental Women's Chess Championship, currently underway at Leela Ambience Convention Hotel here.

In the Open section, top seed R. Praggnanandhaa defeated IM Pranav Anand to join overnight sole leader Leon Luke Mendonca and four others on the leaderboard. Praggnanandhaa and Mendonca now have the company of compatriot Karthikeyan Murali, Harsha Bharathakoti, Turkmenistan GM Maksat Atabayev and IM Koustav Chatterjee, who are sharing the lead with three-and-a-half points.

Mendonca showed great defensive skill to hold second seed Narayanan SL, while Karthikeyan Murali outwitted Aditya Mittal in a fine crafted play with a pair of bishops. Harsha Bharthakoti joined the leaders after capitalising on crucial errors made by his Indian GM rival Sandipan Chanda, while Koustav Chatterjee had a lucky escape against Kazakh No. 1 GM Rinat Jumabayev to secure full point from the outing.

The lone non-Indian among the leaders, Atabayev got the better of Grandmaster Aryan Chopra in a long battle that ended after 90 moves.

Max Verstappen fends off Mercedes pair to take maiden Mexico City pole position



Mexico City | Agencies

Red Bull driver Max Verstappen took pole position over the Mercedes pair of George Russell and Lewis Hamilton in a thrilling Mexican Grand Prix qualifying session here on Saturday night.

Hamilton led the first qualifying period (Q1) and repeated the feat in Q2, but his first Q3 run was cancelled for track limits, which meant Verstappen held provisional pole over Russell.

A final flying runs saw Verstappen improve again, this time to a benchmark of 1:17.775 seconds, to leave

Russell second by 0.304s -- as he had his final run chalked off for track limits -- and Hamilton another 0.005s off in Position 3. (P3).

Home favourite Sergio Perez (Red Bull) qualified fourth, 0.353s off the pace, and Carlos Sainz (Ferrari) took fifth -- over half a second off pole.

Valtteri Bottas split the Ferraris, with the Alfa Romeo driver taking sixth ahead of Charles Leclerc, while Lando Norris qualified eighth for McLaren. The Alpines lined up ninth and 10th, Fernando Alonso ahead of Esteban Ocon to seal the intra-team qualifying battle.

ATWAL LYING 28TH AFTER 70 IN THIRD ROUND ON PGA TOUR

Southampton, Bermuda: Arjun Atwal had two birdies and one bogey as he carded 1-under 70 in the third round of the Butterfield Bermuda Championship.

Atwal, who shot 63 in the first round and an even par 71 in the next had a 70. He was 9-under and tied 28th with one round to go.

Atwal starting on the back nine and bogeyed the 12th. He had back-to-back birdies on second and third.

Seamus Power, the highest-ranked player at Port Royal this week, took the lead with a 6-under 65 and he shared it with Ben Griffin, who also shot a fine round in strong wind with a 66. They were at 18-under 195, two shots clear of Kevin Yu (67) and Aaron Baddeley (68).

Chinese Taipei's rookie Kevin Yu showed plenty of character by battling back from two late bogeys on Saturday to stay firmly in contention.

The 24-year-old carded a third-round 4-under 67 at Port Royal Golf Course to finish the day in joint-third on 16-under 197, two strokes behind co-leaders Power of Ireland and Griffin of the US.

Pune Half Marathon set for comeback after pandemic-induced hiatus



Pune | Agencies

The Pune Half Marathon is set to make a grand comeback with its third edition announced for November 27, 2022 and registrations for which have begun in full swing.

This year, the event has also declared prize money of approximately Rs 28 lakh, up from Rs 21 lakh in the second edition, to be won

across its race categories. After a pandemic-induced break of two years, the mar-

quee event of Pune's long-distance running is making a comeback and the race organisers have announced Rs 10 lakh prize for national records in the half-marathon category, for both men and women. The Pune Half Marathon primarily features four categories, which include the half marathon

(21.1km), a 10km run, a 5km run and a 3km (family and fun) run.

The first edition of the half marathon saw over 15,000 registrations and the second, held in 2019, saw more than 20,000 running enthusiasts participate. Kenyan Janet Cherobon-Bawcom, the 2011 Boston Half Marathon champion, was the brand ambassador in the second edition.



BOLLYWOOD HAS GONE TOO FAR AWAY FROM INDIAN CULTURE AND BECOME WESTERNIZED: KANGANA RANAUT

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Kangana Ranaut has spoken out about her most recent theatrical release, *Dhaakad*, claiming that the film failed to connect with audiences because her character in the spy thriller was "too westernized."

Dhaakad, which was released in May, had a disastrous box office run, becoming one of the year's and Kangana's career's biggest flops. With a reported budget of Rs 80 crore, the actioner only made about Rs 3 crore at the box office.

Kangana Ranaut said in an interview with a leading portal that Bollywood films are struggling at the box office while South films routinely do well, and that this is because Hindi films have moved away from Indian culture.

Kangana claims that Hindi filmmakers are heavily influenced by the West, which causes audiences to feel disconnected when watching Bollywood films. "Bollywood has gone too far away from Indian culture and become westernized. Having been influenced by that and with the trend to make westernized films, people are unable to relate with the films. Even my film hasn't worked this year. Usse bhi mujhe yehi seekh mili ki shayad bohot zyada ek westernized character jo hai, log ussey identify nahin kar payein (What I learnt from that is perhaps people couldn't identify with the character which was too westernized)."

"There are various kinds of analysis about why a film works or doesn't work. If you look at hit films, all of them have Indian roots. Look at *Kantara*. These films show India on a micro level, based on devotion and spirituality. *Ponniyin Selvan-1* is also about Cholas," she said.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Femina Miss India 2020 runner-up Manya Singh, who recently got evicted from 'Bigg Boss 16' has made some serious allegations against her co-contestant Soundarya Sharma. She said that Soundarya tried to ruin her career by saying false things about her to an agency where they both worked. "I met Soundarya for the first time in an audition and we didn't have a very warm meeting post the audition. I got to know that she spoke badly about me to my

Manya's rant: Soundarya ruined my career

agency, that I was playing the victim card and for which I had to see a rough phase in my career," said Manya. Manya had never been on good terms with Soundarya and in one of the weekend ka vaar episodes, she questioned Soundarya's character and blamed her for getting work through casting couch. Post her eviction when Manya came on the *Krushna Abhishek*-hosted show 'Bigg Buzz' where the evicted contestants from 'Bigg Boss' play interesting games and give their opinions about the housemates without any

biases, she revealed a number of things of 'Bigg Boss 16' house and talked about Soundarya and her relationship with Gautam Vig, calling it 'fake'.

"Soundarya and Gautam are trying way too hard to show love for each other in the show but I don't think audiences see genuine love between them." During a conversation with host *Krushna* on 'Bigg Buzz', Manya told him that she shared a very close bond with Gautam and Soundarya can never be 'good' for him.

"I'm very protective about Gautam, we share a special equation. While I was leaving the house I hugged him and whispered into his ears to take care. I am very much sure that Soundarya is not good for him," she wrapped up.



DIFFERENT SPACES INSPIRE DIFFERENT IDEAS: SID SRIRAM

Team Absolute | Chennai

Popular singer Sid Sriram said that he is fascinated by the fact that different spaces inspire different ideas.

The immensely popular singer took to Instagram to post a video clip of him playing the piano and singing a song, which he had written while in college.

He also wrote: "It's pretty fascinating how different spaces inspire different kinds of ideas. What lives beyond nostalgia?"

"I especially love playing this piano whenever I

come back to the bay. It's been in this house since I was like nine or 10 I think."

"I started messing around with a melody today and as I continued I fell into a hook I wrote (in) my first year at Berklee in 2008/09."

"The song was called 'California Air' and I wrote it when I was hellahomesick. As I stumbled into that hook today, it felt really warm. (My laughing in the middle is when I say this ad lib lyric 'Northern California to be exact' that I'm surprised I remembered). Hope you all are having a good weekend. All love."



Many responsibilities come along when you play historic character: Amruta

Amruta to play Maratha commander's wife in historical film

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Amruta Khanvilkar will be playing a historical character for the first time in 'Har Har Mahadev' starring Sharad Kelkar in the lead role of Bajji Prabhu Deshpande - the commander of Chhatrapati Shivaji.

The actress said she had to drape a 10 yard sari and shoot without even going to the washroom. Amruta plays the role of Bajji Prabhu's wife Sonabai Deshpande in the movie. She said: "The role of Sonabai Deshpande in 'Har Har Mahadev' is the first historic character that I have played ever in my life, and with a historic character comes great responsibility because you cannot imagine things on your own."

Amruta has been part of the Marathi industry and also did a number of Bollywood movies including 'Raazi', 'Malang' and more. The actress shares how she prepared for her role which involved a proper research for playing a historical character. "You have to study the character, and how the nuances of a character must be you have to do research and when it's an intricate historical character you have to play it to the tee, and for that having a no makeup look and wearing a 9-10 yard saree, I have to drape it for the whole day I was not able to use the washroom after wearing it."

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Sargun Kaur Luthra

Is Siddhant Chaturvedi
scared of sleeping
alone in a hotel room

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Siddhant Chaturvedi talked about his hilarious spooky experience when he got scared of watching his own shadow on the television screen.

He said: "I am really fond of watching movies on my laptop. Especially when I have an off. On one of my days off, I decided to watch a horror film. Though I am really scared of horror films, I still watch them. So I turned off the light, got inside the blanket, and started watching a

horror film."

Siddhant, who is remembered for his roles in 'Inside Edge', 'Gehraiyaan', and is currently part of Katrina Kaif-starrer 'Phone Bhoot'. The actor continued sharing the interesting incident that happened with him while he was watching a horror movie.

"Movies usually have transitions where the screen goes blank, so the same happened in this film as well and I saw a shadow on the screen and it felt as if someone was looking at me. The closer I got to the screen, the shadow even came

closer. I was so scared that I jumped off the bed and then I realised that it was my own reflection on the screen and no one else was there," he added.

Siddhant is coming on 'The Kapil Sharma Show' along with Katrina Kaif and Ishaan Khatter.

When the host Kapil Sharma teased him saying that he is scared of sleeping alone in a hotel room, Siddhant agreed and said that he usually puts the light on or keeps the TV on which helps him in sleeping peacefully.

