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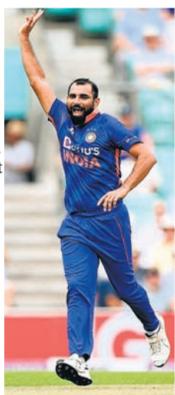
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T20 WORLD CUP Shami stars in final over

BRISBANE | Agencies

Mohammed Shami made a surprise entry and picked up three wickets in the final over as India beat defending champions Australia by six runs in their first warm-up match of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup at The Gabba on Monday. Harshal Patel conceded only five runs in a superb 19th over and picked up the wicket of captain Aaron Finch, who top-scored with a 54-ball 76, apart from a brilliant run-out of Tim David by Virat Kohli's direct hit. Shami was then a surprise pick to bowl the final over after having not bowled in the entire match and made his mark by having Pat Cummins caught at long-on one-handed catch by Kohli. Shami then nailed his last two yorkers right and knocked over Josh Inglis and Kane Richardson to seal a narrow win for India in a final over where four wickets fell, including that of Ashton Agar.



HIGHLY INFECTIOUS NEW OMICRON SUB VARIANT BF.7 DETECTED IN INDIA

NEW THREAT

Team Absolute | New Delhi

With a declining trajectory of fresh Covid cases, a new Omicron sub variant, however, is posing a new threat in the country. According to some reports, the first case of BF.7 has been detected by the Gujarat Biotechnology Research centre. This new Omicron variant is also considered to be highly infectious and has a greater transmissibility. Omicron sub-variants -- BA.5.1.7 and BF.7 -- after emerging from a region of Mongolia in China are now making their way to other parts and posing fresh threats. Reportedly, Omicron variants BF.7 and BA.5.1.7 are behind the recent surge in the Covid-19 cases in China. However, experts have advised precaution and Covid appropriate behaviour ahead of the upcoming festive season. Meanwhile, the active caseload of the country presently stands at 26,834 cases, accounting for 0.06 per cent of the country's total positive cases. India's daily positivity rate was reported



to be 1.86 per cent, while the weekly positivity rate currently stands at 1.02 per cent on Monday. A total of 2,060 fresh Covid cases was

detected in the last 24 hours against 2,401 reported on the previous day, the Union Health Ministry said on Monday morning.

Inflation set to ease, though stubbornly: RBI bulletin

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has expressed optimism that headline inflation is set to ease from its September high, albeit stubbornly, on the back of easing momentum and favourable base effects. These observations have been made in the central bank's monthly bulletin for the month of October. In the article on the state of economy published in the bulletin, the central bank said that "these factors will entrench India's prospects as one of the fastest growing economies of the world". Commenting on the global scenario, it noted that "aggressive and synchronised monetary tightening has further weakened global economic prospects as financial markets sold off, investors took flight and jettisoned risky assets". In contrast to the prevailing

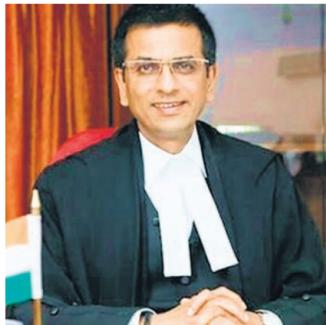


global situation, the RBI bulletin however noted that in India, broader economic activity has remained resilient and poised to expand further with domestic demand accelerating as the contact-intensive sectors are experiencing a bounce-back. "Robust credit growth and fortified corporate and bank balance sheets provide further strength to the economy. Headline inflation is set to ease from its September high, albeit stubbornly, on the back of easing momentum and favourable base effects. These factors will entrench India's prospects as one of the fastest growing economies of the world," it said.

Justice D.Y. Chandrachud appointed next Chief Justice of India

Team Absolute | New Delhi

President Droupadi Murmu has appointed Justice DY Chandrachud as the next Chief Justice of India. Justice Chandrachud will be sworn in as India's 50th CJI on November 9. On October 11, Chief Justice of India U.U. Lalit named Justice Chandrachud, the senior-most judge in the Supreme Court, as his successor. CJI Lalit, who will retire on November 8, had, in presence of all Supreme Court judges, handed over the letter of recommendation to Justice Chandrachud. Justice Chandrachud, who will hold office till November 10, 2024, is the son of former Supreme Court judge Y.V. Chandrachud, who was the longest-serving CJI, being in office for about seven years and four months between 1978 to 1985. During his tenure, Justice D.Y. Chandrachud overturned two judgments of his father - which were related to adultery and the right to privacy. Justice Chandrachud, who is a PhD from Harvard Law School, is known as a non-conformist judge. He has played a key role in introducing virtual hearings during the Covid time, which has now become a permanent feature. He has been part of the landmark judgments on Ayodhya title dispute, decriminalisation of homosexuality, adultery, priva-



cy, entry of women into Sabarimala etc. Justice Chandrachud practised in Bombay High Court and the Supreme Court. He passed BA with honours in economics from St Stephen's College, New Delhi and completed LLB from Campus Law Centre, Delhi University. He also served as Additional Solicitor General of India from 1998 till 2000. He was first appointed as judge of the Bombay High Court on March 29, 2000. Justice Chandrachud has also served as Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court since October 31, 2013 until his elevation as an apex court judge on May 13, 2016.

Chennai jeweller gifts cars, two-wheelers to employees as Diwali gift

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Chennai: In a move that brought tears of joy to the face of employees, a Chennai-based jeweller gifted his employees with Maruti Swift cars, Honda Shine and Honda Activa two-wheelers ahead of Diwali. According to information available, the businessman had spent an amount of Rs 1.2 crore on the expensive Diwali gifts. The owner of Challani Jewellery in Chennai, Jayanthi Lal Chayanthi, showered the employees with presents, saying that every employer should treat his employees properly. In a statement released to the media, the Chennai-based jeweller said that without the services, hard work, and trust of the employees, no business would grow. He said that his act of gifting his employees with expensive presents was a return for the hard work and trust shown by his employees. Thirty employees benefited from the largesse of the businessman with 10 being given Maruti Suzuki cars and 20 being handed over two-wheelers - Honda Activa and Honda Shine. In the statement, he said that his business reached new heights of success due to his team supporting him in all the lows and highs the company has witnessed. He said that the employees were like a second family to him and that his success was due to these employees that he earned a good reputation and profit all these years.



Centre approved Bilkis Bano rapists' release, Gujarat tells Supreme Court

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Gujarat government has told the Supreme Court that the 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano case were released since they completed 14 years in prison and their behaviour was found to be good. In an affidavit, state Home Department Under Secretary said: "I say that the state government considered all the opinions and decided to release 11 prisoners since they have completed 14 years and above in prisons and their behaviour was found to be good." It added that the state government considered the opinions of the seven authorities -- the Inspector General of Prisons, Gujarat, the Jail Superintendents, the Jail Advisory Committee, the District Magistrate, the Police Superintendent, the CBI, the Special Crime Branch, Mumbai, and the sessions court, Mumbai (CBI). "After approval of the state



government, orders have been issued on August 10, 2022 to release the prisoners. Hence, in instance, case the state has considered the proposals under policy of 1992 as directed by this court and not granted under the circular governing grant of remission to prisoners as part of celebration of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', added the affidavit. The affidavit said that all the convict prisoners have completed 14+ years in the prison under life imprisonment and

opinions of the concerned authorities have been obtained as per the policy of July 9, 1992, and submitted to the Ministry of Home Affairs, by letter dated June 28, 2022 and sought the approval/suitable orders of the Centre. "The Government of India conveyed the concurrence/ approval of the Central Government under section 435 of the CrPC for premature release of 11 prisoners vide letter dated July 11, 2022," said the affidavit.

India will start making Kalashnikov AK 203 assault rifles

The AK-203 is part of the 'Series 200' of Kalashnikov's small arms, which includes several models using various popular round calibers and barrel lengths. The series features tuning options such as adjustable stocks and the Picatinny rail and other improvements. The AK-203 assault rifle is designed for the 7.62x39mm round.

MOSCOW | Agencies

Production of Russia's new Kalashnikov AK-203 assault rifles in India may be launched before year-end, a senior Russian official has said, as per media reports. The weapon will be manufactured at a plant in Korwa in Uttar Pradesh, according to Alexander Mikheev, the head of Rosoboronexport, the Russian state agency for international arms trade, RT reported.



India have been closely cooperating in defense for decades and have previously launched other joint ventures for making arms in India, RT reported. During the exhibition, Rosoboronexport will discuss with the Indian side the production and supply of AK-203 for the armed forces and other law enforcement agencies of the country. In addition, the company will present a wide range of additional modern equipment designed both for customizing the assault rifle itself and for equipping personnel.

"Rosoboronexport has the world's largest portfolio of completed, on-going and future defense production projects in India. The joint venture Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited, in which Rosoboronexport and the Kalashnikov Concern participate from the Russian side, is fully in line with the Government's Make in India initiative and Defense Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020 rules." General Mikheev, Director, Rosoboronexport

I WAS WAITING FOR LONG TIME: SONIA ON CONG PREZ POLL

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi on Monday said that she had been waiting for a long time to cast her vote for the presidential poll. "I have been waiting for long time for this day," she said to waiting reporters after casting her vote in a booth at party headquarters here. She was accompanied by her daughter and Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who also cast her vote here. The Congress delegates were voting to elect the new president of the party and in the fray are Mallikarjun Kharge and Shashi Tharoor. P. Chidambaram was the

first voter at the AICC headquarters and Jairam Ramesh followed him in early voting. Tharoor has pitched for a change and appealed to the delegates to vote for him. About 9,300 Congress delegates are scheduled to vote to elect a new party President between the two contenders in the fray. Voting is underway across all states and union territories till 4.00 p.m. About 67 booths have been set up, according to the party's Central Election Authority (CEA). Once the voting process ends, all the ballot boxes will be brought to the AICC headquarters in New Delhi. The results will be declared as soon as counting of the votes ends on Wednesday.

MANISH SISODIA LEAVES CBI OFFICE AFTER DAY-LONG GRILLING

New Delhi: The Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi, Manish Sisodia, left the CBI headquarters here late on Monday evening after being grilled for the whole day in connection with the Delhi excise policy case, in which he has been named as accused number one in the FIR filed by the central probe agency. Sisodia joined the investigation at around 11:15 a.m., when he reached the CBI headquarters along with scores of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) workers who raised slogans against the BJP. According to sources, Sisodia can be summoned again to join the investigation in the future. On Monday, the CBI asked him about 50 questions related to the excise policy and the alleged bribe which was reportedly paid to government officials by private liquor businessmen. Sisodia, on his part, has termed his questioning as political vendetta.

UN seeks probe after 92 naked migrants sent from Turkey to Greece

GENEVA | Agencies

The UN refugee agency is demanding an urgent investigation into the discovery of 92 naked people on Greece's land border with Turkey, calling the incident shocking and saying it has been "deeply distressed" by images of the group, a media report said. The men, mainly from Afghanistan and Syria, were found close to the frontier after crossing the Evros River in rubber dinghies, according to Greek police, The Guardian reported. Children were

also among the group, a UNHCR spokesperson told The Guardian. "We are asking for a full investigation because the circumstances are not clear," said Stella Nanou, the agency's spokesperson in Athens. "We are always against degrading and cruel treatment and what we have seen is shocking." Images of the naked migrants, some bearing signs of injury, surfaced at the weekend after their reported discovery by patrol guards close to the river, which demarcates the border, The Guardian reported. In a statement, Greek

police said the men had testified they had been brought to the area in three Turkish military vehicles before being ordered to remove their clothes before boarding the inflatable boats. The testimonies, it claimed, were given during the course of a joint investigation conducted by Greek authorities with officials from Frontex, the EU's border agency. A disturbing image of the men cupping their genitals as they crouched in the open was posted by the Greek minister of migration and asylum policy, Notis Mitarachi, on Twitter on Saturday.



RISING POLLUTION: CAQM ADVISES DCS/ DMS TO TAKE STRICT ACTION AGAINST VIOLATORS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Amid rising level of air pollution in the national capital and surrounding areas, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has advised the district authorities to ensure verification of all reported farm fire incidents within 48 hours and take strict action against the violators.

Officials said that the Commission has been actively monitoring paddy residue burning events for a month now, from September 15 in the states of Punjab, Haryana and eight NCR districts of UP. The current year has so far seen a reduction of fire counts, from 3,431 to 1,695, as compared to the corresponding period of last year.



The total farm fire incidents reported in Punjab are 1,444 as against 2,375 incidents in 2021, in Haryana, 244 as compared to 1,026 in the previous year, and in UP (NCR) five as against 30 fire incidents during the corresponding period of 2021. In Delhi, two fire incidents have

been reported this year. No fire incident has been reported from the two NCR districts of Rajasthan.

During the current harvesting season, the first paddy residue burning incident was reported on September 15 in Punjab, on September 18 in Haryana, on

September 30 in the NCR districts of Uttar Pradesh and on October 5 in Delhi.

During the review meetings, the district authorities elaborated the steps taken regarding utilisation of available machinery, IEC activities especially in all hotspot villages, and interaction with the farmer communities and further informed that they are keeping strict vigil on the burning incidents in Haryana, Punjab, and UP.

It was noted that about 31,700 Custom Hiring Centers and cooperatives have been set up in Punjab, Haryana and UP (NCR) and more than 2 lakh CRM (Crop Residue Management) machinery is available for utilisation in Punjab, Haryana and NCR districts of UP.

3 HIT BY TRAIN IN JHARKHAND WHILE TAKING SELFIES, 1 DEAD

Ranchi: Three youths were hit by a goods train while they were taking selfies on a railway bridge in Jharkhand's Latehar district, resulting in the death of one person on the spot, while the two others were critically injured.

The three, identified as Nasir Ansari, Firdous Ansari and Rizwan Ansari, were taking selfies on the Gala river railway bridge on Sunday evening.

While Nasir fell under the bridge and died on the spot, the two others were taken by family members to Latehar's Sadar Hospital.

The three were friends.

J&K killings will not stop unless 'justice' given: Farooq Abdullah

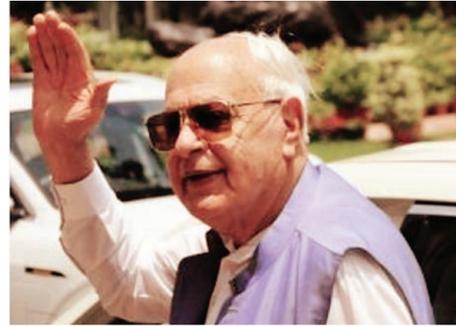
Jammu | Agencies

National Conference President and former J&K Chief Minister Dr Farooq Abdullah on Monday shot down BJP claims of normalcy in J&K and said that killings won't stop unless "justice" is given.

Abdullah, who went to Reasi town to condole the death of NC leader and former minister Jagvir Lal's sister, ridiculed the BJP's claim that normalcy has returned to J&K after the abrogation of Article 370.

"Had the situation improved, another innocent Kashmiri Pandit would not have been killed.

"Killings will never stop as long as there is no justice," he said.



"They were making noises saying that terrorism is because of Article 370. There is no 370 now. Why such killings are still taking place and who is responsible for them," he told reporters while referring to the assassi-

nation of Puran Krishan Bhat by terrorists in Shopian district on Sunday.

Abdullah, however, did not elaborate what he meant by "justice", although he was referring to the restoration of Article 370.

Angered over innocent killings, people damage Hurriyat office in Kashmir

Srinaga | Agencies

Angered by recent innocent killings in Kashmir, some social activists on Monday damaged the office of the separatist Hurriyat conference in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar city.

A group of social activists gathered outside the Rajbagh locality office of the separatist Hurriyat Conference.

Visibly angered over the recent killings, the group of activists told reporters that the Hurriyat leaders had deceived the people for the past 30 years and they were responsible for killing innocents in Kashmir.

The group of activists brought down the office board of the Hurriyat conference with bare hands.

The Hurriyat conference is a conglomerate of sepa-



ratist parties who stand for secession of Kashmir from India.

Between themselves, the Hurriyat leaders are divided over whether they seek an independent state or merger with Pakistan.

This difference finally resulted in the split of the Hurriyat conference into the one headed by late Syed Ali Geelani and the other by Miwaiz Umar Farooq.

ALLAHABAD HC GRANTS BAIL TO NOIDA POLITICIAN SHRIKANT TYAGI

Noida: The Allahabad High Court on Monday granted bail to Noida 'politician' Shrikant Tyagi, who was arrested for allegedly abusing a woman at his apartment complex.

Tyagi was charged under the Gangsters and Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act after he was arrested on August 9 from Meerut by the Noida police. A bench of Justice Surendra Singh granted the bail petition filed by Tyagi. During the hearing, the Uttar Pradesh government in its affidavit presented Tyagi's criminal history. However, it was argued on behalf of Tyagi that he has no criminal history and all the cases registered are motivated by malice. Tyagi had already got bail from the Sessions Court in three cases.

Delhi-NCR accounts for 56% of the vehicle thefts in the country

Team Absolute | New Delhi

NCR accounts for more than 56 per cent of vehicle thefts in the country, as per a latest study.

The Acko Vehicle Theft Report finds that in Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR), the northern part of the geography is more prone to theft, such as Rohini, Bhajanpura, Dayalpur and Sultanpuri.

Other commonly prone areas in the list are Uttam Nagar in the West, Sector 12 in Noida and South City 1 in Gurugram.

To put this in perspective, one vehicle is stolen every 12 minutes in the NCR, while vehicle theft accounts for nearly 20 per cent of total crimes reported in the city.

The report reflects that the cars with the greatest demand and consequently longer delivery timeline are most susceptible for thefts.



Therefore, India's most popular hatchbacks - the Maruti Wagon R and Maruti Swift - are the most frequently stolen cars in Delhi-NCR.

They are closely followed by Hyundai Creta, Hyundai Santro, Honda City and Hyundai i10 in sec-

ond, third, fourth and fifth place, respectively.

Similarly, for two wheelers, Hero Splendor took the first place for the most stolen bike, followed by Honda Activa, Bajaj Pulsar, Royal Enfield Classic 350 and TVS Apache, in that

order.

The report also talks about the most theft prone cities in India. When it comes to vehicle theft in the country, Delhi-NCR is followed by Bengaluru at 9 per cent and Chennai at 5 per cent in vehicle theft cases.

Meanwhile, Hyderabad, Mumbai, and Kolkata have emerged as the cities with the least number of vehicle thefts in the country.

When it comes to the colour of the car, white cars are more vulnerable to theft. The common logic to this is that white coloured cars are very easy to blend in with traffic. Additionally, it is easier to paint white cars in a different colour.

There are several reasons, which make Delhi-NCR the vehicle theft capital of India but some of the most pertinent ones are the lack of parking space in buildings and colonies, leading to vehicles being parked on the roads.

Lakhimpur Kheri case SC GRANTS UP 2 WEEKS FOR RESPONSE ON ASHISH MISHRA'S BAIL PLEA

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Monday granted two weeks to the Uttar Pradesh government to file its reply on the bail plea filed by Lakhimpur Kheri violence case prime accused Ashish Mishra, the son of Union Minister Ajay Mishra Teni.

A bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and B.V. Nagarathna said it will hear the matter on November 7.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, representing Mishra, submitted that notice was already issued in the matter.

On July 26, the Allahabad High Court's Lucknow bench declined to entertain Mishra's bail plea.

On April 18, the Supreme Court had cancelled the bail granted to Mishra and directed him to surrender within a week.

A bench headed by Chief Justice N.V. Ramana (retired now) and comprising Justices Surya Kant and Hima



Kohli asked the Allahabad High Court to examine afresh whether Mishra should be granted bail or not.

"Instead of looking into aspects

such as the nature and gravity of the offence, severity of the punishment in the event of conviction, circumstances which are peculiar to the

accused or victims, likelihood of the accused fleeing, likelihood of tampering with the evidence and witnesses, and the impact that his release may have on the trial and the society at large, the High Court has adopted a myopic view of the evidence on the record and proceeded to decide the case on merits," the top court had noted.

It had said that the high court had shown "tearing hurry" in passing the February 10 order, granting bail to Mishra, denying a fair and effective hearing to the victims.

Mishra was arrested on October 9 last year in the case. On October 3, 2021, eight people, including four farmers, were killed in Lakhimpur Kheri in clashes during a farmers' protest.

The family members of the farmers, mowed down by a car belonging to Mishra, in Lakhimpur Kheri had moved the top court challenging bail granted to him.

Mamata Banerjee slams BCCI over Sourav Ganguly's exit

Kolkata | Agencies

West Bengal Chief minister Mamata Banerjee, on Monday, launched a scathing attack on the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) over the "unceremonious" exit of Sourav Ganguly as its president.

"Injustice has been meted out to him, while Jay Shah, Union Home Minister Amit Shah's son, will continue as the board secretary. I have no objection to that. But Sourav Ganguly too should have the opportunity to continue as the BCCI president," the chief minister told mediapersons at Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport before leaving for north Bengal on an official visit.

As an alternative she suggested that Sourav Ganguly should be allowed to contest for the chairmanship of International Cricket Council (ICC). "Previously, we have seen Jagmohan Dalmia in that chair. There is no question of politics here. Sourav Ganguly is not a politician. He can move along with everybody. So,



for the sake of the development of Indian cricket he should be given a chance to represent India in the ICC. If necessary, I will speak to the Prime Minister on this issue," the chief minister said. She also said that she was really shocked to hear about Ganguly's exit from BCCI.

Tejashwi to appear before CBI court on Tuesday in IRCTC scam case

Patna | Agencies

Bihar's deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav, who is facing corruption charges in the IRCTC scam case, will appear before a special CBI court in Delhi on Tuesday.

He will leave for Delhi on Monday evening. Tejashwi, who is currently on bail, has to appear before the special CBI court of Geetanjali Goyal.

Earlier, the CBI had filed an application before the court seeking the cancellation of his bail. Following this the court had issued a notice to Tejashwi Yadav on September 17 and asked him to appear before the court. In a directive of court, it had said that if Tejashwi Yadav violates the conditions on which he was given the bail, then the court could cancel it immediately.

The CBI is using this condition as an advantage to level charges against him. The agency in its complaint



to the court pointed out that Tejashwi Yadav and his family members were involved in threatening the officials of CBI from open platforms in a bid to influence the investigation. He also did a press conference and tried to stop the investigation. He also challenged the constitution of the country, the complaint said.

The CBI officials also claimed that Tejashwi was facing charges of economic offence and the way he and his family members tried to influence the investigation was a violation of the terms

and condition on which the court had granted bail to him.

The probe agency had filed an application in the court of Geetanjali Goyal and senior lawyer D.P. Singh and Manu Mishra appeared on behalf of the CBI. Tejashwi Yadav, Lalu Prasad Yadav, Misa Bharti, Hema Yadav, Rabri Devi and others were facing charges of corruption in the IRCTC scam. The CBI registered an FIR against Tejashwi Yadav and others in 2017 and the court had given bail to him on October 6, 2018.

12 INJURED IN FIRE, BLAST IN BIHAR'S EAST CHAMPARAN

Patna | Agencies

At least one dozen persons sustained burn injuries after fire broke out in a house in Bihar's east Champaran district on Monday, officials said.

The incident occurred at 8 a.m. in a house belonging to Jay Nandan Thakur in Pakri Dixit village under Kalyanpur police station following a short-circuit. The fire then engulfed a bike which was stationed near to the electricity board. As people in the house shouted for help, neighbours reached there to douse the flames. In midst of this, the petrol tank of the bike exploded, leaving many injured.

The injured were initially taken to Kalyanpur Primary Health Center (PHC) and then taken to Sri Krishna Medical College and Hospital SKMCH Muzaffarpur for treatment. Five of them are stated to be in a critical condition.

Railways mulls special protection on premier trains after Duronto robbery

Kolkata | Agencies

The Ministry of Railways is giving a serious thought to the redeployment of Railway Protection Force (RPF) commandos on premier trains like Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto passing along certain routes after Sunday's armed robbery on board the New Delhi-Howrah Duronto Express in Bihar.

This train was supposed to be escorted by armed contingents of the Government Railway Police (GRP) at night. Passengers, however, complained that the GRP parties got off at Patna station where the train reached around 1 a.m. on Sunday.

As many as 20 armed robbers got on the train soon after it left Patna station on its way to Howrah and looted belongings of the passengers in 7-8 coaches at gunpoint. Many passengers staged a demonstration at Howrah



station after the train reached its destination, demanding better protection.

"It was extremely scary. The criminals pointed guns at the passengers and looted whatever they could lay their hands on. If this can happen on a Duronto Express, what of other trains? People pay a lot for tickets on such trains and deserve adequate protection. The railways claims

law-and-order is the state governments' duty, but the states maintain they don't have adequate manpower. Why should the passengers suffer due to all this," a passenger said after alighting in Howrah.

According to a senior official in the Railway Board, the matter has been taken up seriously and discussions have begun on whether spe-

cial RPF teams can be deployed end-to-end on such trains passing through certain states. Reports have been sought from senior RPF officials of East Central Railway. At one time, the New Delhi-bound Rajdhani Expresses from Howrah and Sealdah that passed through Bihar, used to be escorted by RPF commandos. No untoward incident was reported when such escort was provided. The commandos were withdrawn after Nitish Kumar took over as chief minister of Bihar and the law-and-order situation improved. A legislator in Bihar, however, said that there is no need for a knee jerk reaction. "All efforts are being made to track down the gang involved. We also suspect that this could be a political conspiracy to tarnish the image of the JD(U)-RJD coalition that is in power in Bihar at the moment," he said.



26 CONGRESS REPRESENTATIVES DID NOT VOTE IN MADHYA PRADESH

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The voting process for the post of President of Indian National Congress is over. Of the 502 state representatives of Madhya Pradesh, 476 voted, 26 did not turn up to vote. In this way, about 95 percent of the voters took part in the voting.

The voting process for the post of President of the Indian National Congress concluded on Monday at the State Congress Committee headquarters. Voting started at 10 am and went on till 4 pm. State Congress President Kamal Nath cast his vote as soon as the voting process started. While 12 delegates, including former Chief Minister Digvijay Singh, voted outside the state.

State election officer of Abha Congress organization R.C. Khuntia informed that there are a total of 502 State Congress Representatives (PCC Delegates) in MP, out of which 464 delegates exercised their franchise at the State Congress Headquarters. 12



Delegates exercised their franchise at other places after obtaining permission. And 26 delegates did not cast their vote. Seven delegates who came to Madhya Pradesh as PRO, APRO and DRO from other states also exercised their franchise.

Khuntia told that this election of Congress organization is between Mallikarjun Kharge and Shashi Tharoor. On behalf of Kharge, Ashok Singh, J.P. Dhanopia, Mahendra Singh and Shri Ajay Chauradia were polling agents while Rajkumar Singh,

Santosh Singh Parihar, Jitendra Mishra and Arjun Sharma were polling agents on Tharoor's side. He told that the ballot boxes have been sealed and the votes are being sent to the office of Abha Congress Committee, Delhi for counting.

Never seen enthusiasm like Bharat Jodo Yatra: Kamal Nath

Team Absolute | Bhopal

State President of Congress's Madhya Pradesh unit, Kamal Nath, after participating in the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' led by Rahul Gandhi in Bellary, Karnataka on Sunday, said that he has never seen such enthusiasm in my political life. Talking to reporters after taking part in the ongoing voting for the All India Congress President in the capital, Kamal Nath said, "Yesterday I joined the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Bellary, Karnataka. I have never seen so much enthusiasm and enthusiasm in my political career. No one can hide this truth.

When Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra is going to come to Madhya Pradesh as well, Kamal Nath was asked about it, he said, Madhya Pradesh will benefit a lot from this visit. Union Home



Minister Amit Shah was on a tour of Madhya Pradesh last day, during which he had fiercely attacked the previous government of Kamal Nath. Responding to Amit Shah's allegations, Kamal Nath said that BJP has nothing left to say now, BJP is left with only police, administration and money.

On the question of discussions going on in the political corridor to vote in support of a particular candidate in the election of Congress President, Kamal Nath said, I have not told any delegates whom to vote for. Told everyone that everyone should vote on the voice of their conscience.

5 killed in Mandsaur boat capsized, bodies recovered

Team Absolute | Mandsaur

Five women have died after their boat capsized in Mandsaur district of Madhya Pradesh. All the bodies have been recovered. The administration has announced financial assistance of Rs 4 lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased. According to the information received, the women of village Tolakhedi of Shamgarh police station area had crossed the backwaters of Gandhi Sagar reservoir and went to the fields to work. When they were returning in the evening, their boat got unbalanced and overturned. Only Ranu Gayari, Bhairulal came out by swimming while five women are missing. Collector Gautam Singh has told that five people were



submerged in water in Tolakhedi village of Suwasra assembly constituency. The work of locating Jin was continuing since last evening. The rescue team resumed the search operation from today (Monday) morning. The fifth body has also been found by

the rescue team. So the rescue work of the team has been completed. According to the instructions of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, financial assistance of Rs. 4 lakh each will also be provided to the family members of the deceased.

Husband-wife duo booked for abetting Vaishali Takkar's suicide

▶ THE MADHYA PRADESH POLICE ON MONDAY BOOKED A HUSBAND-WIFE DUO FOR ALLEGEDLY HARASSING AND ABETTING TV ACTRESS VAISHALI TAKKAR'S SUICIDE. THE ACTRESS WAS FOUND DEAD AT HER HOME IN INDORE ON SUNDAY.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The accused couple, who are also neighbors' of the victim, have been identified as Rahul Navlani and his wife Disha Navlani. They have been booked under section 306 (Abetment of suicide) and 34 (Acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of the Indian Penal Code for allegedly persuading the actor to kill herself.

"Rahul, who is Vaishali's neighbour, his name was mentioned by the victim in her suicide note recovered by the police during the investigation.



The victim has mentioned that Rahul was harassing her, because of which she took this extreme step. She was about to get married and Rahul troubled her for that," said Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Moti-ur Rehman.

"Police raided at Rahul's residence. However, he was not found there. Further investigation in the matter is underway," the ACP added.

She was found hanging in her room on Sunday. Local police reached the spot and took the body for postmortem. Takkar's parents hail from Ujjain's Mahipalpur town and they were living with their daughter in Indore for the last one and half year.

Notably, back in April 2021, Takkar got engaged to the Kenya-based surgeon Abhinandan Singh and shared a video on her Instagram handle with the caption: "What's yours will ultimately find you even from another end of the world."

However, later she deleted the video and stopped posting anything about her fiancé, which also led to speculations about trouble in her love life. She was known for her work in shows like 'Sasural Simar Ka', 'Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai' and 'Super Sisters'.

Why was engineering course in Hindi discontinued in MP: Kamal Nath

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In the backdrop of Union Home Minister Amit Shah releasing MBBS textbooks in Hindi here, Madhya Pradesh Congress president Kamal Nath has asked why a similar initiative with an engineering course was shelved in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-ruled State. On Sunday, Shah released textbooks in Hindi of three subjects for the first-year students of MBBS (Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery) as part of an ambitious project of the Madhya Pradesh government to impart medical education in the Indian language, a first in the country.

In a statement issued on Sunday evening, Nath claimed CM Chouhan organizes such events to divert people's attention from the "worsening" health services in the State. The Bhopal-based Atal Bihari Vajpayee Hindi Vishwavidyalaya had started an engineering course in Hindi in 2016, and "tall" claims were made about it at that time, but the course was closed later,



the Congress leader said.

"Hindi is our mother tongue and I respect the language. We are not against imparting education in Hindi medium and there is no objection to it. The government is starting medical education in Hindi, but it should tell us about the shortage of doctors in the State and what steps it has taken to address this problem," Kamal Nath said in the statement. He said Madhya Pradesh faces a shortage of physicians. "As

per a report of the Medical Council of India, there is an acute shortage of doctors in the State. There is one doctor per 3,500 persons in the State, while as per a World Health Organization (WHO) report, ideally, the doctor-to-patient ratio should remain 1:1,000," the former chief minister added. In his statement, the senior Congress leader alleged the health system in the rural areas was being helmed by paramedical staff.

Hitting out further at the Bharatiya Janata Party government in the State, Nath asked why several announcements made in the Tenth World Hindi Conference held in 2015 in Bhopal were yet to be fulfilled. Meanwhile, sources in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Hindi University said the engineering course that was started in Hindi in 2016 was stopped in the absence of All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) approval. Moreover, very few students took admission in the Hindi medium engineering course at the time, and even these shifted to the standard course later, they claimed.

Teen tied naked to tree, thrashed by two in Bhind

Team Absolute | Bhind

In a gruesome act, a teenager was reportedly tied naked to a tree and brutally thrashed with canes by two miscreants over a minor issue. The incident has been reported in the Bharauli police station area of Bhind district. The victim has been identified as Shiva (18). This is a second incident in one week.

The incident was highlighted after a video of the brutal act went viral on social media, The Free Press Journal reported. According to the informa-

tion, two men, identified as Bhure and Shivam Rajawat, residents of Bharauli Kalan village, had a dispute with the Shiva. Finding Shiva alone, they took him hostage. After stripping Shiva, they mercilessly thrashed him with rods and then tied him to a tree. The accused Shivam and Bhure did not stop there. They even filmed a video and shared it on social media. The family of the victim has filed an FIR against the two.

The senior police officer investigating the case said that during the investigation, the video of the assault has been examined by the

technical team and it is found to be original. A case has been registered against the accused.

Recently, a week ago, a group of men from a family in Satna district allegedly pulled a woman from her home and paraded her in a half-naked position for hours.

Shockingly, residents of the Khera village, where the incident occurred watched the helpless woman being paraded and abused on the street like mute spectators. The despicable act of men was carried out in broad daylight as retaliation.

Man arrested for allegedly raping woman, another Love Jihad case

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A love jihad case surfaced in Madhya Pradesh after Police on Sunday registered case against a person, who disguised himself as a Hindu and allegedly raped a woman.

Mohammad Akram, impersonating his identity as Amar Kushwaha, allegedly raped the woman after developing friendship with her.

"The complainant girl told that she has been talking to a young man on call for a month, who introduced himself as Amar Kushwaha, who took her to the hotel today and raped her", Madhya Pradesh Nagar Police Station In-charge Sudhir Arjariya said. "Later he revealed himself as Mohammad Akram. And also pressurized her to change religion for marriage", he added.

While describing the case, prima facie of love jihad,



Sudhir Arjariya said that on the basis of the complaint of the victim the police have lodged a case under the Madhya Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act 2020, and different sections of IPC against the accused.

After the matter came to the fore, extremist outfits expressed their outrage. The activists of the Sanskriti Bachao Manch reached the police station and demanded the strictest action in the matter. "The incidents of love

jihad should be stopped", Sanskriti Bachao Manch said. Adding that we will not tolerate 'Love Jihad'.

Earlier, in February 2021 a Muslim youth was arrested in Indore, Madhya Pradesh under relevant sections of 'Madhya Pradesh Freedom of Religion Ordinance, 2020'-commonly called the 'love-jihad' law, which prohibits and provides for punishment for conversion by 'misrepresentation, undue influence, coercion, marriage or any fraudulent means'.

Shah's visit to Scindia Palace in Gwalior creates buzz in MP political circle

Praveen Dwivedi | Bhopal

Union Home Minister Amit Shah was on a day-long tour in Madhya Pradesh during which he unveiled the Hindi version of the textbooks (three books) for the first-year MBBS students and also created a buzz when he visited the Jai Vilas Palace in Gwalior.

The ancestral house of Scindia family hosted Shah for the first time after Jyotiraditya Scindia switched over to the BJP, resulting in the decline of Kamal Nath-led Congress government in March 2020.

As per the reports, Shah visited Scindia Palace around 3.30 p.m. on Sunday where he was welcomed by the royal family and supporters. Shah also had lunch at the Palace. Later, he reached the mela ground to lay the foundation stone of a new terminal at Gwalior airport, which is to be named after Scindia's grandmother and (late) Madhavrao Scindia's mother Vijayaraje Scindia.

The new terminal building will be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 446 crore. The new terminal building will have an area of 20,000 sqm as compared to the existing 3,500 sqm. After the expansion, the airport will have the capacity to park 13 planes as against the existing capacity for three aircraft, an official told correspondent.



While addressing the gathering, Shah said, "Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia Airport in Gwalior is one of the most modern airports with the latest facilities. With the dedication with which this airport has been carefully planned, I think it will be one of the best airports in the country. Under the

leadership of PM Modi, there has been a huge development of infrastructure in the country. Earlier 375 km of the railway line was laid in one year; today 1,458 km is being laid."

Meanwhile, Shah lauded the work of the BJP government in Madhya Pradesh, and he also took a dig at the Congress and said, "Madhya Pradesh has experienced the corrupt Congress government and has seen it all."

"Shah's visit to Jai Vilas Palace and having lunch there would be analysed in different aspects of politics, but out of all, one message was clear that Jyotiraditya Scindia's graph has increased in the BJP. Secondly, it was an indirect reply to those (Congress leaders) who were saying that Scindia would not get as much respect in the BJP as he used to get in the Congress," said a political observer in Madhya Pradesh.

Another political analyst claimed that inviting Shah to his hometown, Scindia has played to masterstroke to give an apt reply to his old political opponents, especially within the Madhya Pradesh BJP unit. Scindia was personally monitoring the preparations for the event in Gwalior for the last few days. The BJP leaders, who are considered Scindia's loyalists and are the ministers in Shivraj Singh Chouhan's cabinet, were assigned specific roles for this event.



EDITOR'S SPECS

UP'S POLITICAL CLASS NOT HAPPY WITH RAHUL'S YATRA

The Bharat Jodo Yatra, being led by Rahul Gandhi, may be creating a buzz in the southern states but when it comes to Uttar Pradesh, no party seems to be taking it seriously. Parties that are in power, as well as those in the opposition, feel that the crowds being seen in the yatra now will fizzle out by the time the yatra reaches the Hindi heartland. Another BJP functionary said that it was evident from the itinerary of the yatra that the Congress wants to keep a safe distance from states like Uttar Pradesh where it has a negligible presence left. The Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party -- the two main players in the opposition -- also do not seem enthused about the Bharat Jodo Yatra. While both the parties did not officially comment on the yatra, their leaders - who spoke on condition of anonymity - said that it would make no difference to the fortunes of the Congress. "It seems Rahul Gandhi is on a picnic and is enjoying the company of local people in the yatra. There are no serious issues or even efforts to consolidate the Congress. The momentum will peter out by the time it reaches Uttar Pradesh. In any case, the Congress is fighting itself in UP and partymen have no time for the yatra," said a SP MLA. Similarly, a former BSP MLA said that the Bharat Jodo Yatra was more of a 'Bharat Ghoomo Yatra' since it had no visible political agenda. The absence of senior UP leaders in the yatra is another factor that has made the event lose sheen in the state. About half a dozen former UPCC presidents, when contacted, refused to comment on their 'absence' from the yatra.

BALUCH GENOCIDE: HOW WILL IT STOP?

Dr Amjad Ayub Mirza

I sit down to write this article with a very heavy heart. On October 14, a total of 500 dead and mutilated bodies were found on the roof top and in the morgue of Nishtar Teaching Hospital in Multan city in Pakistan. The corpses had their chests surgically opened and internal organs removed. Some of the dead bodies seemed to be laying in the open for quite some time since they had been reduced to mere skeletons while other seemed fresh. What was shocking was that some of the dead bodies had still got their clothes on, and guess what, the dresses were of Baloch pattern. It has been more than 4,790 days since the Baloch missing person's families have been protesting in Quetta at the hunger strike camp demanding information from the government about their loved ones who have gone missing. Now we might know where those sons and husbands and mothers and daughters might have ended up. It is widely believed that the Baloch people hail from the Iranian plateau. In his research work Naseer Dashti informs us that "nearly 3,000 years ago, a multitude of tribes left their abodes in Central Asia and moved towards west, south, and southeast directions". These tribes were pastoralist nomads who later settled in the south and eastern fringes of Iranian plateau. Originally called the Balashchik they became Baloch. And the name of the region they finally settled in became known as Balochistan. Meaning the country of the Baloch. Dashti's research, based on extensive enquiry in classic manuscripts and references, concludes that the Baloch "created a nation state (Balochistan) that lasted for nearly 300 years as an independent state, (until it) vanished from the map of the world when it was occupied by Pakistan in 1948". The Baloch have been fighting to rid themselves of foreign occupation from the time of the Persian empire to that of the British and more recently Pakistan. During the British Raj in 1839 the British occupied the territory of Kalat and Balochistan was divided into several administrative regions. Dashti claims that "in the context of the 'Great Game', the British, under various boundary commissions, granted western and northwestern regions of Balochistan to Persia and Afghanistan". However, the Baloch people never accepted the division of their land and rose in revolt time and again. During the early decades of



the twentieth century the Baloch resistance was crushed jointly by the British, Afghans and the Persians. Since the early twentieth century the Baloch have formed several political organisations to fight against the illegal occupation of their home land. From the formation of Anjuman-e-Itehad-Wa Balochistan in the early 1900s to the establishment of Kalat State National Party in 1937, to the growth of several armed struggles since 1948 such as the Baloch Liberation Army, Baloch Liberation Front, United Republican Guards to BRAS, a coalition the Baloch militant organisation, they have continued with their tradition to fight for the freedom of the native soil from usurpers and colonialists. The India Independence Act of 1947 granted freedom to all the 560 plus princely states which had agreements with the British Indian government and the Crown. Balochistan became a self-governing state once again. However, on March 28, 1948 Pakistan sent its troops and forcefully annexed Balochistan. Ever since the Baloch have risen at least five times to fight the Pakistani occupying army but this time the fight is proving to be the most determined and with gruesome consequences. Pakistan continues to conduct military operations in Balochistan under the pretext



of chasing terrorists while in actuality Pakistan army is targeting those who are against the occupation and are joining the resistance. Over 15,000 Baloch have so far been reported missing. The government of Pakistan claims that they have escaped to Iran and Afghanistan to seek asylum. But now we know where these innocent Baloch people are actually ending up. The current oppression conducted by the Pakistan army and the nation state is different from the previous ones. The state and army of Pakistan is conducting systematic genocide and the evidence that has surfaced on previous occasions regarding mass graves in TuTak, Panjgor and other parts of occupied Balochistan as well as the recent 500 dead Baloch bodies recovered from Nishtar Hospital are testimony to the ongoing genocide. The question is what has to happen to make it stop? Firstly, on a national level the Supreme Court of Pakistan should take a Suo Moto notice, DNA tests of all the dead should be conducted before they are buried, the Medical Superintendent of Nishtar Hospital should be arrested, an investigation into the role of the Multan Corps Commander Lt. Gen. Akhtar Nawaz Sati should be investigated and the Chief Minister

of Punjab (current and previous ones) should be made accountable. Secondly, internationally the International Court of Justices should take notice of such a heinous war crime and launch an enquiry and the UN Human Rights Council should form a committee to investigate the genocidal massacre of the Baloch people. The Baloch people are rightfully asking why the world bodies are silent on the genocide of their people when they were swift in reacting to the genocide of Tutsi minority ethnic group in Rwanda in 1994 and the ethnic cleansing of Muslims in Bosnia between 1992 and 1995. Since Balochistan is the gateway for China's Pakistan-China-Economic-Corridor, the role of China in the ongoing killing of the Baloch people cannot be ignored and must be looked into. With tears rolling down my face I ask the world community this question: what will it take for you to help save the innocent Baloch people from the ongoing genocide?

(is an author and a human rights activist from Mirpur in PoJK. He currently lives in exile in the UK.)

international

FIJI TO HOST WORLD HINDI CONFERENCE NEXT YEAR

Fiji is set to host the World Hindi conference next year with over 1,000 delegates attending the event from all around the world, Indias High Commissioner to the island nation Palaniswamy Karthigeyan confirmed. The three-day conference will include Hindi-speaking scholars, language academics, and other officials. "I can broadly indicate it's going to happen sometime in the first quarter of next year and it's being planned in Nadi and this event will be co-hosted by both the Government of India and Government of Fiji," Karthigeyan told The Fiji Times. Hindi is one of the three official languages spoken in the South Pacific nation, the other two being Fijian and English. The Hindi language, written in



Devanagari script and influenced by Sanskrit, is the third most spoken language in the world with 615 million speakers after English and Mandarin. Fiji Hindi, also known as 'Fijian Baat' or 'Fijian Hindustani', is the language spoken by Indo-Fijians, and is derived mainly from the Awadhi and Bhojpuri

varieties of Hindi. The language developed during the peak of the British Indentured labour system, where Indians, brought to the island between 1879 and 1916, were recruited as labourers to work on the sugarcane and cotton plantations. Karthigeyan also acknowledged the contribution of Fijian scholars in developing Hindi not just in Fiji, but across the world via the Fijian diaspora. "It is a unique opportunity to celebrate this relationship and the cultural link that we have with Fiji so we are excited and happy to host this prestigious event and we look forward to a successful event." Indians make around 38 per cent of the Fiji population. As of 2021, there are 3.20 lakh Indians approximately in the country, according to India's Ministry of External Affairs data. The first World Hindi conference was held in 1975 in Nagpur.

IRAN STARTS REFINING ITS OIL IN VENEZUELA: MINISTER

Tehran: Iranian Petroleum Minister Javad Owji has said that Iran has started refining its crude oil in Venezuela, state media affiliated to his Ministry reported. Iran had started processing nearly 100,000 barrels per day of its crude in Venezuela's El Palito refinery, Owji was quoted by the state media as saying on Sunday. "This was a long-standing and 43-year-old dream that was realised through the efforts of my colleagues at the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC)," he added. Jalil Salari, Head of NIORDC, said on Sunday that efforts are underway to expand Iran's refinery operation in overseas projects, Xinhua news agency reported. According to state media, Iran signed a \$116-million contract with Venezuelan state oil firm PDVSA in May to repair and expand the refinery.

Kiev attacked by kamakaze drones: Official

Kiev | Agencies
A top Ukrainian official on Monday claimed that Russia used kamakaze drones to attack Kiev, the latest in a series of recent strikes targeting the capital city. Taking to Twitter on Monday morning, Andriy Yermak, head of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's staff, said: "The capital was attacked by kamikaze drones. The Russians think it will help them, but such actions are like agony. We need more air defence systems ASAP. More weapons to defend the sky and destroy the enemy." Also known as loitering munitions, kamakaze drones are small aerial weapons which are destroyed after striking the target. Unlike other drones, which are supposed to return home after dropping missiles, kamikaze drones are disposable. The name derives from the Japanese pilots who volunteered to crash their planes in suicide missions in World War Two. Also confirming the drone attacks which occurred between 6.30 a.m. to



8.10 a.m., Kiev Mayor Vitalii Klitschko warned residents of the capital not to go to the city centre unless there was an urgent need. In a series of tweets, he said that the attacks triggered an explosion in a residential building in the Shevchenko district, from where a woman's body was recovered, while 18 people were rescued. While three people have been hospitalized, one remain trapped under the rubble, the Mayor said, adding that search and rescue operations were ongoing. In a social media post, Zelensky said: "Kamikaze drones and missiles are attacking all of Ukraine. A residential building was hit in Kiev."

Thousands of houses may be inundated as flood continues in Australian state

Melbourne | Agencies
Thousands of houses may be inundated, and tens of thousands of residences might be either inundated or isolated as flood continues to wreak havoc in Australia's state of Victoria. According to the latest update of incidents and warnings from Victoria's emergency department on Monday, there are over 50 warnings across the state including more than 10 evacuation orders that are mainly for the state's northern part, reports Xinhua news agency. Residents in areas such as Shepparton and Murchison were warned as "it's too late to leave" and to "move to higher ground". Australian Minister for Emergency Management Murray Watt told national broadcaster ABC News on Monday that emergency

authorities would be kept busy as conditions continually change. "This is a very serious situation. The reports I'm getting, we are could be looking up to 9,000 homes inundated in northern Victoria and potentially close to about 34,000 homes in Victoria either inundated or isolated." Southeastern parts of Australia including the state of Victoria, New South Wales, and Tasmania have experienced a flooding emergency as heavy rainfall hit the states since last week. A 71-year-old man in Victoria was found deceased in floodwaters in the state's north last Saturday. The Victorian government announced on Monday a \$351 million (\$219 million) package funding to help families affected by the flooding, as well as rebuilding damaged roads and clean-up efforts.

Imran Khan stuns all, wins majority of seats in Pak by-polls

Hamza Ameer | Islamabad
Pakistan's former Prime Minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan stunned everyone with his party reclaiming six out of eight seats of the National Assembly (NA) in by-elections. The competition was very much seen as a direct political battle between Khan and the coalition government. Khan lost only one contest in Karachi, while his party member Meher Bano Qureshi lost her by-polls to Ali Musa Gillani of Pakistan People Party in Multan. Imran's loss in Karachi was also claimed by Pakistan People Party's Hakeem Baloch. However, Khan's big wins in six National Assembly seats have certainly rang alarm bells in the



provinces and Korangi district of Karachi in the Sindh province. His party also emerged victorious in at least two out of three Punjab provincial assembly by-polls while only one was claimed by the ruling party PML-N. Khan's narrative and efforts to spread his campaign across Pakistan has

certainly yielded results as he cements the claims of him being the country's most popular leader at present. The biggest winner of the by-polls has certainly been Khan while the biggest loser has been the ruling party PML-N. Many said that Khan was a lone fighter against a coalition of at least 13 political parties, who now stand red-faced and embarrassed after losing from almost all constituencies from where Khan stood as a candidate. The win for Khan is more symbolic in nature and will not necessarily reflect on the outcome in terms of progress and development in respective won seats. The PTI has maintained that Khan will not even be taking any oath of Member National Assembly (MNA) and will not be going to the parliament as an MNA also.

TANZANIA TO DISTRIBUTE 3 MN COFFEE SEEDLINGS TO BOOST PRODUCTION

Dar Es Salaam: State-run Tanzania Coffee Board (TCB) has said that it would distribute 3 million Robusta coffee seedlings to farmers free of charge to boost production of the cash crop. Priscus Kimaryo, the Acting Director General of TCB, said on Sunday that all preparations for the distribution of the seedlings have been made, noting that the seedlings will be distributed to coffee growers in Kagera region, northwest of the country. "The distribution of the Robusta coffee seedlings will be launched next week in Kareng'e village in Kyerwa district," Kimaryo added. He stressed the main reason behind the distribution of the seedlings free of charge was to boost the production of the cash crop. Coffee is grown in 17 regions of Tanzania mainland, Xinhua news agency reported. According to the TCB statistics, coffee production in Tanzania in the past years averaged 50,000 tonne annually but efforts made by the government resulted in an increase in coffee production to 73,022 tonne in the 2020/2021 coffee harvesting season. Kagera region leads in the production of Robusta coffee which accounts for a total of 30 to 40 per cent of all the coffee produced countrywide while Ruvuma and Songwe regions lead with Arabica coffee production accounting for 44 per cent of all the coffee produced in the country.



BJP BOWS OUT OF MUMBAI ASSEMBLY BY-POLLS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a significant last-minute political development in Maharashtra, the ruling ally Bharatiya Janata Party has decided to step out of the fray in the by-elections to the Andheri East Assembly constituency, a top leader said here on Monday. State BJP President Chandrashekhar Bawankule made the announcement and said its candidate Murji Patel will withdraw his nomination papers on Monday evening -- the last date for withdrawal. With this, the stage is set for a virtual

uncontested election of the Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) party nominee Rutuja Ramesh Latke from Andheri East. Bawankule also assured that Patel would not contest as an independent rebel, while Latke welcomed the development. The BJP's change of heart came after appeals from an MLA of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena, Nationalist Congress Party President Sharad Pawar and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena President Raj Thackeray, and other leaders from different parties.



Congress President election: Maha notches 96% voting

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The election for the post of Congress President ended in Maharashtra on Monday with 96 per cent of the delegates casting their votes in the state, an official said here. Of the total 561 eligible voters in Maharashtra, 542 cast their votes, including by postal ballots, at three polling stations erected in the state Congress headquarters, for the two candidates in the fray, senior leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Shashi Tharoor. The Returning Officer for the state was former Union Minister M.M. Pallam Raju and his team of Dinesh Kumar, Narendra Rawat and others while Krishna Punia oversaw the elections. All voters (delegates) were granted



entry to the polling stations only after verification of their barcoded identity cards with photos, issued by the AICC.

Among the prominent voters were state Congress President Nana Patole, Congress Legislature Party chief Balasaheb Thorat, three former Chief Ministers - Sushilkumar Shinde, Prithviraj Chavan, Ashok Chavan, several ex-ministers, state and district leaders and other eligible delegates. As many of the regional representatives were busy with the Bharat Jodo Yatra, they voted in the yatra polling station organised there, while those appointed as election officers in other states cast their votes via postal ballots. The ballot boxes were sealed and will be despatched to New Delhi accompanied by the polling agents, state election officers and other office-bearers. The counting of the ballots shall be conducted on October 19 and the results are expected the same day, a party spokesperson said.

Urvashi Rautela 'chops off hair' in support of Iranian women

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Urvashi Rautela, who had compared herself to late Mahsa Amini, has now shared pictures of herself 'chopping off hair' in support of Iranian women protesting against Mahsa's death. Urvashi took to Instagram and posted a note on Amini's death. She was seen sporting a blue kurta as she sat on the floor as a man cut off her hair with scissors. Her back was towards the camera. Alongside the post, she wrote about the protests in Iran, feminism and the death of Ankit Bhandari, who was killed in Uttarakhand last month. "Chopped my hair off! Cutting my hair in support of Iranian women and girls, who have been killed in protests at the death of Mahsa Amini after her arrest by Iranian morality police and for all the girls. And for



19-year-old girl, my Ankit Bhandari from Uttarakhand," Urvashi wrote. She added: "Around the world women are uniting in protest against the Iranian government by cutting their hair. Respect women. A global symbol for women's revolution... hair is seen as a symbol of the beauty of women. By chopping off hair in public, women are showing that they don't care about society's beauty standards and

won't let anything or anyone decide how they dress up, behave or live. "Once women come together and consider one woman's issue an issue of the entire womankind, feminism will see a new vigour." Twenty-two-year-old Mahsa Amini was brutally killed by the "morality police" of Iran for showing a bit of her hair, not adhering to the strict dress code laws. It sparked nationwide protests.

RAJ THACKERAY THANKS FADNAVIS AS BJP WITHDRAW ITS CANDIDATE

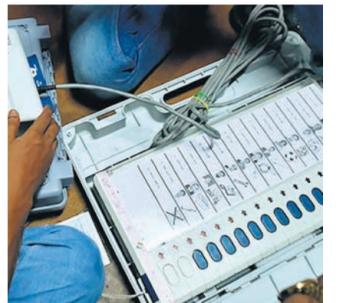
Mumbai: Maharashtra Navnirman Sena chief Raj Thackeray on Monday thanked Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis for the BJP's decision to withdraw its candidate from the bypoll to the Andheri East Assembly seat in Mumbai. In a letter written to Fadnavis, Raj Thackeray referred to the senior BJP leader as his "dear friend" and said it is essential to have a positive political culture. He said the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) is always in favour of proliferation of such a positive culture. "I am thankful that you responded to this (appeal)," Thackeray said. Thackeray had on Sunday written another letter to Fadnavis, asking the ruling BJP to pull out of the bypoll race to show respect to late Shiv Sena MLA Ramesh Latke, whose death necessitated the by-election. Ramesh Latke died of cardiac arrest in May this year. BJP's Murji Patel, who withdrew his nomination papers on Monday, was pitted against the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena faction's candidate Rutuja Latke, the wife of Ramesh Latke. NCP chief Sharad Pawar had also appealed to all parties to ensure that Rutuja Latke was elected unopposed. With Patel pulling out of the bypoll, Rutuja Latke's victory in the November 3 elections is a mere formality.



For BJP, Setback in Nagpur local polls, big win for congress

Team Absolute | Nagpur

In a setback to the BJP, the Congress dominated the results of elections to the posts of Panchayat Samiti chairpersons and deputy chairpersons in Maharashtra's Nagpur. The BJP didn't win a single post of chairperson. It won only three seats of deputy chairperson. People voted in the local elections on Saturday, and the results were declared the same day. Nagpur is the home ground of Maharashtra BJP chief Chandrashekhar Bawankule, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Union Minister Nitin Gadkari. Nagpur also houses the headquarters of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, or RSS, the ideological mentor of the BJP, which is in power in the state and the centre. The Congress won nine out of 13 posts of chairperson and eight out of 13 posts of deputy chairperson in Nagpur. The Nationalist Congress Party, or NCP, won three posts of chairperson, while the Shiv Sena won one such post, district officials said. "The Panchayat Samiti results have demoralised the BJP cadre, as the party faced a defeat at the home ground of the RSS and senior leaders Nitin Gadkari, Devendra



Fadnavis and Chandrashekhar Bawankule," former minister and Congress rural unit chief Rajendra Mulak said. "Winning and losing keeps happening, but the way they have lost shows that the BJP cadre has no grip in the district," the Congress leader said. Elections to the posts of sarpanch and members of gram panchayats were held on Sunday and results will be declared on Monday. Polling and counting for the posts of president and vice-president of zilla parishads will be held on Monday, officials said.

Nagged over studies, Teen leaves home, fakes kidnapping



Team Absolute | Nagpur

A 14-year-old girl ran away from home in Nagpur and travelled to neighbouring Chandrapur district in Maharashtra and later cooked up a story of her own kidnapping as she was fed up with being nagged by her mother over studies, a police official said on Sunday. The teenage girl had left home in Nandanvan area of Nagpur on Friday afternoon, and reached Chandrapur, around 150 kms from Nagpur, by bus late that evening, he said.

As they were unable to contact the girl, her family members and relatives launched a search for her. They later approached the police and lodged a missing person's report, the official said. "Meanwhile, after reaching Chandrapur city, the girl went to Ram Nagar police station there and told the cops that she had been kidnapped by two women from Nagpur in a car and was brought to Chandrapur. She also told the police that she somehow managed to save herself from their clutches," he added. The Chandrapur police then contacted her parents in Nagpur and she was later reunited with the family. Personnel from the Nandanvan police station in Nagpur then launched a probe and examined the footage from the CCTV cameras, wherein they found that the girl had boarded a Chandrapur-bound bus on her own. "When the police showed the footage to the girl and asked her the motive behind her act, she told them that she staged the drama to get rid of constant nagging by her mother for studies," the police official said.

If rape victim found within a year, marry her; Bombay HC to accused

Mumbai | Agencies

The Bombay High Court has granted bail to a 26-year-old man arrested in a rape case, but set a condition that he would have to marry the victim, who is currently untraceable, if she is found within a year. The man, however, would not be bound by this condition beyond one year, a single bench of Justice Bharati Dangre said in the order passed on October 12. The court said the accused and the 22-year-old woman were in a consensual relationship, but a rape and cheating case was registered when the man started avoiding her after learning that she was pregnant. The woman lodged a complaint with the Mumbai Police against the man in February 2020 after which he was arrested. In her complaint, she claimed they were in a relationship since 2018 and that their families were aware of the same and had not



objected to it. In 2019, the woman realised she was pregnant and informed the accused, but he started avoiding her. The woman left her house as she did not want to reveal about the pregnancy to her family members. On January

27, 2020, she delivered a baby in a city hospital. On January 30, the woman abandoned the baby in front of a building. A separate FIR was then lodged against her for abandoning the child. Justice Dangre, in her order, said

this "may be a possible reason why she is fleeing from the course of justice". The accused assured the High Court that he was willing to marry the woman and accept paternity of the child. However, the police informed the court that the woman was not traceable and the baby, who was admitted to a child care centre, has already been given in adoption. "In such circumstances when the incident was reported, the victim was major and she has already stated that the relationship was consensual," the High Court said. "I deem it appropriate to release the applicant on bail subject to compliance that if the victim is traced within a short while and say in a period of one year, he shall solemnise marriage with her, but he shall not be bound by the statement beyond one year," the order said. The court granted bail to the man on a bond of Rs 25,000.

Gujarati widow battles 28 years for property papers, NHRC takes note

Quaid Najmi | Mumbai

In a digital era shocker, a Mumbai widow has been running from pillar to post to get her original property documents, with her struggle dating back to 1994. The Gujarati lady, Sadhana Shah, 64, living in Santacruz, owns a bungalow in Lonavala hill-station bought by her late husband Bhubendra C. Shah, and the Agreement for Sale was given to the Sub-Registrar of Assurances, Old Customs House, Mumbai. Till date, the Sub-Registrar of Assurances, which now comes under the jurisdiction of the Inspector General of Registration (IGR) Pune, has not bothered to return the Agreement for Sale of the property, her son Mehul Shah said, whose father passed away in November 2009. In the absence of these critical documents, the distraught Shah family is unable to sell, gift, bequeath, or even apply for a bank loan, said the Citizens Vigilance Forum



President Kashyap M. Vyas. Mehul Shah said that despite persistent efforts by the family, and now even through the CVE, the IGR or the Sub-Registrar of Assurances officials have not given any reply or are willing to part with the documents. "Even the Society where our bungalow is situated is asking us for the registration documents to complete other formalities but everything is stuck for 28 years because of the officialdom," he added. The property was bought from one Kantilal V. Shah, who lodged his Agreement

for Sale with the Sub-Registrar of Assurances, Mumbai, for registration purposes on April 29, 1994. "Till date I have not received the said documents. So many times I have approached the Duty Officer (Mumbai) and even emailed to the IGR, Pune, but there is no reply/response, and they have absolutely failed to deliver the required documents," said Sadhana Shah, the victim. "Their intentions are quite apparent. Until they get some 'benefit', they sit on the papers for years. This is the sad and shocking state of affairs," Vyas pointed out. The CVE shot off a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) last week, bringing to their notice "corrupt practices/demand of illegal gratification". It is mandatory to deliver documents as per Rule. But it seems all Public Authorities - Public Servants are deliberately abusing their powers to harass and torture innocent citizens with suspected malicious intentions"

said the CVE complaint to the PMO and NHRC. Taking cognizance of the plea, the NHRC has finally registered a case (No. 3666) this week and CVE activist Rajnikant Gandhi is optimistic that the matter may finally move ahead. Despite attempts by correspondent, no officials were available for comments in the matter in the concerned departments in Mumbai and Pune. Gandhi said that there are many other similar cases languishing in these offices, some dating back to even 1960, where the victims are not provided with their relevant documents for generations. "Many people die waiting for the papers and we are forced to abandon such matters but the officials are not bothered," he added. A property documentation consultant said that there are 'unofficial fixed rates' for completing all formalities - depending on the property value - and unless the customers 'comply' with them, they are made to dance around for years by the officials.

WR COMMISSIONS NEW FOB AT KHAR ROAD STATION

Mumbai | Agencies

Western Railway (WR) has commissioned a new Foot Over Bridge (FOB). A statement issued by the WR said, it has successfully undertaken various infrastructural upgradation and augmentation works for the convenience of passengers. A new FOB has been commissioned on October 15 at Khar Road station in the Mumbai suburban section, for the convenience as well as safety of passengers. A press release issued by Sumit Thakur, CPRO of WR, a new FOB has been commissioned and opened for public use at Khar Road station on south side. The new FOB is 44 meter long and its width is 6 meters. This new FOB has been constructed at a cost of Rs. 4.55 crore. This FOB has been rebuilt on replacement account as per IIT audit report. It further said, with this new FOB, total 11 FOBs have been commissioned in the financial year 2022-23 between Churchgate and Daharu Road, taking the total to 144. These efforts will go a long way to control the menace of trespassing as well as combat the problems such as overcrowding on bridges, etc. WR urges its valued customers to care for their precious life and not to trespass railway tracks. Always use FOB, subway, escalators and lifts to crossover and change platforms.





I DON'T THINK I'VE MADE MANY 'GREAT' FILMS: EDDIE REDMAYNE

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Eddie Redmayne has won a lot of awards but doesn't think he has made "many" films that are "great". The actor whose extensive career has seen him recognized with an Academy Award, a Tony Award, a Golden Globe Award, a BAFTA, and two Laurence Olivier Awards, insisted that he hasn't done that well in his work and even as a student at Cambridge alongside the likes of Rebecca Hall, Dan Stevens and Tom Hiddleston, he always found his own performances lacking.

He told a newspaper: "The aspiration is always to make a great film and I don't think I've made many of those (at university) I remember seeing Tom in 'Arcadia' and he was amazing. Rebecca was always extraordinary, and I remember Dan doing the Scottish play with extraordinary power too."

"But to be clear, the theatre that I did in Cambridge was utterly appalling."

The star hit the height of his fame in 2014 when 'The Theory of Everything' was released and he married Hannah Bagshawe, and he admitted the whole "extraordinary" period is still a "hazy blur" to him.

He said: "The whole year of making 'The Theory of Everything' was a blur because the stakes were so high and because I knew Stephen [Hawking] was going to see it."

"Then, when I was promoting the film, I was making 'The Danish Girl'. And then, when I was making 'Fantastic Beasts', there was a day where I left the shoot, flew to LA, did press for 'The Danish Girl', walked the red carpet, got back on the plane and flew straight back into the 'Fantastic Beasts' shoot."

"It is a period that is a hazy blur, and also because I was newly married, and then with young kids. It was an extraordinary time, but one that I still hasn't made much sense of."



Selena Gomez, Hailey Bieber poses together

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress-singer Selena Gomez and American model Hailey Bieber recently posed together for a picture that may have seemed like impossibility to some fans. The ladies joined forces at the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures' 2nd annual gala in Los Angeles recently, weeks after Hailey appeared on the Call Her Daddy podcast and denied rumours she "stole" husband Justin Bieber from his ex-girlfriend Gomez. The pair appeared to be on good terms at the Los Angeles event as they were all smiles while posing for an impromptu photo opp. In one photo, Selena can be seen with her hand on Hailey's leg, and in another, she has a full smile on her face as they stand closely.

According to People, the public display of sisterhood comes after the former's bombshell conversation on Alex Cooper's podcast in September, when she addressed rumours of a feud between herself and Selena Gomez.

Both women have seemingly attempted to shut down rumours of ill will between the two of them a few times over the years, and this time around, Hailey directly said that it is "not (her) character to mess with someone's relationship," and explained that it's "all love" between both her and Justin's former partner.

"I can say, period, point blank, I was never with him when he was in a relationship with anybody - that's the end of it," Hailey said, about the timeline of her romance with Justin, to whom she has since been married for more than four years.



I want to do it: Keke on 'BEING MORTAL'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Keke Palmer flaunted her vocal prowess by singing a snippet of "Joyful, Joyful" on the carpet at the Academy Museum Gala in Los Angeles. "I'm your girl," Palmer said for 'Sister Act 3'. "I'm ready." Whoopi Goldberg recently revealed her dream cast for a potential third installment of the nun comedy. "I'm gonna ask Keke to come. You know, I want everybody to come in. I want Lizzo to come," Goldberg said during an appearance on Comedy Central's "Hell of a Week With Charlamagne the God." Nicki Minaj is also on her wish list. "When I went on 'The View', Whoopi and I talked about it," Palmer said. "I'm definitely here, you know what I'm saying?" She added: "Call me, Whoopi!". Palmer also opened about her work in Aziz Ansari's feature directorial debut "Being Mortal." In April, Searchlight Pictures suspended production with about a month of shooting left to go after a complaint about co-star Bill Murray's inappropriate behavior was filed.

Palmer said that she doesn't know if the film will ever be completed. "If somebody could figure it out, it would be Aziz," she said.

"Obviously, we got cut short at a certain point but I will say that I am pretty devastated. It's an amazing film. If there is some way to be able to complete, salvage it, I would want to do it." Palmer didn't address the Murray controversy but alluded to the possibility of cameras rolling again without him in the picture: "(Ansari) would probably have to do a major rewrite, but I know what we got was gold."



AFTER BEING HIT IN GROIN WITH BOTTLE

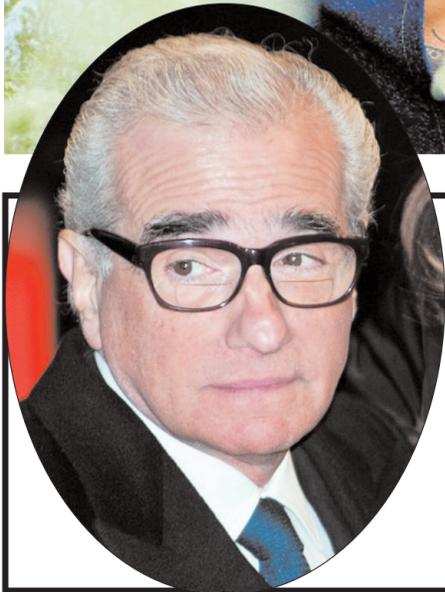
Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Harry Styles was in pain after a fan at his Chicago show threw what appeared to be a bottle at him, hitting him right in the very sensitive area. During his recent 'Love on Tour' stop at the United Center in Chicago, the former One Direction member was speaking to his fans onstage as he routinely does throughout his concerts. When he was talking about the weather in the Windy City, he was hit by what appeared to be a bottle in his groin area. In the video capturing the incident, Harry immediately showed signs of pain and discomfort.

The 'Don't Worry Darling' actor bent over his body and winced before saying into the microphone, "Now that's unfortunate." Later, Styles was seen shaking both of his legs.

"Okay, shake it off," he told the audience, who later erupted in cheer as he was referring to his former fling Taylor Swift's song "Shake It Off". The heartthrob also jumped up and down, seemingly trying to rid any pain away. This wasn't the first time a fan threw things at him onstage. Back in August, fans at his "Love on Tour" stop in New York City turned the 28-year-old star into a chicken nugget target, tossing food at him on stage. Upon retrieving the food, Harry rhetorically asked, "Is that a chicken nugget?" After determining that it was decidedly so, the singer commented in a teasing voice, "Interesting. Very interesting approach," and inquired, mom-style, "Who threw the chicken nugget?" A few moments later, Harry noticed another nugget on the stage. "There's another chicken nugget!" he exclaimed before tossing one fried bit back to the crowd.

The audience then chanted, "Eat it, eat it!" as he held the other nugget. In response, he explained, "Sorry, I don't eat chicken. I don't eat meat."



After 20 years, Scorsese to direct 'Gangs Of New York' TV series

Los Angeles | Agencies

Almost twenty years after its film adaptation, Herbert Asbury's 1927 non-fiction novel 'The Gangs of New York' is all set to be presented as a series because it's the era of streaming and television content and the stakeholders are looking to squeeze the maximum out of it.

Martin Scorsese directed the movie

'Gangs Of New York', which starred Leonardo DiCaprio, Daniel Day-Lewis and Cameron Diaz and scored 10 Oscar nominations. And now, Scorsese will help to launch by executive producing and directing the first two episodes. The movie chronicled DiCaprio's Amsterdam Vallon returning to the Five Points area of New York City seeking revenge against Bill the Butcher (Day-Lewis), his father's killer.

According to 'Empire', this new small-screen version is spearheaded by Miramax TV and Brett C. Leonard, who is one of the executive producers on Apple TV+'s 'Shantaram'. It'll be a completely new take with different characters from the film. This isn't the first time Scorsese was involved in a 'Gangs' TV series - a version touted in 2013 planned to follow 'Gangs' from other cities as well as the Big Apple.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Zahida Allen



T20 WORLD CUP: SHAMI'S FINAL OVER, RAHUL, SURYAKUMAR FIFTIES HELP INDIA BEAT AUSTRALIA BY SIX RUNS IN FIRST WARM-UP MATCH

Brisbane | Agencies

Mohammed Shami made a surprise entry and picked up three wickets in the final over as India beat defending champions Australia by six runs in their first warm-up match of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup at The Gabba on Monday.

After fifties from KL Rahul (57) and Suryakumar Yadav (50) helped India post a challenging 186/7 in their 20 overs as fast bowler Kane Richardson picked 4/30, Australia needed 16 runs off the last two overs to successfully chase down the total.

The chase of 187 for Australia started well as Mitchell Marsh got some batting practice with an 18-ball 35, before falling in the final over of power-play, while Finch got going from the other end too. India started with five bowlers in five



overs but were hammered for runs by Marsh and Finch.

After Marsh fell to Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Steve Smith was next to fall, cleaned up by leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal. Glenn Maxwell smacked Chahal for four fours in his 16-ball 23, but nicked behind off Bhuvneshwar just as it felt he would

last long at the crease. Earlier, Suryakumar got going with his trademark inside-out loft over loft off and sliced through backward point fetching him fours off Agar.

Brief scores

India 186/7 in 20 overs (KL Rahul 57, Suryakumar Yadav 50; Kane Richardson 4/30) beat Australia 180 all out in 20 overs (Aaron Finch 76, Mitchell Marsh 35; Mohammed Shami 3/4, Bhuvneshwar Kumar 2/20) by six runs.

SCOTLAND SHOCK WEST INDIES BY 42 RUNS

Hobart: Just 24 hours after Namibia kick-started the Men's T20 World Cup with a stunning 55-run win over Sri Lanka, Scotland pulled off another major upset in the tournament with a shock 42-run victory over two-time champions West Indies in a Group B first round match at the Bellerive Oval on Monday. After opener George Munsey carried his bat throughout the innings to slam an unbeaten 66 to help Scotland post an excellent 160/5, left-arm spinner Mark Watt led a fantastic bowling show with his brilliant 3/12 to bowl out West Indies for 118 all out in 18.3 overs.

The 42-run win for Scotland comes exactly a year after they defeated Bangladesh by six runs in their opening first-round match of 2021 T20 World Cup at Al Amerat, Oman and entered the ongoing tournament on the back of playing only two T20Is this year.



Brief scores

Scotland 160/5 in 20 overs (George Munsey 66 not out, Calum MacLeod 23; Jason Holder 2/14, Alzarri Joseph 2/28) beat West Indies 118 all out in 18.3 overs (Jason Holder 38, Kyle Mayers 20; Mark Watt 3/12, Michael Leask 2/14) by 42 runs.

Swiatek wins San Diego open, eighth title of season

World No.1 Iga Swiatek took home her eighth title of the year after defeating qualifier Donna Vekic 6-3, 3-6, 6-0 here on Sunday.

San Diego | Agencies

Top-seeded Swiatek needed 1 hour and 47 minutes to earn the San Diego Open title with her tour-leading 64th match-win of the year.

Poland's Swiatek has the most match-wins in a single season (including WTA Tour events and Billie Jean King Cup play) since Serena Williams won 78 matches in 2013.

Swiatek has had a nearly perfect year at American events, with a 24-1 win-loss record on U.S. soil in 2022. She adds the San Diego trophy to triumphs in the States at the Sunshine Double of Indian Wells and Miami, as well as her third career Grand Slam title at the US Open.

Swiatek won 82 percent of her second-service points in the final, while Vekic only had a 39 percent success rate behind her own second serves. That helped Swiatek convert four of her six break points on the day.

Earlier on Sunday, No.1 seeds Coco Gauff and Jessica



Pegula overcame No.2 seeds Gabriela Dabrowski and Giuliana Olmos 1-6, 7-5, (10-4) in a 1-hour and 20-minute final to capture the San Diego Open doubles title.

Gauff and Pegula had to play two full matches on Sunday to wrap up their week. They won their rain-postponed semifinal match over No.4 seeds Desirae Krawczyk and Demi Schuurs 6-3, 7-6(5) earlier in the day.

Zimbabwe beats Ireland

Hobart: All-rounder Sikandar Raza continued his glorious run in 2022 with a fantastic 82 off 48 balls while the bowlers, led by Blessing Muzarabani, Tendai Chatara and Richard Ngarava led Zimbabwe to a clinical 31-run over Ireland in a Group B first round match of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup at the Bellerive Oval on Monday.

Zimbabwe, playing in their first T20 World Cup match after 2016, made a winning comeback in their return to the tournament fold. After Raza's 82 propelled Zimbabwe to a competitive 174/7, Muzarabani (3/24), Chatara (2/22) and Ngarava (2/22) hit their lengths beautifully in their respective four overs to restrict Ireland to 143/9 in 20 overs.

Brief Scores: Zimbabwe 174/7 in 20 overs (Sikandar Raza 82; Joshua Little 3/24, Simi Singh 2/31) beat Ireland 143/9 in 20 overs (Curtis Campher 27, George Dockrell 24; Blessing Muzarabani 3/23, Tendai Chatara 2/22) by 31 runs

World Championship

Sameer wins silver in Junior Men's Rapid Fire Pistol event

New Delhi | Agencies

Sameer won a silver in the 25m Rapid Fire Pistol Men Junior event, on competition day five of the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Championship Rifle/Pistol in Cairo, Egypt.

He got 23 hits in the medal match, finishing behind Wang Shiwen of China, who won gold with 25. Liu Yangpan won bronze in a match which pitted three Chinese against one Indian.

Sameer had shot 573 in qualification to finish fourth and then had 10 hits to



Yangpan's 12 in the ranking round to make it to the medal round. Meanwhile teammate Udhayveer Sidhu also made it to the ranking matches but finished fourth in his one to be eliminated. He was seventh in qualification with a

score of 569.

Three other Indians in the fray, Jatin (10th with 567), Adarsh Singh (13th with 565) and Harshwardhan Yadav (16th with 562) could not make it beyond qualification.

Also in the day, the women's Air Pistol Team reached the gold medal match scheduled for Tuesday. Esha Singh, Shikha Narwal and Varsha Singh topped their first qualification stage with a score of 855 and then came second to China's Wang Siyu, Zhao Nan and Shen Yiyao with a score of 576 in stage two, to make the title round.

Premier League

LIVERPOOL END CITY'S UNBEATEN START AS ARSENAL GO CLEAR

London | Agencies

Mohamed Salah's excellent goal gave Liverpool a 1-0 win over Manchester City on Sunday evening to decide a bad-tempered match and end City's unbeaten start to the Premier League season.

Salah controlled a long kick from Alisson before turning Joao Cancelo and slotting the ball past Ederson to decide the game as Liverpool built on Wednesday's 7-1 win away to Rangers in the Champions League.

City coach Pep Guardiola was left furious when Phil Foden's strike was ruled out for a previous foul by Erling Haaland, while Liverpool's Jurgen Klopp was sent off after losing his cool when his



side didn't get a free-kick in the closing stages, reports Xinhua.

Liverpool came into the game 13 points behind City following their

worst start to a season in 10 years, but their defence improved considerably to take vital points that just about keep their title hopes alive.

Arsenal rode their luck to win 1-0 away to Leeds United to remain top of the league. Bukayo Saka scored the only goal of the game 10 minutes from half-time to give Arsenal the win in a match that was halted for several minutes when the referee lost contact with the VAR room. Newcastle United drew 0-0 on their visit to Old Trafford in what was certainly a game of two halves. Newcastle had the best of the first 45 minutes, with Joelinton twice hitting the woodwork. Mason Mount scored twice as Chelsea enjoyed a comfortable 2-0 win away to Aston Villa, whose key players continue to misfire.

Denmark Open

Lakshya, Srikanth, Prannoy, Saina lead India's campaign in Odense

Odense: Leading Indian shuttlers Lakshya Sen, Kidambi Srikanth, H.S Prannoy, and Saina Nehwal will spearhead the country's Indian challenge in the BWF Denmark Open 2022 to be held from October 18 to 23 at the Jyske Bank Arena in Odense, Denmark.

In the men's singles, World No.8 Lakshya Sen is the highest-ranked Indian and will start his campaign against World No.6 and Olympic medallist Anthony Sinisuka Ginting of Indonesia in the first round.

World No.11 Kidambi Srikanth will face World No.14 Ng Ka Long Angus of Hong Kong in the first round while his compatriot H.S Prannoy will need to get through the challenge of Zhao Jun Peng of China to move to the second round. Prannoy and Lakshya Sen will face off in the second round if they win their respective opening-round encounters.

MAHARASHTRA EMERGE OVERALL WINNER IN GOALBALL NATIONALS

Rohtak | Agencies

Maharashtra emerged victorious in both boys and girls categories after defeating Uttarakhand in the Goalball Nationals at the Maharishi Dayanand University here on Monday.

In the men's category, Maharashtra beat Uttarakhand in men's categories with the final score of 10-9 while in the women's category by 10 goals. Goalball is a Paralympic sport; it is specially designed for blind people of a certain age. The Goalball Federation of India has been working tirelessly to promote the sport across the country and tap some fine talent in the sport who would go on to bring



laurels for the country on the international stage," said Kunal Goyal, the

founder of Goalball Federation of India.

D. Gukesh as he becomes the youngest to stun world champion Magnus Carlsen

New York | Agencies

Indian teenager Donnarumma Gukesh made chess history in the Aimag Chess Rapid on Sunday evening as he became the youngest player ever to beat Norway's Magnus Carlsen as world champion.

The 16-year-old's win was Carlsen's second loss in two days against one of India's new crop of talented teenagers in the Meltwater Champions Chess Tour. Carlsen went down on Saturday to 19-year-old Arjun Erigaisi.

"What a monumental day in history," International Master

Jovanka Houska said. "It was just an incredible, incredible performance by Gukesh."

The key moment in the Round 9 game was after Gukesh played 25.Rc7 in a position that looked good for Carlsen. The champion's reply 25...Re8? turned out to be a blunder and after 26.Qb6! putting Carlsen's queen in peril, Gukesh was suddenly winning.

Gukesh is 16 years, 4 months and 20 days old, while the previous record before Gukesh's win was R. Praggnanandhaa's 39-move victory over Carlsen in the Airthings Masters in February.

INDIA, SAUDI ARABIA SHORTLISTED FOR AFC ASIAN CUP IN 2027

Kuala Lumpur | Agencies

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has shortlisted India and Saudi Arabia to bid for the 2027 edition of its flagship Men's Asian Cup at a meeting of its Executive Committee at which it was also confirmed that Qatar will host AFC Asian Cup 2023.

The AFC Executive Committee deliberated upon the bidding proposals for the AFC Asian Cup 2027 and shortlisted the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and the Saudi Arabian Football Federation (SAFF) as the final two bidders with the hosting decision to be taken by the AFC Congress at its next meeting in February 2023.

The decision brings to a close the bid proposal of the Qatar Football Association (QFA) who were considered to have withdrawn from the 2027 race following their successful 2023 bid in accordance with the applicable bidding regulations.

China was to host the 2023 Asian



Cup but pulled out as hosts a few months back citing the Covid-19 pandemic as the reason.

Chairing the 11th AFC Executive Committee meeting, AFC President Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa congratulated the Qatar Football Association (QFA) on their successful bid and also conveyed the appreciation of the Asian football family to the Football Association of Indonesia (PSSI) and the Korea Football Association (KFA) for their proposals.

Qatar are the reigning AFC Asian Cup champions and will be hosting the continent's most prestigious men's tournament for the third time after staging the 1988 and 2011 editions.

Meanwhile, Football Australia withdrew from the AFC Asian Cup 2023 bidding process on September 1, 2022, while the Uzbekistan Football Association and the Football Federation Islamic Republic of Iran officially withdrew their bids to host the AFC Asian Cup 2027 on December 14, 2020, and October 13, 2022, respectively

BFI appoints Irish great Bernard Dunne as director of high performance

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) has named Irish boxing legend Bernard Dunne, who has produced Olympic and world champions, as the director of high performance for Indian boxing.

Dunne will be joining the Indian team following a five-year stint with Irish Athletic Boxing Association, serving in the same position.

Talking about the appointment of Dunne, BFI president Ajay Singh said, "We are delighted to announce Bernard Dunne as the high-performance director of the Indian team. He was a legendary boxer and has also done exceptionally well while working with the Ireland team. As a federation, we are focussed on doing everything that is required for our boxers to bring glory to the country. This is a major boost to our aim of winning medals at the Paris Olympics. With the amount of experience and success he has under his belt, he is the perfect fit for this role. I'm sure Dunne will guide our boxers to the next level of performance. We welcome him and wish him the best luck." During Dunne's tenure with the Ireland team, Kellie Harrington emerged the Olympic champion in Tokyo as well as the world champion in 2018. He also guided Amy Broadhurst and Lisa O'Rourke to gold medals at the last World Championships, and Aidan Walsh to bronze medal at the 2020 Olympic Games.





"I HAVE ALWAYS CHOSEN MY PROJECTS BASED ON THE TEAM": RIDHI DOGRA

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Lakadbagha, India's first film about an animal vigilante starring Anshuman Jha, Ridhi Dogra, and Milind Soman, will be released this winter. The film marks popular television star Ridhi Dogra's Bollywood debut and is a unique action film focusing on hand-to-hand combat techniques. The first trailer for

the film, which stars Anshuman Jha, Ridhi Dogra, Paresh Pahuja, and Milind Soman, has a pop vibe to it.

The plot revolves around an ordinary boy on an extraordinary mission: to combat the illegal animal trade industry. Arjun Bakshi, an animal-loving vigilante, discovers an underground illegal animal trade cell operating from Kolkata port while attempting to protect his adopted Indian stray dogs. He discovers a rare species of

Indian Striped Hyena (Lakadbagha) that has been kidnapped from Corbett National Park and is being sold on the black market while investigating. The film aims to spark discussions about sensitive topics such as encouraging Indian breed adoption among dogs, illegal animal trading, animal poaching, and having a voice for our (p)awesome friends.

Ridhi, who has been making waves on TV & the Web, is making her Bollywood debut with the movie. "This film is special at many levels. At the heart of it is the story. Not every day you see a film that has a good mix of content with masala. This film dwells on the plight of animals and their welfare. Those instantly made me want to do it as my bolly-

wood debut. The second thing was the action and the character I got to play. At this point perhaps I can't say much, but I will say - I definitely wanted to do something different than the characters I've played on the web - for a first film and this film and my part in it gave me that experience.

I have always chosen my projects based on the team. Anshuman's choice and his passion for animals & the stellar international team at work, I wanted to be a part of the story from the very first reading. Anshuman is just so clear and incredibly planned in how he wanted to take the process of the film - his precision & clarity is a joy as an actor for me & rubs off on the team."



AYUSHMANN KHURRANA NEEDS TO STEP OUT OF THE BOX: GIRISH JOHAR

Shachi Chaturvedi | Mumbai

Ayushmann Khurrana, who is currently at the peak of his career, has always been known for making unconventional and difficult decisions. From his first job as an RJ at Big FM to his foray into commercial Bollywood, he has made significant progress and continues to strive for more. Ayushmann is known for his daring choices and the strong messages he conveys through his films, whether it's Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui, Shubh Mangal Zyada Savdhaan, Article 15, or his most recent release Doctor G. Talking about the same Producer and Film Business Expert Girish Johar indulges in an exclusive chat with Absolute India news.

While talking about the actor's film choices Girish Johar said, "Ayushmann has been making bold and different choices for quite a while and he has been successful in the past with the way he selects the story and tell them in a very quirky and desi way. It helps in connecting with the audience and helps spread the message of whatever awareness he wants to give through that particular story. He has been very smart, but now I feel he has to carve out from that particular zone because it has become very predictable. For Doctor G the trailer did work but surprisingly the makers did not promote the film well yet audiences have come to watch the film though at a lower level."

Later the expert continues and talks about how Ayushmann needs to step out of that box "I really hope that Ayushmann steps out and tries to do more different stories. He has an eye for the right story and the right subject but I think the narrative needs to be changed. He is a brilliant actor who has a huge fan following and everyone looks up to his films. With the emergence of OTT people are consuming content from all across 360 degrees. He needs to ensure that whatever film he is doing, audiences appreciate that and he keeps winning sixes at the box office."

AYUSHMANN IS BEING TOO PREDICTABLE

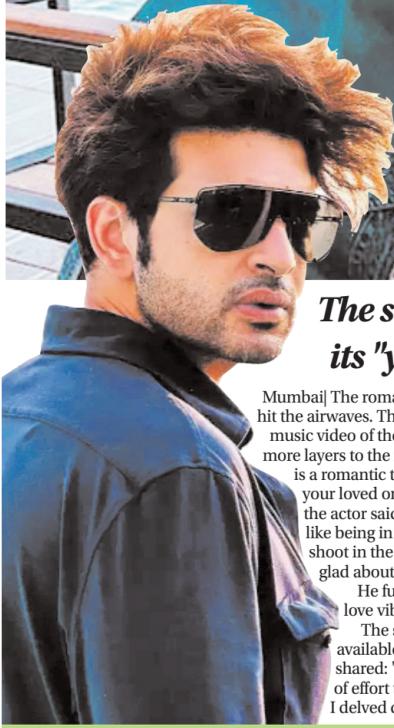


The song is fun & people will remember its "young love vibe": Karan Kundrra

Mumbai | The romantic track 'Inni Si Gal' featuring Karan Kundrra and Aditi Budhathoki, has hit the airwaves. The song has been crooned by 'Jab Main Badal Ban Jau' fame Stebin Ben. The music video of the song has been shot in the locales of Himachal Pradesh and the visuals add more layers to the romantic mood of the track. Talking about the song Karan shared: "The song is a romantic tale and instantly uplifts your mood. It is a perfect track you can listen to with your loved ones." Opening up on the set of challenges that came his way during the shoot, the actor said, "Shooting for it was fun too although there were some challenging scenes like being in water at night and the cold temperatures and so on, and we always wanted to shoot in the beautiful locations of Kashmir and it came out to be true which I am really glad about!"

He further mentioned: "But this project was particularly fun and the whole 'young love vibe' is something a lot of people will resonate and remember."

The song, produced by Saregama, has been composed by Sanjeev Chaturvedi, and is available to stream on YouTube and audio streaming platforms. Singer Stebin Ben shared: "The song is very close to my heart and we have all come together and put in a lot of effort to bring this beautiful track together. It was so much fun to sing this track because I delved deep into my memories of love to get the right emotion."



Jannat Zubair to make her lead debut with Punjabi film

Mumbai | Actress Jannat Zubair is all set to make her foray as lead actress in the upcoming Punjabi film 'Kulche Chole'.

The bhangra track 'Punjabi Jachde' from the film, was recently launched in Dubai.

Talking about the film, Jannat said: "Kulche Chole' is my debut as a lead actress, and this film is very special to me." The actress further mentioned: "We as a team have really worked very hard on this film, and I hope I'm able to make my way into the heart of the audiences across the globe."

Meanwhile, the vocals for the song 'Punjabi Jachde' have been delivered by Dilraj Grewal, the film's male lead, and Raman Romana.

The foot-tapping music has been given by Jus Keys with choreography done by Ritchie Burton. The song is available to stream on Saga Music's YouTube channel.

It's wonderful to work with great actors: Ajay Devgn

Team Absolute | Mumbai

After keeping the nation hooked with its murder mystery in 2015 with Drishyam, the makers will soon be back with the thrilling sequel. The trailer was unveiled by the makers at a grand launch event in Goa amidst the presence of the cast and makers in the film.

At the trailer launch event, Ajay Devgn remembered director Nishikant Kamat.

He further spoke about how the character of Vijay Salgaonkar left an indelible mark and connected with the audience. Ajay said, "He is a common man who got trapped in an unusual circumstance. And anyone would choose the way he did to get out of the situation and protect his family. I think that connected with the audience. Also, he was not much qualified and still, he smartly tackled the problem. That as well is the USP."

The actor and Akshaye Khanna shared a similar camaraderie in Deewangi during 2000 and now in Drishyam. Talking about working with Akshaye in Drishyam, Ajay asserted, "It's fun as we share a great rapport. Also, it's wonderful to work with great actors as they bring out the best in you also. We needed somebody like him."

The film is a remake of a popular Malayalam film which is available on OTT. Talking about retaining the soul and freshness Part 2 has, Ajay said, "The film is treated in a different manner. A lot of changes are made and new characters are also added. The soul is retained. When you watch the film, it's going to be a fresh experience."



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Aditi Budhathoki