

absolute india



VOL. 8, ISSUE 205 BHOPAL | SATURDAY, JUNE 03, 2023 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM BHOPAL, MUMBAI AND NEW DELHI

NATION > 02
Operation launched to recover looted arms in Manipur...



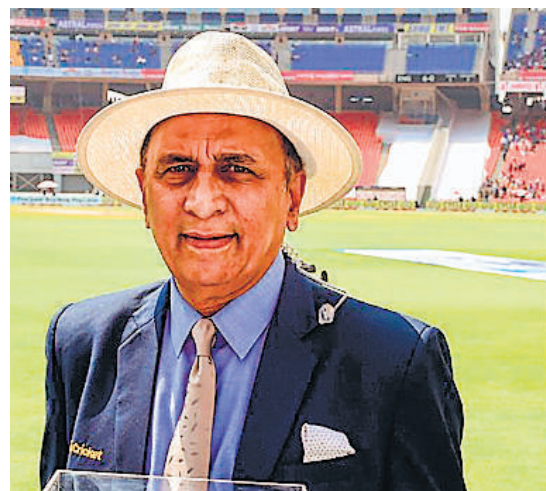
HOLLYWOOD > 06
Rihanna beats Taylor Swift on....



SPORTS > 07
Lakshya Sen in semis; Kiran George loses in ...

1983 WORLD CUP WINNERS EXPRESS SOLIDARITY WITH PROTESTING WRESTLERS

'83' Champs Support Grapplers



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The 1983 team, which includes Kapil Dev, Sunil Gavaskar, Mohinder Amarnath, Dilip Vengsarkar and Kris Srikkanth among others, said that they were "distressed and disturbed" by the "unseemly visuals" of the wrestlers being manhandled. Last weekend, the protesting wrestlers were detained by the Delhi Police during their march towards the new Parliament building. As the protesters tried to breach the security cordon, a fierce tussle broke out - the wrestlers and cops pushed, shoved and grappled with each other. A couple of days later, the wrestlers went to Haridwar to discard their medals into the Ganga River and go on an indefinite hunger strike at the



India Gate. With many prominent personalities urging them, they

deposited their medals with a prominent farmers' leader asking

him to take a call on the medals. They are also "most concerned" that the wrestlers are thinking of dumping their hard-earned medals into the river Ganga.

Arrest WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh by June 9: Mahapanchayat

New Delhi: Farmers and representative of Khap panchayats, expressing solidarity with the protesting wrestlers in Delhi, on Friday gave the BJP government in the Centre an ultimatum to arrest Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who is accused of sexually harassing female grapplers, by June 9 or prepare for a larger protest. A collective and unanimous decision in this regard was taken at the 'mahapanchayat' held in Haryana's Kurukshetra town on the future strategy of wrestlers' protest. Addressing a huge gathering, Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait warned the Central government that, "We will not compromise on anything less than the arrest of Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. If this does not happen, we will go to Jantar Mantar on June 9 and hold panchayats across the nation. Cases against wrestlers should be withdrawn and the arrest of Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh must happen."

It is up to the investigating officer to arrest WFI chief: experts

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Questions are being raised as to why Delhi Police have not yet arrested BJP MP and Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh after two FIRs were registered against him on April 21, levelling serious allegations, including violations under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. According to the police, one of the two FIRs

lodged against Singh on April 21 on the basis of the statements of seven grapplers has been registered under IPC Sections 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 354A (sexual harassment), and 354D (stalking), while the other has been registered under Section 10 of the POCSO Act. For charges under Section 354A of the IPC, the punishment is up to one year or fine, while under Section 354D, the punishment is up to five years and fine.

BJP will contest MP polls under CM Chouhan's leadership: Vinay Sahasrabudde



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Putting an end to the speculations on change of guard in Madhya Pradesh BJP ahead of the Assembly elections scheduled later this year, former Rajya Sabha MP Vinay Sahasrabudde said on Friday that the party will contest the polls under the leadership of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. Sahasrabudde, a former national vice-president of the BJP and president of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), said this during his visit to Bhopal on Friday. Responding to queries from the press over the buzz of possible changes in state BJP unit, Sahasrabudde said the central leadership of the party has never mentioned about any change. "The central leadership has never mentioned about any change in Madhya Pradesh BJP. We will contest the Assembly elections under the leadership of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan," Sahasrabudde said, adding that "Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the face for the Lok Sabha elections in 2024". However, Sahasrabudde avoided queries from the media regarding state BJP chief V.D. Sharma.

Death toll in Manipur's month-long ethnic violence rises to 98, 310 injured

Imphal: The death toll in the month-long ethnic violence has risen to 98 and the number of injured to 310 while 144 sophisticated arms, looted earlier from the police and various security forces, have been surrendered at different districts after Union Home Minister Amit Shah's appeal on Thursday, Chief Security Advisor to Manipur government Kuldeep Singh said on Friday. Singh said that the numbers of FIRs registered have gone up to 3,734 and a total of 65 persons have been arrested till Friday while the 4,014 cases of arson have been reported. "Of the 144 surrendered weapons, there are 37 SLRs, 18 carbines, four AK 47 rifles," he told the media, adding that currently around 37,450 people of different communities are being sheltered in 272 relief camps, including community halls, in 13 districts. He also said that no major violent incident has been reported in the last 24 hours, barring a one or two incidents of firing in the state which has been dealt with strictly by the security forces like state police, central paramilitary forces, Army and Assam Rifles.

'GROPING, STALKING, COERCING, INTIMIDATING', FIRS AGAINST WFI CHIEF LIST MULTIPLE CHARGES

New Delhi: In the two FIRs registered against BJP MP and Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh on April 21, it has been alleged by seven grapplers, including one minor, that Singh allegedly attempted to coerce one wrestler into sexual acts by offering to provide her with "supplements", invited another wrestler to his bed and hugged her, besides assaulting and inappropriately touching other athletes. "...Singh first sexually assaulted me. While I was training, the accused called me separately, to which I refused since the accused (Singh) was also touching other girls inappropriately," said one of the adult grapplers in the FIR. "However, I was again called by the accused who then pulled up my T-shirt and slid his hand down my stomach, put his hand on my navel on the pretext of checking my breath," she alleged. "One such incident took place during my stay at a hotel, where the accused had caught hold of me alone and offered me some unknown edible item saying that it was good for my health and would help me perform better in the competition, which was not approved by my dietician or by my coach. I also came to know that the accused used to call girls to his room late at night, which clearly indicates his ill intentions," she added.



ODISHA TRAIN TRAGEDY: OVER 120 DEAD, 850 INJURED

Bhubaneswar: More than 120 people have died in the tragic train accident in Odisha's Balasore district on Friday evening, in which 17 coaches of two express trains, Coromandel Express and SMVT-Howrah Super Fast Express, derailed, till the time going for print. According to initial reports, at least four coaches of the express train derailed at Bahanaga station. There was no clarity about the reason for the accident, though some reports said that it took place when the train rammed into a goods train standing at the station, but Railway officials have denied it. As per a railway spokesperson, about 12 to 15 coaches of Shalimar-Howrah Coromandel Express derailed at Bahanaga station at around 6.51 p.m. and some of the coaches jumped to another track and the Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast (12864) train hit the coaches at the same spot at 6.55 p.m. At least 50 people were killed and around 100 injured in the accident, sources said. Two fire teams were sent from Bhadrak to the spot. An emergency helpline No +91 6782 262 286 has been opened at Balasore.



Congress will surprise everyone in 2024: Rahul

Team Absolute | Washington

With the victory in Karnataka Assembly elections, senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said that the grand old party will surprise everyone in the crucial 2024 Lok Sabha elections as there is a hidden undercurrent building within the country. He also slammed the BJP-led Central government over the clean chit to China that not a single inch of land has been lost, saying that it is unacceptable but Prime Minister Narendra Modi thinks otherwise. In an interaction with the media here on Thursday, the former Lok Sabha MP to a query about the given strength of the BJP, will the grand old party willing to form a coalition government if it does not lead in next year's general elections, said, "These are the questions that need to be asked to Congress President." "But I think Congress will do very well in the next election and it will surprise everyone. There is a hidden undercurrent building and I think we will surprise people," Gandhi added. He said that he is not entirely convinced about this idea that



Narendra Modi will win the elections, it is not simple as people make out. "If you do the math, opposition will defeat the BJP without any electoral math," he added.

Every house has a motorbike, so where is the inflation: Ex Bihar Dy CM

Patna: With opposition parties raising the issue of inflation and price rise in the country, Bihar's former Deputy CM Renu Devi on Friday said that every house has motor bikes, so where is the inflation? Interacting with media persons in Bagaha to share achievements of Narendra Modi government's 9 years, she said: "Every house has one motor bike. Cars are also in most of the houses. So where is the inflation and price rise? The issues raised by the opposition parties that inflation and price rise of commodities are on peak are absolutely false." Leader of opposition Vijay Kumar Sinha went one step ahead and alleged that "two thugs" of Bihar are going to cheat the entire nation.

To beat the heat, thieves decamp with ice cream and deep-freezer- from Mumbai supermart!

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a bizarre crime, two thieves allegedly stole a freezer and scores of kilos of ice-cream at the dead of the hot summer night from a closed supermart in Borivali suburb, a police official said on Friday. The incident, which happened around 2 a.m. on May 28, came to light after a complaint by Jayesh R. Patel, owner of Daily Needs Grocery & Bakery in IC Colony supermart, north-west Mumbai and scanning the CCTV cameras there, said Senior Police Inspector Sudhir Kudalkar of MHB Police Station. Immediately,



Kudalkar set up a crack team to solve the strange theft within barely three hours. The CCTV footage showed two shop helpers - Omaram D. Rabaria, 24 and Votaram B. Meghwal, both residents of Nalasopara town in Palghar - helping a tempo worker to load the heavy freezer on the vehicle to deliver it to their home. Though the supermart, in a densely populated residential neighbourhood, was closed at that dark hour, the furtive trio managed to quietly break it open.



OPERATION LAUNCHED TO RECOVER LOOTED ARMS IN MANIPUR, 140 WEAPONS SURRENDERED

Team Absolute | Imphal

After Union Home Minister Amit Shah's appeal, 140 various types of weapons, looted earlier from the police and various security forces, have been surrendered at different districts in Manipur, officials said on Friday. Shah, on the last day of his four-day visit to violence hit Manipur on Thursday, requested all concerned to surrender their weapons to the security forces and administration, otherwise strict legal action would be taken against those who are possessing arms and ammunition. According to police officials, the surrendered weapons included self-loading rifles, carbines, AK and INSAS rifles, light machine guns, pistols, M16 rifles, smoke/tear gas guns, sten gun and grenade launchers. Defence officials said that intelligence information-based combing operations are underway across Manipur. "To ensure sustainable peace in Manipur, security forces have identified de-weaponisation and enforcement of the provisions of the Suspension of Operation (SoO)



agreement signed with the Kuki militants as focal points to be addressed immediately from the security perspective across Manipur," a defence spokesman said. He said that intelligence sources have been energised and dedicated columns kept on standby to ensure quick action on receipt of input for early recovery of weapons. "Surprise checks are being conducted in the designated camps of the Kuki militants under the SoO deal to ensure the availability of weapons and presence of cadres as stipulated in the agreement," the defence PRO said. He said that the

Union Minister asked the Kuki militants to abide by the provisions of the agreement by the cadres to maintain peace. "Pursuant to the Home Minister's directions, security forces have evolved detailed plans to launch large scale combing operations for the recovery of snatched weapons besides surprise checks of the designated camps Kuki militants," he said. The Home Minister on Thursday announced that an Inter-Security agency unified command headed by Chief Security Advisor to Manipur government Kuldip Singh, a retired IPS officer and former CRPF chief, would be formed and it would impartially conduct all the security related operations. There are 2,266 Kuki cadres staying in different designated camps in Manipur after the Centre and the Manipur governments signed the tripartite Suspension of Operation (SoO) agreement with three outfits -- the Kuki National Army (KNA), Zomi Revolutionary Army (ZRA), and Kuki Revolutionary Army (KRA) -- on August 22, 2008. Officials in Imphal said that with no major incidents

reported in any of the districts in Manipur, curfew was relaxed for 7 to 12 hours in most of the districts including Imphal West and Imphal East district. There is no curfew now in Tamenglong, Noney, Senapati, Ukhrul, and Kamjong districts. The officials said that currently around 37,450 people of different communities are being sheltered in over 270 relief camps, including community halls in 13 districts. Manipur had witnessed unprecedented ethnic violence since May 3, leaving at least 80 dead and over 300 injured besides the destruction and arsoning of around 2,000 houses, huge number of government and private properties and a large number of vehicles. The violence broke out after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in 11 hill districts by the All Tribal Students' Union of Manipur to protest the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe status. It was preceded by tension over the eviction of Kuki villagers by the state government from reserve forest land, which had led to a series of smaller agitations in four districts.

Delhi High Court allows Sisodia to meet his wife, family

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Friday granted permission to former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia to meet his ailing wife, but under police custody. According to the High Court order, Sisodia can meet his wife from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. tomorrow. Sisodia has been directed not to interact with the media in any manner and not to meet anyone else except his family. Furthermore, it has instructed Sisodia to stay away from cell phones and the internet. Justice D.K. Sharma has asked the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to provide a status report on the interim bail matter and has reserved judgment on the bail plea as well as the interim bail plea. "In the interim bail plea in the CBI case: Since I have already denied bail in the main CBI matter, I will list it on July 4," the judge noted. During the hearing, the ED opposed granting interim bail to Sisodia. Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju argued that Sisodia could visit his



wife under police escort. "He held 18 portfolios as a minister and did not have time to visit his wife. Now he is creating all these grounds to get bail," he said. The ASG also mentioned that Sisodia had withdrawn his interim bail plea just a few days ago and now he has submitted a similar plea again. "Four days ago, they withdrew the plea. Now they have come back again. There has been no change in his wife's condition, only a cosmetic change," added ASG.

BJP leader shot dead in broad daylight in Bengal

Kolkata | Agencies

Prashanta Roy Basunia, a local BJP leader at Dinhatia in West Bengal's Cooch Behar district, was killed in broad daylight on Friday. The victim was at his residence with his mother when some miscreants barged in and started threatening him. After some heated exchange of words, suddenly one of the miscre-

ants took out a pistol and shot Basunia from point-blank range. A profusely bleeding Basunia was rushed to a local hospital where he died soon after admission. Speaking to mediapersons, leader of opposition in West Bengal Assembly, Suvendu Adhikari, alleged the involvement of goons backed by the ruling Trinamool Congress behind the murder. "The Trinamool leadership is

scared since several grassroots-level party workers are deserting the ruling party and joining the BJP. We demand a CBI probe into the matter," he said. However, Trinamool legislator from Dinhatia constituency and state minister Udayan Guha denied the allegations and said that in all probability, Basunia became a victim of factional infighting in the BJP in Cooch Behar district.

FINAL DECISION AFTER CONSULTING

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal on Friday said that the government would take an informed and reasoned decision after consulting all stakeholders on the Law Commission's report for retaining the penal provision for the offence of sedition with model guidelines to curb its misuse. Meghwal, in a tweet, said: "Now that we have received the report, we will also hold consultations with all the other stakeholders so that we take an informed and reasoned decision in the public interest". "The law commission report on Sedition is one of the steps in the extensive consultative process. The recommendations made in the report are persuasive and not binding. Ultimately, the final decision will be taken only after consulting all the stakeholders". The Law Commission, in its report submitted to the government, has said it is of considered view that Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) dealing with sedition needs to



be retained, though certain amendments could be introduced to bring about greater clarity regarding usage of the provision and stressed that sedition being a "colonial legacy" is not a valid ground for its repeal. It also recommended enhancing the jail term in sedition cases from a minimum of three years to seven years. The Law Commission said it is cognizant of the views regarding the misuse of Section 124A, and recommends that model guidelines curbing the misuse be issued by the Centre. 22nd Law

Commission's Chairman Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi (retd), in his covering letter to Law Minister Meghwal, said: "In this context, it is also alternatively suggested that a provision analogous to Section 196(3) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (CrPc) may be incorporated as a proviso to Section 154 of CrPc, which would provide the requisite procedural safeguard before filing of an FIR with respect to an offence under Section 124A of IPC." The commission, in its report, said: "in our considered opinion, it is imperative to lay down certain procedural guidelines for curbing any misuse of Section 124A of IPC by the law enforcement authorities, any allegation of misuse of this provision does not by implication warrant a call for its repeal." The commission recommended enhancing the jail term in sedition cases from a minimum of three years to seven years. "It is, therefore, suggested that the provision be revised to bring it in consonance with the scheme of punishment provided for other offences under Chapter VI.

BRO TO COMPLETE RESTORATION OF AMARNATH YATRA TRACK BY JUNE 15

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Border Road Organisation (BRO) will complete restoration work on the Amarnath Yatra track by June 15, well before the Yatra commences on July 1. The scope of work involves snow clearance, widening of the track, restoration of all foot bridges, fixing of hand rails, construction of break walls etc. The BRO informed that earlier the Yatra track from Baltal to the Holy Cave was maintained by the Public Works Department (PWD), and the one from Chandanwari to the Holy Cave was maintained by the Pahalgam Development Authority. The tracks were handed over to BRO in September 2022 for maintenance and upgradation.



At an even in Delhi on Friday morning, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that "our villages located in the border areas which were neglected till date have been connected with the rest of the country through roads". He also said that if one looks at the number of airports, they have more than doubled as compared to 2014. "We are moving forward with the resolve that even a person wearing slippers can travel by aeroplane," he said. He also said that a number of steps have been taken to achieve complete 'Aatmanirbharta' in manufacturing of weapons and technologies.

Fake international call centre busted in Gurugram; 7 held

Team Absolute | Gurugram

Cyber crime team of the Gurugram Police has busted a fake international call centre, which was operating from the Sector 67 area, and arrested seven persons who used to dupe foreign nationals in the name of technical support, an official said on Friday. The call centre mostly used to target foreign nationals from Australia and the US by sending them fake emails by impersonating tech support representatives from PayPal, Amazon and Norton. The arrested individuals have been identified as Mohammad Zafar Iqbal (38), Noor Hussain (28), Sumit (32), Abhishek Mishra (30), Sheikh Ibrahim (28),



Abhishek Gupta (35), and Mohammad Adil (32). Vipin Ahlawat, ACP (cyber crime), said, "All the suspects were arrested as per the charges levelled against them under relevant sections of the IPC for running a call centre illegally without any valid licence." "During questioning, the accused revealed that they used to tell the victims that they have been wrongly charged for purchasing phone or other services and they will help them get their money refunded against \$200 to \$500 as service charge." The suspects even used to manipulate the victims to install remote access apps like (Any desk) in their computer system and get details of their bank accounts and credit cards to cheat them. During interrogation it was found that all the accused belonged to Kolkata and West Bengal and all had graduate degrees in different streams.

WOMAN ATTACKED WITH AXE OVER DOWRY DEMAND IN UP

Ghaziabad: A woman was brutally attacked by her family members allegedly due to a dispute over dowry. The assault, captured on a mobile camera by an onlooker, reveals the horrifying atrocities inflicted upon the woman by her in-laws. In the viral video, the woman is seen being forcefully dragged out of her house by her in-laws and repeatedly attacked with an axe. Shockingly, the assault occurred in broad daylight, with no intervention from bystanders to aid the helpless victim. She can be seen shouting in agony and pain. According to reports, the woman was assaulted for failing to meet their demands for dowry. She was also threatened in front of the people who watched the tragic incident in broad daylight. The local police, however, acted swiftly after the video went viral on social media.

MINOR GANG RAPED BY 5 MEN IN BIHAR



Team Absolute | Patna

A 15-year-old girl was gang raped by five men in Bihar's Vaishali district, police said on Friday. According to the police, the incident took place late Thursday night when the victim, who lives with her grandmother, stepped out of the house to go to the toilet. She was kidnapped by the accused and took her some 500 metres away from her house and took turns at raping her. After committing the crime, they forced pesticide into her mouth. Upon returning home, the girl narrated the ordeal to her grandmother. The grandmother said: "She did not wake me up to go to the toilet. The accused kidnapped her and brutalised her just a few metres away from the house. The accused also took

her phone. When she returned home, she revealed the incident and asked me to inform her father." The victim's parents work as guards in Patna and were away during the time of the incident. They immediately rushed home upon receiving information. The victim was taken to sub-divisional hospital Mahua. As her condition was serious, the doctors referred her to Sadar hospital Hajipur. "The victim is unconscious at the moment. We have registered an FIR under the POCSO Act in Baligaon police station and are investigating the incident. We are waiting for her to regain consciousness so that she can give her statement. We have detained some of the suspects and questioning them," Pallavi Kumari, SI of Baligaon police station, said.

K'taka CM Siddaramaiah announces 5 guarantees as promised

Bengaluru | Agencies

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday declared that all five guarantees would be implemented within this financial year, and also announced the dates for the same. He said the free bus travel scheme for women will come into effect by June 11, free power up to 200 units will be given from July; women heads will get Rs 2,000 from August and free 10 kg rice for all members of BPL card holders will be given from July 1. Addressing a press conference after a three-hour cabinet meeting, Siddaramaiah said all the schemes would be implemented without any bias of caste, religion and language for the people of Karnataka. "The first guarantee -- 200 units of free electricity -- will be given to all people from July. The people need not pay for the first 200 units of electricity used in the month of July, for which the bill will be generated in August. To avoid the misuse, one year's average consumption in the previous year is considered with 10 per cent addition," Siddaramaiah stated. He added that the arrears will have to be paid. The Gruha Laxmi scheme under which all women heads are given Rs 2,000 will be launched on the occasion of 76th Independence Day on August 15. The beneficiaries will have to submit an application from June 15 and July 15 through online with bank account and Aadhaar card details. From July 15 to August 15, the applications would be processed. On August 15, the scheme would be launched and it is for both APL and BPL card holders, Siddaramaiah stated. The Annabhagya scheme under which 10 kg rice or food-grains will be given to all members of BPL card holders from July 1. The scheme is extended to the Antyodaya card holders as well, he said. Siddaramaiah explained that under Shakti



programme, irrespective of status including students, women can travel in state owned buses from June 11. They can travel free of cost within the state in KSRTC and city buses. This will exclude AC buses. Under Yuva Nidhi, for those graduates, including professional courses who studied in the academic year 2022-23 and passed out, Rs 3,000 allowance for graduates and Rs 1,500 allowance for diploma holders would be given for 24 months. The applications would be invited from June 3, he said. This scheme is implemented irrespective of caste, religion and sex. The transgenders are also included. Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar stated that this was a historical day and Congress has kept its promises made to the people during the elections.



HUGE MEMORIAL IN CHHATARPUR TO KEEP THE MEMORY OF MAHARAJ CHHATRASAL INTACT: CM CHOUHAN

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Announces to make Chhatarpur municipality a municipal corporation. New Medical College building will be constructed at a cost of Rs 300 crores. Women empowerment campaign continues. Development works worth Rs 790 crore gifted on Gaurav Diwas. CM participates in Chhatarpur's Pride Day and Mahila Sammelan

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that to keep the memory of Maharaj Chhatrasal intact, a huge memorial will be built after him in Chhatarpur. Chhatarpur municipality will be upgraded into municipal corporation. No stone will be left unturned in the development of the district. He said that by canceling the old tender of Chhatarpur Medical College, new tender has been ordered. Soon the new medical college building will be constructed at Chhatarpur at a cost of Rs 300 crore. The Chief Minister attended Chhatarpur's Gaurav Diwas and Mahila Sammelan. He not only gave many gifts to Chhatarpur district, but



inaugurated and performed bhoomi puja of development works worth Rs 790 crore.

Chief Minister said that Maharaja Chhatrasal was a great warrior and a symbol of valour. He established Hindu Swaraj. We should take inspiration from such a brave and great man. The Chief Minister said that the tender of the contractor who had not started the construction of Chhatarpur Medical College for a long time has been cancelled. Now orders for new tender have been given. Soon the construction work of the medical

college will start in Chhatarpur.

Chouhan said that there was a time when daughters were considered a burden. Ladli Laxmi Yojana in the state has changed the thinking of the society and made the daughter a boon. Campaign is going on in the state for women empowerment. They are being led towards self-reliance through various schemes. We have reserved half the seats for women in the local elections, as a result of which a large number of women are sitting on the posts of panch, sarpanch, corporator etc. Social revolution has taken place in Madhya Pradesh to increase the importance of daughters and women. Registration fee has been exempted for buying property in the name of women. Pradhan Mantri Awas is in the name of both husband and wife. Land rights pattas are also being given in the name of husband and wife. For the economic empowerment of poor women, the Madhya Pradesh government has taken a historic decision to deposit Rs 1,000 each in the accounts of 1.25 crore sisters of the state by implementing the Ladli Bahnas Yojana from June 10.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that there will

be special gram sabhas in the state on June 8, in which the names of eligible women will be told. The approval letters will be delivered to them at home. He told the Ladli Bahnas that they should sing songs and enjoy in the village on the evening of 9th June, as money is going to come in their account. Programs will be held in all the villages at 5 pm on June 10 and at 6 pm I myself will have a virtual discussion with the women. After that the amount of the scheme will be transferred to the accounts of the sisters. Chief Minister said that Ladli Bahna Sena will be formed in every village and ward. An army of 11 sisters will be formed in a small village and 21 in a big village. He said that it is my endeavour to ensure that the income of the sisters of self-help groups of Aajeevika Mission should be Rs 10,000 per month. Due to these efforts, many of our sisters have become Lakhpati. He said that a decision has been taken to close the ahatas adjacent to the liquor shops. A decision has also been taken to give scooters to the girls who get good marks in class 12th. The poor are being made owners of the land by being presented with PM Awas and land pattas.

Bhopal Development Plan-2031 published, Objections and suggestions to be taken till June 30

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Bhopal Development Plan (Draft)-2031 has been published by the Urban Development and Housing Department on June 2, 2023. The detailed description of the proposed amendments along with the map is available on the website www.mptown-plan.gov.in. Citizens can review it for 30 days at Under Secretary Urban Development and Housing Department Room No. 227 VB-2 Second Floor Mantralaya, Commissioner Bhopal Division, Collector Bhopal, Commissioner Municipal Corporation Bhopal and Joint Director Town and Country Investment District Office Bhopal days during office hours. If any person has any objection or suggestion in relation to the proposed amend-



ments in Bhopal Development Plan (Draft)-2031, he may send it in writing to the Joint Director Town and Country Planning District Office, Bhopal during office hours from the date of publication in the Madhya Pradesh Gazette from June 2 within 30 days. The state government will consider these and implement them.

This is included in the master plan: Emphasis on conservation and promotion of Badi Lake Necessary amendments to preserve the tiger excursion area Emphasis on determination of waterlogged area of Kerwa.

MP Lokayukta orders probe into damage to Saptarshi idols

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Days after idols of Saptarshi installed at Ujjain's Mahakal Lok corridor collapsed due to gusty wind, the Lokayukta department of Madhya Pradesh has ordered an inquiry into the matter.

An official told reporter that Lokayukta, Justice N.K. Gupta has taken a suo moto cognisance of the reports published in the media regarding the incident.

A team of Lokayukta Police will visit the spot for assessment and will submit its reports within a period of



next two weeks," said an official.

Six Saptarshi idols had collapsed following which the Opposition Congress criticised the ruling BJP, accusing it of indulging in corruption in the Mahakal Lok corridor project, which was inaugurated by Prime Minister

Narendra Modi in October last year.

Senior Congress leader Sajjan Singh Verma has claimed that Chinese net was used in Saptarshi statues, and other materials used for the same were also not the best of quality.

"The colour of the remaining statues has also faded. In the project, there was a provision to set up a lab to check the quality of materials used for building statues but it was not established and the project was inaugurated," Verma said.

Son commits suicide with father's license revolver in Gwalior

Team Absolute | Gwalior

A businessman's son committed suicide by shooting himself with a licensed revolver in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh. The incident took place on Thursday night when the youth's mother and sister were walking outside the room.

According to the information received from the police, Panihar resident Bunty Solanki is a big businessman and has a residence in a township in Sirol area of the city. He was away for work and had son Harsh, wife Kusum and six-year-old daughter at home. Harsh was in the room and his mother and sister were walk-



ing outside.

At around 12 o'clock in the night, the sound of gunshots was heard from the room, when Harsh's mother Kusum reached inside running, she saw that the son was lying in a bloody state. He took out his father's license revolver from the cupboard and shot himself on his temple, in critical condition Harsh will be taken to the trauma center of Jayarogya Hospital, where the doctors declared him dead.

The police of Sirol police station have registered the case but why Harsh committed suicide has not been disclosed and the suicide note has also not been found by the police.

Controversy over 'Asura' in state

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The era of politics on words continues in Madhya Pradesh. On the arrow of words moving from one side, the process of reply starts from the other side. Now the matter has come on Asur and when poet Manoj Muntashir Shukla mentioned Asur, the Youth Congress has given a befitting reply. The pride day of the capital Bhopal was celebrated last day, poet Manoj Muntashir Shukla, who reached this event, strongly raised the demand to change the name of Bhopal to Bhojpal. At the same time, in the new Parliament House, when the members of the opposition party did not know that Prime Minister Modi's architecture is working, demonic powers are away from the house.

The Congress is aggressive on this statement of the poet. State President of Youth Congress, Dr. Vikrant Bhuria has questioned whether the Mahakal Lok was inaugurated by the Asuras who are breaking the statues one after the other.

Damoh school removes hijab-scarf from dress code after controversy

Team Absolute | Bhopal/Damoh

A school in Madhya Pradesh's Damoh district, which was embroiled in a controversy after a poster of a Hindu girl wearing a hijab, has decided not to wear hijab or headscarf in its dress code, and also stopped singing songs like Lab pe aati hai dua Will go Recently, the photos of the students who were successful in the board exams were released by the Ganga Jamuna High School in a poster in which Hindu girl students were shown wearing hijab-like scarves. Since then, the matter is catching on.

Taking a serious stand on the matter, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan directed the Collector to conduct a thorough investigation into the matter.

Damoh's Ganga Jamuna School management has now decided to remove the scarf, hijab from the dress. Also songs like Lab pe aati hai dua will not be sung. The national anthem will now be Jana Gana Mana in the morning prayer.

Collector Damoh said that on the strict instructions of the Chief Minister, the investigation will continue by the committee formed in the school case, under what circumstances all this happened.

Ganga Jamuna Higher Secondary School is run in Damoh and recently a poster of the pictures of successful students in the examination results was released, in which Hindu girl students were also seen wearing hijab-like headscarf. Since then this matter has heated up. Chief Minister Chouhan had also expressed his displeasure on this matter on Thursday as well as directed Collector Damoh to conduct a thorough investigation into the matter.

Earlier, State Home Minister Narottam Mishra had ordered an inquiry by the District Education Officer, but no one complained on behalf of the family, on which he asked the Superintendent of Police to investigate the entire matter.

According to the information received, one of the Hindu girl students whose pictures are seen wearing a hijab-like scarf on this poster and her family members say that it is a part of the prescribed dress of the school and no one is bound to tie this scarf. Is. On the other hand, people associated with pro-Hindu organizations protested against the hijab and demanded cancellation of the recognition of the school.

Prime Minister of Nepal Pushp Kamal Dahal Prachanda reaches Indore

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan accorded warm welcome to the Prime Minister of Nepal Pushp Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' and the delegation accompanying him at Indore airport. Overwhelmed by the cordial behaviour of CM Chouhan, Prime Minister of Nepal Prachanda said that it does not seem that he has met him for the first time. Along with Prime Minister Prachanda, other guests included Ganga Dahal, Nepal's Foreign Minister Narayan Prakash Sod and other ministers and senior officials.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that India and Nepal are very ancient nations. India and Nepal may be two bodies but culturally they are one. The cultural splendour, civilization and rituals of both are the same. The CM said that the relations between India and Nepal will be further



strengthened in the days to come. The cultural scenario of Madhya Pradesh was displayed on the arrival of the Prime Minister of Nepal Prachanda in Indore. The

Gangaur of Nimar, accompanied by the exuberant dance of Bhagoriya, was presented to welcome the guests. A 50-member team of the youth of "Shree Swar Dhvaj Pathak",

Indore welcomed the Prime Minister Prachanda while making announcements with drums and saffron flags. Kathak dance was presented by the girls in the reception.

Congress' special plan to corner MP Minister Kamal Patel in Harda constituency

Praveen Dwivedi | Bhopal

Five-time BJP MLA and Madhya Pradesh Agriculture Minister Kamal Patel, who won the last Assembly election from Harda constituency by a close margin, is likely to face a tougher contest this time as the opposition Congress is preparing special plan to corner the senior saffron leader.

The Congress is in process to prepare special strategies for the 66 Assembly seats, which it has repeatedly lost in the last three to four elections consecutively.

In the six Assembly elections in Harda constituency - since 1993, the Congress could win only one election in 2013, while BJP won five elections, including the last in 2018.

Kamal Patel, who started



his political career with Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) and was inducted in the state BJP executive committee in 1989, has contested as many as six Assembly elections since 1993 and won five of them, except in 2013. Interestingly, Patel had lost in 2013 against Congress' Ramkishor Donge by around

6,000 votes, but won in 2018 with almost a similar margin.

Therefore, the Congress is working to put a dent on those 6,000 voters, who have been the deciding factor in the last three to four elections in Harda. Sources told IANS that the Congress has planned to utilise two strategies -- sentiment of the local

farmers against the ruling BJP and high anti-incumbency of nearly two-decade rule of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

However, the opposition has to fight within itself to reduce internal conflict of local party leaders in Harda, as a local Congress leader claimed that the groupism was the main reason Ramkishor Donge lost in 2018 despite having a strong resentment against Patel among the voters.

"Internal conflict to establish himself as a leader was the main reason for Congress' loss in the last election. The situation appears almost the same this time also, but top leadership is working on it," said a Harda-based Congress worker.

It has also learned that the state leadership may field a

new candidate against the agriculture minister. At least two-three fresh ticket aspirants are in the race. Young female advocate Avani Bansal, who had grabbed headlines during 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' led by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, is one such aspirant. Educated from Oxford and Harvard Universities, Avani Bansal is also the legal aid coordinator of All India Mahila Congress.

She was among those 11 women who walked with Rahul Gandhi from Kanyakumari to Jammu and Kashmir. It was Avani, who had set up a mobile library with a collection of about 1,000 books for 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' participants. As the elections are just five months away from now, Avani has been actively raising local issues to corner sitting BJP Kamal Patel.

Chief Minister Chouhan plants saplings



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, along with famous lyricist and writer Manoj Muntashir Shukla planted saplings in the garden situated at Shyamla Hills. Chief Minister Chouhan planted saplings of mango, guava and jamun.

Along with Chief Minister Chouhan, social worker of Rajgarh Bharat Singh Sondhia planted saplings on his birthday. His family members Ladbai Sondhya, Pooja Sondhya, Deepika Sondhya, Anju Sondhya, girl child Vanshika Sondhya and Virendra Sondhya participated in the plantation.



EDITOR'S SPECS

BRICS foreign ministers condemn terrorism in all its forms

The BRICS foreign ministers have strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations whenever, wherever and by whomsoever committed. In a joint statement issued after their meeting held in Cape Town on Thursday, they recognised the threat emanating from terrorism, extremism conducive to terrorism and radicalisation. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar attended the conference. The ministers are committed to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the cross-border movement of terrorists, and terrorism financing networks and safe havens, the statement said. The BRICS ministers reiterated that terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilisation or ethnic group. They called for strengthening the system of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, including the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction (BTWC) and also the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (CWC), and for preserving their integrity and effectiveness to maintain global stability and international peace and security. The BRICS foreign ministers reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the framework of BRICS cooperation under the three pillars of political and security, economic and financial, and cultural and people-to-people cooperation. They said that the three pillars uphold the grouping's spirit featuring mutual respect and understanding, equality, solidarity, openness, inclusiveness and consensus. The BRICS foreign ministers exchanged views on major global and regional trends and issues. The ministers reaffirmed the importance of the G20 to continue playing the role of the premier multilateral forum in the field of economic cooperation, that comprises both developed and developing countries, where major economies jointly seek solutions to global challenges, the statement said. They looked forward to the successful hosting of the 18th G20 Summit under the Indian G20 presidency. The leaders noted the opportunities to build sustained momentum for change by India, Brazil and South Africa, chairing the G20 from 2023 to 2025 and expressed support for continuity and collaboration in their G20 presidencies and wished them all success in their endeavours.

US SELECT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS INDIA TO BE PART OF NATO PLUS

Kanak Maleyvar (International Affairs Analyst)

WHAT HAS HAPPENED? A congressional committee or the select Committee on CCP (Chinese Communist Party) in the US has recommended India to be a part of NATO Plus. The decision to add India as a members country comes just ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to United States. The House select committee on the strategic competition between the United States and the Chinese communist party, led by Chairman Mike Gallagher and ranking member Raja Krishnamoorthi, overwhelmingly adopted a policy proposal to enhance Taiwan's deterrence, including strengthening NATO Plus to include India. "Winning the strategic competition with the Chinese Communist Party and ensuring the security of Taiwan demands the United States strengthen ties to our allies and security partners, including India in NATO Plus security arrangements would build upon the US and India's close partnership to strengthen global security and deter the aggression of CCP across the Indo-Pacific region," the Select Committee recommended.

WHAT IS NATO: NATO+ currently has five members - Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Israel, and South Korea. It is an arrangement to bring together five allies of United States and NATO countries to boost global defence cooperation, by becoming a member, India will be able to seamlessly share intelligence with the other five countries. Interestingly, USA contributes roughly 3/4th of NATO's budget.

WHAT IS SELECT COMMITTEE ON CCP: As per its official website, the select committee on the CCP is "Committed to working on bipartisan basis to build consensus on the threat posed by the Chinese Communist Party and Develop a plan of action to defend the American people, our economy and our values." The panel's top democratic leader Raja Krishnamoorthi of Illinois said that both Democrats and Republicans should work across the aisle.

Analysis on Intention for China: Indian American Ramesh Kapoor, who has been working on this proposal for the past six years, said this is a significant development. He hoped that the recommendation would find a place in the National Defence Authorisation Act 2024 and finally end up becoming a law of the land. The committee believes that hitting China with economic sanctions in case it plans to attack Taiwan is the most effective way key allies like G7, NATO, NATO+5, Quad members join and negotiate a joint response. "The United States should strengthen the NATO Plus arrangements to include India. The United States should also strengthen diplomatic deterrence by supporting Taiwan's participation in international organisations and amending the TAIPEI Act. To provide that the US, alongside its allies and partners, should publicly oppose any attempts by the CCP to resolve the status of Taiwan's sovereignty".



Analysis on India Joining the Group: There are speculations, questions arising if India joins the group then our long time standing stand of being Non-Alignment wouldn't be the same; balancing would be a tricky task. Another question which arises is "would joining the group work as a deterrence?" Another reason could be the reason of

sovereignty, diplomatic stature of India could get overshadowed by the west.

international

'PSAMMOPHILE' GETS INDIAN-ORIGIN TEEN \$50K IN 2023 US SPELLING BEE

Arul Louis | Dallas | Agencies

Keeping up the dominance of the 2023 Scripps National Spelling Bee in the US by Indian-origin children, 14-year-old Dev Shah from Florida has won the competition by correctly spelling the word "psammophile". He carried home the trophy and the \$50,000 prize at the finals held on Thursday night in National Harbor, Maryland, after he spelt the word for an animal or plant that thrives in sandy soil. From the 231 national contestants, the 11 finalists left standing in three days of gruelling competition, 10 were of Indian origin. After nine were eliminated, Shah went into the final round against 14-year-old Charlotte Walsh from Arlington, Virginia, beating her with bathypitometer (a device for measuring water temperature and current) before clinching the award by spelling the final word correctly. Shradha Rachamreddy and Surya Kapu tied



for the third place with a \$15,000 prize. Shah is a class 8 student from Largo. Schistorrhachis, aegagrus and were among the words he spelt correctly through 15 rounds reaching the top. Children of Indian origin have dominated the contest, which tests not only the rote memorisation of spellings but also the knowledge of the origin of words and their structure and usage. Thousands of students from around the US and some foreign countries compete in local and regional competitions before the field is narrowed to 231. Since Balu Natarajan won it in 1985, 21 Indian-origin children have followed him, monopolising it from 2008 to 2018. Harini Logan was the winner last year resuming the Indian lead, after a 2021 win by a non-Indian.

Pakistan's inflation touches record high amid turmoil

Islamabad | Agencies

Consumer inflation in Pakistan raced to 38 per cent in May, the highest annual rise in prices on record, driven mainly by skyrocketing costs of food, house rents, electricity and gas bills, and transport, official data revealed. Non-perishable foods and transport costs climbed more than 50 per cent over May 2022, while average inflation for this fiscal year has reached 29.2 per cent, Dawn news reported citing the data from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. The May reading exceeded the Finance Ministry's projection of 34-36 per cent for the month and comes as political turmoil continues to roil the country. Years of financial mismanagement, rupee depreciation and the government's failure to unlock IMF funding have also played a role in taking annu-



al price hikes to such record highs, Dawn reported. Official data showed that the average price of a 20 kg wheat flour bag more than doubled to around 2,700 PKR in May compared to the same month a year ago. The average price of chicken (live) rose by 38.6 per cent to 435 PKR per kg, that of milk by 41 per cent to 170 PKR a litre, and that of eggs by 85 per cent to 280 PKR a dozen. Pulses and vegetables also became costlier, Dawn reported. However, monthly inflation -- measured by a basket of products and services called the Consumer Price Index (CPI) -- is likely to go down from June due to a high-base effect. It has been rising since mid-2022 after the government took painful measures as part of fiscal adjustments demanded by the International Monetary Fund to unlock stalled funding.

JORDAN'S CROWN PRINCE WEDS SAUDI ARCHITECT IN LAVISH WEDDING



Amman: Jordan's Crown Prince Hussein bin Abdullah II married Saudi Arabian architect Rajwa Al-Saif during a lavish wedding ceremony attended by Arab and foreign dignitaries, the Royal Hashemite Court announced. At the wedding ceremony held at the Zahran Palace on Thursday, King Abdullah II of Jordan and Queen Rania warmly welcomed international royals and heads of state, including Britain's Prince and Princess of Wales and US First Lady Jill Biden, reports Xinhua news agency.

45 bags of human remains found in Mexico

Mexico City | Agencies

Authorities in Mexico have found 45 bags with human remains in a ravine outside the city of Guadalajara, the capital of Jalisco state. In an official statement on Thursday, the prosecutor's office for Jalisco state said that following a tip-off in the search for seven young call centre workers, who had been reported missing last week, police official had started searching at the Mirador del Bosque ravine where they found the bags that included body parts of both men and women. The seven were missing from two farms in the Jardines Vallarta and La Estancia neighbourhoods of



Guadalajara, it added. A search operation involving firefighters and civil defence officers with police and a helicopter crew is currently underway. The prosecutor's office added that personnel from the Jalisco Institute of Forensic Sciences are assisting in the processing of the scene, while forensic officials are trying to determine the number of bodies and causes of death, in addition to their identification. A black plastic bag with human remains was first

found on Tuesday, but due to the difficult terrain and the lack of natural light, the search operation resumed on Wednesday and will continue until all the remains are located, it noted. The office also clarified that it could not be immediately ascertained that the remains belong to the seven missing workers. According to government figures, more than 100,000 people are currently missing across Mexico, with many being victims of organised crime, the BBC reported. Government data has revealed that many disappearances have occurred since 2007, when then-President Felipe Calderon launched his "war on drugs".

AREA OF OVER 5 MILLION FOOTBALL FIELDS BURNT IN CANADA

Ottawa | Agencies

An area equal to over 5 million football fields has been burned by wildfires in Canada so far this year, Minister of Emergency Preparedness Bill Blair said. Wildfires have devoured about 27,000 square kilometres of land this year, and the national 10-year average is about 500 square kilometres, Blair told reporters at a press conference, updating the current situation of the wildfire season which has seen tens of thousands of people flee their homes, reports Xinhua news agency. "These conditions, this early in the season, are deeply concerning," said Blair. He said that Canada is facing a dangerous situation and that due to climate change, similar extreme weather events may continue to increase in both frequency and severity across the country. According to the update in the press conference, there are now 211 active wildfires burning across the country on Thursday and 82 of those are out of control. A total of 1,826 wildfires have



burned in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and the Northwest Territories. Blair also confirmed that Nova Scotia is the second province to receive federal assistance for wildfires this year after Alberta. The federal government approved the province's request for federal assistance for support with wildfire response efforts, including Canadian forces personnel and resources, he said. In a statement, the

Canadian government said the donation matching program with the government of Alberta and the Canadian Red Cross has already raised approximately C\$20 million (\$15 million) to support people who have been impacted by wildfires in the province. The Canadian government will be establishing similar matching programs with Nova Scotia through the Canadian Red Cross and with the Northwest Territories through United Way, the statement added.



MAHARASHTRA SSC RESULT DECLARED OVERALL PASS PERCENTAGE AT 93.83



Team Absolute | Pune

The Maharashtra State Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education on Friday declared Class 10, or SSC, results that saw a pass percentage of 93.83, a drop of nearly 3 points from last year, board officials said. The overall pass percentage stood at 96.94 last year.

Maintaining the trend, girls yet again outshone boys, posting an overall pass percentage of 95.87. The pass percentage for boys stood at 92.05. The Kokan division topped the list with 98.11 per cent of students clearing the board exam, while the Nagpur division was at the bottom with a pass percentage of 92.05, said board chairperson Sharad Gosavi.

Of the other divisions, Kolhapur posted a pass percentage of 96.73, followed by Pune (95.64), Mumbai (93.66), Aurangabad (93.23), Amaravati (93.22), Latur (92.67), and Nashik (92.22). A total of 15,29,096 students registered for the SSC exam that was held in March-April this year and 14,34,898 students cleared it, they said.

No relief to 'celeb' Chhota Rajan's plea on 'Scoop', Bombay HC adjourns matter to June 7

Team Absolute | Mumbai

No relief to 'celeb' Chhota Rajan's plea on 'Scoop', Bombay HC adjourns matter to June 7 (Ld) Without granting any reliefs, the Bombay High Court on Friday adjourned the hearing of a suit concerning intellectual property rights (IPR), filed by jailed mafia don, Rajendra S. Nikhalje alias Chhota Rajan seeking to restrain the release of new Netflix series 'Scoop', till June 7. Vacation Judge Justice Shivkumar G. Dige said that the series has already released on Friday and it's already published, and issued notice to all the parties concerned for their replies and posted the matter for further hearing on June 7. During the hearing, Justice Dige asked Chhota Rajan's counsel, Senior Advocate Mihir Desai how it was maintainable as a "commercial intellectual property rights" suit. Desai replied that his client has a copyright on his image which none can use and the court asked him to amend his suit accordingly to show how it was a matter of IPR. Netflix's Senior Advocate Ravi Kadam argued that the plea was not maintainable to which Desai countered saying that everyone's image in 'Scoop' has been altered barring Chhota Rajan whose face is shown as the one behind the (Dey) murder. While admitting that his client was convicted in the (Dey) case, Desai said his appeal is still pending and how could he be shown as guilty before the world like



this. Chhota Rajan's lawyer argued that "there are celebrity rights also", and claimed that celebrity doesn't only mean a popular person and even an unpopular persons can also be a celeb, and since lakhs are going to watch ('Scoop'), it could pose problems and affect his appeal against the conviction. On June 1, the gangster had Amoved the Bombay HC alleging infringement of his personality rights by the makers of the series and seeking a token damage of Re 1, on the eve of the release of 'Scoop'. In his suit, Chhota Rajan contended that in the trailer of the six-episode 'Scoop', made by National Award winner filmmaker Hansal Mehta, he

has been referred to by his name, image, voice and other unrelated things associated with him. He claimed that the tele-series trailer was released across all media allegedly portraying him as the main mastermind behind the killing of Mumbai journo, Investigations Editor of Mid-Day tabloid, Jyotirmoy Dey on June 11, 2011. Pointing out that his appeal against the life-term sentence in the Dey case was pending before the Bombay High Court, Rajan said that the trial court's conviction order could not be used in a defamatory manner to tarnish his name and reputation, with the sole intention to make profits by any third person, particularly without his consent.

Earlier, the gangster had slapped a legal notice to Netflix and the tele-series producers to stop the release, but they were unfazed and asked to approach the courts with his grievance. Rajan has sought a stay on the release of the trailer on all media platforms, online or in theatres, permanent deletion of the trailer from all media platforms, restrain the producers and Netflix from directly/indirectly exploiting his name, image and infringing upon his personality rights, not to make any reference about him in interviews or any other mode of public communication and damages of Re 1 or to reveal the true revenues generated by the series.

Yechury unveils memoirs of Maha CPI-M veteran Narasayya Adam

Team Absolute | Mumbai

CPI-M General Secretary Sitaram Yechury on Friday released the Marathi biography of veteran party leader Narasayya Adam, entitled "Sangharshaachi Mashaal Haati (Torch of Struggle in Hand)", on his 78th birthday. A 3-time MLA from Solapur, Adam is a former CPI-M State Secretary and also an ex-Central Committee Member, besides heading the labour wing CITU, said All India Kisan Samiti President Ashok Dhawale. In their remarks on the occasion, Yechury and other leaders like Dhawale, Uday Narkar and M.H. Shaikh hailed the inspirational life and struggles of Adam who braved major political challenges to serve the masses over the years in his long career. Discussing the "gravest" political challenge before the country now, Yechury said that it is imperative for all the Opposition parties to unite and defeat the Bharatiya Janata Party in order to save democracy and the constitution. Several scribes like Datta Thore, Balkrishna Doddi and Santosh Pawar, who helped Adam in penning his memoirs, and Samkalin Prakashan, Pune's editors Suhas Kulkarni, Gauri Kanetkar, and Anand Avadhani were among those who were felicitated



for their efforts amidst a thunderous applause by a gathering of over 15,000 people.

HEADLESS BODY OF A WOMAN FOUND IN TRAVEL BAG NEAR MUMBAI SEASHORE

Mumbai: An unidentified woman's headless body was found stuffed in a travel bag at a seashore near Mumbai on Friday morning. The body, discovered around 8 am at Bhayandar West in the Thane district of Maharashtra, was of a 25 to 30-year-old woman, police have said, adding that they have launched an investigation to identify the victim. The body was further cut into two pieces, and there are tattoos of a trishul (trident) and the initials 'Om' in Hindi on her arms, police said. The woman was wearing a T-shirt. The Uttan Sagri police station is trying to determine whether the bag with the body was washed ashore from somewhere else, or was thrown there itself.

Man assaulted girlfriend for refusing sex, arrested

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A 28-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly trying to strangle his girlfriend and banging her head against a rock after she refused to get intimate with him at a public place in suburban Bandra, police said on Friday. The woman who suffered serious injuries in the alleged attack is now stable and her boyfriend has been charged for attempt to murder, he said. The incident took place on Wednesday when the couple were at Bandra Bandstand, a popular promenade and coastal area in Mumbai. Police said accused

Akash Mukherjee is a resident of Kalyan on the outskirts of Mumbai. He and his girlfriend, who is also aged 28 years, were colleagues in a company where he works and were in a relationship for the past few years. On Wednesday, both took a local train from Kalyan to the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) and visited tourist spots like the Gateway of India and Girgaon Chowpatty before heading to Bandra Bandstand in the evening, he said. After some time, Mukherjee told his girlfriend that he had embraced her religion to marry her. Soon, he demanded to get

intimate with her prompting the woman to reject his advance, the official said. Enraged by her refusal, Mukherjee allegedly tried to strangle her and hit her head against a rock. He also tried to drown her in a drain following which she began screaming for help, the official said. Those present near the spot called the police, who took Mukherjee into custody and sent the woman to the hospital. Based on his girlfriend's statement, Bandra police arrested Mukherjee on the charge of attempt to murder. The woman, who sustained serious injuries, is stable now, added the official.

Woman asked to pay for excess baggage, claims her bag has a Bomb

Team Absolute | Thane

Upset over being asked to pay for excess baggage, a female traveller at the Mumbai international airport declared that her bag contained a "bomb", causing a brief frenzy among the security staff before she was taken into custody, an official said on Friday. A search of her baggage was conducted and there was nothing suspicious in it, the official said. The incident took place on May 29 when the woman, a homemaker from South Mumbai, was scheduled to go to Kolkata with her husband and children to meet her mother, he said. After reaching the check-in counter, she asked an airline employee for a boarding pass and handed over two bags to the staff. As per the airline's rules, a single bag with a maximum weight of 15 kg is allowed to be checked in for each domestic flyer. Since the woman's bags weighed a total of 22.05 kg, she was asked to pay for excess baggage, he said. However, the woman allegedly



refused to pay for the additional weight and got into an argument with the airline staff. Though the on-duty Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel checked her bag and found nothing suspicious in it, the woman's claim sparked panic at the airport for some time, he said. The woman was

then handed over to the Sahar police, which registered a first information report (FIR) against her for "endangering lives and safety of others", he said. The police asked the woman to remain present in a court the next day, when they also submitted a charge sheet in the case, he added.

Unable to repay debt, Mumbai man fakes kidnapping to get money from father



Team Absolute | Mumbai

A 27-year-old man from Mumbai was arrested for allegedly faking his own kidnapping and asking ransom from his family to repay his debt, the police said on Thursday. Mumbai Deputy Commissioner of Police Ajay Bansal told reporters that the accused has been

identified as Jitendra Joshi. "A 27-year-old man, namely Jitendra Joshi faked his own kidnapping and asked for ransom from his family to repay his debt," the DCP said. Joshi's wife had received a WhatsApp call, wherein she was told that her husband has been kidnapped and was threatened to pay a ransom of 5 lakhs. The accused's family informed the police after which it started the

investigation. Joshi was found within 12 hours and during interrogation it was revealed that he had faked his own kidnapping to get money from his father, the police said. The DCP further said that the accused has been arrested and has been sent to police custody till June 3 by the court. Further investigation is underway in the case.

350 years of Chhatrapati's crowning: Theme park in Raigad, memorial in Delhi planned

Team Absolute | Raigad (Maharashtra)

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said on Friday that a theme park on Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj will come up in the foothills of Raigad on a 45-acre plot, while Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis announced that the state will urge the Centre to set up a national memorial dedicated to the Maratha icon in Delhi. Speaking during the six-day long celebrations to mark the 350th anniversary of the coronation of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (June 6, 1674) here, Shinde said that he was a king of the poor farmers and the down-trodden who did not discriminate between people on the basis of their caste. "He respected women and gave them equal opportunities to come forward... His governance style was focused on the people for whom he cared. We are fortunate that his teachings are still remembered and continue to inspire us," said Shinde. The Chief Minister announced that an authority headed by Member of Parliament Chhatrapati Udayanraje Bhosale - the 17th direct descendent of the Maratha warrior king -



shall be set up for the conservation of the famed Pratapgad Fort in Satara, famed for the killing of Gen. Afzal Khan of the Sultanate of Bijapur. Similarly, he said that the upcoming Mumbai Coastal Road - the first phase of which is nearing completion - shall be named after Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Fadnavis said that on behalf of the state government, he would urge Prime Minister Narendra Modi to set up a grand statue and national memorial for Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in the national capital.

"The good governance, work and contributions of the great king continue to inspire us even today, and the PM also included Chhatrapati's emblem on the Indian Navy flag," said Fadnavis. Cultural Affairs Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar said that the state government will fully support the future celebrations of the Chhatrapati's coronation at the Raigad Fort. "We are also trying to bring back the Jagdamba sword of the Chhatrapati, we shall make efforts for a memorial in Thanjavur, and have allocated Rs 5 crore for studies on Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at the Jawaharlal Nehru University in Delhi," said Mungantiwar. The famed Jagdamba sword, studded with diamonds and rubies, was gifted to the Prince of Wales, who later became King Edward VIII, by Chhatrapati Shivaji IV during his visit to India in 1875. The invaluable sword is currently kept in the royal collection of the St James Palace in London. Also present on the occasion were state ministers Uday Samant, Chandrakant Patil, Deepak Kesarkar, Girish Mahajan, Dadaji Bhuse, MPs Sunil Takare, Sadashiv Lokhande, Shrikant Eknath Shinde, MLAs, local representatives and a large number of people.

OUTSIDERS HAVE GONE, NOW EVERYONE IS INSIDER: RSS CHIEF MOHAN BHAGWAT

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Thursday said India had preserved Muslim traditions and ways of worship for centuries, and that the unique identity of members of the community had been safe in the country for decades, despite some people stressing on the differences. He said the "baggage of the past, combined with the ego of some", was preventing Hindu-Muslim communities from showing their oneness, and while dialogue was the only way forward, it was also important for everyone to "not stress on a separate identity and accept the national identity as the unifier." Bhagwat was addressing the closing ceremony of a training camp at the headquarters in Nagpur of the RSS, which is the ideological mentor of the ruling BJP. "The emotional integration of communities in the country will come only with the understanding that we have been one for centuries, despite differences," he



said. "There were communities that came here from other places. We fought with them then, but they are gone now. Baharwale sab chale gaye, ab sab andarwale hai. (There are only insiders now). So we must live, forgetting the links with outsiders. Everyone here is part of us. If there is any difference in their thinking, we must talk to them. India's unity is paramount and everyone should work towards that," he said. "...And who wants a separate identity...We don't have

one. Our unique identities are the safest in India, not outside. Our relationship with our country is not transactional. We celebrate diversities, and we will figure out ways to live together," said the RSS chief. "Dialogue is important for harmony, and to be one, everyone has to leave something for society. One-sided efforts for harmony will not work. Everyone has to make sacrifices, and that comes through habit, and sanskar (values)," he added.



RIHANNA BEATS TAYLOR SWIFT ON FORBES'

BECOMES AMERICA'S RICHEST SELF-MADE WOMEN, WHILE KIM KARDASHIAN AND REESE WITHERSPOON ALSO GRAB SPOTS

Los Angeles | Agencies

Taylor Swift, Rihanna, Kim Kardashian and Reese Witherspoon have made Forbes' America's Richest Self-Made Women list, a compilation of the most successful female entrepreneurs, executives, and entertainers in the United States, reports dailymail.co.uk.

Rihanna, 35, is the most successful self-made woman in music on the list, beating Taylor to land at the 20th spot with a net worth of \$1.4 billion.

Swift, 33, the second most-successful musical artist on the list, ranks at number 34 with a net worth of \$740 million. While Rihanna has surpassed Taylor, Forbes attributes the source of her wealth to two different streams of income - her music and cosmetics empire, Fenty Beauty. Taylor's music is listed as her source of wealth.

The uber-successful Pon de Replay singer co-owns Fenty Beauty with the French luxury retailer LVMH. Last year, Fenty Beauty's revenue doubled. She also has a 30% stake in Savage x Fenty lingerie line, and in 2021 the company was valued at \$1 billion.



Reality star turned businesswoman Kim, 42, follows close behind Rihanna at number 21, with a net worth valued at \$1.2 billion.

The social media sensation derives her income from her shapewear company SKIMS and skincare line. Most of her wealth is derived from her stake in her shapewear company.

As for Reese, the multi-hyphenate entertainer comes in at #59 with a net worth of \$440 million.

According to Forbes, she is the richest actress in the world, and she reportedly earned \$20 mil-

lion for starring in just 10 episodes of her hit series *The Morning Show*.

Madonna, 64, landed at #45 with \$580 million while Beyonce, 41, came in at #48 with \$540 million. Beyonce, who has branched out into fashion with her Ivy Park line, derives most of her wealth from her career as both a solo singer and time with *Destiny's Child*.

Even Kim's younger sister Kylie Jenner, 25, made the list. She ranks at #38 with a net worth valued at \$680 million.

New 'Spider-Man' movie meetings on hold due to writers' strike: Tom Holland

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Tom Holland has given an update on the development of his fourth 'Spider-Man' movie. At the premiere of his new Apple TV+ show 'The Crowded Room' in New York City, Holland said that though he can't share too much, he has "been having meetings" about the next chapter in the Marvel franchise, reports *Variety*. However, those conversations have been put on hold for now due to the ongoing writers strike. "I can't talk about that, but I can say that we have been having meetings. We've put the meetings on pause in solidarity with the writers," Holland told *Variety*. "There's been multiple conversations, but at this point it's very, very early stages". Holland echoed what 'Spider-Man' producer Amy Pascal told *Variety* on Wednesday night at the premiere of another movie in the Spidey universe, *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse*. "Are we going to make another movie? Of course we are," Pascal said. "We're in the process, but the writers strike, nobody is working during the strike. We're all being supporters and whenever they get themselves together, we'll get started." Holland stars in the psychological thriller 'The Crowded Room' as Danny Sullivan, who gets arrested for his involvement in a New York City shooting in 1979.



Why Kim Kardashian still filming her TV series?



Los Angeles | Agencies

Kim Kardashian was on the defensive on Wednesday's episode of *The Kardashians* on Hulu. The 42-year-old addressed criticism that she does not share enough about her personal life on the show and is just dropping by the series to get a paycheck.

The SKIMS founder told Scott Disick and Khloe Kardashian that she feels at the start of *Keeping Up With The Kardashians* in 2007, it was easy to talk her personal life like who she was dating, because they didn't have any children yet.

But now, 16 years later, on *The Kardashians*, it is much more challenging as the stakes are higher - as in she has a difficult ex-husband in Kanye West and four kids that read the internet.

"I give a lot," the billionaire stated firmly. "Khloe and I, we give real content. We're sharing every last detail of our lives."

The siren added that she will continue to film the show and has no plans to quit.

Scott Disick takes his time to carefully ask Kim if she would ever leave the show behind, as he seems like he is trying out for a talk show gig.

Kim then comes on strong that she definitely won't be quitting her day job anytime soon.

"We love filming, we love our show," says Kim. "I will always want to film and give our all," she explained.

Tupac Shakur set to be honoured with Hollywood Walk Of Fame star



Los Angeles | Agencies

Rapper Tupac Shakur is to be honoured with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The rap icon, who was killed in September 1996 aged 25, will get the Hollywood Boulevard tribute on June 7, reports aceshowbiz.com.

Ana Martinez, Hollywood Walk of Fame producer, said in a statement, "Tupac Shakur was a rapper, actor, activist, poet, and revolutionary. This iconic artist has continued to be part of the zeitgeist for decades after his passing and will continue to be an important cultural figure for many years to come."

Martinez suggested Tupac's star will become a huge attraction for rap fans, adding, "Surely, as one of LA's own, Tupac's star will be added to the list of most visited stars."

Tupac is still widely recognised as one of the most influential and successful rappers of all time. He died on September 7, 1996 after he was involved in a drive-by shooting in Las Vegas.

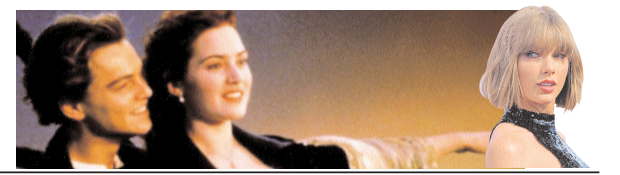
Kendrick Lamar, 35, previously paid a glowing tribute to the late rap star, describing Tupac as one of his biggest inspirations.

On the 19th anniversary of Tupac's death, in a note posted on the official Tupac website, the rapper said, "I was 8 yrs old when I first saw you. I couldn't describe how I felt at that moment. So many different emotions. Full of excitement. Full of joy and eagerness."

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Georgia Steel



THAILAND OPEN

LAKSHYA SEN IN SEMIS; KIRAN GEORGE LOSES IN QUARTERS

Team Absolute | Bangkok

India's Lakshya Sen continued his run of good performances as he got the better of Leong Jun Hao of Malaysia in straight games to storm into the semifinals while compatriot Kiran George was ousted from the ongoing Thailand Open 2023 badminton championships here on Friday.

Lakshya, who won a bronze medal in the 2021 World Championship, defeated his Malaysian opponent 21-19, 21-11 in the quarterfinals played at Court No.2 at Indoor Stadium Huamark in the Thai capital.

Lakshya entered the semifinals where he will face the winner between Lu Guang Zu of China and Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand in the semis on Saturday.

On the other hand, Kiran George's magical run came to an end with a defeat to Toma Junior Popov of France in the quarterfinals here on Friday.

The 23-year-old Kiran George, who had caused a couple of upsets to reach the last-eight stage of the Thailand Open, went down 16-21, 17-21 in a 41-minute encounter against the 28th-ranked French player at the. Playing against Leong Jun Hao,



Lakshya conceded the lead as the players went neck-and-neck till 10-10 before the Malaysian jumped to a 16-10 lead. The 21-year-old Lakshya, a top-10 player who has now slipped to 23rd in the BWF Rankings, fought back to level scores at 17-17 before the

Indian eventually won the first game, 21-19.

Things were a bit different in the second game as Lakshya took the early lead and though his Malaysian opponent remained on his heels, Lakshya won eight points in a row from 13-11 to win

the game 21-11 and sealed a place in the last four.

Kiran George had defeated third seed Shi Yu Qi of China in the first round and then got the better of another Chinese shuttler, Weng Hong Yang in the pre-quarters.

Earlier, playing in a quarter-final of a BWF World Tour Super 500 event for the first time, Kiran George, the Odisha Open 2022 winner, conceded an early lead as the French player surged to a 5-0 lead.

Though Kiran reduced the margin to 7-6, Popov won the next three points to make it 10-7. The Indian tied the score at 10-10 and after a regular exchange of points, Popov took the lead at 17-14 and though George fought well for the next few points, the French shuttler went on to win the first game 21-16.

The second game was closer as both players fought tooth and nail for each point as the lead exchanged hands a couple of times. Popov gained a narrow lead at 5-3 before George fought back to gain the upper hand at 11-8. The neck-and-neck fight continued till 17-11 before Popov won four points in a row to win the game and the match at 21-17 to clinch a place in the semifinals.

He will next face eighth seed Lee Cheuk Yiu of Hong Kong, who defeated Malaysia's Ng Tze Yong 21-19, 23-21 in another quarterfinal.

Shami can ask really good questions of Australian batters: Jason Gillespie



Niharika Raina | New Delhi

Former fast-bowler Jason Gillespie believes senior India pacer Mohammed Shami can ask good questions of the Australian batters' defensive techniques if he succeeds in finding some movement off the pitch during the upcoming World Test Championship (WTC) Final at The Oval from June 7-11.

With pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah absent, Shami will have an important role to play in leading India's charge with the ball in the WTC Final. Shami was the leading wicket-taker in IPL 2023 with 28 scalps, finding success by bowling majorly Test-match lengths.

Against Australia, Shami has picked 40 wickets from 11 Tests at an average of 31.27, with a career-best spell of 6-56. His record of playing Tests in England stands at 38 wickets in 13 games at an average of 40.52, with Shami yet to pick a five-wicket haul in the country.

"Shami impresses me a lot and I love how he keeps running in

hard. He does a wonderful job for India. I love that he presents the seam, and releases the ball so well. His wrist and fingers are right behind the ball and you see the seam go all the way down the pitch and he gives the ball a chance to move off the seam. He can swing the ball in the right conditions and can get a little bit of swing," said Gillespie.

"But his seam presentation is as good as anyone in world cricket in my opinion. So I think he's going to play a big role in those conditions if there is any movement to be found off the pitch. Mohammed Shami can certainly exploit that and he can ask some really good questions of the Australian batters' defensive techniques, because he pitches the ball up and when he looks to just get a little bit of movement, then I think he's a fine bowler," said Gillespie in an interview with correspondent. Fellow-pacer Mohammad Siraj was Royal Challengers Bangalore's leading wicket-taker with 19 scalps and found rewards in sticking to an attacking line and length.

Zverev makes winning return, reaches third round



Team Absolute | Paris

Former World no. 2 Alexander Zverev of Germany made a winning return to the Roland Garros after suffering an ankle injury last year

as he cruised past Slovakian Alex Molcan 6-4, 6-2, 6-1 to reach the third round of the clay court major.

Zverev is a two-time semifinalist in Paris, having suffered a right ankle injury against Rafael Nadal

in the last four last year. Twelve months on and the 26-year-old is fully fit and firing again at Roland Garros.

The German maintained his impressive record at French Open on Thursday when he got the better of the Slovakian in one hour and 58 minutes to reach the third round for the seventh time, where he will meet Frances Tiafoe of America.

Zverev now holds a 25-7 record at Roland Garros. Earlier this season, the 22nd seed reached the semifinals on hard court in Dubai and on clay in Geneva.

In other second-round action, Taylor Fritz of the USA defeated Arthur Rinderknech, the last remaining Frenchman in the singles draw, 2-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 to equal his best result at Roland Garros.

MERTENS TROUNCES PEGULA IN STRAIGHT SETS

Paris: Elise Mertens of Belgium knocked out world No.3 American Jessica Pegula with a 6-1, 6-3 win and advanced to the fourth round of the French Open, here on Friday.

Mertens has now won all three of her encounters against Pegula, who was a quarter-finalist in Paris last year, including a streak of 15 straight games.

The Belgian is into the last 16 at Roland-Garros for a second straight year, and a third time overall (2018, 2022 and 2023). She has now tallied 13 second-week runs across her 25 career Grand Slam main-draw appearances.

Mertens will next face Russian, Anastasia Potapova or 2021 finalist Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova.

Stuart Broad's five-for puts England on top in one-off Test v Ireland

Team Absolute | London

England's campaign for a busy summer against archrivals Australia got off to a superb start as they took early control of the proceedings in the one-off four-day Test against neighbours Ireland.

Seasoned pacer Stuart Broad picked up a five-wicket haul before an aggressive opening stand between Zak Crawley and Ben Duckett put England firmly in the driver's seat on day one of the one-off Test against Ireland at the Lord's.

England kickedstart their summer with a dominant bowling display at Lord's against Ireland, bundling the visitors out for 172 soon after tea on Thursday. Crawley and Duckett then put on a century stand in no time to take England close to a lead.

Crawley fell close to stumps to debutant Fionn Hand, but England are only 20 runs away from Ireland's



total after batting 25 overs, scoring at a rate of 6.08.

Earlier, England's pace bowlers indicated how things could proceed in the Ashes series against Australia when they brushed aside concerns around their depleted attack with a strong bowling performance headlined by Broad's brilliant five-wicket haul, the 20th in his Test career.

Matthew Potts picked up two wickets as did Jack Leach, who came into the attack early. Josh Tongue, on Test debut, bowled probing spells but went wicketless in the innings.

James McCollum top-scored for Ireland with 36 while Curtis Campher (33) and Paul Stirling (30) made the other major contributions to the score as Ireland were bowled out cheaply. At stumps on Day One, Duckett was unbeaten on 60 with Ollie Pope on 29 as England, trailing by 20 runs, looked in a good position to post a big total and press home their advantage.

Uruguay edge Gambia; Korea upset Ecuador to seal quarterfinal spots

Team Absolute | Mendoza (Argentina)

Anderson Duarte's decisive goal helped Uruguay edge Gambia 1-0 to enter the FIFA U-20 World Cup quarterfinals.

In a match that saw both sides reduced to ten men, a low and driven rocket from Uruguay midfielder Duarte midway through the second half proved to be the difference as they edged past Gambia to set up an intriguing quarterfinal against the USA. Gambia were up against it early on as Mansour Mbye was sent off in the 17th minute for a challenge on

Juan de los Santos following an on-field VAR review by referee Francois Letexier. Uruguay failed to take full advantage of having an extra man for the remainder of the first half, as Luciano Rodriguez's yellow card was upgraded to a red following another on-field VAR call right before the break for an elbow thrown at Sainey Sanyang's face. It was to be ten-on-ten for the second half. After the break, Gambia were more measured and patient in possession, but Uruguay were more direct in attack and created more dangerous opportunities. Uruguay were eventually rewarded for

their endeavour when Duarte's fierce shot from 25 yards out found the bottom corner.

Uruguay will get two full days' rest before facing an in-form USA side with a spot in the semifinals on the line. Uruguay have shown remarkable consistency through the years at the U-20 World Cup, qualifying for at least the quarterfinals ten of the 16 times they have participated in the tournament. In other action, Bae Junho scored one and set another up as Korea Republic upset Ecuador 3-2 in the last 16 to set up a Sunday's quarterfinal clash with Nigeria.

Taegeuk Warriors struck first for Korea. Junho played a delightful ball over the back of the Ecuador defence. Lee Youngjun controlled it immaculately on his chest and buried a volley into the bottom corner.

Junho then employed two exceptional touches to befuddle Daniel de la Cruz, before firing home to double the advantage. A penalty got Ecuador back into the game. Park Changwoo was adjudged to have pulled back Kendry Paez, and Justin Cuero dispatched his fourth goal of Argentina 2023, but Korea Republic restored their two-goal cushion at the start of the second half.

MS Dhoni is pretty much worshipped in India: Devon Conway



Team Absolute | Dunedin (New Zealand)

New Zealand and Chennai Super Kings (CSK) left-handed opener Devon Conway said talismanic wicketkeeper-batter MS Dhoni is very well-liked and worshipped in India, adding that the support for him is quite incredible.

Dhoni played the entire IPL 2023 season for Chennai with a left knee issue, making the fans and various cricket experts think the tournament could be the former India skipper's last appearance as a professional cricketer.

Whenever he came out to bat either at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, Chennai's home ground and in away matches, the crowd was engulfed by waves of yellow jerseys and gave him a rousing reception. Eventually, he captained Chennai to their fifth IPL title with a four-wicket victory over Gujarat Titans at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

"He (Dhoni) is very well-liked in India, he's pretty much worshipped there. To see the following and support they have for him is incredible. Every away game we had was pretty much a home game because of all the supporters travelling to support MS Dhoni. It was special -- a different world than what we're used to. I don't think he's able to do much outside the hotel due to his fame," Conway was quoted as saying by SENZ Radio.

Tamil Nadu surfers dominate proceedings on Day 2



Mangalore: Under tough and challenging conditions, Tamil Nadu surfers stood tall to dominate the proceedings on day two of the 4th Indian Open of Surfing at the Sashithlu beach, here on Friday.

The men's open category will see an all Tamil Nadu surfers Srikanth D and Kishore Kumar (13 points) as the former managed to score the highest points in the men's open category while the latter managed 11.67 points, the highest in the Groms (16 & Under Boys Categories). Sugar Banarse from Goa managed to score the highest points in the women's open category gathering a total of 10.17.

Indian team aims to win its maiden title in Women's Junior Asia Cup

Team Absolute | New Delhi

With their eyes on a berth in the Junior World Cup later this year, the Indian women's hockey team is fired up for the highly-anticipated Women's Junior Asia Cup 2023 in Kakamigahara, Japan. India are also hoping to clinch their maiden title at the multi-nation event.

The Women's Junior Asia Cup 2023, which will be played from June 2-11, serves as the qualifying event for the forthcoming FIH Junior Women's World Cup 2023.



Notably, the top three teams in the Women's Junior Asia Cup 2023 will earn automatic qualification to the FIH Junior Women's World Cup 2023, which will be held in Santiago, Chile from November 29 to December 10.

India, which will be captained by Preeti and Vice-captained by Deepika, has been grouped in Pool A along with Korea, Malaysia, Uzbekistan and Chinese Taipei, while hosts Japan, China, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, and Hong Kong China, will form Pool B of the tournament.



SHRUTI HAASAN BREAKS INTO AN IMPROMPTU PERFORMANCE AT A RESTAURANT IN LONDON

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai: After her visit to Cannes, Shruti Haasan flew to the UK to resume shooting for her international film, 'The Eye'. During a visit to a restaurant in London, the actress wowed everyone there with an impromptu gig.

Shruti and her friends along with her partner Santanu Hazarika, decided to let down their hair and visited a popular restaurant Louie's for a night out. Whilst listening to their in-house band perform foot tapping music, Shruti decided to enthrall the patrons with an impromptu performance. It was absolutely spontaneous and the restaurant's in-house band played along making it one memorable evening. Talking about her impromptu singing, Shruti said, "It was a lovely evening and when they asked me to sing, I was glad to. I loved it and everyone had a fantastic time."



Neha and Tony Kakkar, along with Tony Jr, drop summer party song

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Musical trio Neha Kakkar, Tony Kakkar and Tony Jr have joined hands for a new upbeat summer party anthem 'Balenciaga'. Neha said: "I had a blast filming 'Balenciaga' because the energy and tune of the song is so infectious. It was special collaborating with Tony and Tony Jr and hoping that audiences will love and support Tony Jr as they have supported us." Tony added: "Balenciaga is a fun song with an easy-listening vibe. The music video is vibrant and has a lot of swag which I think the young crowds will love. We are excited to introduce Tony Jr with the song and he has a fresh, new sound for audiences to enjoy." Producer Bhushan Kumar brings Neha Kakkar, Tony Kakkar and Tony Jr together for the very first time for an upbeat track 'Balenciaga'. Composed and written by Tony Kakkar, known for his groovy tunes, the track with additional vocals by Priyanka Ahuja is fun, vibrant



and one that's guaranteed to get you on your feet this summer party season. Directed by Adil Shaikh, 'Balenciaga' features Neha and Tony Kakkar along with Tony Jr, as they sport colourful bohemian and tropic looks. One big free-spirited party was the route Adil Shaikh chose to go with for the music video; that reflects the mood and vibe of the song. Inspired by Tony Kakkar, his nephew Tony Jr makes his big debut with Balenciaga, following his footsteps.

Virushka in London to attend Man City vs Man U FA Cup Final

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Power couple Anushka Sharma and Virat Kohli, who are in London currently, have been invited to the FA Cup Final on Saturday.

The couple, who are fondly called Virushka by their fans, have been invited by one of the most innovative athleisure brands of the world and the prestigious Manchester City Football Club for the FA Cup Final 2023.

Manchester City and Manchester United will lock horns in the Final on June 3 at the fabled Wembley stadium.

The two clubs have been playing each other since many decades now.



Given that now both the teams are regularly ranked among the best football teams in the world, their clash is seen as one of the most intense sport-

ing rivalries in football.

On the work front, Anushka will be seen in the upcoming Netflix film 'Chakda Xpress'. She will be playing

the role of Indian bowler Jhulan Goswami in the film.

The release date of the movie is not out yet.

Ileana shares first glimpse of boyfriend since pregnancy announcement

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Ileana D'Cruz, who is all set to welcome her first bundle of joy, has shared a picture with a man, whom one may tag as her boyfriend from her baby moon. Ileana took to Instagram stories, where she shared a couple of snaps from her baby moon. One picture even gives a glimpse of a mystery man's hand without revealing anything about him. In the same image, she also showcased a diamond ring she was wearing on her ring finger. Without revealing their faces in the picture, she wrote: "My idea of romance - clearly can't let him eat in peace." Going by her pictures, Ileana is currently on a holiday in an undisclosed location.

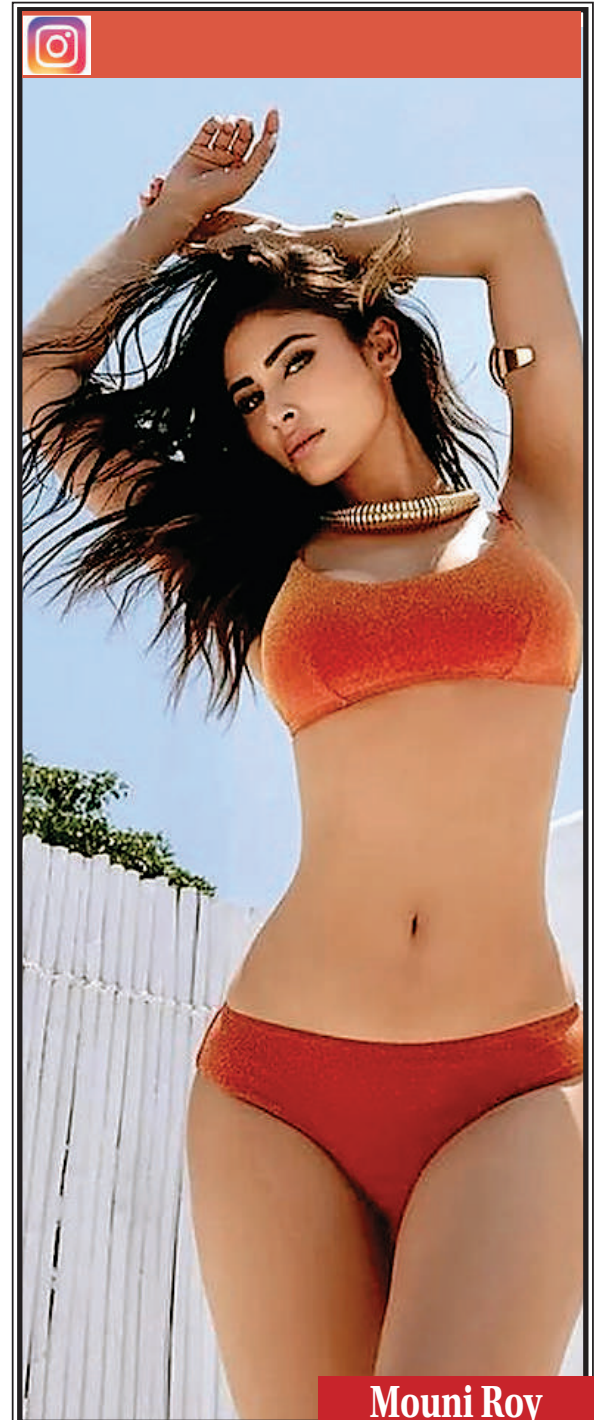
It was in April when Ileana made the announcement on social media about her pregnancy. However, she did not share the details about the father of her unborn child.



Faith is good, but blind faith is not: Adrija Sinha

Mumbai: Actress Adrija Sinha, who has essayed the role of Nu - the victim/survivor in the recently released Manoj Bajpayee-starrer film 'Sif Ek Banda Kaafi Hai', has shared her opinion on the concept of Godmen.

She has said that while faith is something one should have, blind faith beyond an extent is not good. Talking about the same, the actress told reporter: "I think we believe in those people who show us a glimmer of humanity, who help us in time of crisis, who serve us through their deeds and actions and Godmen are supposed to be the ones who carry humanitarian values everywhere they go and who enlighten people with their knowledge and teachings." She added: "I think while faith is good, blind faith to an extent that you surpass your conscience and forget being practical is not good. Godmen who make so many people's decisions and influence their thinking must be accountable for what they speak and do, and people should also think twice before investing themselves blindly into anything." Working on her character did take an emotional toll on her but, to focus on her part, she would cut off from the external world to give justice to her character of a survivor. She said: "Before the scenes would start, I would try to disconnect from the exterior noise, focus on my narrative and try to deliver my best but as soon as my scenes were done, surprisingly I wouldn't think about Nu and her pain anymore. A lot of this can be credited to my parents, my wonderful support system."



Mouni Roy

It's a busy half of 2023 for Pankaj Tripathi with seven releases lined up

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Pankaj Tripathi, who is known for his work in 'Gangs of Wasseypur', 'Masaan', 'Stree', 'Mirzapur', who was busy with personal commitments, has seven projects lined up for release this year. Pankaj has been quite low key for the first half of 2023, with no major announcement on the work front. However, the actor promises it's going to change soon because he is going to have a busy 2023.

The seven projects include 'Gulkanda



'Tales', 'Mirzapur 3', 'Oh My God 2', 'Fukrey 3', 'Murder Mubarak', 'Kadak Singh', 'Metro Inn Dino'. He has already started shooting for the much awaited 'Main Hoon Atal' and will start shooting 'Stree 2'.

Clearing the air on his sudden disappearance, Pankaj said: "It's nothing like I was missing from the scene, just that there is a process to make a movie which takes time. My movies 'Mirzapur 3', 'Oh My God 2', 'Kadak Singh' and 'Fukrey 3', are already in post-production and I have already started shooting for 'Main Hoon Atal' and will start shooting for the most anticipated 'Stree 2'."

He further mentioned: "So, everything seems to be on track. I was also a little busy with some personal work. I was taking care of some of the development work in my village. So, yeah, life has been busy. I just have to wait for the right time for the movies to be out."

In 'Mirzapur 3', Pankaj will be bringing his character Kaleen bhaiyya to life for the third time. His movie 'Kadak Singh' also stars Parvathy Thiruvothu and Sanjana Sanghi. The movie 'Main Atal Hoon' is based on the life of the former Prime Minister of India, Atal Bihari Vajpayee.