

absolute india

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RAINS, FESTIVE SEASON, HIGH FUEL PRICES SEND VEGGIE PRICES SOARING

HOT VEGITABLES

The government claimed that till October 12, a total of 67,357 MT has been released in major markets such as Delhi, Kolkata, Lucknow, Patna, Ranchi, Guwahati, Bhubaneshwar, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Mumbai, Chandigarh, Kochi and Raipur.

For instance, according to state wise 'Wholesale Prices Monthly Analysis for Onion' for the month of October 2021 shows that in Delhi, the rate of onions in this month is Rs 2,970.62 per quintal, compared to Rs 1,711.18 per quintal in September 2021, which is a whopping 73.6 per cent increase. However, the rate in October 2020 was Rs 3,161.94 per quintal, which is minus 6.05 per cent compared to current month price.



An onion grower and trader from Lasalgaon in Maharashtra, Sanjay Holkar told reporter on phone that the diesel prices have hit the roof and that is the reason why the cost at the consumer end has escalated. "I send in 30-40 truckloads of onions to north every week. The prices won't come down till the time the diesel prices are lowered."

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The delayed withdrawal of monsoon, coupled with flood situation in various parts of the country, soaring fuel prices and the festive season demand have all set the prices of vegetables, especially essentials such as onion and tomato, to shoot up within a week or so. The prices were relatively stable till about last month and the rates were comparable to that of the same time last year. However, with floods in several parts of south India in September and early October led to supply shortage. "The onion and tomato prices have shot up because there have been continuous rains in Maharashtra from where Delhi gets its onions. Tomatoes come from Maharashtra and Karnataka, which too has witnessed rains and flood

fury in recent weeks," said former president of Federation of Fruit and Vegetables Trade Associations of Delhi, Rajendra Sharma.

This has had a cascading effect on retail rates in Delhi. Around navaratri time, the rates were stable, tomatoes cost Rs 50 per kg but days after Dussehra, on Monday, the rates had soared to Rs 80 per kg. Onions are currently being sold at Rs 60 per kg in most areas, with rates in south Delhi tad higher.

Vegetable rates rarely soar in just one area or one metro. The price rise is almost all the time pan-India, especially for the metro cities. The Centre's Department of Consumer Affairs has said, it has taken up a "calibrated and targeted release of onions" from its buffer stock guided by the twin objectives of moderating prices and ensuring minimal storage loss. Onion buffer has been

maintained by the Department of Consumer Affairs under the Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) with the objective of effective market intervention to moderate prices. In 2021-22, against the target of building 2 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) onion buffer a total of 2.08 LMT was procured from Rabi-2021 crop during April to July, 2021, the Centre had said on Sunday. Sharma criticized that the buffer stock maintained by the Centre is just too less. However, not all are convinced that the soaring prices have got anything to do with either rains or rising fuel costs. "It is sheer mismanagement on the part of the government and officials, who are hand in glove. The corruption has led to this artificial price rise," said Bhanwar Singh Shekhawat of Devi Ahilya Sahakari Vivanan and Prakriya Sanstha Ltd, Indore.

'Rail roko' hinder running of several trains, affects traffic

NO LAW & ORDER SITUATION: DELHI POLICE

"The protest did not cause any disturbance or law and order situation. We worked in close coordination with the Government Railway Police (GRP) of the neighbouring states."

Harendra Kumar Singh, DCPolice (Railways)

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha's six-hour 'rail roko' protest on Monday over the Lakhimpur violence affected 130 locations in the Northern Railway zone and hindered the running of 50 trains, said its chief public relation officer (CPRO).

In the North Western Railway (NWR), rail traffic was affected in some sections in Rajasthan and Haryana with two trains cancelled, 13 partially cancelled and one diverted due to the protest.

The trains that have been affected in the Northern Railway zone include the Chandigarh-Ferozepur Express. Its scheduled departure from Ludhiana was 7 am, but has been stranded there due to a blockade in the Ferozpur-Ludhiana section, the official said. The New Delhi-Amritsar Shatabdi Express was halted near Shambu station as protesters blocked railway tracks



near Sahnewal and Rajpura. In Rajasthan, the agitation affected train movement in Hanumangarh and Sriganganagar of the Bikaner division. An NWR spokesperson said rail traffic on Bhiwani-Rewari, Sirsa-Rewari, Loharu-Hisar, Suratgarh-Bathinda, Sirsa-Bathinda, Hanumangarh-Bathinda, Rohtak-Bhiwani, Rewari-Sadulpur, Hisar-Bathinda, Hanumangarh-Sadulpur and Sri Ganganagar-Rewari sections was affected due to the agitation. The Samyukt Kisan Morcha, an umbrella body of farmer unions spearheading the agitation against the Centre's three agri laws, had said "protests will be intensified until justice is secured" in the Lakhimpur Kheri case.

WE WILL MAKE FURTHER STRATEGY: RAKESH TIKAIT

"Rail Roko agitation was fine. We will make our further strategy. Until Teni (Mos MHA Ajay Mishra Teni) is arrested and he resigns, we will continue putting forth our views. He is an accused under sections 120(B) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). He cannot roam in the open."



Ram Rahim gets life sentence in manager murder case too

Chandigarh | Agencies

Self-styled godman and Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh, who is already serving a 20-year jail sentence for raping two of his disciples and a life term for a journalist's killing, was on Monday sentenced to life imprisonment for murder of a former sect manager nearly two decades back.

Special CBI court judge Sushil Garg in Haryana's Panchkula pronounced the verdict in a jam-packed court, sentencing him and four others for murdering Ranjit Singh, in 2002. The CBI had sought the death penalty under Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code for Ram Rahim, while the dera chief pleaded for mercy, appearing via video conference from Rohtak jail, where he is serving sentence in two cases of rape and for the murder of a journalist.

The others convicted for the crime were Krishan Lal, Jasbir Singh, Avtar Singh, and Sabdil. One more accused in the murder case had passed away in



October last year.

The court also imposed a penalty of Rs 31 lakh on the godman, half of the amount will be given to the victim's family as compensation.

Victim's son Jagseer said the family finally got the justice, though after much delay. "My grandfather who fought the battle for justice of his son died in 2016. I was just eight years old when my father was murdered in a cold-blooded manner," he told the media. "Today, after 19 years, my family can sleep in peace," he said.

CBSE BOARD EXAM 2021-22 CLASS X EXAMS FROM NOV 30, CLASS XII FROM DEC 1

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Central Board of Secondary Education on Monday released the date sheet for Class 10 Term 1 exams. CBSE Date Sheet 2021-22

Term 1: Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) today released the date sheets for Class 10 and 12 term-1 board exams 2021-22. CBSE will conduct the first-term board examinations for classes 10 and 12 offline in November-December. Candidates can check the date sheet on the official website- cbse.gov.in From this year, CBSE will conduct two board exams instead of the one annual exam pattern followed till last year. The term two exams for secondary and senior secondary students will be conducted in February-March 2022.

The term I exams will be objective-type and the duration of the tests will be 90 minutes. The exams will commence from 11.30 am due to the winter season. Meanwhile, the board has released class 10, 12 sample papers and the marking scheme for term-I examinations 2021-22. Students who are to appear for the examination can check the same on the board's official website cbseacademic.nic.in.

Bhupesh Baghel emerges on top in race for best Chief Minister

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel is the best performing Chief Minister in the country, facing the least anger of the electorate, as per the IANS-CVoter Governance Index.

Only 6 per cent of the respondents are angry with Baghel and want a change. Conversely, Baghel enjoys highest popularity ratings among all Chief Ministers, as per the tracker.

In case of Chhattisgarh, anger is directed against the Central government and even state MLAs, but there is hardly any anger



towards Baghel.

As many as 44.7 per cent respondents in Chhattisgarh are angry

with the Central government, while 36.6 per cent are angry with the state government.

Baghel has introduced a slew of welfare schemes in Chhattisgarh, including providing free education to children studying in private schools, who have lost parents/guardians to Covid-19. Under the Mahtari Dular Yojana, the Chhattisgarh government would bear the expenses of education of such children.

Chhattisgarh was the top-performing state in India on the gender equality parameter of the Sustainable Development Goals, according to the NITI Aayog's SDG India Index report 2020-21.

The index tracks the progress of all states and Union Territories on 115 indicators.

KIN OF ANDHRA EMPLOYEES DIED OF COVID TO GET JOBS

Amaravati: Kin of the Andhra Pradesh government employees who died of Covid-19 will be provided government jobs, Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy announced on Monday.



He directed the officials to provide jobs to the kin of deceased employees on compassionate grounds. During a review meeting, he directed the officials to immediately provide jobs to a family member of the employees who succumbed to Covid and complete the process by November 30. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Monday conducted a review meeting on Covid-19 situation, vaccination, health hubs, recruitment of staff in health centres and government hospitals across the state. The officials informed the Chief Minister that a job calendar has been prepared based on the vacancies identified in various hospitals and they are set to issue job notifications on October 20 and complete the selection process and issue appointment orders on December 10 to those posts notified by Department of Health and Family Welfare.

Anger diffuses at local level rising against states, Centre

The CVoter Tracker is India's only daily Opinion Tracking exercise mapping more than a 100,000 randomly selected respondents in a calendar year. The tracker is run in 11 Indian languages has interviewed more than a million respondents in person and CATI over the last ten years. The quarterly report cards on CMs cover more than 30,000 respondents across all 543 Lok Sabha seats and has MoE of +/-3 per cent at national level and +/-5 per cent at state levels.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The anger of electorate on governance issues is being channelised against the Centre and the states while the local governance factor has dissipated in the Covid era, according to the IANS-CVoter Governance Index. CVoter founder Yashwant Deshmukh said that the focus is on the work of the Centre and states and local governance is

not really counting as far as anger is concerned in the last one and half years of Covid pandemic. As per the tracker, the least amount of anger against the Central government is in the states of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh. The least anger against the state government is seen in the states of Kerala, West Bengal, and Tamil Nadu. All had recently elected new governments.

AT AN ALL INDIA LEVEL, THE ANGER AGAINST LOCAL GOVERNANCE IS ONLY 14.3 PER CENT WHILE THE ANGER AGAINST THE STATES IS 44.3 PER CENT AND AGAINST THE CENTRE AT 41.3 PER CENT.

THE ANGER AGAINST THE CENTRE AND STATES IS PERCEPTIBLY HIGHER THAN AT THE LOCAL LEVEL. THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF ANGER AGAINST THE STATE GOVERNMENT IS IN ANDHRA PRADESH, UTTAR PRADESH, AND TELANGANA.

THE HIGHEST AMOUNT OF ANGER AGAINST THE CENTRE IS IN THE UT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR, AND THE STATES OF KERALA AND PUNJAB.

1.15 tonnes ganja hidden in poultry feed seized in Maha



Washim (Maharashtra): in a big catch, police in Maharashtra's Washim seized 1.15 tonnes ganja hidden in a truck carrying poultry feed, officials said on Monday. According to police, the value of the seizure, considered one of the biggest in a mofussil region, is around Rs 3.50 crore. As per preliminary investigation, the truck carrying a consignment of poultry feeds had come from Andhra Pradesh, and the cargo was intended to be sold in different states. Following a tipoff, the Risod police intercepted the vehicle on the Washim-Buldhana highway, and recovered the contraband concealed under the poultry feed, and detained four persons. Probe is underway on the origins of the ganja, the consignees, their links with the drug mafia and other aspects, police said.



MPS FROM RAJASTHAN ARE BEST PERFORMING

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Rajasthan MPs are facing the least amount of anger from the electorate followed by Andhra Pradesh and Bihar representatives, as per IANS-CVoter Governance Index.

Jharkhand, Assam and Himachal Pradesh MPs are garnering the maximum amount of anger.

On the MLAs, those in Kerala, Gujarat and Maharashtra are facing least anger while Andhra Pradesh, Goa and Telangana are facing the maximum anger.

Yashwant Deshmukh, Founder, C Voter said, "The CEO working style of CMs is popular. People are liking CMs with centralised decision making".

"These are leaders who are not afraid of taking the blame. It is risky when things go wrong as in the case of Punjab CM Amrinder Singh. But there is a better rating for the CEO style. We are living in a Parliamentary democracy but a Presidential system is becoming popular with the public", Deshmukh said.



The CVoter Tracker is India's only daily Opinion Tracking exercise mapping more than a hundred thousand randomly selected respondents in a calendar year. The tracker is run in 11 Indian languages and has interviewed more than a million respondents in person and CAT I over the last ten years. The quarterly report cards on CMs cover more than thirty thousand respondents across all 543 Lok Sabha seats and has MoE of +/-3% at National level and +/-5% at State Levels.

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami ranks second

in minimum anger of the electorate with 10.1 per cent but since he is a new CM he is getting the benefit of doubt even as a massive 61 per cent are angry with the state government. The earlier CM was drawing negative ratings but now that has diffused but the anger against the state government remains high.

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik ranks third with 10.4 per cent anger against him and 37.6 per cent against the state government.

The CM change in some states has worked. With Punjab and Karnataka getting new CMs, the

states have moved to respectable positions as they were languishing near the bottom earlier.

The maximum anger has been garnered by Telangana CM Chandrashekar Rao or KCR. As many as 30.3 per cent respondents are angry with him and want a change. With a high degree of anger against the incumbent and the central government having good ratings in the state, the BJP is set to make inroads, said C Voter Founder Yashwant Deshmukh. He added that it is high time KCR's son, K.T. Rama Rao replaced him otherwise things could go out of hand.

Also in the bottom are the North East states collectively with an anger of 29.2 per cent.

There is anger of 28.1 per cent against UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath but that is accounted for by the fact that UP is a polarised state. "Yogi being a polarising figure the number is not surprising", said Deshmukh. He added that the arithmetic of 40 per cent support base ensures that BJP is in a strong position in UP.

Rahul slams govt after petrol became costlier than aviation fuel

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi has slammed the central government after reports emerged that the petrol is costlier than aviation fuel in the country. Rahul Gandhi said, the matter is very "serious".

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In a tweet on Monday, Rahul Gandhi said, "this is a serious issue, as the issue of public welfare comes first and the daily requirements of the people are out of reach, but to benefit a few friends of the Prime Minister, the public is being cheated and I will stand with the people."

Rahul Gandhi tagged a news report with his tweet.

After Sunday hike, petrol is approximately 33 per cent costlier than aviation fuel. ATF in Delhi costs Rs 79,020.16 per kilolitre or Rs 79 per litre while one litre of petrol in the national capital costs Rs 105.84 a litre.

Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra too slammed the government and said, it promised that the ordinary people with slippers will fly in planes but the situation is that the middle class and the poor are suffering and are unable to travel even on roads due to the fuel price rise. However,



petrol and diesel prices remained unchanged on Monday after increasing for four consecutive days as oil marketing companies (OMC) decided to pause to see developments in the global oil market before taking the next step.

Accordingly, the price of

petrol in Delhi remained Rs 105.84 a litre and Rs 111.77 per litre in Mumbai, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers. In Mumbai, diesel rates also remained static at Rs 102.52 a litre; while in Delhi it costs Rs 94.57, the same as Sunday.

Rebel SP MLA elected as Deputy Speaker of UP Assembly

LUCKNOW | Agencies

Rebel Samajwadi Party MLA Nitin Agarwal was elected to the post of Deputy Speaker of the UP Assembly on Monday with support from the BJP while the official SP candidate Narendra Varma lost.

Agarwal got 304 votes while Varma got only 60 votes. A total of 368 votes were cast while the assembly strength is 403.

Shivpal Yadav and Om Prakash Rajbhar were absent during the voting while Congress boycotted the election. Nitin Agarwal, a second-term MLA, is the son of former minister Naresh Agarwal and had joined ranks with the BJP in 2018. The SP had filed a disqualification petition against him but the same was rejected by the Speaker. The election of the Deputy Speaker on Monday was marred by allegations as the Samajwadi Party repeatedly sought postponement of the election, terming



it as against democratic norms.

Leader of opposition Ram Govind Chaudhary alleged that the post of Deputy Speaker traditionally belongs to the opposition but the ruling BJP had decided on the candidate without taking the opposition into confidence.

MOBILE INTERNET SERVICES SUSPENDED IN PARTS OF KASHMIR VALLEY

Srinagar: Mobile Internet services were suspended in parts of the Kashmir Valley as a precautionary measure on Monday. In Srinagar district, the areas where the service was suspended include Anchar, Eidgah, Qamarwari, Soura, Maharajgunj, Nowhatta, Safa Kadal and Bagyass. In Kulgam district, it was suspended in Wanpoh, Qaimoh and in Pulwama, the service was snipped in Litter area. The mobile Internet suspension has come in the aftermath of recent civilian killings. Nine civilians have been murdered by militants in Kashmir over the last 15 days triggering fear, anger and panic in the Valley.

On October 12, a street vendor from Bihar, Virender Paswan was killed by militants in Srinagar's Eidgah area. He same day, owner of a reputed pharmacy, M.L. Bindroo and a taxi driver were killed. On October 14, a school principal and a teacher were killed in Eidgah area of Srinagar by militants. On Saturday, a street vendor from Bihar and a carpenter from Uttar Pradesh were killed in two attacks by militants.

On Sunday, two labourers from Bihar were killed and another critically injured in Kulgam district.

Lawyer shot dead inside court campus in UP

SHAHJAHANPUR | Agencies

In a frightening replay of the Delhi court incident, a lawyer was shot dead inside the Shahjahanpur civil court on Monday.

The incident took place on the third floor of the court and the lawyer, Bhupendra Pratap Singh, was shot dead by a country-made firearm. The Sadar police that reached the spot soon after the incident have recovered the firearm.

The motive behind the crime is not yet known, but local



lawyers said that it could be related to rivalry in cases being handled by the lawyer.

The body has been sent for post-mortem and further details are awaited.

AIIMS Unions to go on strike on Oct 25, stage hour-long protest

Team Absolute | New Delhi

All three unions of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences held a hour-long protest against the hospital administration on Monday, and have threatened to go on strike if their pending demands are not considered by the administration.

The AIIMS unions, comprising about 15,000 of the AIIMS Employees Union, the AIIMS Nurses Union and the Officers Association of AIIMS, said that it was a symbolic protest but they will go on strike from October 25 if their demands -- assured after the 2020 strike -- are not fulfilled.



This is likely to cause problems to thousands of patients undergoing treatment at the AIIMS. "To show our strength to the AIIMS administration, hundreds of employees of the three union held a symbolic protest today and raised slogans against the AIIMS administration," AIIMS Nurses

Union President Harish Kajla said.

He said that the nursing officers and nurses were assured by the government after the strike in December last year that all demands would be discussed and problems would be resolved but nothing has happened yet.

Bengal youth BJP leader shot dead, BJP points fingers at Trinamool

Kolkata | Agencies

A youth BJP leader of Itahar in West Bengal's North Dinajpur district, Mithun Ghosh, was shot dead by some unidentified miscreants just in front of his home in the Rajgram village. The BJP alleged that Trinamool Congress anti-socials were behind the murder.

Trinamool Congress, however, has denied the allegation. The incident happened at 11 p.m. on Sunday when Ghosh was standing in front of his house in Rajgram village. Some unknown miscreants on two motorbikes shot him in his stomach from a close range. Ghosh was immediately rushed to the Raiganj medical college and hospital where he was declared brought dead.

The death of Ghosh triggered political debate in



North Dinajpur when BJP district leadership alleged that the murder was a result of the Trinamool-sheltered goons.

BJP Uttar Dinajpur district president Basudeb Sarkar said, "Mithun Ghosh was the district secretary of the Party's youth front. His home is in Rajgram of Itahar Assembly constituency. He was threatened on the phone at different times. We also verbally complained to the police that people from a particular political party were threatening Mithun. He was harassed in many ways but no action was taken by the administration". "We got the news of his death around 11.30 p.m. Sunday. Mithun was at his home. Someone called him and when he came out of his house he was shot. He died on the way to the hospital. We are definite that the Trinamool Congress goons are behind the murder. We have confidence in the law. We will lodge an FIR and wait for the police to act. We want a fair trial of the incident legally," he alleged.

Heavy rains lash south Bengal

LONDON | Agencies

Heavy rains due to a cyclonic low depression formed in central Bay of Bengal lashed most parts of south West Bengal on Monday.

According to the Met Department, the coastal districts of south West Bengal including East Midnapore and South 24 Parganas experienced more than 100 mm of rainfall in the last 24 hours.

"In Digha in East Midnapore, the rainfall was around 120 mm followed by Canning in South 24 Parganas where the rainfall was around 110 mm in the last 24 hours. Diamond Harbour and Sagar Island in South 24 Parganas also had more than 100 mm of rainfall," a Met Department official said. The Met Department has predicted orange alert for most of the coastal districts of south Bengal including South and North 24 Parganas, East and West Midnapore, Howrah, Hooghly and Jhargram, and yellow alert for Kolkata and its adjacent areas for the next 24 hours.

"There will be heavy to very heavy rainfall coupled with strong



breeze upto 40 kilometres per hour. The fishermen have been asked not to venture into the sea for the next three days," the official said, adding that the weather is likely to improve from Wednesday onwards.

However, as it was the first working day after the pujas, people had to face a lot of hardship in reaching their destinations in the city. Several areas of Kolkata including portions of south Kolkata like

Kalighat, Hazra, and Rashbehari Avenue were under knee deep water and people had to wade through the water to reach their destinations.

'Tejashwi missed CM's chair due to Cong's sub-par showing'

PATNA | Agencies

Rashtriya Janata Dal Vice President Shivanand Tiwari on Monday sharply attacked the Congress ahead of the October 30 Bihar bypolls, blaming it for not pulling its weight in the Assembly elections last year.

He said that if his party had conceded Congress only 50 seats instead of 70 in 2020 Assembly elections, Tejashwi Yadav would have become the Chief Minister on Bihar.

"The RJD made one mistake by considering 70 seats for the Congress. If this had not happened and RJD would have considered just 50 seats, we would have won that election. Due to the Congress, Tejashwi Yadav did not become the Chief Minister of the state.

"Now, the result of the by-elections will decide the fate of the Congress in Bihar. If Congress manages to win seats, they will have a chance to bargain for seats with the



RJD in future elections. If it fails to do so, the RJD will not consider it," Tiwari said.

"At present, Congress and ruling JD-U are not in the picture to fight with the RJD. The wind is in favour of RJD. We are sweeping these two seats of Kusheshwar Asthan and Tarapur with a big margin," he added.

Tiwari also slammed the BJP and Nitish Kumar, saying that due to their incompetence, Bihar has turned out to

be the largest exporter of labourers in the country.

"They have ruled Bihar for the last 16 years but completely failed to create jobs in Bihar. Due to unavailability of jobs in Bihar, a large number of people are migrating towards other states to earn for their livelihood. The gruesome murder of Bahari labourers in Kashmir valley is highly condemnable. It is a failure of the BJP and Nitish Kumar," he said.



163 OXYGEN PLANTS BECAME FUNCTIONAL IN THE STATE

Production of 182 MT of oxygen per day, 9145 patients will get oxygen at the rate of 10 liters per minute

Team Absolute | Bhopal

As many as 163 oxygen plants have been set up in various hospitals in Madhya Pradesh to ensure local availability of oxygen. These plants have a capacity of 182 metric tonnes of oxygen production per day. With this, 9145 patients can be treated by supplying oxygen at the rate of 10 liters per minute if required. Due to the tireless efforts of PM Care Fund and state government in the state, the work of setting up 202 Oxygen Generation Plants was started after facing oxygen shortage during the second wave of Corona. The remaining 39 oxygen plants will be set up this month.

MP becoming self sufficient in oxygen

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that Madhya Pradesh is fast moving towards becoming self-sufficient in the field of oxygen with the cooperation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In the second wave of Corona, oxygen was imported from other states to save the lives of Corona patients. Chief Minister Chouhan said that for the local arrangement of oxygen in Madhya Pradesh, the availability of 30 thousand 291 oxygen cylinders has been additionally ensured in the government hospitals for the



establishment of the plants. He said that as of March 2020, oxygen generation plants were not available in any government hospital in the state. As of today, 163 oxygen plants have been started in different districts of the state. Rest of the plants will also be set up soon. About 230 metrics medical oxygen can be generated per day from all these 202 plants.

The work of setting up 88 oxygen plants from PM Care Fund, 13 from Chief Minister's Relief Fund and 101 plants through other various means like the Health Department, CSR and local efforts was started from last May in the state. Today Madhya Pradesh is fast moving towards self-reliance by setting up 163 oxygen plants.

Oxygen storage facility

At present 360 metric tonnes of liq-

uid oxygen storage facility is available in the government medical colleges of the state. Apart from this, liquid oxygen tanks (total 248 metric tons) of 6 kilo litre capacity are being set up in 34 district hospitals of the state.

Availability of 13 thousand 956 oxygen concentrators in government hospitals and 1350 in medical colleges has been ensured. Apart from this, the Government of India has also allotted 3860 concentrators in addition to the oxygen concentrators given earlier.

ICU, HDU, Oxygen Supported Beds

As many as 11 thousand 156 oxygen supported beds were available in health institutions under the Health department as of June 2021. The state government has given approval to convert 3099 additional beds into oxy-

gen supported beds, in which about 2000 beds have been made functional, remaining beds will be made functional. By the end of this month, 14 thousand 255 oxygen supported beds will be available in health institutions under Public Health and Family Welfare Department. A total of 785 ICU, HDU beds with ventilators were functional in all the districts of the state as of June 2021. A total of 650 new ICU, HDU beds have been sanctioned in 41 health institutions, out of which construction of 200 ICU, HDU beds has been completed. The construction of remaining ICU, HDU beds is in its final stage. This way, now 1435 ICU, HDU beds will be available in health institutions for the treatment of patients. In addition to the 210 paediatric ICU beds available in the district hospitals, 310 new paediatric ICU beds were approved. Of these, the construction of 100 has been completed while the remaining are in the final stage of construction. By the end of this month, 520 Paediatric ICU beds and 992 Paediatric Oxygen Supported Beds will be available in health institutions under Public Health and Family Welfare Department for the treatment of infants.

Chief Minister Chouhan will felicitate excellent Gaushalas and people who have compassion for animals



File photo

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will attend the Acharya Shri Vidyasagar Jeevdya Gauseva Samman award distribution programme at Jabalpur on October 20. This state-level programme to be organised at Dayodaya Pashu Samvardhan evam Paryavaran Kendra

Gaushala, Tilwara Ghat, Jabalpur will be held in the presence of Acharya Shri Vidyasagar ji.

In the programme, excellent gaushalas of the state and organisations and individuals who are service-oriented towards animals will be honoured by rewarding them. A total of 7 awards will be given in the institutional category. First, sec-

ond, third along with 4 consolation prizes are to be given, whose amount is 5 lakh, 3 lakh, 2 lakh and 50-50 thousand respectively. In individual category, amount of one lakh, 50 thousand and 20 thousand respectively will be given as the first, second and third prize respectively. The programme will start at 4 pm.

Chief Minister Chouhan plants Amla plant at his residence

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted Amla plant at his residence. Chouhan plants a sapling every day in fulfillment of his resolve.

In Sanskrit Amla is called Amrita, Amrutphal, Amalaki, Pancharasa etc., in English it is called 'Amblic Myribalan' or Indian Gooseberry and in Latin it is known as 'Phyllanthus Embellica'. This tree is found in forests and gardens all over India. Amla is called Amrutphal or Dhatriphal in Ayurveda. According to Ayurveda, Amla



is such a fruit, which has many benefits. Regular consumption of amla enhances immunity in the body. Amla is not only beneficial for skin and hair, but also works as a

medicine for many diseases. Amla is used for digestive diseases and jaundice. Amla is rich in vitamins, minerals and nutrients, which make it valuable.

CHIEF MINISTER EXTENDS BEST WISHES ON MILAD-UN-NABI

Bhopal : Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has greeted and extended best wishes to all the citizens of the state on the occasion of Milad-un-Nabi, the birthday of Prophet Hazrat Mohammad. Chief Minister Chouhan has said that Prophet Mohammad Sahib has given the message of non-violence, peace, harmony, unity, tolerance and restraint to the society. His message of human welfare is relevant even today. Chouhan has urged the citizens to cooperate in celebrating the festival of Eid Milad-un-Nabi with corona friendly behaviour by taking care of social distance and other precautions.

Heavy rains continue to lash MP, 1 dead in lightning strike

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Several parts of Madhya Pradesh have experienced heavy rainfall in the last 24 hours and the regional meteorological department in Bhopal has predicted more showers in the next two days. One person has died due to lightning strike in Rajgarh district of the state.

According to the met department, the post monsoon rain in Madhya Pradesh is attributed to low pressure area over north Telangana and adjoining areas with associated cyclonic circulation. It is also a result of western disturbance over south Afghanistan. There has been heavy rainfall in divisions



heavy rainfall in the next 24 hours, while some other parts will receive light to moderate rains. Clouds and showers are expected over several parts of the state till Tuesday," he further said. As per the met department's data, highest rainfall in the last 24 hours was recorded in Shivpuri district (312 mm), Guna (101 mm), Gwalior (71.7 mm), Hoshangabad (56.2 mm), Shajapur (50 mm), Satna (49.8 mm), Bhopal (41.4 mm) and Raigarh (41.2 mm). Rain in other districts was recorded below 30 mm. The IMD has already issued a yellow alert for thunderstorms accompanied by lightning in four divisions and many districts of Madhya Pradesh.

such as Gwalior, Chambal, Ujjain, Bhopal, Shivpuri, while some other divisions have witnessed light to moderate rainfall. Senior meteorologist at IMD's Bhopal office, G.D. Mishra, said, "A low-pressure area was lying

north of coastal Andhra Pradesh and adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal, and this was bringing moisture to Madhya Pradesh causing rains in different parts." "The Northeast part of Madhya Pradesh is likely to receive

Kamal Nath accuses BJP of luring candidate, calls MP Lokayukta fake

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Amid high voltage campaign for bypolls in Madhya Pradesh, state unit of the Congress on Monday levelled serious allegations against the BJP for luring its candidate.

Addressing a bypoll rally in Prithvipur (one of the three assembly constituencies going to bypolls), former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath said the ruling BJP tried to lure Congress candidate Nitendra Singh.

"BJP tried to lure Congress candidate for Prithvipur assembly constituency, but he (Nitendra Singh) has Congress DNA and he is the grandson of a freedom fighter, so the BJP's attempt failed," Nath said, adding that there is rampant corruption in the state.

Nath also questioned the credibility of present 'Lokayukta', calling it 'fake' and full of 'corruption'.

"The real Lokayukta will be formed only once the Congress comes to power," said Nath, who is also head of the party in Madhya Pradesh.

Nath said that chief minister Shivraj Singh



Chouhan should tell the people of state about the achievements of his government during the last 15 years.

"Instead of blaming the opposition at every step, he (Shivraj) should submit an account of works to the unemployed youths and to the farmers and the poor. The BJP will not talk about rising inflation. People are fed up with rising petrol and diesel prices but would create issues that will divert people's attention from the real issues," Nath said.

Meanwhile, senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP Vivek Tankha, who was also present during the rally, said that he would send a fact-finding team of High Court lawyers to Prithvipur to prepare a report on the violation made by administration and politicians.

"The report will be submitted to the Election Commission," Tankha added.

Meanwhile, the MP chief minister, who was scheduled to reach Khandava Lok Sabha constituency for campaign on Monday, had to cancel his visit due to heavy rains in the district for the last two days.

Bhopal man arrested for raping 13-yr-old girl

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Bhopal Police on Monday arrested an accused for allegedly raping a 13-year-old girl. The matter came to light after a police complaint was registered. The accused has been arrested under sections 376 and 501 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

According to the police, the accused is known to the victim. He runs a grocery store where the victim used to visit to purchase goods.

According to the victim's complaint lodged at Bhopal's Sukhi Sevaniya police station, the accused invited the victim to his home on Saturday and allegedly raped her. He also threatened her of serious consequences if she told anyone about the incident.

However, after another person who knew



the victim, came to know about the incident, she narrated the entire story to her parents.

Subsequently, they lodged a police complaint on Monday, a senior police official, Vijay Bahadur Singh, from Sukhi Sevaniya police station, told reporter. "Further, investigation in the matter is underway," he said.

15 THOUSAND REWARD ANNOUNCED ON SON OF CONGRESS MLA

Team Absolute | Indore

The problems of Karan Morwal, son of Congress MLA Murlu Morwal from Badnagar assembly in Ujjain district of Madhya Pradesh, are increasing continuously.

The MLA's son is absconding after being accused of raping a young woman, now the police has announced a reward of Rs 15,000 on him.

Indore Police has pasted posters in Badnagar, Ujjain. In April this year, a girl living in Rau area of Indore had filed a report alleging rape against Karan, son of Congress MLA. Since then Karan is on the run. The police had earlier announced a reward of Rs 5,000 for his search. Indore

Inspector General of Police Hari Narayan Chari Mishra told reporter that efforts are

on to trace the MLA's son, the reward on him has been increased to 15,000. It has been told that the girl was a Congress worker and during this time she came in contact with Karan. The girl alleges that during this time Karan raped her on the pretext of marriage. According to the girl, when he asked for marriage, he started threatening her and flatly refused to get married.

Posters have also been pasted from place to place in Badnagar after the police increased the reward against the son of Congress MLA.

An audio regarding this matter is also becoming very viral, in which the girl is talking to a Congress leader. That leader describes himself as a big leader of Congress and of Delhi.

Spot fine will be imposed on those who spread garbage in MP

Efforts have been intensified to make the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan more successful in Madhya Pradesh, in this sequence it has been decided that any person who spreads garbage or violates the rules of cleanliness will be punished. According to the information given officially, under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, action will be taken on the site for spreading garbage or violating the cleanliness rules in all the small and big urban areas of the state. The campaign has been launched to improve the environment and increase public awareness by scientifically handling sanitation and solid waste in urban areas.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The environment department has included the works to be done against cleanliness in public places, spreading garbage in the streets and streets, spitting in public places, bathing in the open, immersion of excreta in the open and washing utensils, clothes etc. in the open.

It has been decided administratively that action will also be taken for violation of rules related to solid waste collection, segregation, storage, supply. Individual category, bulk waste producers, non-segregation of degradable biodegradable waste, non-segregation of construction and demolition materials, non-segregation of dry waste, non-segregation of solid waste, non-segregation of solid waste and collection in the same dustbin Action will be taken against dumping of garden and green waste in the open, burning of garbage in the open. Providing waste without segregation of fish, meat, poultry waste during commercial use (except domestic), vendors, hawkers, hawkers etc., without dustbin and without segregated waste, not keeping the house and street clean, domestic pet A provi-



sion has been made to impose a fine for not taking the garbage and excreta in the open by animals, for not obtaining permission before the event in public places and for not clean-

ing it within four hours after the ceremony organized in the public place. The spot fine rates will be decided by the urban bodies and urban clusters at the council level.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Now, easy to understand
EIA 2020 notification

More than 18 months after it was first notified, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has finally made available the translation of its draft Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) in 22 languages. The move comes six weeks after the Centre had told the Delhi High Court that it will translate into 22 languages the draft EIA 2020 notification which had drawn heavy criticism with experts and activists alike terming it as an effort to dilute environmental governance. It also gave the typical government disclaimer where in case of any discrepancy between the translated version of the draft notification and original draft notification, which was in English, it would be the latter that shall prevail. The Ministry had originally published the draft EIA 2020 notification dated March 23, 2020, in the official gazette on April 11, 2020. Environment conservationist and founder member of Social Action for Forests and Environment (SAFE), Vikrant Tongad had challenged the notification last year in June demanding extension in time for people to send in comments in view of the lockdown due to pandemic. When the impact of the proposed changes in the EIA 2020 would be felt across the entire nation, why was the draft only in two languages? "Due in part to the 'far reaching consequences' of the consultation process, the High Court had ordered the 83-page draft notification to be translated into the 22 languages recognised in the Indian Constitution and posted on several government websites within ten days. The Ministry had vehemently opposed the same and told the High Court that it would lead to administrative chaos and that there would be administrative difficulties in the implementation of the translation of 22 languages.

Chinese naval strategy's covert dimensions

Asad Mirza

Ever since Communist China came into existence in 1949, its belligerence over South China Sea - SCS, has been increasing and some recent events have increased its hostility in the regional sea and towards its neighbour Taiwan. China claims almost all of the SCS covering roughly 3.5 million square kilometres, and its estimated 190 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and 11 billion barrels of oil, in addition to maritime resources such as fish, as part of Chinese territory. Though the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague had firmly rejected China's sovereignty claim in 2016 but even five years after that ruling, China continues to reject the court's authority.

China's covert activities in the SCS In the International Law Studies journal of 2021, Vol. 97, Captain Raul Pedrozo, Professor of International Law at the US Naval War College says the term 'sea areas under the jurisdiction of the People's Republic of China' is not defined in the law and is purposely vague.

Recently China revised its Maritime Traffic Safety Law (MTSL), effective September 1, which requires certain foreign vessels sailing into Chinese "territorial waters" to notify Beijing in advance. Foreign vessels such as foreign submarines, nuclear-powered ships, ships carrying radioactive, toxic or hazardous materials and any other vessels that "may endanger the maritime traffic safety" of China are required to provide information including their ships' names and numbers, recent locations, satellite telephone numbers and dangerous goods. "Article 2 of the MTSL expands application of the law from 'coastal waters' to 'sea areas under the jurisdiction of the People's Republic of China', which means the SCS. In September 2021, the PLA air force conducted troop transports with a number of large Y-20 transport aircraft to three airstrips in the Spratly archipelago, where China has built and militarised artificial islands on top of the reefs in the SCS, according to Chinese state media Global Times.

China's claim to sovereignty over the South China Sea and its willingness and ability to pursue it has long been creating friction with countries in the area, which stake their own claims to parts of the sea, including Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Vietnam.

China also regularly deploys its large civilian fishing fleet to further its goals in the SCS. In March 2021, a huge Chinese fishing fleet descended on Whitsun Reef, which lies within the exclusive economic zone of the



Philippines. Almost seven months later more than 150 Chinese vessels reportedly remain in Philippine waters. Tensions continue to rise in the SCS, as China, ramps up its military activities in the region. Within only the first four days of October, China conducted a record-breaking 150 incursions into Taiwan's air defence identification zone (ADIZ) -- after China's People Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) had already, in September, set another monthly record with 117 incursions, some with nuclear-capable bombers, fighter jets and reconnaissance planes. Also in August and September, China conducted assault drills near Taiwan with war ships, early-warning aircraft, anti-submarine aircraft and bombers.

China's Sea BRI

In addition to this, the Chinese government has embarked on the Sea version of its Belt & Road Initiative (BRI). Under this programme Chinese companies, COSCO Shipping Ports and China Merchants Port, two state-owned enterprises which account for the operations of 81 per cent of those ports, have acquired 95 ports globally out of which 22 are in Europe, 20 in the Middle East and North Africa, 18 in the Americas, 18 in South and Southeast Asia, and nine in sub-Saharan Africa.

If we analyse these acquisitions by China, which on the face of it looks commercial, most of these investments comes at a very high cost with very low RoI, but in reality these investments are driven by China's geopolitical ambitions, thus the RoI does not matter to the Chinese state.

The paper "Weaponising the Belt and Road Initiative," written by Daniel R. Russell and Blake H. Berger and published by Asia Society Policy Institute in September 2020, underlines this fact stating that, "a deliberate military and strategic functionality seems clearly entrenched in the initiative... There is abundant evidence it is developing a network of strategic strongpoints that can significantly raise the costs of any US military intervention and lower the willingness of BRI host governments to offer access or assistance to the US".

In addition the paper notes that the US naval vessels might not be able to call regularly at ports under Chinese management because of the risk that commercial port information-technology systems could be used to monitor or interfere with military systems and jeopardise US information and cyber security. For this very reason, the US warned Israel that China's management of the new Haifa port terminal could potentially damage US-Israeli security cooperation, as it might lead to US Navy ships refraining from docking at Haifa.

Further this investment in and ownership of ports worldwide creates economic and political leverage for the Chinese government, as it could affect local policy and decision-making. For example after Chinese acquisition of the port of Piraeus, Greece blocked an EU statement criticising China's human rights record and also prevented a unified EU statement against China's behaviour in the SCS besides opposing tougher

screenings of Chinese investments in Europe. The USN Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Gary Roughead said in 2019 that China's port acquisitions and operations pose certain risks for US Navy vessels that call at ports under Chinese management.

If we put two and two together then the maritime strategy of China in the SCS and rest of the world becomes quite clear. While on the one hand by show of strength it is trying to dominate Taiwan and other smaller countries in the region. Secondly, by buying and managing ports worldwide it has charted a route which ensures availability of gas and natural gas to the Chinese factories and if required the Chinese military vessels could be deployed there quite quickly, and the nation in which that port exists might not be able to even utter a whisper as it is already under the economic burden of Chinese loans and aid programme.

Overall, the Chinese aggression in the SCS and its port-buying programme are in fact a direct challenge to the US in the global waters and China has been able to achieve this at a very little cost.

(Asad Mirza is a political commentator based in New Delhi. He writes on Muslims, educational, international affairs, interfaith and current affairs. Views expressed are personal)

international

1ST POLIO VACCINATION DRIVE IN AFGHANISTAN SINCE TALIBAN TAKEOVER

Kabul | Agencies

A country-wide polio vaccination drive will begin in Afghanistan on November 8 for the first time since the Taliban took over the country in August, the Unicef announced on Monday.

In the years after the Taliban was overthrown in 2001 by a US-led coalition, vaccination campaigns made much progress in the country. However, as the Taliban made inroads again, door-to-door visits by polio workers had been banned in Afghanistan, for three years now. The World Health Organization (WHO) and Unicef welcome the decision by the Taliban, who support the resumption of house-to-house



drive across the country, the UN agency said in a statement on Monday.

The campaign will be the first in over three years to reach all children in Afghanistan, including more than 3.3 million kids in parts of the country who have "previously remained inaccessible to vaccination campaigns", Xinhua news

agency quoted the statement as saying. "A second nationwide polio vaccination campaign has also been agreed and will be synchronised with Pakistan's own polio campaign planned in December," according to the statement. "This is an extremely important step in the right direction," said

Dapeng Luo, WHO Representative in Afghanistan.

"We know that multiple doses of oral polio vaccine offer the best protection, so we are pleased to see that there is another campaign planned before the end of this year. Sustained access to all children is essential to end polio for good. This must remain a top priority," he said. Besides restarting polio vaccination, a supplementary dose of vitamin A will also be provided to children aged 6 to 59 months during the upcoming campaign, the WHO said. "This decision will allow us to make a giant stride in the efforts to eradicate polio," said Herve Ludovic De Lys, Unicef Representative in Afghanistan.

NZ INCREASES SUPPORT TO COUNTRIES VULNERABLE TO CLIMATE EMERGENCY: PM



Wellington: The New Zealand government is making a four-fold increase in the support it provides to countries most vulnerable to the climate emergency, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said on Monday.

New Zealand will provide NZ\$1.3 billion (\$921 million) over four years to support countries most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, she said in the lead up to the UN climate conference in Glasgow, reports Xinhua news agency.

S.Korean, US, Japanese intel chiefs to discuss Pyongyang

Seoul | Agencies

The intelligence chiefs of South Korea, the US and Japan will meet in Seoul on Monday behind closed doors for talks on North Korea and other pending issues, according to a source.

Park Jie-won, the head of South Korea's National Intelligence Service (NIS), will meet Avril Haines, the US director of national intelligence, and Hiroaki Takizawa, Japan's Cabinet intelligence director, Yonhap News Agency quoted the source as saying. The three will meet for the first time since May in Tokyo and are expected to share the assessments of the security situations on the Korean Peninsula, following Pyongyang's recent series of missile launches.

Pyongyang has remained unresponsive to Washington's overtures for dialogue, with denuclearization talks having stalled since the no-deal summit between then US President Donald Trump and the North's leader Kim Jong-un in 2019. The top spy agency officials may also touch on South



Korean President Moon Jae-in's recent proposal to declare a formal end to the 1950-53 Korean War as Seoul ramps up diplomacy to revitalize its drive for lasting peace on the peninsula. The chief nuclear envoys of the three regional powers are scheduled to meet in Washington on Tuesday.

Takizawa's visit to Seoul is his first since Japan's new Prime Minister Fumio Kishida took office earlier this month, and the discussions could possibly signal Tokyo's new policy direction on North Korea.

RUSSIAN FIGHTER ESCORTS US BOMBER ABOVE SEA OF JAPAN



Moscow: A Russian fighter jet escorted a .S strategic bomber over the neutral waters of the Sea of Japan, the Defense Ministry in Moscow said.

Russian radars on Sunday detected an air target approaching the Russian border over the Sea of Japan, and a MiG-31 fighter from Russia's Eastern Military District took off in response, Xinhua news agency quoted the Ministry as saying. The Russian crew identified the air target as a US Air Force B-1B strategic bomber, before escorting it away. No violation of Russian borders occurred, and the Russian aircraft strictly complied with international rules for the use of airspace, the Ministry added.

GLOBAL COVID-19 CASELOAD TOPS 240.6 MN

Washington | Agencies

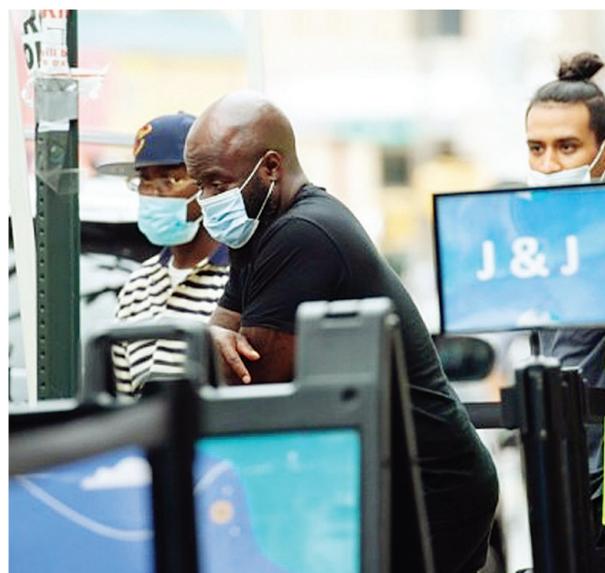
The global coronavirus caseload has topped 240.6 million, while the deaths have surged to more than 4.89 million and vaccinations soared to over 6.61 billion, according to the Johns Hopkins University.

In its latest update on Monday morning, the University's Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) revealed that the current global caseload, death toll and the total number of vaccine doses administered stood at 240,658,812, 4,898,374 and 6,617,433,262, respectively.

The US continues to be the worst-hit country with the world's highest number of cases and deaths at 44,933,336 and 724,317, according to the CSSE.

In terms of infections, India follows in the second place with 34,067,719 cases. The other worst countries with over 3 million cases are Brazil (21,644,464), the UK (8,488,665), Russia (7,870,529), Turkey (7,630,133), France (7,189,566), Iran (5,784,815), Argentina (5,272,551), Spain (4,984,386), Colombia (4,981,532), Italy (4,717,899), Germany (4,382,019), Indonesia (4,234,758) and Mexico (3,755,063), the CSSE figures showed.

Nations with a death toll of over 100,000 are Brazil (603,282), India



(452,124), Mexico (284,321), Russia (219,342), Peru (199,816), Indonesia (142,952), the UK (138,997), Italy

(131,541), Colombia (126,865), Iran (124,075), France (118,183) and Argentina (115,666).

1 killed, 7 injured in US campus shooting

Washington | Agencies

One person was killed and seven others were injured in a shooting at the Grambling State University in the US state of Louisiana, local authorities said.

Among the injured, one is in critical condition, Louisiana State Police Master Trooper Michael Reichardt said at a news conference.

The shooting took place at around 1 a.m. on Sunday on the campus quad, Xinhua news agency reported citing social media posts from the university as saying.

The person who died wasn't enrolled at the school, and only one of the injured was a student, who was treated for non fatal injuries, said an ABC News report.

In the wake of the shooting, the university set a curfew from 9.30 p.m. to 6 a.m. until further notice, said the report, adding that homecoming events on Sunday as well as classes on Monday



and Tuesday have been cancelled. It's the second deadly shooting on campus in only four days after one person was killed and three others wounded in a separate shooting on October 13.

Police do not believe the incidents are connected at this time. Louisiana State Police said in a statement on Sunday evening that investigations into the two shootings are underway.

Grambling State University, which opened in 1901 as the Colored Industrial and Agricultural School, is a historically Black university located in northeast Louisiana.



Sena Minister to SC:

PROBE NCB, ARYAN KHAN'S 'FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS BREACH'

Quaid Najmi | Mumbai

In a significant development, a senior Shiv Sena leader urged the Supreme Court to order a probe by a sitting judge of the apex court into the affairs of Narcotics Control Bureau and violation of fundamental rights of Aryan Khan, son of Bollywood megastar Shah Rukh Khan.

Making the plea under Article 32 of the Constitution, Kishore Tiwari, accorded the Minister of State (MoS) status, has urged Chief Justice NV. Ramana's 'top priority' intervention into the manner in which the 'biased' NCB is hounding film personalities, models and other celebs since the past nearly two years with 'malafide motives'.

He said that under Article 32, the Supreme Court and the Chief Justice of India (CJI) are duty-bound to take cognisance of every matter pertaining to the fundamental rights violation, as guaranteed under Part III of the Constitution, which the NCB is flouting.

Referring to the Special NDPS Court (Mumbai) deferring the verdict in the bail plea of Aryan Khan and other accused till October 20 citing public holidays, the plea said this has subjected the accused "to big humiliation and kept in jail in



an undemocratic and illegal way" for 17 nights.

This is in utter disregard to the fundamental Right to Life and Liberty as enshrined in the Constitution and the question of 'bail is the norm, jail is the exception', which has been upheld and settled by SC many times, as reiterated by former Attorney General of India Mukul Rohatgi.

Accusing the NCB and its officials of 'vendetta' by targeting select celebs, Tiwari demanded a probe into the role of the central narcotics agency and the Mumbai Zonal Director (Sameer Wankhede), whose wife is a well-known Marathi filmstar, in direct competition with the other stars and celebs being

hounded.

Pointing a needle of suspicion at Wankhede, the plea said the officer's wife is trying to make big in Bollywood, and that's why only leading names in the film industry, their families, national-international models, producers-directors are brought under the NCB lens.

"Starting with the probe into the Sushant Singh Rajput death case, the probe has been 'totally diverted in an unrelated direction'... The alleged NCB seizures are 'miniscule jokes' compared to the Mumbai Police achievements, or the DRI which last month seized 3000-kgs drugs from Mundra Port in Gujarat," Tiwari said in the plea. When the law has been settled by

the highest court of the country, the NCB and the Special NDPS Court have "failed to give due regards" by depriving Aryan Khan and others bail, which could be done right away, even on public holidays, and thus there is 'total miscarriage of justice'. "With the recent shocking exposure on NCB by Maharashtra Minister Nawab Malik, its high time the NCB Mumbai and all-India must be probed by an SC judge to unravel the rackets and the truth...It's a fit case for immediate intervention by the SC," Tiwari demanded, among other things.

Contending the NCB's grudge and autocratic style are even more glaring, the Sena leader added that no contraband drugs were recovered from Aryan Khan, there was no medical examination proving consumption, etc., yet he has been shunted into different types of custody since October 3, echoing former Attorney General of India Rohatgi. After the NCB swooped on a luxury cruise ship to bust an alleged rave party on October 2, Aryan Khan, along with 7 others were detained, arrested on October 3 and have remained in NCB and judicial custody since for the past 17 days, with their bail order likely be delivered by Special Judge VV. Patil on Wednesday (October 20).

New cheating case against NCB's 'independent witness' Kiran Gosavi

Team Absolute | Pune

In an embarrassment for the Narcotics Control Bureau, the Pune police have booked one of its "independent witnesses" in the cruise ship raid, Kiran P. Gosavi, currently absconding, in a case of cheating and forgery, officials said on Monday.

The Pune case comes a day after the Palghar police lodged a FIR in a two-year old similar complaint naming Kiran Gosavi - who shot to limelight after his antecedents were exposed by Nationalist Congress Party Minister Nawab Malik.

Cracking down in the matter, the Pune police have nabbed Gosavi's assistant Sherbanu Qureishi from Mumbai after complainant Chinmay Deshmukh accused the duo (Gosavi-Qureishi) of cheating him of over Rs 300,000 with the lure of a high-pay job in Malaysia in 2018.

Two other persons, Adarsh Keni and Utkarsh Tare of Edawan village, have complained against Gosavi in Palghar, claiming they were duped of Rs 1.65 lakh under the pretext of good jobs in



Kuala Lumpur hotels in 2018.

After the lid blew off Gosavi's credentials in the high-profile NCB raid on a cruise ship on October 2, the Pune police have formed two special squads which are hunting for him in this state and neighbouring states.

He currently faces at least 4 cases and on October 14, the Pune Police issued a lookout notice for him.

Police sources said that Gosavi was allegedly involved in fake visas and air-tickets racket after collecting the money from his victims who were debarred from entering the Mumbai

Airport or other airports for catching their international flights.

According to the police' preliminary probe, Gosavi - claiming to be a private detective with links to the Bharatiya Janata Party - was known for a flashy lifestyle, and along with his associates may have duped many gullible youngsters vying for international jobs to siphon off lakhs of rupees from them. Gosavi runs a company in Mumbai with branches and representatives in other cities, allegedly enjoys connections with some police and narcotics department officials.

Restaurant, shop's timings extended; Amusement Parks To Reopen

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Amusement parks will be allowed to reopen from Friday while shops and restaurants will be permitted to stay open beyond 10 pm in fresh easing of Covid curbs in Maharashtra. However, water rides will still remain off-limits for visitors at the parks and the new extended timings for restaurants will be announced soon.

The decision was taken at the state's Covid Task Force meeting this afternoon which was attended by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

Nationalist Congress Party, a part of the ruling Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi



alliance in the state, said more relaxations are needed to help businesses recover their losses. More details are awaited.

JACQUELINE FERNANDEZ SKIPS 3RD ED SUMMONS IN PMLA CASE

Actor Jacqueline Fernandez again skipped on Monday her appearance before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for questioning in connection with a probe into an over Rs 200 crore money-laundering case against alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekar, officials said.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

She is understood to have cited professional engagements as the reason for her absence. The probe agency may issue her a fresh date.

This was the third time that she skipped the ED notice.

Fernandez, 36, has appeared before the federal agency once in August and recorded her statement in this case under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

It is understood that the agency wants to confront her with the main accused in the case involving Chandrashekar and his actor wife

Leena Maria Paul.

The agency wants to understand some trail of funds and transactions allegedly linked to Fernandez in this case, officials said.

Actor and dancer Nora Fatehi, 29, recorded her statement with the ED on Thursday in this case. Fatehi's representative had said that she has been the victim in the case and being a witness, she is co-operating and helping the officers in the investigation.

Chandrashekar and Paul were recently placed under arrest by the ED while they were already lodged in jail after being held by the Delhi Police on charges of cheating high-profile individuals, including for-

mer Fortis Healthcare promoter Shivinder Mohan Singh's wife Aditi Singh.

In August, the ED had raided some of Chandrashekar's premises and seized a sea-facing bungalow in Chennai, Rs 82.5 lakh cash and over a dozen luxurious cars.

It had claimed in a statement that Chandrashekar is a "known conman" and is being probed by the Delhi Police in a case of alleged criminal conspiracy, cheating and extortion to the tune of about Rs 200 crore.

"Chandrashekar is the mastermind of this fraud. He has been part of the crime world since the age of 17. He has multiple FIRs

against him and is presently lodged in Rohini jail (in connection with the Delhi Police case)," the ED had said.

Despite being in jail, Chandrashekar "did not stop conning" people, it said.

"He (with a cellphone procured illegally from within the prison) with the help of technology, made spoofed calls to dupe people as the numbers displayed on the called party's phone number belonged to senior government officers."

"While speaking (from the prison) to these persons, he claimed to be a government officer offering to help people for a price," the ED had claimed.

Probe panel slams Goa hospital for O2 shortage

Panaji | Agencies

A committee appointed by the state government to probe oxygen-related deaths at Goa government's apex health facility, the Goa Medical College (GMC), has slammed the hospital authorities for lackadaisical attitude and not doing enough to augment oxygen supply during the second wave of the pandemic during which nearly 80 persons died within a few days due to lack of oxygen.

The opposition and Congress senior overseer in-charge of 2022 assembly polls and former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram has demanded the resignation of Health Minister Vishwajit Rane and Chief Minister Pramod Sawant over the damning findings of the report.

Opposition legislators also staged a walkout on the inaugural day of the two-day assembly session on Monday over the oxygen related



deaths and the inability of Health Minister Vishwajit Rane to respond to queries asked by the Opposition, due to health grounds.

"GMC did not timely raise any issue of lack of oxygen or sought augmentation of the oxygen, except putting their demand in affidavit before the High Court... GMC did not take much action on the letter written by the Goa Association of Resident Doctors dated May 1, 2021. A prompt action on this letter would have enabled better management of the situation," the report said. The committee which compiled the report was headed by Director of the Indian Institute of Technology Goa Dr B.K. Mishra, former dean of GMC Dr V.N. Jindal and Secretary Revenue Sanjay Kumar.

The report also slammed the hospital administration for allowing monopolisation of oxygen supply at the apex hospital and other sub centres, while also adding that the health facility did not undertake any assessment of rational use of oxygen during the crisis.

69 rescued off Goa beaches on holiday weekend: Official

Panaji | Agencies

As many as 69 persons were rescued off Goa's beaches, with the maximum rescues being carried out on Dussehra, a private lifeguard agency deployed at the state's beaches said on Monday.

"The long weekend witnessed 69 rescues along the coast by Drishti's lifeguards posted along the beaches of Goa with 35 rescues on Friday which was Dussehra, 19 on Saturday, followed by 15 on Sunday," the statement issued by Drishti Lifesavers said.

The sudden spurt in rescues comes soon after swimming in the seas was permitted along beaches in the



coastal state due to the waning of the monsoons and the steady influx of tourists to Goa. The maximum rescues were conducted at the popular Calangute and Baga beaches in North Goa, with as many as 30 lives being saved over the weekend.

66% rise in built-up areas in Mumbai in 3 decades leading to heat stress

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai has lost 81 per cent of open land, 40 per cent green cover and nearly 30 per cent of its water bodies between 1991 and 2018 while the built-up area has increased by 66 per cent during the same period, a recent study has found.

This loss of open land (barren spaces without any vegetation), green cover (forests and scrublands) and water bodies (lakes, ponds, floodplains) had led to the financial capital witnessing a two degree Celsius average temperature rise across 27 years, the study found out.

"With this pace of urbanisation and landscape transformation, it is expected that the Urban Heat Island intensity will further increase in the coastal city," researchers from Faculty of Natural Sciences, Jamia Millia Islamia in New Delhi, Osmania University, Hyderabad, and Aligarh Muslim University, Uttar Pradesh, documented in their study 'Urban Heat Island Dynamics in Response to Land Use/Land Cover Change in the Coastal City of Mumbai', published in the peer reviewed 'Springer Journal of the Indian Society of Remote Sensing'. The extreme heat that one experiences when strolling through any urban landscape is caused by the Urban Heat Island effect, a micro-climatic phenomenon. This is due to a number of causes, the most prominent being the usage of materials such as concrete, said Atiqur Rahman from the Department of Geography, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Jamia Millia Islamia.

"This will not only deteriorate the urban thermal environment but also increase the serious risks to health for city dwellers," Rahman said, adding,



"This rise in heat intensity in Mumbai is linked to the declining green cover in the city which is the result of the large-scale transformation of green cover into built-up land for the infrastructural development in the city."

Using satellite imagery (USA-NASA Landsat datasets freely available), the authors studied an area of 603 square km of Mumbai region (both city and suburbs) to understand the land-use and land-cover changes, difference in maximum, minimum and average temperatures (for Urban Heat Island intensity), land surface temperatures, changes in vegetation cover versus urban built-up density between 1991 and 2018.

Shahfahad, Senior Research Fellow at the Department of Geography, Jamia Millia Islamia, and the lead author of the study, said, "We found that rapid uncontrolled urbanisation over the past five to six decades attracted a large population by providing better economic opportunities. As a result, natural land use patterns such as vegetation cover, scrublands, wetlands and open lands have all been transformed on a large scale into the city's built-up surfaces."

The study noted that during 1991-2018, Mumbai lost nearly 40 per cent of its green cover, including forests (dense vegetation) and scrubland (sparse vegetation) that fell from 287.76 square km in 1991 to 193.35 square km in 2018. The area of open land fell by more than half from 80.57 square km in 1991 to 33.7 square km in 2018. Mumbai also saw reduction in water bodies from 27.19 square km to 20.31 square km during the same period.

Meanwhile, the conversion of open lands, green cover and water bodies to buildable land showed an increase from 173.09 square km in 1991, which nearly doubled and reached 346.02 square km in 2018.



South Korea girl band aespa debuts at No. 20 on Billboard 200

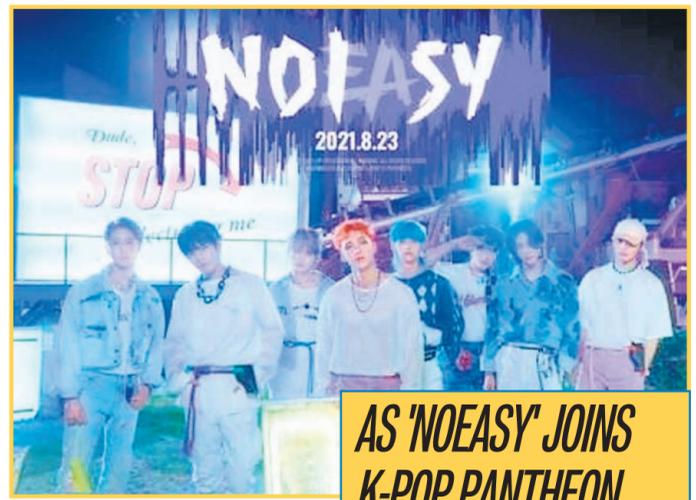


Seoul | Agencies

Eleven months after making its debut, emerging South Korean girl group aespa has hit the Billboard main albums chart for the first time. Its first EP 'Savage' debuted at No. 20, Billboard said on Sunday (U.S. time).

'Savage' ranked No. 20 on the Billboard 200 chart for this week, the music album ranking service said on its Twitter account, reports Yonhap news agency. It is the highest rank achieved by a first album from a K-pop girl group, according to the group's management agency SM Entertainment.

Billboard 200 ranks the most popular albums of the week in the United States, measured by equivalent album units comprising physical album sales and other digital sales records. The new album had topped real-time charts of various domestic music streaming services upon its release early this month.



Seoul | Agencies

The Korean pop culture market has suffered a heavy blow from the protracted COVID-19 pandemic, but the K-pop industry remains less affected thanks to the strongest sales of physical albums in a decade. 'Noeasy', the second full-length album by boy band Stray Kids, recently became the first-ever million-seller from JYP Entertainment, one of the four major K-pop agencies. The album sold more than 1.22 million copies as of the end of last month, according to data from the local market tracker Gaon Chart.

Three other agencies -- Hybe, SM Entertainment and YG Entertainment -- have achieved the milestone with albums by BTS and Seventeen, both Hybe artists; EXO, Baekhyun, NCT Dream and NCT 127, all with SM; and BLACKPINK with YG, reports Yonhap news agency.

Sales of physical albums have soared con-

AS 'NOEASY' JOINS K-POP PANTHEON, INDUSTRY RECORDS ALL-TIME HIGH SALES

spicuously in recent years. After dropping to the lowest point at 7.38 million copies in 2014, sales of the nation's top 400 albums have risen to 8.38 million in 2015, 10.8 million in 2016, 16.93 million in 2017, 22.82 million in 2018, 24.59 million in 2019 and to more than 42 million in 2020, according to Kim Jin-woo, Gaon Chart's head researcher.

This year, about 43 million copies were sold in the first nine months, surpassing last year's total. Industry insiders attribute the robust album sales to limitations from the pandemic, in addition to the global popularity of K-pop supergroup BTS.

79th Golden Globe Awards on Jan 9, 2022, despite controversies

Los Angeles | Agencies

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA) has announced that it plans to present the 79th annual Golden Globe Awards on January 9, 2022, disregarding the many controversies over racism and sexism in the journalists' body, and with no telecast partner in sight to replace the American network NBC, which had disassociated itself from the event earlier this year.

On Friday, the HFPA unveiled the traditional calendar with submission deadlines in various categories. It put to rest speculation over the fate of the 79th Golden Globes after the HFPA was plunged into turmoil by a 'Los Angeles Times' report in February pinpointing the organisation's questionable internal practices and the lack of diversity.

NBC, which had been the HFPA's longtime telecast partner, decided to drop out because of the internal issues rocking the organisation. Matters came to a head when Tom Cruise returned the three Golden Globes he had won in the 1990s and Scarlett Johansson added her voice to growing criticism of the HFPA. Since then, the organisation has said that it had cleaned up its act under its new German president.



Los Angeles | Agencies

On a Saturday crowded with announcements at the DC FanDome virtual event, DC's Chief Creative Officer and publisher Jim Lee announced that Superman will have a better, and more neutral, motto. So, from 'Truth, Justice, and the American Way', the more politically correct superhero will fight for 'Truth, Justice, and A Better Tomorrow'. Sharing this on the DC FanDome, Lee said the change has been made to "better reflect the storylines that we are telling across DC and to honor Superman's incredible legacy of over 80 years of building a better world. Speaking about the "evolving motto", Lee added: "Superman has long been a symbol of hope who inspires people, and it is that optimism and hope that powers him forward with this new mission statement."

According to Variety.com, "Truth, Justice and the American Way" did not originate with the first Superman comic books by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster. The motto came from a 'Superman' radio serial in the early 1940s, "as a way to cheer on American military efforts in World War II". The 'American Way' motto was revived for the 'Adventures of Superman' TV series that aired in the 1950s during the early days of the Cold War and the paranoia created by the anti-Communist witch-hunts of demagogic U.S. Senator Joseph McCarthy.



'The Battle at Lake Changjin' continues its victorious box-office march

Los Angeles | Agencies

Chinese patriotic war film 'The Battle at Lake Changjin' continues to rake it in, ending this past weekend with cumulative earnings of \$769 million since it was released on September 30.

As a result, it has become the fourth top-grossing film in Chinese history, right behind the 3D computer-animation fantasy film 'Ne Zha'. It is projected to settle down at No. 2, dislodging the 2021 comedy 'Hi, Mom', according to Variety.com. China is the world's largest cinema theatre market.

Starring actor, director and martial arts exponent Wu Jing and actor and singer Jackson Yee, 'Changjin' is about the Battle of Chosin Reservoir, or Lake Changjin, during the Korean War (1950-53).

This fierce battle in freezing weather between the UN forces led by the US Army and the Chinese People's Volunteer Army culminated in the complete withdrawal of all international forces from North Korea. Predictably, therefore, the film was announced as a part of the Communist Party of China's 100th anniversary celebrations. More than 70,000 People's Liberation Army

(PLA) soldiers participated in it.

Forecasts from the Chinese ticketing agency Maoyan point to 'Changjin' reaching 5.43 billion renminbi (or \$843 million at current exchange rates) over its lifetime. If it were to achieve that humungous total -- and it's highly likely -- it would narrowly overtake 'Hi, Mom' for second place.

The biggest film of all time in China remains the 2017 war film 'Wolf Warriors II', which has earned \$882 million. It chronicles the adventure of a loose-cannon Chinese soldier who goes to an Africa nation to protect medical aid workers from rebels and arms dealers.



Frankie Sims

'Halloween Kills' proves to be a box-office killer

Los Angeles | Agencies

'Halloween Kills', David Gordon Green's slasher film starring Jamie Lee Curtis, is headed for the biggest pandemic-era earnings figure recorded by a horror flick or a movie opening simultaneously on the big screen and a streaming service. Besting competition from Daniel Craig's swansong as Agent 007, 'No Time to Die', and Ridley Scott's historical epic, 'The Last Duel', 'Halloween Kills' earned \$22.9 million on Friday from 3,705 theatres in North America, according to 'The



Hollywood Reporter'. It was well on its way to a projected \$50 million weekend collection, thanks mainly to the enthusiastic response of young adult audiences. Till date, 'Godzilla vs Kong' boasts the biggest domestic box-office opening for a dual release (\$31.6 million). The competition -- 'No Time to Die' and 'The Last Duel', a critically acclaimed movie with Matt Damon, Adam Driver, Jodie Comer and Ben Affleck -- catering to older audiences clearly could not stand up against youth power. In the case of 'The Last Duel', moreover, historical movies are finding fewer takers.



2021 T20 WORLD CUP

ISHAN, RAHUL STAR AS INDIA BEAT ENGLAND IN WARM-UP MATCH

Dubai | Agencies

Brilliant fifties by Ishan Kishan (70) and KL Rahul (51) helped India beat England by seven wickets in the ICC T20 World Cup Warm-up match here on Monday.

Chasing 189, the Men-in-Blue got off to a superb start as openers KL Rahul and Ishan played some brilliant shots to put on 59-runs inside the first six overs. Rahul (51) brought up his half-century in the 9th over of the innings. But he got out by Mark Wood after reaching the landmark, which also brought an end to the 82-run opening stand.

However, Rahul's wicket did not slow down the run rate for the Men-in-Blue as Kishan kept on going and he brought up his half-century in just 36 balls. Indian skipper Virat Kohli joined Kishan. But 'i' didn't last long.'

England's Liam Livingstone got the better of Virat (11), ending the 43-run second-wicket stand.

Kishan then retired hurt after playing a knock of 70 runs. Sura Kumar Yadav came into bat when Indian was 39 runs for the win. But he also got



out after scoring just 8. Then Rishabh Pant (29*) and Hardik Pandya (12*) guided Team India home with six balls to spare. Earlier, Jonny Bairstow and Liam Livingstone played knocks of 49 and 30 respectively as England posted a total of 188/5.

Campher claims four wickets in four balls in Ireland's big win

Abu Dhabi | Agencies

Curtis Campher claimed four wickets off four consecutive deliveries to inspire Ireland to a seven-wicket victory against the Netherlands in a first-round match of the T20 World Cup here on Monday.

Campher became only the third bowler to achieve this feat in white-ball cricket as he destroyed the Netherlands' middle-order and they were bowled for 106 in 20 overs in a Group A match at the Shaikh Zayed Cricket Stadium here on Monday.

In response, Ireland lost Kev'n O'Brien (9 off 10) and Andy Balbirnie (8 off 6) in the powerplay, but a destructive partnership between veteran opener Paul Stirling (30 not out) and young all-rounder Gareth Delany (44 off 29 balls) took Ireland to 107/3 in 15.1 overs to start their campaign in style. Campher, who also hit the



winning single, claimed the wickets of Colin Ackermann (11), Ryan ten Doeschate (0), Scott Edwards (0), and Roelof van der Merwe off consecutive balls in his second and innings' 10th over, joining the elite club that includes Sri Lanka's Lasith Malinga, who achieved this feat twice -- once against South Africa in 2007 ODI World Cup and then against New Zealand in T20I in 2019, and Rashid Khan of Afghanistan, who claimed four in four balls

against Ireland in a T20I in 2019. Campher thus became the third bowler to achieve this feat.

Briefscores

The Netherlands 106 all out in 20 overs (Max O'Dowd 51, Pieter Seelaar 21, Curtis Campher 4/26, Mark Adair 3/9) lost to Ireland 107/3 in 15.1 overs (Paul Stirling 30*, Gareth Delany 44, Fred Klaassen 1/18).

Bowlers, Fernando and Rajapaksa help Sri Lanka beat Namibia

Abu Dhabi | Agencies

Clinical performance with the ball followed by an unbroken partnership of 74 between Avishka Fernando and Bhanuka Rajapaksa meant Sri Lanka edged past Namibia by seven wickets in a Group A match of the ICC men's T20 World Cup at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium here on Monday.

The win was set up by off-spinner Maheesh Theekshana scalping 3/25 while Wanindu Hasaranga (2/24) and Lahiru Kumara (2/9) doing well to keep the Namibia batting line-up on a very tight leash. Chasing a paltry 96, Sri Lanka lost Kusal Perera (11) and Pathum Nissanka (5) in the first three overs.

Avishka Fernando (30 off 28 balls) and Bhanuka Rajapaksa (42 off 27 balls) ensured the chase to be completed. Sri Lanka won comfortably with 39 balls to spare.

Earlier, Namibia batters never looked comfortable in their stay of 19.3 overs.



Their struggles against pace and spin meant that only three batters reached double-figures, with no boundaries coming in the last eight overs. Namibia began by scoring 30 runs in power-play, losing openers Stephan Baard (7) and Zane Green (8) to off-spinner Maheesh Theekshana. Brief scores: Namibia 96 all out in 19.3 overs (Craig Williams 29, Gerhard Erasmus 20, Maheesh Theekshana 3/25, Wanindu Hasaranga 2/24) lost to Sri Lanka 100/3 in 13.3 overs (Bhanuka Rajapaksa 42 not out, Avishka Fernando 30 not out, JJ Smit 1/7, Bernard Scholtz 1/16) by seven wickets.

Indian Wells Tennis Championship Paula Badosa clinches title, set for huge ranking leap

Indian Wells | Agencies

Spain's No.21 seed Paula Badosa overcame No.27 Victoria Azarenka of Belarus 7-6(5), 2-6, 7-6(2) to win the BNP Paribas Open championship in Indian Wells, the final WTA 1000 event of the season on Monday (IST).

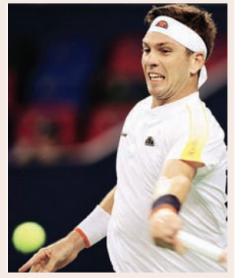
In the first meeting between the two players, Badosa denied the former world No.1 Azarenka in what would have been her third BNP Paribas Open title, the most by any player. Instead, it was the Spaniard who won the second WTA singles title of her season and her career. The three-hour, four-minute match is this year's longest WTA singles final. It caps off a career-best week for Badosa, who defeated four top 20 players in a row en route to the championship match, where she beat Azarenka to improve to 2-0 in WTA singles finals.

With the victory, Badosa halves her career-high ranking. She is currently one spot off her highest placement of world No.26, but later on Monday, she is projected to rise to a new high of world



CAMERON NORRIE WINS MEN'S SINGLE TITLE

Indian Wells: Great Britain's world No. 26, Cameron Norrie, became the first male tennis player ranked outside the top-25 since Ivan Ljubicic of Croatia (2010) to clinch the BNP Paribas Open title, defeating Nikoloz Basilashvili of Georgia 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 at Indian Wells on Monday (IST). Norrie's win over the 29th seed came on the back of 10 winners and 25 unforced errors and handed him a second title this season from his sixth final. Norrie became the first British man to win in Indian Wells. Before this year, he had not won a match in two prior main-draw appearances. He will leave Indian Wells at a career-high No. 16 in the ATP rankings and as the new British No. 1.



La Liga: Real Sociedad go top as Fati's return helps Barca to vital win

Madrid | Agencies

Real Sociedad moved to the top of La Liga after a 1-0 win at home to Real Mallorca. Neither Real nor Atletico Madrid played this weekend in order to allow their South American players time to recover after midweek World Cup qualifiers, allowing the Basque side to move three points clear at the top of the table thanks to Julen Lobete's last-minute goal.

Sevilla moved into third with a 1-0 win away to Celta Vigo, who continue to struggle in the opening weeks of the season. Rafa Mir's 54th-minute goal put Sevilla level on points with Real and Atletico Madrid, and increases the pressure on Celta coach Eduardo Coudet, whose side have just two wins and a draw from their first nine matches. Ansu Fati returned to the Barcelona starting lineup and helped his side to a



3-1 win which should slightly ease the pressure on coach Ronald Koeman, Xinhua reports. Jose Luis Gaya put Valencia ahead with a swerving shot from outside the Barca area in just the fourth minute, but Fati curled home to ease nerves in the 12th minute and then won a penalty that Memphis

Depay lashed home four minutes before half-time.

Valencia pressured Barcelona in the second half and Carlos Soler was unlucky to hit the post before Philippe Coutinho, who replaced Fati in the 60th minute, added Barca's third against the run of play with six minutes left. Osasuna ended Villarreal's unbeaten start to the season with a 2-1 win in the Estadio de la Ceramica thanks to Chimy Avila's 86th minute goal. Rayo Vallecano's stunning return to La Liga continues after they came back from a goal behind to beat Elche 2-1. Levante and Getafe drew a dull game 0-0 on Saturday in a game between two sides who had new coaches in their respective dugouts. Getafe's Quique Sanchez Flores is probably the happier of the two, but Levante's Javier Pereira will be content to see his team produce a more assured defensive display.

All Manipur Football Association Conducts IKF Tournament to hunt talent



Imphal | Agencies

IKF Imphal Tournament under the aegis of All Manipur Football Association was conducted on 17th October 2021 at Lamphel

Pat. Near about 140+ players actively participated in the tournament. Teams from various parts of Manipur district participated in the tournament. India Khelo Football a non-profit organization that organizes Pan India under 14 tournaments to hunt talent at grassroots level. Top 5 to 6 players are selected at city level that will go to Kolkata for Zonals. Top 22 players will be selected who will go to Mumbai for Nationals where IKF's international partners based out of UK will scout the top players to Europe for trials which will be free of cost.

The echo of energy and passion among the players could be felt among the valley. Tournament started on 17/10/2021 in the morning by keeping the COVID-19 precautions in mind. The 9 a side tournament took near about 10 hours to finally find the winners of IKF Imphal. The selected kids from will be representing Manipur at the zonal finals in Kolkata which will be held during the month of December.

#BOYCOTTPAKISTAN TRENDS ON SOCIAL MEDIA AHEAD OF INDO-PAK CLASH



New Delhi: Ahead of the India-Pakistan T20 World Cup game, #BoycottPakistan is trending on social media as the country's fans are asking the Virat Kohli-led side to pull out from the contest and not play their 'arch-rivals' on October 24 in Dubai. The uproar to opt out of the match comes on the heels of the targeted killings of Army personnel and civilians in Jammu and Kashmir in the last few days. Pakistan has been constantly fighting battles with India at the border and keeping this in mind the Indian fans are asking the team to not play the contest and set an example. Netizens are tagging the Indian cricket board (BCCI) and captain Virat Kohli on their comments, asking them to pull out of the match.

National junior Hockey SAI Academy, RV Academy, Raja Karan start with wins

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Olympian Vivek Singh Hockey Academy, RV Academy of Hockey, Raja Karan Hockey Academy, Roundglass Punjab Hockey Club Academy, SAI-Academy, and Markandeshwar Hockey Academy registered victories in their respective matches on the opening day of the 1st Hockey India Junior Men Academy National Championship 2021 here on Monday.

Olympian Vivek Singh Hockey Academy registered a comprehensive 11-0 win against Berar Hockey Academy (Vidarbha) Amravati in the tournament opener. Dharmendera Pal (7', 13', 44', 46', 52') starred with five goals, while Shafat Ali (38', 40') netted twice in what was a dominating win for Olympian Vivek Singh Hockey Academy. Raja Yadav (36'), Anoop Kumar Maurya (41'), Amit Yadav (42'), and Sunny Patel (56') also got their names on the scoresheet in the Pool A



match. In the second match, RV Academy of Hockey emerged with a 6-1 victory over Bhai Behlo Hockey Academy Bhagata in Pool B. Mohd Altamash (25', 25') and Naresh Kumar (27', 33') bagged a brace each, while Vipin Pal (29') and Aashish (54') contributed a goal each in their team's win. Ramandeep Singh (13') scored the only goal for Bhai Behlo Hockey Academy Bhagat.

In Pool C, Raja Karan Hockey Academy registered a dominating 13-0 win over Dhyani Chand Hockey Academy. Lovepreet Singh (3', 15', 29', 37', 41', 50') was the star of the match

scoring as many as six goals, while Kohinoorpreet Singh (24', 58') and Dhruv (48', 54') bagged a brace each for Raja Karan Hockey Academy. An adit (26'), Agyapal (56'), and Mahakdeep Singh (60') also chipped in with a goal each in what a goal-fest.

In the fourth match of the day, Roundglass Punjab Hockey Club Academy registered a thrilling comeback from behind 2-1 win over Ghumanhera Riser's Academy. While Shivraj Singh scored an equalizer in the 34th minute, Captain Ravinder Singh followed it up in the 42nd minute to give Roundglass Punjab Hockey Club Academy a match-winning 2-1 lead, after being a goal down till half-time. Aman Sharma (27'), who broke the deadlock following a goalless first quarter, gave Ghumanhera Riser's Academy a lead in the Pool D fixture. SAI-Academy (Kolkata) edged out HIM Academy 3-1 in a thrilling Pool E contest of the day.

World snooker qualifiers Advani, Mehta record two successive wins

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The top three Indian snooker players, National champion Aditya Mehta, runner-up Pankaj Advani and losing semi-finalist Laxman Rawat, are on a roll as they registered successive victories in their respective first two round-robin 'Y Camp (1st leg) matches of World Snooker Qualifiers, a BSFI National Selection Tournament here.

India No. 1 one Mehta started in a rousing manner as he uncorked a break of 94 in the first frame and went on to outshine Neeraj Kumar (RSPB) 4-0 (114(94)-14, 60-53, 67-22, 61-09) in his opening best-of-7-frame match late Sunday night.

The 35-year-old Mehta produced another impressive performance and rolled in efforts of 53 (1st frame) and 72 (6th frame) as he rallied to



clinch a tough 108(53)-14, 39-69, 97-34, 26-66, 55-68, 72(72)-8 and 59-46 victory.

Advani, India's most illustrious cueist and owner of 24 World crowns across disciplines and formats scored his first win defeating Himanshu Jain 4-2 (91-17, 67-73, 66-61, 37-68, 101-36, 83-06). The 36-year-old Advani, who recently won the Asian Snooker Championship, produced another solid performance and compiled breaks of 51 and 70 in the second and third frames to waltz past Neeraj Kumar 4-0 (77-40, 117(54)-00, 83(70)-13 and 59-46).



'Bigg Boss 15': Is friendship of Jay and Tejasswi on the rocks?

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The previous episode of 'Bigg Boss 15' already saw rivalries and competition among the contestants becoming more fierce.

As Shamita Shetty's tenure as the house captain comes to an end, the house is looking for a new commander

who will lead them. Jay Bhanushali and Tejasswi Prakash have remained great friends since the beginning of this season. However, it appears that the selection process for captaincy has created a massive rift between them. Tejasswi has become the 'sanchalak' who judges everyone's performance and ultimately decides who lands the captaincy role. Pratik plays a controversial trick in this contest which Tejasswi misses but Jay spots. He wants Tejasswi to act on the foul play, but she maintains her stance of not seeing it happen. This leads to a huge fight between the two, casting doubts on the future of their friendship.

'Bigg Boss 15' airs on Colors.

DIVYA DUTTA BAGS BEST ACTOR AWARD FOR 'SHEER QORMA' AT DFWSAFF

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Divya Dutta is an exceptional actress, who can singlehandedly breathe life into her films. Her nuanced performances have won her loyal fans from the cinephile circle and beyond. She's one of those gifted actors in our film industry, who perfectly understands the pitch of her characters and fittingly executes them as per the tone of the film. She holds her characters by their nerves to deliver knockout performances one after the other. Her works in films like 'Bhaag Milkha Bhaag', 'Veer-Zaara' and 'Badlapur' among many others are a longstanding testimony to this fact. The actress was recently feted with the Best Actor award for her short film 'Sheer Qorma' at DFW South Asian Film Festival in Dallas, US. The film has been winning accolades on the international globe for quite some time and has been winning accolades on the international canvas. Helmed by Faraz Ansari, 'Sheer Qorma' is one of the few films that represents the LGBTQA+ community with a heartwarming story at its core. The film also stars veteran actress Shabana Azmi and Swara Bhasker. An extremely elated Divya spoke about attending the event, "I am very excited to be here in Dallas physically and receive the award. Most of the film festival participation for 'Sheer Qorma' so far, happened virtually. This time Faraz (the film's director) took special permission and we could travel."



Team Absolute | Mumbai

An actor's life might look all glitz and glamour, but the reality is quite different. Much like any other profession, they also need to hustle. While there are opportunities, so is the competition. Meera Deosthale has her own way to deal with all the good and bad that are a part and parcel of this profession. "I only compete with myself. I don't like comparing myself to anyone. Those who have been doing well, have done some amazing work in their careers inspire and motivate me. Having said that, what I can do, many can't. And what they can do probably I can't. We just have to keep growing," says the actor, who appeared in shows such as 'Dilli Wali Thakur Gurls', 'Udaan' and 'Vidya'. It's often said that actors are never satisfied and are always hungry for meaty roles. And, Meera feels this genuine hunger gets them going. "With time, the platforms to showcase our talents are also growing. With the digital growth today, the discrimination between television actors and film actors has been reduced and how. The scope to do meaty roles has increased so much. And people who really want to be good actors do evolve as they are always looking for more and better opportunities," she adds. There is no one particular person that Meera looks up to in her profession. "I learn something from everyone. One woman, who is a wonderful actor, and is absolutely stunning at everything she does, is Meryl Streep. Whenever I see a film of hers, I feel elated and I want to be as gracious and easy like her in terms of acting and looks," she shares.



Meera Deosthale: I don't like comparing myself to anyone

I WISH TO PLAY NEGATIVE CHARACTERS: ROMIL K. SHARMA

Mumbai: Actor Romil K. Sharma who is known for featuring in television shows like 'Maddam Sir' and 'Nazar' wants to explore grey characters on screen.

He says: "I want to play more grey or negative characters. As they allow you to challenge your acting capabilities. You need to cross the line and make your audience hate you. Playing such roles need more hard work and even you need to be more expressive. I always want to challenge myself as an actor."

The actor finds himself lucky to make his own way to showbiz. "It was my dream to pursue acting as a career. I know here we need to struggle and face lots of challenges. We are not always employed but still I feel lucky to make my own way into the showbiz industry and be able to entertain my audience. I feel blessed and happy whenever I shoot," he shares.

The actor has made his mark in the entertainment world with projects like 'Welcome Home', 'Main Mayke Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo' among others. He also mentioned his interest in doing web shows. "These days web series give more scope. So as an actor I also want to work in them and don't want to limit myself. I feel stories on the web are more real and are a great medium to impress the youth audience," he wraps up.



Shashaa Tirupati's 3D animation love song 'De Chuki Dil' out

Team Absolute | Mumbai

National Award-winning singer Shashaa Tirupati is quite excited about her latest love song 'De Chuki Dil' with an interesting 3D animation video. The song chronicles a cute tale of romance that highlights a girl professing her love. The lyrics of the song are penned by Numan Khoker, the music is composed, arranged, and produced by Marc D Muse and its music video has been directed and animated by Tamal Das. Talking about the song, Shashaa said, "It makes me very happy to be part of music that's braving into a new arena. The song has been created in a way that it transports listeners into the utopia of their choice. Marc has done a phenomenal job composing this song and I'm glad it came to me. The music video looks absolutely enchanting and cute." The music video is presented by Panorama Music. Rajesh Menon, CEO, Panorama Music said, "With 'De Chuki Dil' we further our goal to cater to listeners of all genres. All the artists and technicians associated with the song have done a great job and we're immensely proud to have collaborated with them. We hope to bring diverse music that resonates with listeners and gives artists the confidence to pursue creative freedom."

'BADHAAI HO' TRIGGERED AN IMPORTANT CONVERSATION ON LATE PREGNANCY: AYUSHMANN

Team Absolute | Mumbai

On the third anniversary of the release of his blockbuster family entertainer 'Badhaai Ho', Ayushmann Khurrana reveals that he is happy with the positive impact that the film has had over society regarding late pregnancy. Ayushmann said, "Most of my films are meant for families to come in and engage, take back an important message and most importantly, be thoroughly entertained. I have been blessed to find scripts that are new, unique and have a family audience skew as well. 'Badhaai Ho', for me, ticked all these boxes and I'm thankful that the film triggered an important conversation in India about how society should react to late pregnancy. Society conditions us to react in a certain way when such things happen."

The film, released in 2018, directed by Amit Sharma, also featured Neena Gupta, Gajraj Rao, Sanya Malhotra and the late Surekha Sikri among others.

Ayushmann further added, "We wanted to show people why it's not as big a deal that we make it out to be. We

wanted people to see this issue from a more inclusive lens and tell them that it should not be seen as a taboo. That, to me, was the success of 'Badhaai Ho'. My next line up starting with 'Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui', also falls under this bracket and is a wholesome family entertainer."

Ayushmann is deeply missing the stalwart late actress Surekha Sikri, a National Award winner, today.



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Krystle Dsouza