

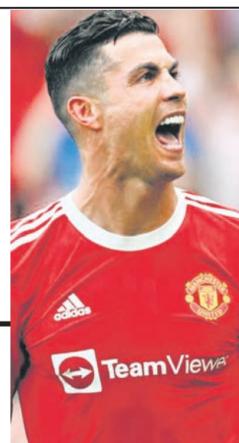
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AS FRAUDSTERS GET SMARTER, RBI, BANKS GET BUSY PLUGGING LOOPHOLES

Run & Chase

Banking frauds have taken varied dimensions with the passage of time. With the advent of digital age and online transactions, however, fraudsters too have upgraded their skills and latched on to innovative methods to rob unsuspecting people of their hard-earned money. The Finance Ministry and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have earmarked measures to safeguard the general public from being defrauded by scamsters posing as bank employees, financial advisors and loan agents. The RBI has also issued Master Directions for classification and reporting of frauds by commercial banks and select financial institutions.

▶ INTERESTINGLY, AS PER RBI DATA, CYBER FRAUDS REPORTED BY SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL BANKS RELATED TO ATM OR DEBIT CARDS AS WELL AS CREDIT CARDS AND INTERNET BANKING HAVE COME DOWN IN TERMS OF THE AMOUNTS INVOLVED IN THEM.

▶ FROM RS 185 CRORE IN 2019-20, THE AMOUNT INVOLVED IN CYBER FRAUDS CAME DOWN TO RS 160 CRORE IN 2020-21, MARKING A DECLINE OF 15 PER CENT YEAR-ON-YEAR.

▶ THIS AMOUNT FURTHER FELL TO RS 128 CRORE IN 2021-22. A YEAR-ON-YEAR DECLINE OF 17.5 PER CENT, THE RBI DATA SHOWED.



password (OTP), debit and credit card details, PIN, CVV and other personal information of people, to swindle money from them.

Industry watchers said that banking frauds mainly occur due to various reasons like non-adherence to know your customer (KYC) norms while opening accounts and also due to non-compliance of the laid down standard operating procedures or regulatory guidelines for deposit and loan accounts.

Some other reasons which lead to bank frauds are collusion between the borrowers and third-party agencies like valuers, advocates, chartered accountants etc., lack of awareness regarding the mechanism to detect early warning signals and lack of awareness among customers.

Actions which banks take against fraudsters to recover the stolen amount include attachment of property of a fugitive economic offender as well as confiscation and disempowerment of the offender from defending any civil claim.

In addition to this, banks also issue look-out circulars against such fraudsters and undertake recovery actions like filing suits in civil courts or even in the debt recovery tribunals.

Banks also initiate action under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI) and file application under the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) in the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), among other measures.

Amid rising cyber crime incidents, the RBI has issued instructions on cyber security framework in banks and has made it mandatory for all scheduled commercial banks to report all unusual cyber incidents to it within two to six hours of their occurrence. Official sources said that the pattern of attack is analysed in such cases and advisories are issued to banks to prevent repetition of such attacks.

The RBI on June 2, 2016, had issued a comprehensive circular on cyber security framework in banks, under which financial institutions were advised to put in place a board-approved cyber security policy highlighting the strategy to counter cyber threats, considering the level of complexity of business and the risk involved. Also, 'Guidelines on Cyber Security Controls' for third party ATM Switch Application Service Providers (ASPs) were also issued by the RBI on December 31, 2019.

Yet, despite all the preventive measures in place to curb the rise of cyber crimes like ATM card hacking and internet banking fraud, such cases occur in large volumes every year, mainly due to lack of awareness about online banking among millions of people in the country who live in rural areas and don't have access to internet or smart phones, industry watchers said. Also, there is a sizeable population which is not computer literate and this is also a major reason behind occurrence of such frauds, they added.

Animesh Singh | New Delhi

Banks on their part are required to report fraud cases to the law enforcement agencies. In addition to this, the RBI issues advisories to people, alerting them against such practices.

It cautions them to be aware of fraudulent messages, spurious calls, unknown links, false notifications and unauthorised QR codes.

Finance Ministry sources said that fraudsters attempt to get confidential details like user ID, login details, transaction passwords, one time

Congress Presidential poll on Oct 17, counting on Oct 19

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Congress announced that the election for its new President will be held on October 17 as a meeting of its Working Committee - the party's highest decision-making authority - on Sunday approved the poll schedule.

Congress Election Authority Chairman Madhusudan Mistry announced the dates of the polling process after approval from the CWC, in its meeting held virtually and attended by G23 leader Anand Sharma, who had recently quit as the chief of a party panel for the upcoming Himachal Pradesh



Assembly elections.

"It (CWC) considered and approved the following final schedule of dates suggested by the Central Election Authority of the AICC for election to the post of Congress President," a party statement said.

The date of issuance of notification is September

22, nominations can be filed from between 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. from September 24 to 30 while scrutiny will be done on October 1. Last date of withdrawal is October 8 and date of polling is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on October 17 at all PCC headquarters.

Counting will be held on October 19.

PUNJAB POLICE SEIZE 38 KG HEROIN BEING TRANSPORTED FROM GUJARAT

Chandigarh: Punjab Police on Sunday seized 38 kg heroin concealed in a toolbox of a truck coming from Gujarat, Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said here.

He said two persons, truck driver Kulwinder Ram and Bittu, both residents of Balachaur in SBS Nagar district, were arrested, while a case was filed against two smugglers, identified as Rajesh Kumar and Som Nath.

Inspector General of Police, Ludhiana Range, Surinder Pal Singh Parmar said the police at a check post signalled the truck to stop. The driver tried to flee but the police party managed to arrest him and his accomplice and recovered the drugs wrapped in a tarpaulin and concealed in a toolbox of the truck.

Sonali Phogat was named PA's wife in rent documents: sources

Team Absolute | Gurugram

BJP leader and Tiktok star Sonali Phogat was named as her Personal Assistance Sudhir Sangwan's wife in rent documents of an apartment here, according to sources.

Sangwan was often seen in the 'Gurgaon Greens' society located in Sector 102 of Gurugram, they said.

Before leaving for Goa, Phogat and Sangwan had parked their TATA safari vehicle in the society and took a taxi to the airport.

According to sources, Sangwan had taken flat number 901 on rent in Gurgaon Greens about three months ago. For this, police verification was also done. When Sudhir Sangwan had taken this flat on rent, he had mentioned Phogat as his wife in documents.

This flat on rent in Gurgaon Greens was in the name of Krishnakant Tiwari. A member of the Gurgaon Greens



Noida twin towers demolished

Team Absolute | Noida

The illegal twin towers of Noida were demolished on Sunday in a nine-second procedure.

The tallest towers to be demolished in the country - Ceyane (29 floors) and Apex (32 floors) -- were part of the Emerald Court project of Supertech Ltd and were found to be in violation of multiple regulations regarding construction.

Demolished via a 'controlled implosion', a lot of preparation had been done to ensure minimal damage to the surroundings.

The residents of the adjacent buildings were moved to safer places. The airspace was closed for about 30 minutes and surface traffic was also diverted.

Mumbai-based Edifice Engineering, hired for the project, carried out the demolition work and mas-

ter blaster Chetan Dutta pressed the button.

Joe Brinkmann, CEO and managing director of Jet Demolitions, a South Africa-based firm along with Edifice Engineering and others, brought down the twin towers, which was one of the most difficult tasks since the building was strong and built in a seismic zone.

The twin buildings, which comprise 915 flats and are located just nine metres from Emerald Court's Aster-2 apartment block, were fully rigged with explosives and wired up.

Over 5,000 residents of Emerald Court and ATS Village were told to vacate the premises by 7.30 a.m. They will be allowed to return only after safety clearance from the officials is obtained.

Rubble survey begins

New Delhi: The teams of Edifice Engineering, Jet Demolitions, the CBRI, and Noida officials have started to analyse and survey the adjacent buildings, as well as the rubble left after the demolition. The towers, which were built in nine years ago, took just nine seconds to be reduced to dust and rubble. After the demolition was completed, Noida CEO Ritu Maheshwari said that the exercise was carried out as per the plan. She added that the cleaning of the area is being done, and gas and electricity supply will be soon restored in the area while people will be allowed to enter the neighbouring societies after 6.30 p.m. Maheshwari said that while no damage to the nearby buildings has been seen yet, however, the final observation will be made later.

▶ NB-IOT IS A CELLULAR COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY WHICH IS ACCEPTED GLOBALLY. IT PROVIDES ENDURING CELLULAR TECHNOLOGY IN 4G AS WELL AS 5G DEPLOYMENTS AND IS BETTER FOR USE IN HIGH-RISES, BASEMENTS AND RURAL INSTALLATIONS OF MACHINE-TO-MACHINE APPLICATIONS.

▶ ACCORDING TO INDUSTRY SOURCES, THE MOTIVATION TO EXCLUDE NB-IOT FOR SMART METERS IS "UNCLEAR GIVEN THAT NB-IOT IS THE LATEST STATE OF THE ART TECHNOLOGY AND IS FUTURE PROOF".

▶ ONE REASON THAT THE POWER GRID DID NOT GO FOR NB-IOT TECHNOLOGY CAN BE THAT IT IS NOT YET WIDELY PROVEN ON A MASS SCALE.

Power Grid pitches for obsolete tech, can hamper 5G dream

Team Absolute | New Delhi

As India gears up to launch 5G services in October, state-run Power Grid Corporation of India (PGCIL) is still going ahead with dated, obsolete technology to install one crore smart electricity meters, which can put electricity sector reforms in jeopardy.

The technology currently in focus is the latest platform and connectivity solution called Narrow Band Internet of Things (NB-IoT) that can work with 4G and 5G networks.

Tata Power Delhi Distribution, which supplies



electricity in north and north-west Delhi, already uses NB-IoT in smart meters that collect and track the electricity consumption of a unit or a system that they are connect-

ed to. The PGCIL first floated a smart metering tender for the smart meters based on older and dated second generation (2G) and RF mesh frequency in March.

Later, the PGCIL modified the tender to include NB-IoT technology.

However, there was another revision in the bid on August 18, where the new and 5G-ready NB-IoT technology was again excluded by the central transmission utility. The government has recently concluded a highly successful auction for 5G spectrum and the country is on the threshold of seeing the launch of M2M and other 5G applications.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has consistently been emphasising the importance and necessity of launch of 5G services.

Organisers cancel pro-China seminar amid row over Cong leaders' participation

Bengaluru | Agencies

Following the controversy that erupted, the Karnataka chapter of the Indo-China Friendship Association (ICFA) has decided to call off the seminar to discuss American 'interference' in the internal affairs of China. The event centred around a Chinese photographic exhibition and a seminar to discuss American support to Taiwan, was slated to be held on Sunday.

However, the organisers have stated that the seminar has been cancelled. The development came after Congress leader and former Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had stated that he is not attending the seminar, and that his name figured in the invitation even after he had declined to attend the seminar.

V. Bhaskaran, general secretary, ICFA in Karnataka, told IANS: "Due to unforeseen circumstances, we had to cancel the seminar. There was some problem in communication



that led to the situation. However, the photographic exhibition is being held as announced earlier. The invitation to the event had listed the participation of the Chinese envoy to India, the Chinese consul general in Mumbai, and a few Congress leaders. The names of Congress leaders in the invite had brought in sharp reactions from the BJP leader C.T. Ravi who questioned the Congress party over the nature of its relationship with China.



INDIA WILL BECOME DEVELOPED COUNTRY BY 2047: PM MODI

Bhuj | Agencies

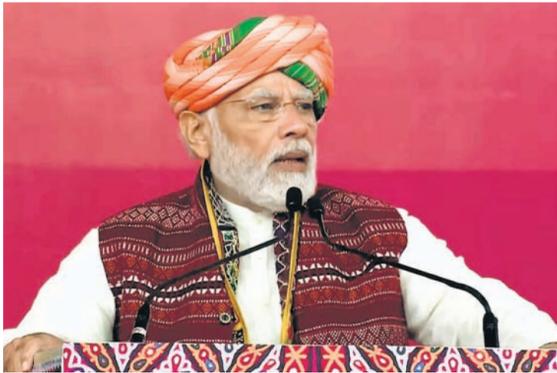
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday pledged to make India a developed country by 2047. The Prime Minister, who is on a day-long visit to Kutch, said: "After the devastating 2001 earthquake, I had assured to develop the district and in 2022, see how well it has developed. Today I am promising to make India a developed country by 2047 and will surely do it."

Earlier in the day, he dedicated 'Smriti Van' in Bhuj and 'Veer Balak Smarak' in Anjar, in memory of those who died in the massive earthquake. The two memorials, he said, will put Kutch on the world map like Japan's Hiroshima museum.

Prime Minister Modi said he was in Delhi when the earthquake struck but rushed to Gujarat the very next day.

Gujarat was the first state to introduce Disaster Management Act, which later inspired the rest of the nation, he stated.

This morning, he laid the foundation for new projects and dedicated them to the nation projects worth Rs



5,000 crore. The PM said that Sarhad Dairy was inaugurated when he was the chief minister of the state. Back then, its daily milk collection was 1,400 litres which has increased to 5 lakh litre a day. Milk producers are making Rs 800 crore by contributing milk in the dairy.

In the last 20 years, Kutch has got 45 new colleges, 1,000 new schools, 250 hospitals, and thousands of check

dams. It has got the first earthquake resistant hospital in the country, Modi said.

He remembered all his old friends from Kutch who had contributed to its development.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday reassured the world that by 2030, 50 per cent of India's energy production will be met by non-fossil fuel, and by 2070 it

plans 'Net Zero'.

The Prime Minister was addressing a public rally on the completion of 40 years of Japan's Suzuki Motor Corp. at Gandhinagar in Gujarat on Sunday.

He said that a silent revolution is taking shape in India with rising demand for electric vehicles (EV). The state and Central governments have extended incentives and subsidies for the EV sector.

Remembering the first interaction with Suzuki's Chairman 13 years ago, Modi added, "When the Suzuki Chairman showed interest in setting up a plant in Gujarat, I was confident that with each passing year the company will come to know how much Gujarat is committed to development."

The Prime Minister said, "I wanted to create a mini-Japan in Gujarat, to some extent the Japanese have been provided experience back home. Now the state has many golf courses, Japanese restaurants and even locals have started learning Japanese. Even Japan has special love for Gujarat and as many as 125 Japanese companies are functioning in the state. It looks like mini-Japan."

FORENSIC PROBE TO BE MADE MANDATORY FOR CASES ENTAILING 6 YRS JAIL: SHAH

Gandhinagar: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday indicated that the government will make forensic probes mandatory for serious offences, where the crime attracts more than six years imprisonment.

In his address as chief guest of the National Forensic Science University's (NFSU) first convocation, Shah said that the Central government is seriously working on strengthening evidence act, and for this, it is speaking to experts on the Indian Penal Code, and the Criminal Procedure Code, to bring the changes.

The Home Minister said, with these changes and making forensic probe compulsory, it will create huge job opportunities for forensic science passouts.

He also inaugurated three more wings of the NFSU - the Centre of Excellence in DNA forensics, cyber security, and investigative and forensic pathology - that will help in attending new challenges. Shah said he hoped that these wings will play a big role in criminal justice.

Seven die in two separate accidents in Gujarat

Ahmedabad | Agencies

In two separate incidents, seven persons died on Sunday in two districts of Gujarat.

In the first incident, three members of a family, including a five-year-old child died in an alleged road mishap in Panchmahal district while in another incident, four persons drowned in the sea in Bhavnagar district.

According to a local eye witness, a family from Bharuch was going to Pavagadh to worship Goddess Kali when the Eco car in which they were travelling, hit the divider of the road and turned upside down on Sunday early morning.

A man, woman and a five-year-old child died on the spot because of head injuries. Three other members of the same family were injured and were taken to the government hospital in

Halol.

In the second incident, four persons drowned in sea water near Koliyak temple in the Bhavnagar district. A 55-year-old man identified as Bhikhubhai Sarvaiya from GIDC quarter in Bhavnagar, dived into the sea to take bath when the water current dragged him into deep water due to which he drowned.

An hour or two later, six youth from the Bhavnagar tried to take bath, of which three identified as Dhruvrajsinh Jadeja, Harsh Simariya and Hardik Parmar, drowned in the sea water.

The bodies of both Harsh and Dhruvrajsinh were found on the seashore after swaying in water currents.

Local divers and police had rescued three other youth, who too were swayed away in the water currents, said a local person.

Minor girl delivers baby after being allegedly raped by uncle

Gurugram | Agencies

In a shocking incident, a 15-year-old girl in Gurugram was allegedly raped by her uncle, a migrant worker from Uttarakhand, and became pregnant, police said. She has given birth to a boy at a government hospital here.

Based on a complaint given by the victim's mother, the police have registered a case against the absconding uncle under sections of the IPC including rape, and criminal intimidation and under section 6 of the POCSO Act at the Kherki Daula police station.

In her complaint, the woman lives with her family in a village under the Kherki Daula police station area and both she and her husband work in a private company. Their 15-year-old daughter is a student in class 10 at a nearby school.

The woman alleged that her brother-in-law also lives in a rented house in their neighbourhood and called her daughter on some pretext to his house and raped her.

"On August 26, my daughter's health dete-



riorated due to which I took her to ESI Hospital in Gurugram from where I came to know about her pregnancy," the mother told the police.

Seeing her condition, the ESI doctors shifted her to the Civil Hospital and informed the police. At the hospital, the girl gave birth to a boy. The matter was reported to the police who recorded the statement of the girl along with her mother.

JAMMU-SRINAGAR NATIONAL HIGHWAY BLOCKED AT RAMBAN

Srinagar: The Jammu Srinagar National Highway has been closed for vehicular traffic due to shooting stones and landslides at Ramban, officials said on Sunday. "Jammu Srinagar National Highway blocked due to continuous shooting stones and mudslide at Cafeteria Mehad Ramban," Jammu and Kashmir Traffic police said. The highway is the lifeline of Kashmir valley and is the main road link connecting Kashmir with the rest of the country. Kashmir bound trucks laden with essentials and other vehicles pass through the highway and trucks carrying fruit from Kashmir head for rest of the country through this road.

INDIA LOGS 9,436 NEW COVID CASES

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India on Sunday reported 9,436 fresh Covid cases in the past 24 hours, against previous day's count of 9,520, Union Health Ministry said.

In the same period, 30 fatalities took the nationwide death toll to 5,27,754.

Meanwhile, the active caseload has come down to 86,591 cases, accounting for 0.19 per cent of the total positive cases.

Recovery of 9,999 patients in the last 24 hours took the cumulative tally to 4,37,93,787. Consequently, the recovery rate stands at 98.62 per cent.

Meanwhile, the Daily Positivity rate has marginally risen to 2.93 per cent, while the Weekly Positivity Rate stands at 2.70 per cent.

Also in the same period, a total of 3,22,551 tests were conducted across the country, increasing the overall tally to over 88.50 crore.

As of Sunday morning, India's Covid-19 vaccination coverage



exceeded 211.67 crore, achieved via 2,82,08,570 sessions.

Over 4.02 crore adolescents have

been administered with a first dose of Covid-19 jab since the beginning of vaccination drive for this age bracket.

SIX KILLED IN UP ROAD ACCIDENT

Bareilly: Six persons were killed in Bahedi police circle in Bareilly on Sunday when a tanker collided head on with a tractor trolley.

Over a dozen persons injured in the incident have been admitted to a hospital.

All the deceased and the injured were coming from Sitarganj in Uttarakhand to a Gurudwara in Bareilly.

The driver of the tanker fled the scene.

Further details were awaited.

Allahabad HC upholds conviction of man who mutilated private parts of 4-yr-old

Team Absolute | Prayagraj

The Allahabad High Court upheld the imprisonment awarded to a man who had mutilated private parts of a four-year-old girl in 1988 and was convicted by the sessions court under sections 324 and 354 of the IPC. The bench of Justice Krishan Pahal dismissed the appeal filed by one Ishrat who was convicted by additional district and sessions Judge, Kanpur Nagar, in sessions trial no. 175 (State vs Ishrat). The court observed that the offence was "committed out of severe sexual



lust and sadistic approach" and the appellant does not deserve any leniency. The court also expressed dissatisfaction with the state counsel for not challenging the short-term of sentence awarded to the appellant and observed, "It is very sorry state of affairs that the state has not pre-

ferred any appeal against the leniency observed by the learned trial court in sentencing the appellant to such a short term. The lethargy of the public prosecutor is highly deplorable."

According to the prosecution, on November 29, 1988, the appellant committed the

offence of mutilating the private parts of the minor girl after having attempted to rape her.

On October 20, 1992, Ishrat was convicted under Section 324 of the IPC (hurt by dangerous weapon) and sentenced to three years' rigorous imprisonment.

He was also convicted under Section 354 (assault on use of criminal force to outrage modesty of a woman) and sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment.

This judgement was challenged before the high court. Both sentences were to run separately.

GANGA FLOODS LOW LYING AREAS IN VARANASI, THOUSANDS EVACUATED

Varanasi | Agencies

More than 10,000 families have been shifted to relief camps and safer places in Varanasi after a rapidly rising river Ganga crossed the danger mark and started inundating low-lying localities in the city.

As per the Central Water Commission's Middle Ganga Division office report, water level of the Ganga had crossed the danger mark of 71.26 metre after Friday midnight and by 2 p.m. on Saturday, it was flowing at the mark of 71.54 metre.

Against the danger mark of 77.72 metre, the river was flowing at 77.46 metre in Mirzapur.

Water level of the Ganga has crossed the danger mark of 63.10 metre in Ghazipur while it was flowing over one and half metre above the danger mark of 57.61 metre in

Ballia. Varanasi district magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma said: "Around 10,500 people have been shifted from low-lying localities along the Varuna River after it was flooded by a rising Ganga. Of these, 2,600 have taken shelter in 16 flood relief camps set up by the administration while 6,600 have shifted to places of their choice. People in around 4,000 houses have become compelled to shift their household articles to upper floors or safe places."

Three ADMs have been deployed to monitor situation in the Ganga upstream, areas along the Varuna river and rural belt.

NDRF and other rescue teams have been pressed into action.

A total of 61 boats are engaged in flood relief work while health department teams have also been rushed to the flood-hit areas with lifesaving medicines and anti-venom kits. The Prime Minister's office is keeping a vigil on the situation.



OVER SIX LAKH APPEAR FOR CONSTABLE EXAM IN TELANGANA

Hyderabad | Agencies

Over 6 lakh candidates appeared in the preliminary written exam on Sunday for recruitment of 16,000 police constables in Telangana.

The exam was conducted at 1,601 centres across the state from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

A total of 6,61,198 candidates had applied for the posts and of them, 91.34 per cent appeared in the exam.

The board had issued notifications for direct recruitment of 15,644 vacancies of police constables, 63 vacancies of transport constables and 614 vacancies of prohibition & excise constables.

The exam was conducted at 1,601 examination centers located in and around Hyderabad and 38 other towns throughout the state. In Hyderabad, around 44,798 candidates appeared for the exam at 92 centers across the city competing for 2,000 posts.

Unable to take rejection, doctor abducts woman in Uttar Pradesh

Lucknow | Agencies

A doctor abducted a 20-year-old woman, an undergraduate student, at gunpoint when she rejected his offer.

The doctor pulled her inside his car when she was returning home from college after an examination. The woman, however, managed to escape and lodged a complaint with police.

The incident took place in Thakurganj area on Thursday but came to light on Saturday when the woman lodged an FIR.

The woman, who studies in a government-aided college affiliated to Lucknow university, stated in her FIR that the accused was a medical student in a private medical college on Kursi Road where her family members were admitted during the second wave of Covid-19 last year.

The medico came close to the family members during that same period. He also offered help to them when they visited the hospital for post-Covid treatment. He had taken the phone number of the woman at that time.



About six months back he proposed to the woman on the phone, but she politely refused his offer. However, he continued to text her

messages, the victim claimed in her complaint.

Police said that after completing his MBBS, the accused joined as a

casualty medical officer in another private medical college about three months back.

The victim was returning home when the doctor, who was in his car, stopped her and told her if she would not accept him, he would not allow her to marry another person.

Narrating the sequence, the victim said, "He then took out a pistol, grabbed me by my shoulder, pulled me inside his car and drove towards Sitapur road. I continued to resist and in the ensuing scuffle, he lost control of the car and hit a vehicle parked at the roadside. I immediately took an e-rickshaw and came to my home," the victim said in the FIR.

SHO, Thakurganj, Vijay Kumar Yadav said that efforts were on to nab the doctor who was neither available in the hospital nor in his rental flat in Hazratganj.

"The doctor's mobile phone is also switched off. His associates in the hospital said that he either belongs to Prayagraj or Mirzapur. The victim said both had suffered injuries in the accident," he added.



Prime Minister encouraged by mentioning the creative efforts of the state: CM

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has encouraged the people of the state by mentioning the constructive efforts of Madhya Pradesh in "Mann Ki Baat," participation in sports and adventure activities and will further enthusiastically play a role in the work of increasing the respect of the tricolor.

It is noteworthy that Prime Minister Modi made a special mention of the works of Madhya Pradesh in key areas in the "Mann Ki Baat" program on Sunday. These works include the construction of Amrit Sarovar in Mocha Gram Panchayat near Kanha Udyan in Mandla district. The beauty of this area has increased due to the visit. Prime Minister Modi praised the innovation done in Mera Bachha Abhiyan in Datia district of Madhya Pradesh. In the innovation, those teachers, who are called nutrition gurus, were called after composing programs of bhajan-kirtan. Children were provided the benefit of Bal Bhoj by collecting food grains with public cooperation in Poshan Matka. This increased the number of children coming to Anganwadi centers and also helped in eradicating malnutrition. He

also mentioned the achievement of hoisting the tricolor on the mountain peaks. Reaching Mount Elbrus is a symbol of courage and determination of this daughter. Chief Minister Chouhan said that a new India is being built under the leadership of Modi. The Prime Minister continues to guide all sections. give more inspiration are doing the work

Modi said in 'Mann Ki Baat' that the map of India was prepared in Indore city in Madhya Pradesh from the human chain, which symbolizes the Amrit festival of independence and the stream of nectar flowing throughout the nation on Independence Day this month. Prime Minister Modi has done the work of developing the feeling of patriotism among the citizens with the "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign. Chief Minister Chouhan said that Prime Minister Modi urged the country and the people of the state with "Mann Ki Baat" on national and social issues. is discussed. They are working to boost our morale. Due to the encouragement being done by the Prime Minister, a sense of pride is being developed among the citizens. New inspiration is being awakened for the progress of the nation and society, for this the Prime Minister deserves congratulations.

PARTIES GET INTO ELECTION MODE; BJP EYES POTENTIAL CONG REBELS

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Although there is more than a year to go before the assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, both prominent political parties, the ruling BJP and Congress in opposition, are intensifying their efforts for the election and have come full swing in election mode. While Congress is conducting a ground survey for the candidature, BJP is busy gathering the feedback of the leaders.

Both the parties seem to be drawing lessons from the assembly elections of 2018 and are cautious of any kind of lapse. The reason is that in that election, Congress came to power with some gains but neither party had a majority.

In the assembly of 230 MLAs, Congress was able to win 114 and BJP 109, but due to the support of independents and SP-BSP, Congress formed the government. Later, there was a rebellion within Congress and the government collapsed in 2020. As a result, BJP got a chance to take the reins after a year and a half.

Although BJP wields power in the state, they are alert about the 2023 elections as the result of the 2018 is



not forgotten. The strength of BJP has increased after the 2018 assembly elections because Jyotiraditya Scindia, a veteran Congress leader, is now with BJP. Besides, more than two dozen MLAs had also joined BJP.

BJP succeeded significantly in the by-elections as well as 17 Congress MLAs cross-voted during the presidential election. Overall, the BJP's position is strong, but it is concerned about a situation like 2018 repeat.

While BJP's organisation head Vishnu Dutt Sharma is touring all over the state and engaging in cam-

paign to strengthen the organisation, his emphasis is on strength of the booth. The party has also taken seriously the result of the recently held civic body elections as out of 16 municipal corporations, Congress mayoral candidates have won five seats and two seats went to others.

The BJP is particularly on the lookout for those who can rebel or are involved in activities against the party, that is why the party is continuously taking action against such people. On the other hand, feedback at ground level is also being collected.

Based on this as well, the candidates for the upcoming assembly elections will be decided.

While BJP is trying to strengthen its mobilisation, Congress has also intensified its ground preparations. Kamal Nath has appointed in-charge and co-in-charges at district level and has intensified the work of survey and he has also made it clear in the recently held meeting that only those names in the survey will be fielded.

Kamal Nath's attitude is sharp these days, he is instructing the party leaders and has an eye on those people who can harm the party. Besides, he is also alert should there be a rebellion within the party again.

Political analysts believe that there will be a tough fight between BJP and Congress in the state in the coming assembly elections, which is why both the parties are already trying to move forward. If BJP has a strong organisation, then the big hope for Congress is seen in the failures of the state and Central government.

Therefore, both the parties are preparing for the elections in their own ways. A strengthened party is surer to meet with success; rebellion will cause the party to suffer.

Over 200 injured in annual stone-pelting fair

Team Absolute | Bhopal

At least 200 people were injured in centuries-old tradition of stone-pelting between two villages flanking the banks of the river Jam in Madhya Pradesh's Chhindwara district.

As per the reports, the injured are undergoing treatment at a hospital in Maharashtra's Nagpur where condition of half-a-dozen of them are stated to be critical.

Locally called 'gotmar' the fair is held every year on a particular day and every time hundreds of people participate and get injured.

The annual 'gotmar' (stone pelting) fair is held on the fifteenth day of the dark fortnight (Shanichari Amavasya) of Hindi month of Bhadrapada. Residents of two villages, located on either side of the river 'Jam' in Chhindwara district enthusiastically participate in this dangerous ritual. It forms a part of a tradition that



goes back to at least five centuries. On the occasion, the district administration declares public holiday and even liquor shops remain shut. Surprisingly, the stone-pelting is held in the presence of heavy police personnel who simply watch as they are

not supposed to interfere in the so-called ritual. According to reports, since 1955, over a dozen people have succumbed to injuries from stone pelting. While at least 100 people were reportedly injured in 2020, the count was 250 in

the following year. Officials recall that in 1978 and 1987, the local police had to resort to firing after mobs from both sides attacked each other as well as the police personnel.

District officials said: "Several attempts over the years to dissuade the villages to give up the dangerous ritual have failed. Even during the two Covid years, some residents managed to keep up the tradition despite all preventive measures."

Every year, the local administration deploys teams of doctors and paramedics at the fair venue for timely treatment of those injured.

As a part of the annual Gotmar fair, the two sides stock up rocks and pelt each other with them, injuring dozens. Legend has it that two love-birds (the girl from Sanwargaon and the boy from Pandhurna village) died after being caught in the middle of stone-pelting involving the two sides near the Jam river. This year, the fair was held on Saturday.



TRUE HAPPINESS AND MEANING OF LIFE LIE THE SERVICE TO OTHERS AND THAT IS WHAT SOS MOTHERS ARE DOING, SAYS IAS ANUBHA SHRIVASTAVA

Team Absolute | Bhopal

India's largest self-implementing childcare NGO, SOS Children's Villages India organised a five-day workshop in Bhopal to train more than 40 SOS Mothers on wholesome childcare, development and safeguarding of children. Conducted at Water and Land Management Institute, Bhopal, Mothers were addressed by Ms. Anubha Shrivastava, IAS, Commissioner Handloom and Handicrafts; Managing Director, Hastshilp Evam Hathkargha Vikas Nigam; and Managing Director, Madhya Pradesh Khadi Board. The workshop constituted of educational sessions on various topics including child safeguarding, fostering family values, building self-respect, self-esteem and emotional intelligence in children; mental and physical well-being of children, English communication, computer skills, and other topics.

Anubha Shrivastava said, "After interacting with each SOS Mother, I felt that the work they are doing is truly commendable. Life of

SOS Mothers is selfless and dedicated service towards the wellbeing and development of children; true happiness and meaning of life lies in service to others and that is what these Mothers are doing."

Extending his gratitude Sumanta Kar, Secretary General, SOS Children's Villages of India said, "SOS Mothers are the backbone of our Family Care Programme, which ensures that care, love, security and support are extended to children, ensuring the wholesome development of each child, with the objective of empowering children to become contributing members of society. To ensure that Mothers excel in their role, we conduct such workshops to enhance emotional intelligence and decision-making capabilities, so they are able to instil greater values."

Such workshops are organised by SOS Children's Villages India on a regular basis, pan India, for which external and internal thematic experts, in the fields of childcare, development, child safeguarding and quality settlement of young adults, are invited.

Medical experts doubt over MP gov't's decision to teach 'MBBS in Hindi'

From the new academic session, MBBS will be taught in Hindi at the Bhopal-based Gandhi Medical College (GMC) to first year students.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

As the Madhya Pradesh government has taken the decision to start the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) course in Hindi from the academic session 2022-2023, experts in the medical field have expressed reservations over the move pointing unavailability of quality books in the language on the subject. The decision was announced by chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan who said that from the new academic session, MBBS will be taught in Hindi at the Bhopal-based Gandhi Medical College (GMC) to first year students. According to the official statement, currently, medical education is imparted only in English.

The chief minister further announced that BTech degree and polytechnic diploma courses, in six colleges each, will be taught in the Hindi language as part of the National Education Policy (NEP) from July 2022.

State medical education minister Vishvas Sarang claimed that Madhya Pradesh is the first state in the country to come out with the initiative to teach MBBS in Hindi.

"We are starting MBBS course in Hindi for the first time in the country. No other state is offering medical education in the mother-tongue. Madhya Pradesh is the first to do so," he said Furthermore, Sarang said textbooks, especially in physiology, anatomy and biochemistry, are being prepared in Hindi for students and they will be made available soon.

However, as per the official statement, experts in the medical fraternity remain skeptical about the 'MBBS in Hindi' move. Bharat Chhaparwal, former vice-chancellor, Devi Ahilyabai Vishwa Vidyalyaya (DAVV) and a senior pediatrician, said, "I am not against imparting medical education in Hindi, but are quality textbooks with updated advancements in the field available for students?"

When pointed out that in many countries like Japan, Russia, China and France, medical education is being imparted in the mother tongue, Chhaparwal said in these nations an adequate number of quality textbooks are available in their native language, which was not the case in India, the statement added. On the other hand, Hitesh Bajpai, senior BJP leader and doctor, has supported the move. "We are committed to provide technical education in the mother tongue of students. One should not be left behind because of any language," he said. Meanwhile, Minister Sarang said textbooks for three subjects to be taught in the first year are being readied by a team of experts. "Books are being prepared in such a manner that technical terms like blood pressure, spine, heart, kidney, liver or other important body parts and related terms are written in Hindi," Sarang said.

Lakhs Worth Gold Coins Found By Labourers, All Arrested

Dhar: Eight labourers allegedly stole 86 gold coins worth about Rs 60 lakh found by them during the demolition of an old house in Dhar district, an official said on Sunday.

The labourers then distributed the 'ginnis' (gold coins), which may be of archaeological importance, among themselves without informing local police following which they were arrested, Additional Superintendent of Police Devendra Patidar said. He said the labourers found the coins while removing the debris of an old house a few days back. Following a tip off, the police came to know that the eight labourers distributed the coins among themselves, he said. The police have arrested these labourers and seized 86 coins collectively weighing around one kilogram, the official said. The price of the coins is worth about Rs 60 lakh, but it may go up to Rs 1 crore after ascertaining their archaeological significance, he said.

African cheetahs offer hope to blackbuck-troubled farmers

Madhya Pradesh forest minister Kunwar Vijay Shah is on a study tour of South Africa along with some senior forest officials. Sources said that the minister's visit is connected to the much talked about relocation of cheetahs from South Africa to Kuno Palpur Sanctuary located in Madhya Pradesh's Shivpuri district.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh forest minister Kunwar Vijay Shah is on a study tour of South Africa along with some senior forest officials. Sources said that the minister's visit is connected to the much talked about relocation of cheetahs from South Africa to Kuno Palpur Sanctuary located in Madhya Pradesh's Shivpuri district.

Earlier, the wildlife officials in Madhya Pradesh had assumed that the first batch of cheetahs will reach Bhopal by August 15. However, it could not happen. It is not just the wildlife lovers, but farmers in the Gwalior-Chambal division who are eagerly awaiting the arrival of the cheetahs from Africa.

The world's first inter-continental translocation of the fastest moving animal -- from Namibia and South Africa to Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park -- whose final dates are far from being decided, will not only give a fillip to wildlife tourism, but also promises to bring smiles to the faces of farmers in three districts.

Reliable sources told IANS that farmers in the three districts of Gwalior-Chambal region, including Shivpuri, Ashok Nagar and Guna, may find in the cheetahs the solution to their long standing problem of the Indian antelope 'Blackbuck' damaging their crops every season.

As part of the efforts to build a wide and suitable prey base



for the cheetahs before they arrive in the Kuno National Park, the state forest department is working on a project of translocating blackbucks from Shivpuri, Ashok Nagar and Guna districts to the new home of the cheetahs.

"The rains have temporarily hit the progress of the blackbuck translocation project, but it will gain momentum once the monsoon eases. We hope to go ahead with the exercise on the ground by October, which will see the blackbucks being trans-located through the Boma technique from Shivpuri, Ashok Nagar and Guna districts to Kuno National Park and other ideal jungles having suitable habitat for the Indian antelope," said CS Ninama, Chief Conservator of Forests in Madhav National Park.

Ninama said that the team of the Kuno National Park is already working on developing a prey base for the cheetahs, but with blackbucks considered the most ideal prey for the cheetahs, approval has been given to the project to translocate the blackbucks from the three districts of Gwalior-Chambal region, where they are a major problem for the

farmers. With the grasslands being their most favoured habitat, the blackbucks permanently reside in the agricultural fields of farmers and often damage the crops in the initial phases of cultivation by crushing the nascent crop. The farmers of the three districts, despite the blackbucks being a major problem for their early crops, haven't harmed them, but have been raising the issue with the authorities.

"By translocating the blackbucks to Kuno National Park and other ideal habitats, we will not only help the farmers' cause, but also save the Indian antelope from being attacked by wild canines particularly during the monsoon season in the muddy agricultural fields. Further, they will be the ideal addition to the already existing prey base for the cheetahs in Kuno. We will complete the exercise of estimating the blackbuck population in the three districts in the next few weeks, followed by the study of their behavioural and habitat related aspects, based on which appropriate changes will be made in their future habitat before their translocation. We hope to start the translocation exercise by October end," Ninama added.

Meanwhile, forest minister Kunwar Vijay Shah recently said that the cheetahs from Namibia and South Africa will not be arriving in MP before November. Certain pending issues, including removal of three leopards from the 500-hectare enclosure prepared for the cheetahs in Kuno, a MoU with the South African government and other related issues need to be addressed before bringing the 20 cheetahs from Namibia and South Africa.

Cheetahs became extinct in India in the 1950s. The plan for their re-introduction has been in the pipeline since decades. The central government had initially approached Iran, where the Asiatic cheetah, the same sub-species that went extinct in India, exists, and was even seen on cloning the species. But, on Iran's refusal to help India, owing to the low number of the species there, the central government turned to the African sub-species.



EDITOR'S SPECS

SENIORITY WINS

With the fall of India's one of the largest towers, a legal fight of over 10 years by senior citizens has come to an end on Sunday. The fall of the twin towers will mark the victory of the group of elderly people who waged a war against Supertech in 2009 for violating bylaws. A group of four elderly people -- U.B.S. Teotia; 80, S.K. Sharma, 74; Ravi Bajaj, 65; and M.K. Jain, 59 -- were the first who raised the alarm against the violation of laws by Supertech for building the twin towers. This group included retired central government officials who collected donations to continue their legal fight from Allahabad High Court to the Supreme Court against the builder. The RWA president of Emerald Court, had moved into the society in 2010. His first argument with the developer was during the monsoon of that year, when the basements were flooded with rainwater. The flat owners were told that two 25-storey towers would be constructed instead. A group of retired government officials lodged repeated complaints with the then RWA. But to no avail. Two years later, the high court ruled in favour of them and ordered the towers to be razed. The court also asked the builder to refund the buyers and slammed the Noida Authority for colluding with the developer to allow the construction. Even after the ruling which came in their favour from the high court, the fight continued in the Supreme Courts. But these senior citizens did not give up. They continued their fight as the builders Supertech challenged the order in the apex court. The petition was filed on behalf of Emerald Court RWA and not in the name of any individual. Finally, the Supreme Court gave the decision in the favour of the elderly people and the towers were demolished finally.

Mixing Savarkar with Ganesh puja

Hindutva groups play with communal fire

M.K. Ashoka

The ruling BJP and Hindutva forces have taken up the mission of idolising Veer Savarkar in Karnataka in spite of stiff opposition from the some parties including Congress and other groups. The issue has taken a communal turn with multiple stabbing incidents in Karnataka. Hindutva groups have decided to reach out to every household on Veer Savarkar's contribution and sacrifice to the Indian freedom movement during this Ganesh festival. It has been decided to place Veer Savarkar's photo with Lord Ganesh's idol in Karnataka. Authorities have crossed their fingers over the development fearing a law and order situation. Siddaramaiah, the Leader of Opposition had questioned the BJP that why they would not accept Tipu Sultan as the freedom fighter and insisting on promoting Veer Savarkar? Karnataka Congress president D.K. Shivakumar questioned "what is the connection between Veer Savarkar and Lord Ganesh?" The ruling BJP which announced

cancellation of celebration of birth anniversary of Tipu Sultan, had named a prominent flyover in Bengaluru after Veer Savarkar during the tenure of B.S. Yediyurappa despite stiff opposition.

The celebration of 75th year of Independence Day again saw conflicts arising out of promotion of Veer Savarkar and dropping of all Muslim freedom fighters by the ruling BJP.

The inclusion of Veer Savarkar's photo and exclusion of the country's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's photo from the poster released by the government of Karnataka also grabbed nationwide attention. The Congress cried foul over the "disrespect" towards the first Prime Minister of India. Ravikumar N.M., a senior editor, said



that Veer Savarkar can never have the history like Bhagat Singh.

"Savarkar was made as an accused in the murder case of Mahatma Gandhi. The ruling BJP that is not able to discuss... and deliver on day-to-day life of the common man is talking about religion and politics.

"The government is also not even trying to inculcate scientific temper among young men and women. No room is given for discussion," he explains.

Afsar Kodlipet, the Karnataka general secretary of SDPI states that the objection raised for the flex of Veer Savarkar in Shivamogga was rightful. "There are 60,000 names of freedom fighters etched on the walls of India Gate. Not a single Muslim freedom fighter was promoted at a mall in Shivamogga. In the pretext of promoting Veer Savarkar, ruling BJP and Bajrang Dal activists have disrupted the

celebration of 75th year of Indian Independence by thousands of Muslims," he said.

The ruling BJP leaders attacked Congress that Veer Savarkar was called as the remarkable son of India by late prime minister Indira Gandhi and opposition to Veer Savarkar is all about appeasement politics to ensure vote bank in the upcoming assembly elections.

Chakravarthy Sulibele, a right-wing thinker, author, has taken up a mission to distribute the small booklet which talks about Veer Savarkar and his struggles.

The authorities in Karnataka have meanwhile kept fingers crossed over the developments taking place around placing Veer Savarkar's photo with Ganesh idol.

The ruling BJP, however, seems to be encouraging the trend. Party insiders explain that opposition to Veer Savarkar will only polarise Hindu votes for the party.

Savarkar is being promoted in the texts as well. Also, the state government is all set to establish a research centre exclusively on Savarkar.

BJP FACES A NEW CHALLENGER FROM WITHIN: THE HINDUTVA FRINGE

M.K. Ashoka

Karnataka is witnessing a new development -- Hindutva activists and organisations posing an open challenge to the ruling BJP.

The trend which has gathered steam after the murders of Bajrang Dal activist Harsha in Shivamogga and BJP Yuva Morcha member Praveen Kumar Nettare in Dakshina Kannada.

The state's ruling BJP is facing a hate campaign and social media trials after videos and screenshots surfaced of the accused in Harsha's murder case found chatting with their family and friends from prison.

The matter worsened with state Home Minister Araga Jnanendra allegedly turning a blind eye to Harsha's sister, who had approached him with a complaint against luxury treatment being given to her brother's alleged killers.

The saffron party which rejoiced the developments following the hijab crisis and boycott calls on Muslim traders leading to the young generation being lured towards



Hindutva ideology, is now on a damage control mode after the young cadres started a movement to quit across the state.

Amrith Shenoy, a former AICC Member from Udupi, told IANS: "BJP leaders have politicised every murder that took place during the tenure of the Siddaramaiah government. If the accused were Hindus they did not bother and if they were Muslims they made it a big issue. The same trend has continued in

the Harsha murder case as well." "The BJP cadres and young party workers are thinking why Hindu leaders were being killed during the rule of the BJP? The violent mob had almost attacked BJP State President Nalin Kumar Kateel who had gone to Nettare's funeral. Ministers V. Sunil Kumar and Araga Jnanendra had to take protection from people."

Gradually, BJP supporters are realising that the the party's

Hindutva is bogus, Shenoy said and claimed that the party does not even worship Lord Ram.

"Karnataka, especially the coastal region, was a Congress bastion till 2000. In the beginning, Hindu leaders such as Praveen Togadia and Pramod Muthalik started organising Hindu samajotsava and invited everyone. They claimed that the programmes were apolitical," he stated. The claims however, turned out to be fake, as they spoke against the Congress and Hindus being threatened and projected the BJP as the champion of Hindus, Shenoy says. Gradually, the young generation from oppressed classes were drawn to their fold, and were encouraged to carry out moral policing, wield swords and pelt stones, he added. Pramod Muthalik, founder of the Sri Rama Sena, explained that his organisation won't support the BJP in next year's Assembly elections.

"We have asked the BJP to change. The dissatisfaction towards

BJP is very much there. The party is corrupt and it is not sensitive towards the needs of Hindu community. It has digressed from its objectives," he said.

Dharmendra, state General Secretary of the Akhila Bharata Hindu Mahasabha, said that his organisation is much more powerful now than earlier. He maintained that Mahasabha will change the political scenario in the state following the 2023 polls and claimed that the "BJP's prospectus would be harmed to a great extent across Karnataka". Dharmendra further says that the people have seen how the ruling BJP leaders have amassed wealth and also caused tremendous pain and suffering to Hindu activists. BJP insiders explain that the party leaders are hoping to recover from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the coastal town of Mangaluru in Dakshina Kannada district on September 2, where he will address a public rally.

international

THE CHINESE RUN HAMBANTOTA PORT ON AUGUST 11 BUT WAS DELAYED WHEN SRI LANKA REQUESTED

India slams Chinese envoy's remarks on vessel visit to Sri Lanka

Colombo | Agencies

In a scathing response to the remark made by the Chinese envoy in Sri Lanka on India over the arrival of controversial vessel, the Yuan Wang 5, to the island's southern port, New Delhi stated that the Chinese Ambassador 'violated basic diplomatic etiquette'. In a strongly worded tweet, Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka on Saturday said, "We have noted the remarks of the Chinese Ambassador. His violation of basic diplomatic etiquette may be a personal trait or reflecting a larger national attitude."

Without directly referring to India, the Chinese envoy in Colombo Qi Zhenhong



had stated that "External obstruction based on so-called security concerns but without any evidence from certain forces is de facto a thorough interference into Sri Lanka's sovereignty and independence." Qi Zhenhong was referring to the arrival of the high-tech ballistic missile and satellite tracking ship,

which was originally scheduled to arrive at the Chinese run Hambantota Port on August 11 but was delayed when Sri Lanka requested to defer the arrival following security concern raised by India. "His view of #SriLanka's northern neighbour may be coloured by how his own country behaves.



11 missing as cargo ship capsizes in Indonesia

Jakarta | Agencies

A cargo ship with 15 people on board sank in the Makassar Strait of central Indonesia, leaving 11 people missing, an official said on Saturday.

The ship was hit by huge waves while sailing in the waters between Kalimantan island and Sulawesi island on Monday but the accident was found out by a passenger ship which helped the victims on Friday, senior press official at South Kalimantan's search and rescue office Dendy Prasetyo was quoted as saying by news agency. "Today (Saturday) we carried out a search and rescue operation to look for the 11 missing persons," he told the news agency over phone. Four people survived the accident, as they used a lifeboat and were helped by a ferry, said Prasetyo. The cargo ship loaded with cement departed from a seaport in South Kalimantan province and was heading to a seaport in South Sulawesi province, according to the official.

Afghanistan builds 150,000-strong national army



Kabul | Agencies

The Taliban-run administration has built a 150,000-strong national army and the number may increase, state-run news agency reported on Sunday. "The current personnel of the National Army are 150,000. And the number may increase," Afghanistan's state-run news agency quoted Acting Defence Minister Mawlawi Mohammad Yaqub

Mujahid as saying. Technical teams of the defence ministry, according to the top military official, have repaired 60 damaged helicopters over the past year. The former Afghan government, which collapsed in the wake of U.S.-led forces withdrawal in August last year, had a 350,000-strong security force including a 150,000-strong national army, news agency reported quoting experts.

'PAK PROVIDES AIRSPACE FOR US DRONES IN AFGHANISTAN'

Taliban defence minister Mullah Yaqoob Mujahid on Sunday accused Pakistan of providing its airspace for US drone operations in Afghanistan and called on the neighbouring country to stop doing so. "They [the US aircraft] are using Pakistani airspace to reach us. We demand Pakistan not to use its airspace against us," he told reporters during a televised press conference in Kabul. Yaqoob is the son of late Taliban founder Mullah Omar and considered to be the second most powerful Taliban military leader, news agency reported. He said the country's radar system was destroyed when the Americans withdraw from Afghanistan last year but intelligence sources suggests that US drones were entering through Pakistan, which Yaqoob called a "clear violation." Washington and Islamabad have not reacted to the comments.

UKRAINE: MILLIONS OF TONS OF GRAIN SHIPPED VIA THE DANUBE RIVER

Kiev | Agencies

Ukraine authorities said more grain is being shipped across the Danube River than at any point since the start



of the war six months ago. On Saturday alone, 11 ships made their way to the river ports of Izmail, Reni and Ust-Dunaysk and loaded aboard a total of 45,000 tons of grain, the Ukrainian Infrastructure Ministry said on Sunday. Since March, more than 4 million tons of grain have already been taken out of the country through Ukraine's Danube ports, news agency reported quoting the Ukrainian ministry. After the Russian attack began, focus turned to Ukraine's major Black Sea ports, which were blocked for months and resulted in millions of tonnes of grain unable to leave the country. On July 22, Ukraine and Russia, under UN mediation, signed an agreement with Turkey to allow exports from Ukraine from three Black Sea ports, relieving pressure on global food markets.

EU condemns reports of airstrike on kindergarten in Ethiopia

Brussels | Agencies

The European Union on Sunday condemned reports of an airstrike on a kindergarten during renewed fighting in northern Ethiopia and called on the parties to engage in peace negotiations. The fighting "endangers the lives of millions of people already in great distress," European Council President Charles Michel wrote on Twitter.

Multiple civilians, including children, died in an airstrike on a kindergarten in the capital of the war-torn Ethiopian province of Tigray, news agency reported quoting local media reports on Friday. Reported airstrikes targeting civilians "cast a terrible shadow" on the Ethiopian government's commitment to take part in peace talks, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said. Condemning the attack, the director of the UN's children's agency, UNICEF, Catherine Russell, said on



Saturday on Twitter that seven people had been killed in the airstrike. Fighting between the Ethiopian national army and fighters with the separatist Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) flared up again this week. Fighting began in 2020, when the TPLF began efforts to break away from Ethiopia, prompting fighting that at times saw Tigray's borders shut to food and aid and, at other times,

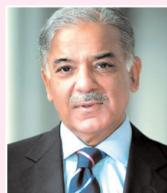
saw TPLF fighters threatening to assault Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital. According to the media reports, the Ethiopian military was behind the attack on Tigray's capital Mek'ele. However, there was no comment from the military.

A government statement on Friday urged people in Tigray to keep their distance from military facilities, as some of those could be targeted.

PTI plotting against IMF deal: Shehbaz Sharif

Islamabad | Agencies

Self-centred politics can cause irreparable damage to Pakistan as unfortunately, a party is playing politics over the agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) when the lender's board meeting is around the corner,



Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said, without naming the PTI, local media reported. "I have never seen such self-centred politics; it will be a huge injustice with Pakistan and a big conspiracy against the country," the premier said while referring to PTI on his visit to the flood victims in Sujaw, Sindh province. Prime Minister Sharif said that the federal government had allocated Rs 38 billion in grant to support the flood-affected families with the disbursement of Rs 25,000 to each of them. Geo News reported. Speaking to the flood victims, the prime minister said he had already announced Rs 15 billion in grant to Sindh while the distribution of flood relief amount among the affected families had commenced in the

province after Balochistan under the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP). "The BISP has complete data, ensuring prompt and fair distribution among the deserving families," he added.

Assuring the provincial governments of the federal government's support, the prime minister said other provinces would also be provided with grants. The prime minister was accompanied by Sindh province Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, federal ministers and relevant authorities. The prime minister said the federal government had continued its efforts to support the provincial governments in rescue, relief and rehabilitation efforts with the support of the National Disaster Management Authority and other relevant departments. "A survey will be launched soon to assess the damages and losses caused by floods across the country," he added. The prime minister stressed that in the hour of trial, they had to work collectively, instead of playing politics, News reported.



MUMBAI'S ICONIC DOUBLE-DECKER BUSES NOW IN ELECTRIC AVATAR

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai's iconic double-decker buses are set for a comeback in an electric avatar with a Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport Undertaking official stating that their numbers will match the highs of the 1990s by next year.

The financial capital is the last urban area where these double-deckers are still running, though they were once found in robust numbers in Kolkata, Bengaluru, Delhi, Thiruvananthapuram and Chennai, among other cities, officials said.

According to officials, BEST had the highest number of double-decker buses in 1990, before the figures started dipping post 1995. By 2006, the city's premier road transport utility had 225 double-deckers as losses began to mount and operating costs went north.

There are some 50 left in Mumbai, most of these running in the southern part of the city and some being used to give heritage tours to tourists. This existing batch was introduced in 2007 and would soon go off the roads at the end of their codal (operational) life, officials added.

A new electric air-conditioned double-decker bus was launched last week, a first for India, with BEST general manager Lokesh Chandra telling PTI it would hit the roads from September.



"Two bus contractors will give BEST 900 electric double-deckers by the end of 2023. In the 1990s, we had over 900 double-decker buses and we are soon going to go back to the same situation by the end of next year," Chandra said.

These new buses will give people a comfortable ride and also improve the ridership of BEST to around 40 lakh per day from the current 33 lakh passengers per day, he added.

"Mumbai witnesses heavy traffic and double-deckers, at 10.5 metres, can carry 100 passengers against normal buses that ferry about 50. These double-deckers will help us regain carrying capacity of 1.5 lakh seats per day, which were lost due to introduction of smaller buses," the BEST GM

explained. The new electric AC double-decker bus has a twin door-stairway arrangement, bigger windows, bucket seats, CCTVs, charging points for phones and laptops and public address systems.

As per SN Pendsay's book 'The B.E.S.T Story', double-deckers were first introduced on the metropolis' roads in 1937, some 11 years after fossil-fuel vehicles of the undertaking hit the roads.

"Double-decker buses were introduced in 1937 in order to cope better with the growing traffic. The single-deck vehicle carried 36 passengers; the double-decker could take as many as 58. This, and its sheer size and look, made the double-decker

popular as soon as it was put on the roads," as per an excerpt from the book.

The double-deckers over the years underwent some design changes, starting with ones having a single blink cabin and sloping engine cover that looked like clones of London's Routemaster.

In 1967, BEST introduced articulated double-decker buses for the first time in the country, as per Pendsay's book.

Commenting on the decline in the number of these iconic vehicles, Sunil Ganacharya, former member of BEST Committee, the policy making body of the Undertaking, told PTI operating costs were a major factor as one needed to deploy two conductors and also due to higher consumption of diesel. Moreover, manufacturers had stopped production of these double-decker buses, which was also a reason for the decline in numbers, he added. For many commuters, a ride on the double-decker bus was among their best memories of the financial capital.

However, the new electric buses are coming as part of a wet lease model, in which contractors take care of the cost of crew and maintenance, as indicated by BEST GM Chandra at the launch of the new double-decker last week.

According to officials, double-decker buses have a carrying capacity of 78 passengers, while that of single-deck electric buses is 54 passengers.

Financial Bids for Reliance Capital to be submitted on Monday

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The bidders for Reliance Capital assets have to submit their financial bids by August 29 (Monday), as the final deadline for the submission of bids ends tomorrow. The bidders will submit their final non-binding indicative bids under two options. Under option 1, bidders can bid for Reliance Capital as a Core Investment Company (CIC), while the second option gives the bidders freedom to buy RCAP's different business clusters, either individually or in combination.

Though the lenders are more keen to sell Reliance Capital as a company (CIC) than individual businesses separately.

The deadline for the submission of bids has been extended five times in the past by the lenders.

The timeline for the completion of Reliance Capital's resolution process has also been extended twice by the lenders. Now, the final deadline to complete the process is 1 November 2022.

At the beginning of the resolution process of Reliance



Capital, over 54 companies had submitted Expression of Interest (EOI) for its various assets, but now there are only a handful of bidders actively engaged with the Administrator.

According to the banking sources, out of the 54 EOIs received initially, currently only four-five bidders including Piramal Group and Yes Bank are actively engaged in the resolution process of Reliance Capital.

Due to the poor response, the Committee of Creditors (COC) even waived off the condition of paying Rs. 75 Cr. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD), in the first submission date.

The bidders major concerns have been regarding

the treatment of three important business clusters of Reliance Capital i.e. Reliance Commercial Finance (RCF), Reliance Home Finance (RHF) and Reliance General Insurance Company (RGIC).

Both RCF and RHF had gone through a separate resolution process with Authum Investment and Infrastructure, much before RCAP was referred to NCLT.

On the other hand, the shares of Reliance General Insurance, which is the most valuable asset in the entire business portfolio of RCAP, are held by IDBI Trusteeship on the behalf of Credit Suisse. IDBI Trusteeship has refused to release these shares for the ongoing NCLT-led resolution process.

Teacher booked for caning Class 10 student

Team Absolute | Mumbai

An offence has been registered against a private school's teacher for allegedly caning a Class 10 student and fracturing his hand in Thane, police said. Based on a complaint lodged by the 15-year-old student's parents, the police on Saturday registered a case under section 325 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt) of the Indian Penal Code, senior inspector Raju Vanjari of Kalyan taluka police station said. "The incident took place at a private school in Titwala town on Thursday," the official said. "The injured boy had quarrelled with his classmate, who complained to the teacher. The accused in turn caned the victim causing his wrist to swell up," he said. "An x-ray revealed that the boy's hand had been fractured, following which the complaint was lodged," the official said, adding that no arrest has been made so far. "The school



management was also conducting a parallel probe into the incident and suitable steps will be taken," a member of the school management said.

Drug Dealer who allegedly supplies drug to Sonali Phogat's associates, arrested

Team Absolute | Panaji

Sonali Phogat's untimely death has stunned the entertainment and political industries. Sonali died on Monday, August 22, and word of her death spread like wildfire. Sonali's death under mysterious circumstances prompted her family to file a case and ask Goa police to investigate. According to the post-mortem report, she suffered multiple blunt force injuries to her body. Following that, a murder case was filed under Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code.

According to a leading news portal, one more person has been arrested in Sonali's case, following PA Sudhir Sangwan and Sukhwinder Singh.

According to the report, the drug dealer was arrested on Saturday night, August 27, for allegedly supplying drugs to another



dealer, who is accused of supplying drugs to Phogat's associates. On Saturday, the owner of the restaurant where Phogat was seen partying the night before her death was also arrested. So far, five people have been arrested in Sonali's murder case. The accused forced Phogat to drink methamphetamine drugs (meth) at the

famous restaurant-cum-nightclub Curlie on Anjuna beach on Monday, according to police, who cited security camera footage and confessions. The restaurant owner and drug dealer are charged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, while Sudhir and Sukhwinder are charged with murder.

So far, the police have questioned over 25 people, including employees at the restaurant, the resort where Phogat was staying, the hospital where she was declared dead, and her driver.

Sonali Phogat was a politician-turned-actor who rose to prominence after appearing on Bigg Boss 14. Many celebrities, including Aly Goni, Nikki Tamboli, Abhinav Shukla, and Himanshi Khurana, mourned Sonali Phogat's untimely death. Sonali is survived by her daughter Yashodhara Phogat on a personal level.

MLC wants ED probe in teachers' recruitment

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Nago Ganar, a Member of the Legislative Council (MLC) from Nagpur's teachers' constituency, on Saturday, demanded an Enforcement Directorate (ED) probe into controversial teacher recruitments done across the state in recent years. Marred with irregularities, the school teachers' appointment and approval process across Maharashtra has been a hot topic of discussion in the ongoing monsoon session of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly.

Stressing for ED's probe, Ganar alleged that it is a mas-



sive scandal involving "thousands of millions of rupees that cannot be probed at the local or district level". "No concrete actions were taken even today, as irregularities are being found in teachers'

appointment and approval. This is a massive scam which is now beyond local police and district or state education officials, hence I have demanded an ED probe in the matter," he said.

GIRL GANG-RAPED IN THANE; THREE ARRESTED

Mumbai: A 16-year-old girl was allegedly gang-raped in Maharashtra's Thane district, and all three accused involved in the offence have been arrested, police said on Sunday.

While one of the accused works in the field of merchant navy, another one is a history-sheeter, they said, adding that the incident occurred on August 26.

"On Friday afternoon, the trio took the girl to a flat at Kalher in Bhiwandi. They tied her hands before sexually assaulting her. When she resisted their attempts, one of the accused bit her," an official of Thane crime branch (unit V) said. The accused, identified as Sachin Kamble (30), Akash Kanojia (22) and Asu (20) were later arrested based on a complaint lodged by the victim at Chitalar police station in Wagle Estate division of Thane city, he said.

The victim and the accused reside in Wagle Estate area, he said.

"Offences under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act have been registered against the three accused," the official added.

A senior official said that while Kanojia worked in the field of merchant navy, Kamble had a number of offences registered against him in Wagle Estate area. The third accused is a vagabond, he said. Further details are awaited.

Three wanted Maoists arrested in Gadchiroli

Team Absolute | Nagpur

Three alleged Maoists carrying cumulative rewards of Rs 10 lakh on their heads were arrested from Koyar forest and Jharewada in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli district, some 170 kilometres from here, a police official said on Sunday.

Ramesh Pallo (29) and Tani alias Shashi Pungati (23) were held in an operation by the Special Operation Squad (C-60 commandos) and the Central Reserve Police Force's Battalion 37 from Koyar forest while Arjun alias Mahesh Narote (27) was nabbed from Jharewada in another operation, Superintendent of Police Ankit Goyal said in a statement.

"Pallo is a scout member with 13 offences against his name. Pungati, a member of the



outlawed group's company 10, has seven offences against her name. They both carried rewards of Rs 4 lakh each on their heads," an official said.

"Narote was active in the Bhamragarh dalam. He has 27 serious offences registered against him. Gadchiroli police has arrested 57 alleged Maoists in 2021-2022," he added.

GIRL DIES IN GAS CYLINDER BLAST WHILE INFLATING BALLOON

Nagpur: A two-year-old girl was killed after a gas cylinder exploded while inflating a balloon which her grandfather was buying for her in Maharashtra's Amravati district, a police official said on Sunday. The incident took place on Saturday evening at Shindi village in Achalpur taluka, about 150 km from Nagpur, when the child had gone with her grandfather to the Tanha Pola festival, celebrated to acknowledge the importance of bulls and oxen in agriculture and farming activities, the official said. They were purchasing a balloon when the gas cylinder used for inflating it exploded, he said. The child was seriously injured as a part of the cylinder hit her leg, the official said. She succumbed to the injuries while undergoing treatment in a hospital, he said. The Achalpur police have registered case and are conducting an investigation into it, he added.



IS FELICITATING BILKIS BANO RAPISTS 'HINDU CULTURE'? ASKS SHIV SENA

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Questioning the Gujarat government's decision to release all 11 men convicted of rape and murder in the Bilkis Bano case, the Shiv Sena on Sunday said that just because she is a Muslim, the crime against her cannot be forgiven.

"We cry out loud when similar atrocities take place in neighbouring Pakistan and Bangladesh," the party wrote its mouthpiece Saamana. "Then where has our sensitivity gone in the case of Bilkis Bano?"

The Shiv Sena also questioned the silence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah on the release of the convicts in the case.

The 11 men had gangraped Bano in a village near Ahmedabad on March 3, 2002, during the riots in Gujarat. She was 19 and pregnant at the time. Fourteen members of her family were also killed in the vio-



lence, including her three-year-old daughter whose head was smashed on the ground by the perpetrators. On August 15, the convicts were released from a Godhra jail after the Gujarat government approved their

application under its remission policy. On the same day, the convicts were greeted with sweets by their relatives after their release. A member of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh felicitated them as well.

by the Gujarat government under the guidelines of the Supreme Court. Out of the ten members of the panel, five are office bearers in the BJP. Two of them are currently MLAs. On August 18, Gujarat MLA CK



Their release was based on the recommendation of a panel formed by the Gujarat government under the guidelines of the Supreme Court. Out of the ten members of the panel, five are office bearers in the BJP. Two of them are currently MLAs. On August 18, Gujarat MLA CK

family members of the convicts were "honest".

The premature release of the 11 convicts has been condemned by several civil rights groups and activists. A report also found that some of the convicts had allegedly threatened witnesses in the case and attended political events when out on parole.

Raulji, who was part of the panel, had said that the convict's conduct in jail was good. Raulji also said that in cases of communal violence, innocent persons are often targeted. He added that



'LOVE ISLAND' STAR AJ BUNKER BREAKS UP WITH 'GAY PORN STAR' BOYFRIEND

London | Agencies

Reality show 'Love Island' star AJ Bunker and her boyfriend are headed to splitsville after she discovered that her boyfriend is a gay porn star. The television personality, 28, said that she is traumatised after finding out that she had been catfished three months into their relationship.

reports

Mirror.co.uk.

AJ had been celibate for two years when she met her now ex-boyfriend at an event and he seemed "liked the dream". According to Mirror.co.uk, she said he had told her that he was a model and worked at a football coaching company.

But the reality star was shocked when three months into their relationship she found out he had been lying to her.

In an interview with 'The Sun', AJ, quoted by Mirror.co.uk, said: "It was extreme porn. It was all with men and I could see as clear as day that it was him, I was absolutely mortified and I didn't think it could get any worse and then I discovered that."

"He'd even asked one of my gay friends to send him photos. My friend sent me a picture of an ugly thong rolled up in a ball and put into his hoodie. I couldn't believe he'd been bringing underwear to my house and leaving it there."

"He told me he'd lied because he didn't think I'd give him the time of the day if he'd told me the truth. By this point I was traumatised and called it a day."



Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood studio Paramount recently filed a motion to dismiss a lawsuit that claims that 'Top Gun: Maverick' infringes on the copyright of the 1983 magazine article that was the source material for the original film, reports Variety.

Shosh and Yuval Yonay, the widow and son of writer Ehud Yonay, filed the suit in June, arguing that the studio made the sequel without first renewing the rights to the article.

In the motion to dismiss, Paramount, according to Variety, argued that it did not need to obtain the rights, because 'Top Gun: Maverick' is a work of fiction that has almost nothing in common with the non-fiction article and that the facts and ideas conveyed in the article cannot be copyrighted.

"Any similarity between these vastly different works derives from the fact that Top Gun is an actual naval training facility," the studio's lawyers argue. "Plaintiffs do not have a monopoly over works about 'Top Gun'," Paramount said.

Paramount did secure the film rights to Yonay's article for the original 'Top Gun', which was released in 1986. Copyright law allows authors to reclaim their works after 35 years. Yonay died in 2012, but his widow and son filed a notice in 2018 terminating the studio's copyright to the article. The lawsuit takes pains to document numerous alleged similarities between the article and the sequel. The complaint also argues that Yonay used "vivid and cinematic" language to enliven what otherwise could have been a mere recitation of facts.

Paramount files motion to dismiss 'Top Gun: Maverick' copyright lawsuit



As countdown for BLACKPINK's 2nd studio album starts, 'Pink Venom' sets a record



Seoul | Agencies

The music video for K-pop girl group BLACKPINK's 'Pink Venom' has gone past 200 million views on YouTube, its management agency said, reports Yonhap.

The video for its latest single, which was released August 19, hit the milestone at 2:11 a.m. on Saturday, according to YG

Entertainment.

It achieved the feat in the second shortest time among K-pop female artists after BLACKPINK's own 'How You Like That' video. The 'Pink Venom' music video garnered 90.4 million views within 24 hours of its release, setting a new record for first-day viewership among female artists around the world. The song also ranked 22nd on the British Official

Singles Chart Top 100.

The single will be included in the group's second studio album, 'Born Pink', to come out on September 16. It had already secured more than 2 million pre-orders as of Thursday, only two weeks after advance purchases began. The album marks the band's first full-group release since its first studio album titled 'The Album' in October 2020.

'Butter' becomes 8th BTS video to cross 800 mn YouTube views

Seoul | Agencies

The music video for BTS's 2021 megahit single 'Butter', whose fans include Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt, has surpassed 800 million YouTube views, becoming the eighth video from the K-pop group to hit the milestone, reports Yonhap. The video passed the 800 million threshold about 15 months after it was uploaded online on May 21 last year, the group's agency Big Hit Music said. The upbeat summer song became a global hit upon its release, staying on Billboard's Hot 100 main singles chart for 10 non-consecutive weeks. The song's music video earned 108.2 million views in its first 24 hours, giving it the biggest first-day view count of all time on YouTube. The seven-piece group will hold a one-day concert in Busan, 325 km southeast of Seoul, on October 15 to support the port city's bid to host the World Expo in 2030.



J.K. Rowling finally explains why she skipped 'Harry Potter' reunion

Los Angeles | Agencies

'Harry Potter' author J.K. Rowling has responded to why she was absent from the Harry Potter reunion, and the answer is pretty simple - she didn't feel like it.

During her appearance on Virgin Radio Saturday (Pacific Standard Time), the author explained why she wasn't featured in the Harry Potter 20th Anniversary: Return to Hogwarts, which debuted on January 1 on HBO Max, reports People magazine.

"I was asked to be on that, and I decided I didn't want to do it," she told the host, Graham Norton, quoted by People, via a clip uploaded to YouTube. "I thought it was about the films more than the books, quite rightly. That was what the anniversary was about."

"No one said don't (do it)...I was asked to do it and I decided not to," she added.

According to People, elsewhere in the conversation, Rowling, 57, also discussed her relationship with social media. Earlier this month, she received a death threat after expressing her concern about Salman Rushdie's stabbing incident. "I try to behave online as I would like others to behave...I've never threatened anyone," she told Graham during the inter-

view. "I certainly wouldn't want anyone to go to their houses or anything like that." "Social media can be a lot of fun, and I do



like the pub argument aspect of it. That can be a fun thing to do...," she continued. "I sort of have a love-hate relationship with it now. I can happily go for a few days without getting into a (virtual) pub brawl." People states that Rowling came under fire in June 2020 when she appeared to support anti-transgender sentiments in a series of tweets. Though she denied that her views on feminism are transphobic, she doubled down on her controversial standpoints in a lengthy essay shared on her website days later.



Cardi B's daughter sings to Lady Gaga's 'Bad Romance' in Insta video

Los Angeles | Agencies

Rapper and songwriter Cardi B recently took to her social media to share an adorable video of her daughter singing to Lady Gaga's 'Bad Romance', reports 'People' magazine.

In a video posted to the 'WAP' hit-maker's Instagram stories -- that has since been replaced with new clips -- Cardi B's daughter Kulture Kiari appears to request her mom play a specific song,

to which Cardi, 29, replies "The Ra Ra song? How does the Ra Ra song go?"

According to 'People', Kulture, 4, proceeds to sing some words from 'Bad Romance', then gets a little shy as she gets to the "want your bad romance" portion. After her performance, Kulture asks in the video for the song again, saying "now put it!" with a big grin. "My baby so pretty," Cardi wrote on the post.

Cardi and husband Offset, 30, also

share an 11-month-old son, Wave Set. Offset is also father to daughter Kalea, 7, and sons Kody, 7, and Jordan, 12, from previous relationships.

'People' adds that the Grammy-winning rapper and songwriter recently shared some snaps of her daughter's birthday festivities, where Cardi and her little one wore matching outfits for the mermaid-themed bash.

"I got your back, your front and sides. BIG 4," Cardi captioned the photos.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Dua Lipa



Asia Cup 2022

INDIA DEFEAT PAKISTAN BY FIVE WICKETS

Dubai | Agencies

Hardik Pandya and Ravindra Jadeja's heroics with the bat helped India defeat Pakistan by five wickets to win their first Group A match in Asia Cup 2022 at the Dubai International Stadium on Sunday. After Pakistan made 147 all out in 19.5 overs, India needed 59 off the last six overs on a two-paced pitch.

From there, Pandya (33 not out) and Jadeja (35) shared a stand of 52 runs off just 29 balls. Even though the left-handed Jadeja fell in the final over, Pandya finished off things with a six over long-on to take India over the line and add another thrilling chapter in the history of India-Pakistan clashes.

Just like Pakistan, India had an eventful first over. Debutant pacer Naseem Shah struck on just his sec-



ond T20I ball, as K.L. Rahul inside-edged to his stumps. Virat Kohli, playing in his 100th T20I, was dropped by Fakhar Zaman at second slip while chasing a wide one. Kohli was nervous in his start as many inside and outside edges came off his bat.

He showed signs of his authoritative self when he pulled through mid-wicket off Shahnawaz Dahani in the second over. After a top-edge

went over keeper's head for a six, Kohli's authority was visible in his slash through cover and whipping over mid-wicket to collect two boundaries.

Rohit Sharma, cautious till then, opened up in eighth over when he slog-swept Mohammad Nawaz over long-on. But the left-arm spinner had the last laugh as Rohit holed out to long-off on the final ball of the over. In his next over, Nawaz had

another big scalp as Kohli chipped straight to long-off.

Jadeja started off his promotion at number four by smacking Nawaz down the ground for a 98m six. He and Suryakumar Yadav got a four each and relied mainly on strike rotation to keep the scoreboard moving.

The 36-run stand was broken by Naseem, who knocked off Suryakumar's off-stump on the first ball of his second spell. With 41 needed off the last four overs, Jadeja and Hardik Pandya hanged in to bring the equation to 32 off the last three overs. Like India, Pakistan too were penalised for a slow over rate as one extra fielder came into the 30-year circle.

By then, Pakistan were struggling as their pacers got cramps and Jadeja survived an lbw appeal off Naseem Shah clearly in pain after a review showed the ball pitch-

Brief scores

Pakistan 147 all out in 19.5 overs (Mohammad Rizwan 43, Iftikhar Ahmed 28; Bhuvneshwar Kumar 4-26, Hardik Pandya 3-24) lost to India 148-5 in 19.4 overs (Virat Kohli 35, Ravindra Jadeja 35; Mohammad Nawaz 3-33, Naseem Shah 2-27) by five wickets

ing outside the leg-stump. On the very next ball, Jadeja lofted with a straight bat down the ground for six as India needed 21 runs off the last two overs.

On the third ball of the 19th over, Pandya flat-batted Haris Rauf over extra-cover and got a boundary as Babar chased the 'all, but couldn't stop it from hitting the boundary rope. Pandya then swatted Rauf over wide long-on and brought out a short-arm jab on the last ball for a four splitting deep mid-wicket and long-on for perfection.

With seven needed off the final over, Nawaz struck on the first ball as Jadeja was clean bowled while going for an expansive slog. Pandya finished off the match in style by clobbering Nawaz over long-on to win an absorbing contest.

Bayern fight to Gladbach draw, stay top ahead of next opponent Union

Berlin | Agencies

Champions Bayern Munich salvaged a late 1-1 draw against Borussia Monchengladbach on Saturday to remain top of the Bundesliga after match-day four -- on goal difference over their next opponents Union Berlin.

Germany winger Leroy Sane fired an 83rd-minute equaliser into the bottom left corner after Sadio Mane had two first-half goals disallowed for offside and Gladbach goalkeeper Yann Sommer had frustrated Bayern with 19 saves, the biggest number since data collecting started, according to statisticians Opta, reports.

Gladbach had taken the lead in the 43rd against the flow of play from Marcus Thuram after a terrible blunder from Bayern defender Dayot Upamecano, who had also looked bad in Bayern's 5-0 German Cup meltdown 10 months ago against Gladbach. Bayern dropped their first points of the season



ahead of their trip next Saturday to Union who celebrated their biggest Bundesliga victory 6-1 at Schalke earlier Saturday and are level on 10 points with them.

One point back are Hoffenheim, Freiburg and Borussia Dortmund, who returned to winning ways after their shocking meltdown from 2-0 up in the 89th to a 3-2 defeat against Werder Bremen last week with a 1-0 at lowly Hertha Berlin from the first goal by new signing Anthony Modeste. Bayern

dominated from the outset with Leroy Sane forcing Yann Sommer to an early big save before Sadio Mane thought he had scored in the 34th and 39th only for Sane to be offside on the first occasion and Mane himself offside on the second occasion. Elsewhere, nine-man Bayer Leverkusen got their first points of the season 3-0 in Mainz; RB Leipzig got a maiden victory 2-0 against Wolfsburg; Hoffenheim beat Augsburg 1-0; and Freiburg also won 1-0, against bottom side Bochum, on Friday.

Ruchita Vinerkar wins gold in Women's 10m Air Pistol T5 trials

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Ruchita Vinerkar of Railways claimed gold in the Women's 10m Air Pistol T5 national shooting trials after outclassing Divya T.S. of Karnataka at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range, here on Sunday.

Ruchita shot 16 while Divya only managed to shoot 14 in the selection trials final. Ruchita finished fourth in the qualifiers in the 294-strong field with a score of 576 after the allocated 60-shots. Divya was seventh with 574 while Maharashtra's Sakshi Suryavanshi topped with a score of 580. In the semifinal stage, Ruchita topped with 251.1 while Divya was second with 248.7, elevating both to the gold medal shootout. Haryana's Rhythm Sangwan was fourth with 248.4.

Haryana, however, claimed both the top spots in the Junior Women's T5 10m Air Pistol with Suruchi defeating Rhythm 17-15



in yet another close final. Suruchi had shot 568 to claim the seventh qualifying spot while Rhythm was second with a score of 579. In the Youth Women's 10m Air Pistol T5 category, it was Haryana's gold once again with Shikha Narwal getting the better of Ch'ndigarh's Sainyam, 17-9 in the final.

SERENA AND VENUS WILLIAMS RECEIVE DOUBLES WILD CARD

New York | Agencies

Serena Williams and Venus Williams will reunite for doubles at the U.S. Open after receiving a wild card for the tournament, which is set to begin on Monday.

The Williams sisters are two-time champions at the U.S. Open and will pair for the first time since 2018 Roland Garros. In addition to their 14 major doubles titles, the last of which came at 2016 Wimbledon, Serena and Venus have teamed to win three Olympic gold medals in doubles, winning in 2000, 2008, and 2012. The duo is the most recent team to hold all four major doubles titles at one time, having won 2009 Wimbledon, 2009 U.S. Open, 2010 Australian Open, and 2010 French



Open. Earlier this month, Serena confirmed the U.S. Open would be her final tournament before evolving away from tennis. In singles, she is set to face Montenegro's Danka Kovinic in the first round on Monday night Venus Williams will play her first-round match on Tuesday against Belgium's Alison Van Uytvanck.

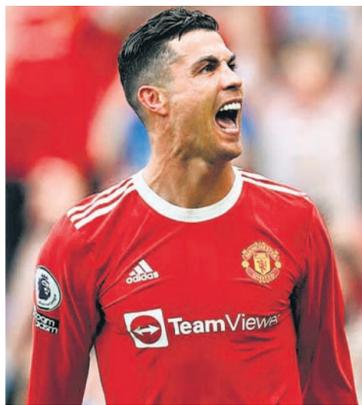
The USTA also announced additional doubles wildcards going to the other teams: Sophie Chang and Angela Kulikov, Robin Montgomery and CoCo Vandeweghe, Katrina Scott and Elizabeth Mandlik, Peyton Stearns and Ashlyn Krueger, Hailey Baptiste and Whitney Osuigwe Clervie Ngounou and Reese Brantmeier. The doubles competition begins on Wednesday.

We want Cristiano Ronaldo to stay, says Manchester United coach Erik ten Hag

London | Agencies

Coach Erik ten Hag is hopeful prolific striker Cristiano Ronaldo will stay at Manchester United. The Portugal forward has been linked with a move to a Champions League club before Thursday's transfer deadline and was again left out of Ten Hag's starting line-up for Saturday's 1-0 win over Southampton. Ronaldo came on after Bruno Fernandes had given the visitors the lead and at full-time stopped to salute the raucous United fans, leaving some to speculate he was saying goodbye, reports. But Ten Hag said, "We played with him. So we want him to stay. That is what we want. I hope so." Ten Hag reiterated his position when asked if he would be satisfied should United not add to their forwards this week, adding: "We have Cristiano Ronaldo, we have Anthony Martial, we have Marcus Rashford, so then we are OK."

Ronaldo, who came on for Jadon Sancho, was one of three substitutes Ten Hag made at St Mary's,



also swapping Anthony Elanga for new signing Casemiro in the 80th minute and Fred for Christian Eriksen in second-half stoppage time. Casemiro completed his transfer from Real Madrid on Monday and his new boss was pleased to get him involved.

"I think it was quite good for him to see what the Premier League is (like), its different style," Ten Hag said. "He has played some games, he played one time 90 minutes, but he is fit, he had a good pre-season with a lot of training sessions and now we have to integrate him in a team, in a way of play, and integrate him with his team-mates."

Victory was a second in a row for United, who had started the Ten Hag era by losing their first two Premier League games. But the former Ajax manager was pleased with the work rate of his side on the south coast. He said, "I know that, here in the Premier League, are the best coaches and the best players and the highest intensity, and always in a different way."

England skipper Stokes rates Test win against South Africa

Manchester | Agencies

Manchester: England skipper Ben Stokes has rated the Test victory against South Africa on Saturday as the finest this summer, attributing it to an "amazing team performance" and the "benchmark" the side has set for itself after Brendon McCullum took over as head coach. England dismissed the Proteas for a paltry 179 in the second innings to complete an innings and 85-run win and level the three-Test series 1-1 at Old Trafford.

Ben Stokes was declared 'Player of the Match' for his century and four wickets in the contest. This was England's fifth win in six Tests since Stokes and coach McCullum came together to lead the faltering side. On whether the win against South Africa was the finest this summer, Stokes was quoted as saying by Daily Mail: "When you take the last game into consideration, with the way we

managed to come back and put the performance in that we have done, you could say yes." England had suffered a crushing loss in the opening Test at Lord's, losing by an innings and 12 runs, with critics questioning their ultra-attacking style of play against a top Test-playing and competitive side like South Africa.

"It was an amazing team performance all-round. Cricket is about how you bat, bowl and field and I think the way we batted, bowled and fielded this whole game was the benchmark of the standards we set. We never let up," added the skipper. Stokes said he was determined to create his "own theatre" at Old Trafford after his 14-over-long spell led to the side levelling the series 1-1. The all-rounder took the crucial wickets of Keegan Petersen (42) and Rassie van der Dussen (41), when the two were well settled, before James Anderson and Ollie Robinson polished off the tail to seal victory.

HOCKEY: Superior Indian Navy tame CTC to win Independence Cup title

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Formidable Indian Navy underlined their supremacy with an authoritative 8-1 victory against Champions Training Centre (CTC) in the final of the Independence Cup hockey tournament, organised by the Mumbai Hockey Association Limited (MHAL).

The highlight of the Indian Navy's convincing win was the brilliance of consistent goal-scorer Rajat Sharma, who scored a fine hat-trick. Prashant S. chipped in with two goals while Pawan Rajbhar, Yogesh Malik, and I.E. Palangappa, all contributed one goal each at the MHAL Stadium, Churchgate, here.

The hard-working Manpreet Singh managed to pull one back for Champions Training Centre, who were at the receiving end, in the sec-



ond quarter. MHAL President Mangha Singh Bakshi presented the champions Indian Navy with the glittering trophy and a cash award of Rs 15,000, while Champions Training Centre received the runners-up trophy and a cash prize of Rs 10,000.

Results: Final: Indian Navy 8 (Rajat Sharma 3, Prashant S. 2, Pawan Rajbhar, Yogesh Malik, I.E. Palangappa) beat Champions Training Centre 1 (Manpreet Singh).

Durand Cup: TRAU FC REGISTER A THRILLING 2-1 WIN AGAINST ARMY RED

Imphal | Agencies

Tiddim Road Athletic Union (TRAU) FC notched up their first win of the season in Durand Cup, with a thrilling 2-1 victory over Army Red Football Team (ARFT) in a Group C clash at the Khuman Lampak stadium here on Sunday.

The Army Team looked the better one in the first half and went into the break with a 1-0 lead, courtesy of a Liton Shil strike, but goals from Boirangdao Bodo and L. Milan in the final nine minutes of regulation time completed a fine comeback performance by TRAU in the second half. The result makes it tougher for both teams, however, to make it through to the knockouts. The Army Red team looked the better side in the first half, creating the better and more chances at goal.

The first good chance came to TRAU when Khanngam got the ball at the edge of the 6-yard box but his lack of proper



control saw him miss a brilliant opportunity to take the lead.

In the 20th minute, it was the Reds' chance to miss going ahead as Deepak Singh, who had a great game on the right

flank, delivered a quality cross but Shubham Rana's header was just off target. Four minutes later, Khongsai missed from close as the Reds pressed on. They finally broke through in the 35th minute

of the game, thanks to some fantastic individual enterprise shown by their lone striker Liton Shil.

He was played on about 30 yards out from goal by Deepak from the right flank. Thereafter he beat his marker for pace, to burst inside the box and take a first-time right-footer on the run. Jedidi Haokip in the TRAU goal brought off a save, but Liton was at hand again to pounce on the rebound and slot it into the back of the goal. It was his second of the tournament.

Army Red finished the half with the lead as well as the larger share of possession. In the second half, TRAU continued to attack with pace but were lacking in creativity in the final third. The Army Red team seemed to be wanting to defend the one-goal advantage and were not creating as much as they were in the first. TRAU's tireless running, however, finally got them the purchase they were looking for as late as the 81st minute of the game.



'PURA SANSAR LEKE CHALNA PADTA HAI'

Nawazuddin Siddiqui dressing up like a woman for his next flick



Team Absolute | Mumbai

In his new film Haddi, Nawazuddin Siddiqui plays a transgender man. It's no surprise that the first image of him dressed as a woman in the upcoming revenge drama Haddi, directed by Akshat Ajay Sharma, has gone viral. His new avatar has everyone talking.

In an exclusive conversation with a leading portal Nawaz said, "It's just been a couple of days. We have started the shoot of Haddi I will be portraying two roles in the film - I play a woman and a transgender. These are two separate parts, it's a double role. Akshat had this script and wanted to make the film for almost four years. Akshat has worked as a second unit director in AK VS AK and Sacred Games. I have known him since the time he has worked with Anurag Kashyap. Now we are finally making this venture possible.

He said, "If I am playing a female character, I need to think like a woman and that's my test as an actor.

He also said, "It takes me three hours to get ready. Now I know why an actress may take longer than her male counterpart to get out of her vanity van. It's absolutely justified"

Outfit, hair, make-up, yeh sab toh theek hai... that's not my concern. There are experts to look into it and they know their job.

My concern is to get the internal thought process right. What do women think? What do they want? An actor's job is to get into the head of the character he plays. Your perception, outlook towards life as a woman is bound to be different and that is the most difficult part about Haddi for me. Ek aurat ke nazariyese duniya dekhni hogi. The film is not about costumes and gestures. The process is more internal and deep is what is my main concern I need to bring out to the audience.

The actor takes close to three hours daily to get his female look on point, hair, make-up and outfit. On this note, the actor shared, His daughter was very upset when she saw him dressed as a woman. She now knows that it's for a role and she understands that.

Kartik Aaryan has an adorable fan moment with little 'Rooh Baba'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood star Kartik Aaryan, who played Rooh Baba in one of the two biggest Bollywood hits of the year, 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2', had an adorable fan moment with a child who was seen dressed as the character.

Kartik shared a video on his Instagram where he can be seen with a young fan dressed as Rooh Baba, as he sings the famous 'Ami Je Tomar' from 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2'.

Impressed by is little fan, the actor wrote in the caption, "Chhote Rooh Baba Their unconditional love and affection is my biggest wealth #BhoolBhulaiyaa2."

Kartik, who has been one of the few Bollywood stars to have worked at the box-office this year, has a string of films in his kitty.

These include 'Shehzada', where he will share the screen with Kriti Sanon; 'Freddy', which will see him pairing up with Alaya F; 'Captain India' in which he will work with Hansal Mehta for the first time; Sajid Nadiadwala's 'Satyaprem Ki Katha', which will see him reuniting with his 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2' co-star Kiara Advani; and Kabir Khan's untitled next film.



HRITHIK TOUCHES FAN'S FEET, NETIZENS CALL HIM 'MOST HUMBLE SUPERSTAR'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood star Hrithik Roshan, who will be soon seen in the upcoming film 'Vikram Vedha', recently won the Internet's heart as he touched his fan's feet during an event recently.

Celebrity pap Viral Bhayani shared a video of a fitness event attended by Hrithik, on his social media, where the 'War' star can be seen dressed in a fluorescent T-shirt paired with white pants and a cap. As a fan came on stage to greet Hrithik, he touched the actor's feet.

In a reflex action, Hrithik bent down to touch the fan's feet leaving the netizens pleasantly surprised. Reacting to Hrithik's sweet gesture,

a fan wrote in the comment section, "So sweet of you @hrithikroshan." Complimenting the actor, fans called him a "very good superstar," and the "most humble superstar." Hrithik last film 'War', where he appeared alongside Tiger Shroff, was a blockbuster. The actor is returning to the big screen three years after his last outing with 'Vikram Vedha', which is a remake of the Vijay Sethupathi-R. Madhavan neo-noir action thriller film of the same name.

Director duo Pushkar-Gayathri, who helmed the original Tamil film, have directed the Hindi remake of the film as well. The film also stars Saif Ali Khan and is scheduled to release on September 30, 2022.

After marrying herself, Kanishka seeks justice for Sonali, SSR, Sidhu Moosewala

Team Absolute | Mumbai

'Pavitra Rishita' actress Kanishka Soni recently made headlines with her announcement of marrying herself and posting pictures with mangalsutra and sindoor.

Now, the actress has taken to her Instagram handle to ask for justice in the cases of Sonali Phogat, late Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala and actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

In the video she talks about joining Ramdas Athawale's political party in 2020 and seeking justice as an actor and politician for the artist fraternity in India. She says that in our society, married women are seen with respect and this is one of the reasons why she got married to herself.

Kanishka said: "Even if I am not in India, if anything wrong is happening, especially in our entertainment industry, it is my responsibility to raise my voice." "I came to know from my friends and social media that Sonali Phogat, who was a politician, Tik Tok star and also participated in 'Bigg Boss' has been raped and murdered by someone. I am really hurt and pray for the peace of her soul. But this is the reason I have taken this step because these kind of men, who are very close many times harms you and in fact can murder you."



Team Absolute | Chennai

Shraddha Das has hit back at those trolling her for complimenting Telugu anchor and actress Anasuya Bharadwaj on her looks, saying that it was pointless for them to troll her as she would only be blocking their accounts and deleting their tweets. Replying to trolls, Shraddha tweeted, "Guys, you will waste your time and energy abusing me, I only block and delete. So pointless. It's senseless for you to troll me for complimenting Anasuya Bharadwaj on her looks! Get well soon!"

The actress has come under attack from trolls for expressing solidarity with actress Anasuya Bharadwaj, who had warned those age-shaming her on social media that she would be retweeting every abuse to show as proof what happens to a woman who stands her ground for her respect. Anasuya Bharadwaj had also said that she would be taking a screenshot of every account abusing her and filing a case against them. Shraddha had complimented Anasuya saying, "You look younger than most women even half your age, stunning I would say! And hotter than most uncles double your age. Fan of you."



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Nia Sharma of 'Naagin 4' fame says it is an act of "stupidity" to link her with Paras Kalnawat, who is well-known in the TV universe for his role in 'Anupamaa'.

Reacting to the dating rumours going around since they were confirmed as contestants on 'Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa 10', Nia said that just because she is single, her name cannot be linked with anyone.

She said: "That was stupidity on the part of the media because we were confirmed as the first two contestants on the show and first time I met Paras Kalnawat was here on the show on the first day of the promo and I said, 'Hey, hi boyfriend', and he said, 'Hey, hi Nia, and apparently we're dating and all of that'. That's

'It is stupidity'

how we laugh. And so I mean, it is so frivolous for me to even be commenting and explaining this." Nia continued: "This is absolutely absurd that suddenly an article comes out about two confirmed contestants on the show dating each other. Just because I'm single I can't be linked to everybody. I may look single but I'm not available to everybody."

Sharing her excitement about joining the show and talking about her interest in dance, she said: "It has been a while, I have been working on myself, investing in myself to get better, and grooming myself.

Nia Sharma slams media for linking her with Paras Kalnawat

how we laugh. And so I mean, it is so frivolous for me to even be commenting and explaining

Pointless to troll me, Shraddha tells 'Liger' fans

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Akanksha Sharma