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BANGLADESH QUESTIONS SHEIKH MUJIB'S LEGACY

WORLD 8

HOUSE REPUBLICANS RELEASE IMPEACHMENT REPORT ON BIDEN

MONEY 10

SENSEX, NIFTY SETTLE ALMOST FLAT

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AHLAWAT, RASHID & MANE AMONG GOLFERS TO TEE OFF
11 SPORTS

CENTRE DEFENDS LAW AGAINST TRIPLE TALAQ



RAJESH KUMAR n NEW DELHI

Defending its 2019 Triple Talaq Law in the Supreme Court, the Modi Government has argued that the legislation was crucial for protecting the rights of Muslim women and promoting gender justice. In an affidavit filed in response to petitions challenging the law, the Government said despite the Supreme Court's 2017 ruling setting aside the practice, it has "not served as a sufficient deterrent reducing the number of divorces through this practice" within the community. The Government argued that the practice legitimised and

institutionalised the abandonment of wives by their husbands and was "neither Islamic nor legal." "Taking note of all these factors, we are of the considered view that the ordinance in question has been brought into force in accordance with the requirements of law only to make more effective implementation of the law laid down by the Supreme Court in the case of Shayara Bano vs Union of India (supra) in the form of an ordinance and we see no reason to make an indulgence into the matter," the Centre said in its 433-page counter affidavit reminding the court

of its own Constitution Bench judgment of 2017 in the Shayara Bano case, which had held triple or instant talaq (talaq-e-biddat) manifestly arbitrary. This comes in response to a plea by the Samastha Kerala Jamiathul Ulema, which sought a declaration that the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019, is unconstitutional and violative of Articles 14, 15, 21, and 123 of the Constitution. Triple talaq is a form of divorce that was practiced in Islam, in which a Muslim man could legally divorce his wife by pronouncing "talaq" three times.



Jammu attacked, yet again

MOHIT KANDHARI n JAMMU

One Inspector-rank CRPF officer was martyred on Monday when a heavily-armed group of Pakistani terrorists targeted an area domination patrol party comprising jawans of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Special Operations Group of Jammu Kashmir Police (JKP) in the remote Duddu Basantgarh area of Udhampur. The Monday attack, which occurred shortly after 3.00 pm in the thickly forested belt of Chel in Duddu, comes close on the heels of the announcement of the poll schedule by the Election Commission for Jammu and Kashmir Assembly. Till the time of filing the report, the operation in the area was going on and additional reinforcements

were rushed from the district headquarters to prevent the Pakistani terrorists from escaping. The joint team was carrying out a routine patrol when the attack from the Pakistani terrorists came. Official sources said an inspector of the CRPF belonging to the 187th Battalion was hit by a bullet and later succumbed to injuries while being taken to hospital. The incident has once again brought into focus the lack of human intelligence and ground support enjoyed by the Pakistani terrorists through their well-entrenched network of overground workers in the area. Confirming the attack on the joint patrol party, a spokesman of the Udhampur police posted a message on the microblogging site X claiming,

"During area domination patrol..., exchange of fire took place between terrorists and joint parties of JKP and CRPF. In the encounter, one Inspector of CRPF suffered bullet injuries and has attained martyrdom. Operation continues". Official sources claimed the same group of Pakistani terrorists has been shuttling in the thickly forested belt of Dudu Basantgarh for a long time and operations launched to neutralise them have not borne fruitful results. Last week, a young captain of the Indian Army sacrificed his life, on the eve of the 78th Independence Day celebrations, while leading an ongoing anti-terrorist operation aimed at flushing out Pakistani terrorists hiding in the forested belt of Assar in the Doda district of Jammu.

CBI prepares for Lie Detection

SAUGAR SENGUPTA n KOLKATA

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Monday obtained judicial permission to conduct a polygraph test on Sanjoy Roy, the prime accused in the RG Kar Medical College rape and murder case, sources said. The Central agency may also petition the court to conduct a similar test on Sandip Ghosh, the former principal of the college, who, according to agency sources, is "not fully cooperating" with the investigation. Roy, who was initially arrested by the Kolkata Police and later handed over to the CBI following a Calcutta High Court order, is the only accused arrested so far. According to sources, CBI officials have found that Roy, a civic volunteer attached to the Kolkata Police, visited RGMCH three times on the evening and night before August 9, when the body of the postgraduate lady doctor was discovered in a semi-nude condition. Roy first visited the hospital's surgery department at 6 pm to see a patient. He returned at 11 pm and proceeded directly to the seminar hall of the Department of Chest Medicine on the 3rd floor. Sources said he visited the same location again around 4 am the following morning, staying inside for about 30-35



Lawyers of Calcutta High Court stage a protest against alleged sexual assault and murder of a postgraduate trainee doctor, in Kolkata, on Monday PTI

minutes — the estimated time when the crime was committed, according to autopsy reports. A postgraduate trainee doctor was raped and murdered at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata while on duty last week leading to nationwide and even international protests demanding security for doctors. A polygraph test, commonly known as a lie detector test, measures physiological responses such as blood pressure, heart rate, and other indicators while the accused is asked a series of questions.

Delhi LG seeks action on infrastructure accidents

STAFF REPORTER n NEW DELHI

Taking a serious view of several deaths and disruptions in normal life in the city caused by severe waterlogging and flooding this monsoon due to "complete collapse of civic infrastructure", Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has directed Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar to submit a monthly report on the inspections conducted by senior officers of the state of civic infrastructure in the Capital.



File photo: Ranjan Dimri

In a written communication to the Chief Secretary, Ashish Kundra, the Principal Secretary to Saxena, said the LG has advised that an "institutionalised mechanism be put in place for regular inspections" by senior officers of the facilities under their charge. "It would help them get a first-hand feel of the core problems being faced by the citizens and take corrective policy or regulatory measures. The Chief Secretary shall circulate a uniform format of inspection report to all departments and submit a monthly report on the number of inspections done by each officer," read the letter. "Drains have not been desilted for years, sewer lines are choked leading to flooding even in planned colonies," he added. According to Saxena, all this points to a "complete absence

of senior management oversight" in the city, Kundra's letter said. Sharing the LG's directives on the issue, Kundra said all heads of departments (HoD), Secretaries, Principal Secretaries, or Additional Chief Secretaries need to "draw up a schedule of field inspections" and ensure that all assets or areas are inspected thoroughly. "The inspection note of the Principal Secretary or Secretary of the department shall be submitted to the Chief Secretary with a copy forwarded to the LG Secretariat and the Minister-in-Charge," he said. According to Saxena's directive, the inspection note should summarise the core problem observed with the corrective measures taken.

The report should be annexed with geo-tagged pictures of before and after the intervention. The communication to Kumar also fixes the frequency of inspections to be conducted by secretaries of the department concerned on a fortnightly basis while the HoDs have to do them on a weekly basis. The Principal Secretaries have also been advised to conduct inspections every fortnight. The officers have also been directed to review the institutional mechanisms prescribed under various Central and State Acts and ensure that these are fully functional, the letter read. "Formulation of any rules, authorities, boards under these laws should be taken up within three weeks," it added. The LG also insisted that there should be a robust mechanism of field inspections at district level under the district magistrates (DM). The inspection notes need to be submitted to the Divisional Commissioner who shall then send a consolidated note to the Chief Secretary, Kundra said. "District magistrates, SDMs and ADMS shall undertake inspection twice a week in areas of public delivery services, focusing on road infrastructure, drains, sewage management, education, transport, etc.

PM PROMISES RAKSHABANDHAN



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during Raksha Bandhan celebration with schoolchildren, in New Delhi, on Monday PTI

Airlines head North this festive season

PTI n NEW DELHI

Airfares are heading northwards for the festive season, with the average one-way ticket price on key domestic routes being 10-15 per cent more for Diwali and 20-25 per cent higher for certain flights to Kerala cities for Onam, according to an analysis. An analysis done by travel portal ixigo for PTI showed that the average one-way economy class fare for non-stop flight on Delhi-Chennai route during October 30-November 5 period is 25 per cent higher at ₹7,618. This is in comparison to the fare during November 10-16 period last year.

For the given comparison period, the ticket price is 21 per cent more at ₹5,162 on Mumbai-Hyderabad route and 19 per cent higher at ₹5,999 and at ₹4,930 on Delhi-Goa and Delhi-Ahmedabad routes, respectively. On certain other routes, fares are higher in the range of 1-16 per cent, as per the analysis. Ixigo's Group Co-CEO Rajnish Kumar said travel demand for Diwali is on the rise with airfares higher than last year. "Popular routes like Delhi-Chennai, Mumbai-Bengaluru, and Delhi-Hyderabad are seeing average one-way fares ranging between ₹4,000-5,000,



marking a 10-15 per cent Y-o-Y increase as the festival approaches," he said. On the other hand, fares have also dropped in the range of 1 per cent to 27 per cent on certain routes for the given comparison period. While the ticket price for Mumbai-Ahmedabad flight has declined 27 per cent to ₹2,508, the fall is 25 per cent at ₹4,890 for Mumbai-Udaipur flight. In the case of Bengaluru-Hyderabad flight, the fare has dropped by 23 per cent to ₹3,383 and by 21 per cent to ₹7,826 for Mumbai-Jammu flight, the analysis showed. Also, an analysis of airfare trends on select routes for the upcoming festival in Kerala

showed that prices have increased in the range of 1 per cent to 25 per cent on certain routes. At the same time, ticket prices have fallen around 6-35 per cent on some routes. The figures are average one-way fare for non-stop flights for departure during the September 6-15 period this year compared to August 20-29, 2023 period when Onam was celebrated. A 30 per cent rise in fare to ₹4,102 has been registered for Hyderabad-Thiruvananthapuram flight for the given comparison period. A similar quantum of increase is there for Mumbai-Calicut flight to ₹4,448. "Travel demand for Onam festivities has surged this year,

with flight bookings and searches for travel to Kerala in the second week of September doubling compared to last year. Average airfares to key cities like Cochin, Calicut, and Thiruvananthapuram have risen by 20-25 per cent year-on-year," Rajnish Kumar said. There have been persisting concerns over high airfares, especially during peak and festival seasons. Against this backdrop, Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu, earlier this month told Lok Sabha, that the ministry was planning to introduce an online mechanism to address grievances to ensure passengers were not exploited by unnecessary fare hikes.

Almost after 8 years

Students' Union polls to be held in 2025



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Almost after eight years, the Students' Union elections will be held in Odisha next year, informed Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan on Monday.

Harichandan told reporters, "The elections are usually held in the first week of September every year. After the BJP formed the government, we did not get enough time

to look into it this year. Colleges will be prepared for the polls this year and elections will be held next year."

"A decision in this regard has already been made and the Students'

Union election will be held from next year," he added.

Welcoming the announcement ABVP State secretary Arijit Patnaik said, "We have been demanding Students' Union elections since long. Even we have moved court on this issue."

"Conducting peaceful polls in the college is the responsibility of the government. However, the previous BJD government failed miserably. The Lyngdoh Commission's recommendations can work smoothly if there is no interference by any political parties," Patnaik added.

Notably, Students' Union polls have not taken place in the State since 2018 with an aim to maintain peace in campuses. The elections were put off due to Cyclone Titli in 2018 while the State Government once again called it off in 2019. The polls were also not conducted in 2020 and 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown.

On city outskirts

Tusker found dead; electrocution suspected

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A tusker, 'Ramu' was found dead in the Chandaka Wildlife Sanctuary on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar on Monday. Electrocution was suspected to have led to the death of the 40-year-old elephant.

Forest officials reached the spot after being informed by the Energy Department. The DFO said the reason of the animal's death can be ascertained after postmortem.

This came a day after a female elephant aged around 15 years was electrocuted to death in a forest

under the Naktideul Range of Rairakhol Division in Sambalpur district and a five-year-old male calf was mowed down by a goods train on the Rourkela-Bimlagarh line near Roxy of Barsuan Range under Bonai Forest Division in Sundargarh district.

Notably, in February, a 15-year-old elephant of the Chandaka sanctuary had died of injuries suffered after a crude bomb it had swallowed exploded in its mouth. The bomb, planted to hunt wild boars, was hidden in a pumpkin on the outskirts of the city.

Bangladesh unrest

Stranded Odia workers to be evacuated soon

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Labour & Employees' State Insurance Minister Ganesh Ram Singkhuntia on Monday said the workers from Odisha who were left behind in Bangladesh, which is steering through tumultuous times, would soon return to the home State.

"The State Government is concerned about the situation in the neighbouring country," he said, responding to reporters about crimes committed against Hindus in Bangladesh.

He informed that Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has called

a meeting to address the issue and create a plan for the repatriation of Odia workers from Bangladesh.

He stated that a list of workers who formally relocated from Odisha to Bangladesh is being prepared by the district administrations (labour authority). Following a review of this database, more measures would be implemented.

"After speaking with district officials, the matter will be put forth before the CM within two weeks. After consulting with Bangladeshi authorities, we will facilitate homecoming of workers whose records are missing," Singkhuntia said.

Sister ties Rakhi to CM



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A function was held at the State Guest here on Monday on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan in which girls from different schools, colleges and other organisations tied Rakhis to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi.

Majhi congratulated all on the holy Rakhi Purnima (Raksha Bandhan) and the Gahma

Purnima, the auspicious birthday of Lord Balabhadra. "I wish peace, prosperity for all the people of the State. I assure the safety and security of all. For the women, the government would implement the Subhadra Yojana soon," said the CM.

The Chief Minister's sister Rasamani Majhi initially tied Rakhi to her brother. Then Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida also tied Rakhi to the CM.

Sops for Emergency detainees in State hailed

Provide facilities on MP Govt model: LSS

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Welcoming the announcement made by CM Mohan Charan Majhi on August 15 to provide pension, free medical facility and free bus service to the detainees of Emergency period (1975-77), the Loktantra Senani Sangh (LSS), a national outfit of the Emergency detainees, expressed its sincere thanks and gratitude to the State Government.

Addressing reporters here, LSS

State president and former Minister, Bimbadhar Kuan expressed his satisfaction for the announcement made by the CM. Finally warriors of the Emergency period got justice after 50 years, he said.

LSS State general secretary, Sridhar Dash requested the Government to provide facilities in the manner adopted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh. He urged the State Govt to introduce the topic of the Emergency period in high school syllabus. Senior advisor of the LSS Krishna Jagdeb praised the dedications of warriors of the Emergency period by which democracy could be re-established.

Photography Day at Ketaki Foundation



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Ketaki Foundation Trust and the Silicon University successfully organised a unique programme 'obscura - a presentation and discussion on photography' here on the World Photography Day on Monday. Eminent photographers were invited to share their knowledge and experience with students.

Kapilas Bhuyan, journalist, writer and filmmaker, who is a Ketaki Foundation Trustee, welcomed the guests and the audience. Chief g Dr Jaideep Talukdar, Vice-Chancel-

lor, Silicon University, encouraged the students by his inspiring words.

Sanjoy Patnaik, filmmaker and writer, shared his experience on the topic "Sociology of moving images" with focus on youth and society. Ashis Dhir, well-known photographer, presented his journey of photography on "Tribals of Odisha". The programme was held in the presence of Jyotirnanjan Swain.

There was a question and answer session with experts interacting with budding photographers on various aspects of the art and skills of photography.

Interview of the week

Bhaskaracharya predicted Earth's shape 500 yrs before Newton



SUGYAN CHOUDHURY



PROF DR GOURANG CHANDRA MOHANTY

Prof Dr Gourang Chandra Mohanty hails from a non-descript village Godibandha in Narsinghapur tehsil of Cuttack District. Born in 1955 to an acute poor family, he had his schooling in the village and later completed secondary education from an Ashram School at Birtunga near Konark. He had his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Physics from Ravenshaw College. A brilliant student throughout the career, he had deep interest in Mathematics, especially Euclidean Geometry. He started pondering on the problem of trisection of angle devising several hitherto-unknown methods. This drew the attention of Prof Ramanath Mohanty, eminent mathematician and ex-Vice-Chancellor of Utkal University. He forwarded these for publication in national and international journals of mathematics. Gourang joined the newly-established Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar, where he conducted fundamental research in theoretical condensed matter physics on the topics of superconductivity and lattice dynamics leading to PhD in Physics. He then joined the Odisha Education Service and served in several leading colleges and universities of Odisha. He had his superannuation in 2013. He had supervised dissertations of 17 MPhil and eight PhD scholars to his credit. He has published innumerable popular science articles.

In an interview to **The Pioneer**, Prof Mohanty spoke to Sugyan Choudhury and dealt with the immense contributions of ancient Indians to the realm of physics, which should be included in curriculum.

Although initially interested in mathematics, what inspired you to pursue a career in physics?

In school days, I was very much interested in mathematics. While learning geometry in Class-VI, I asked my teacher about trisection of the angle because there was no method mentioned in the text books. The teacher simply replied that nothing is mentioned about this in the book. But I was not satisfied and pursued asking about the same in high school and college days, but there was not positive answer from anyone. In Class-IX, I deduced an algebraic equation re-

lating the radius of a circle, cord of an arc subtended by an angle and cord corresponding to one-third angle. However I could not find the geometrical solution even though I asked several of my teachers. I discovered a new method for angle trisection during my BSc first year. It was published in the journal "The Mathematics Teacher". Around 10 more papers were published within two years on the same and related topics in various journals. However, while studying ISc, the subject of physics became more interesting to me because it is intimately related to every aspect of our day-to-day life like heat, light, magnetism, electronics and medical instruments used for diagnosing and treating diseases and so on, besides studying creation and evolution of the universe. So my inquisitive mind urged me to take up higher studies and research in physics. In particular, my PhD work involved condensed matter physics owing to a savant teacher, Prof SN Behera, who incidentally became my guide.

How do you integrate interdisciplinary approaches into research in physics?

My subject of research 'Condensed Matter Physics', which deals with the structure and properties of solid, is inherently a blend of atomic and molecular physics together with chemistry, material science, instrumentation, crystallography, etc. The preparation and synthesis of materials deals with chemistry and material science while study of characteristics needs crystallography and instrumentation. Going beyond my PhD work, I have further delved into Nano Physics, Chemical Physics and Ultra Sonics which were the subject matter of PhD scholars.

What contributions did ancient Indian scholars make to the field of physics and astronomy?

Many concepts of physics were known to the ancient Indian scholars. The great Rishi 'Kand' proposed the concept of atoms/molecules (the smallest constituents of matter = kana) in his philosophical text of "Vaishesika Darshan". The Panchabhuta (Five elementary entities) Kshiti (Earth), Apa (Water), Teja (Fire), Marut (Air) and Vyoma (Empty space/sky) were described in Upanishads as the constituent

entities of all matters in general (solid/liquid/gas). The concept of gravitation (which is supposed to be discovered by Newton in 18th century) was clearly mentioned in the astronomical text "Goladhya" by Bhaskaracharya more than half a thousand years before Newton in the form of verses. This means there is an inherent attraction of earth on the massive objects in space, due to which the object appears to fall. Otherwise, which body will fall onto what when they are similarly placed in space? Nowadays, it is supposed that String theory is the origin of the creation where all objects are created due to certain modes of vibration of vacuum. This is similar to a long-known verse "Spandanat Sushthi" in the Vedas which means that all the creations are due to vibrations. Even the sacred sound 'Om' is said to be Nada Bramha (basic sound /vibration), from which the entire universe originated.

Will you please elaborate on the works of Indian astronomers?

Ancient Indian astronomers like Arybhata, Bhaskaracharya, Pathani Samanta made minute observations on the positions and motion of stars, planets and satellite (Sun, Earth, Moon, etc) at different places/positions on earth and at different times of the year. They also predicted their positions throughout the year at different places with amazing accuracy about the occurrence of solar and lunar eclipses. Astonishingly, a few famous verses of Goladhya by Bhaskaracharya imply that earth is spherical in shape and moves around the sun in space. The shape of the earth is spherical being slightly flattened at the north and south regions (Poles). The earth is moving but appears to be stationary and the sphere of earth is located in the space. These have been referred to by Swami Niganananda in his famous text 'Jnaniguru'. Even after 77 years of independence, our educational system does not adequately cover the achievements of Bhaskaracharya, Aryabhata and Rishi Kanada. There is an urgent need to revise the syllabus to include the significant contributions of our Indian sages and to teach our children about their invaluable discoveries.

How do you compromise between science and spiritualism, which are apparently divergent?

I think science and spiritualism are not contradictory but complementary; the former deals with interactions of physical matter and energy through fundamental forces and the later deals with finer (Sukshma) aspects of consciousness beyond coarse (sthula) matter and energy baffling physical experiments and can be realised only through yogic meditation and law. It is said "spiritualism begins where science ends".

SAKAR holds I-Day with slum kids

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The children of Mundasahi Slum, under the aegis of SAKAR, celebrated the 78th Independence Day with great enthusiasm and patriotism, beginning with the hoisting of the national flag by chief guest General Manager, Jindal Steel Works, Bhubaneswar, Pulin Sahoo.

Chief guest Sahoo motivated the children on the occasion by his speech. Guest of honor, former Scientist, National Informatics Center, Bhubaneswar Dr Rama Krishna Dash shared a poignant story of a freedom fighter from Odisha and emphasized the need of education



for the development of one's self. Teachers Abhijit Sahoo, Jaya Laxmi Sahu, Priyanka Nayak, Mrssusmita and many children spoke at the event.

Prizes and school uniforms were

distributed by the guests to the winners of various competitions. Saroj Kumar Patra sponsored the uniforms. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by SAKAR activist Priyanka Nayak.

Denied ATM card, engineer kills father in B'pur

Accused and his transgender wife arrested

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

In a shocking incident, a man and his transgender wife allegedly killed his father after the latter reportedly denied giving his ATM card to them. The incident has been reported from Ayodhya Nagar under the Baidyanathpur police limits in Brahmapur.

The deceased was Gariba Bandhu Panda (74), a retired Odisha Government employee while the accused were identified as Sandip and his



wife Shriya. Sandip is an engineer in profession and was staying in Mumbai. His wife left him after she came to know about his relationship with a transgender.

wife Shriya recently shifted to Odisha and were staying with Gariba Bandhu for the last few months.

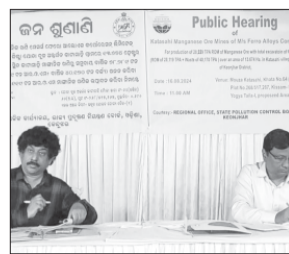
According to the Brahmapur Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO), the

accused and his transgender wife assaulted their father after the latter denied giving them his ATM card. Fumed over the denial, the duo banged Gariba Bandhu's head against the wall leaving him critically injured on August 14.

Later, they took him to the MKCG Medical College Hospital on August 16 where doctors declared him dead, the SDPO informed, adding that the accused attempted to give the murder an accident angle.

Meanwhile, police have arrested the two accused and forwarded them to court. Further investigation into the matter was underway.

Hearing for Katamati Mines held



PNS ■ KEONJHAR

A public hearing for environmental clearance of production of 28,229 TPA of ROM of manganese along with excavation of 68,289 TPA of manganese ore from Katamati Manganese ores mines of Ferro Alloys Corporation, a Vedant Group company, was held at Katasahi un-

der Joda block of Keonjhar district. A total of 44 people opined in favour of company and 224 people submitted their written opinion to Keonjhar ADM Jadumani Mahala, who presided over the programme.

The locals' main demand was for employment to the local youths, development of roads, protection of the environment including the river Sona flowing nearby.

State Pollution Control Board, Regional Officer, Keonjhar Prashanta Kumar Kar coordinated the meeting. Champuka Sub-Collector Umakanta Parida and Barbil Tehsildar DS Joshi were present among others.

IN BRIEF

Teachers, students tie Rakhi to police officers

Bhubaneswar: On the occasion of Raksha Bandhan, Puspita Upadhyaya, Vice-Principal of Bhubaneswar Model Public School, Takshyasila, along with her colleagues and students, chose to celebrate the day with police officers who protect our lives. They tied sacred threads (Rakhis) on the wrists of Com-



missioner of Police Sanjeeb Panda and DCP Prateek Singh. The event that took place at the Police Sewa Bhawan strengthened the bond between the police and the public, boosting the morale of police officers.

Brahmakumaris celebrate Raksha Bandhan

Bhubaneswar: Brahmakumari Sister Geeta accompanied by several other Brahmakumaris tied Rakhi to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi at the State Guest House on Monday.



Besides, Brahmakumaris tied Rakhi to over 500 brothers and sisters at their main service centre here.

DAVians observe Meher Jayanti

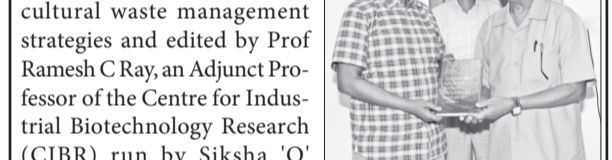
Bhubaneswar: DAVians of Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar observed the 162nd birth anniversary of Swabhab Kabi



Gangadhar Meher amidst various events in the school premises on Monday.

SOA chief releases book on agri waste management

Bhubaneswar: A book exploring the state-of-the-art knowledge and innovation in agricultural waste management strategies and edited by Prof Ramesh C Ray, an Adjunct Professor of the Centre for Industrial Biotechnology Research (CIBR) run by Siksha 'O'



Anusandhan (SOA), was released by SOA's founder President Prof (Dr) Manojranjan Nayak here on Saturday. Prof Ray is one of the three co-editors of the book titled 'Transforming Agriculture Residues for Sustainable Development: From Waste to Wealth' the other two being Prof Jaya Arora and Abhishek Joshi of Botany Department of the Mohanlal Sukhadia University at Udaipur in Rajasthan.

Olympian Amit Rohidas felicitated by ECoR

Bhubaneswar: The East Coast Railway on Saturday felicitated hockey Olympian Amit Rohidas. Amit, a crucial member of Indian Men's Hockey Squad and ECoR Sports Officer, was honoured by ECoR General Manager Parmeshwar Funkwal.



Amit secured a bronze medal at the recent Paris Olympics. Funkwal said Amit is an inspiration to young hockey players and enthusiasts alike. He said that under Amit's guidance, the East Coast Railway's sports programmes would reach new heights, further promoting the spirit of sportsmanship and excellence within the organisation.

In Brahmapur Minor boy stabs 13-yr cousin sister to death

Flees after incident

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

A 14-year-old boy allegedly stabbed his minor cousin sister to death at Seventh Lane under the Bada Bazaar police station in Brahmapur on Monday.

The deceased was identified as Prajukta Panigrahi (13) while the accused is Asutosh Panigrahi (14).

According to sources, the deceased along with her family members had gone to her relatives' house to attend a

death anniversary ceremony. Suddenly, Asutosh attacked Prajukta and his cousin brother Ayushman with a knife. However, the exact reason behind the attack was not known.

While Prajukta succumbed to her injuries, Ayushman sustained grievous injuries in the attack. Ayushman was immediately shifted to a private hospital in Bhubaneswar and his condition was stated to be critical.

The accused fled the spot after committing the crime. Police began an investigation into the matter.

Are Bengali settlers in K'pada illegal B'deshi immigrants?

Question leaves many worried after Law Min's warning of fresh identification drive

RAJESSH BEHERA ■ KENDRAPADA

An uncertain future is now waiting several Bengali speaking people in Mahakalapada and Rajnagar areas in Kendrapada district after the State Government issued a warning of conducting a Bangladeshi identification drive and deporting them from their homes where they have been staying for several

generations. Many native people have also established matrimonial relations with these Bengali settlers by marrying their daughters off in their families. They are now staying perplexed and worried about the fate of their girls.

The question is if a female proves herself as Indian in the identification drive of Bangladeshi immigrants when her spouse and in-laws fail to submit valid documents and are identified as Bangladeshis in the inquiry, then what would be her fate.

Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan recently stated that illegal Bangladeshi immigrants, who have come on several occasions and settled here without any valid documents will be identified and deported soon.

On the contrary, many Bengali settlers have welcomed the move. "Due to faulty enumeration drive, we were served Quit India notices despite the fact that we are India citizens. Now, the State Government will carry out a drive to identify Bangladeshi immigrants living in the State, including Kendrapada. We will get an opportunity to prove ourselves by submitting documents that we are Indians," said several Bengali speaking families, who were served quit-India notices and have been leading a cursed life

by being mistaken as Bangladeshis.

As long as the State Government will not declare them as Indian citizens, they would be treated as Bangladeshi immigrants. This will have a bad impact on their social life as the natives are shying away from establishing any relation with them, let alone matrimonial alliance.

It may be noted that quit-India notices were served to many settlers in the Mahakalapada and Rajnagar blocks in Kendrapada district about 19 years back. About 1,551 people were asked to quit the country in 2005 under the Foreign Act, 1948 here in the district.

Kolkata rape, murder Docs' stir for security hits services at MKCG

RAJEEV RATHAN ■ BRAHMAPUR

The arrest of the main suspect in the horrific rape and murder of a trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical College in Kolkata has provided a small measure of relief but the incident has ignited widespread protests that show no signs of abating. The crime, which occurred in a setting meant to be safe for professionals, has sparked a national movement among doctors, demanding immediate action to protect those in the healthcare sector.

In response to the incident, the Indian Medical Association (IMA) has launched a nationwide protest, pushing for the swift implementation of a Central Protection Act designed to safeguard healthcare professionals from violence. They argue that this is not just a matter of law enforcement but a societal issue that reflects deep-rooted problems in how women and professionals are perceived and treated.

The situation has resonated deeply in Brahmapur, where the Junior Doctors Association at the Maharaja Krushna



Chandra Gajapati (MKCG) Medical College has taken a strong stand. Doctors at the MKCG have shut down all non-essential services, including OPD services, which were completely closed on Saturday and will continue on coming days. The closure has left patients without access to critical care, but doctors insist that such drastic measures are necessary to highlight the gravity of the situation and the urgent need for change.

The medical students and doctors at the MKCG have

long expressed concerns about their safety, leading to multiple protests and demonstrations by both PG and UG students' unions. Despite frequent meetings and discussions with the college administration and even appeals to the Health Minister, the issues have remained unresolved, limited to mere talks without any concrete action.

In addition to demanding stronger security measures, the medical community is calling for a reassessment of societal attitudes that allow such crimes

to occur. The brutality inflicted on the young doctor in Kolkata has drawn painful comparisons to past cases, such as the Nirbhaya case and serves as a grim reminder of the ongoing threat to women in India.

Even though CCTV cameras have been installed in various locations in the MKCG, many remain non-functional, exacerbating fears. The students have demanded deployment of more security personnel, barricading of various entry points, and regular police patrolling around the campus.

Dhamra Port holds eye checkup camp



To cover 3.5K school kids, 5K truck drivers, 600 SHG women

PNS ■ DHAMAR

The CSR department of the Adani Dhamra Port in association with the Vision Spring Foundation took initiative for the free eye test and spectacles distribution for school children, truck drivers and SHG women in the port region.

A camp set up for the purpose was inaugurated by Dhamra Port CEO Devendra Thakar at Vivekananda High School, Koithakhola on Sunday.

Banabihari Maity (founder VN High School), Ashok Pandit (social worker) and Ashish Dash (Head, Corporate Affairs) were present along with the CSR Team at the school premises during the camp inauguration.

CSR Head Adani Dhamra Port Asit Kumar Bisoi informed that the objective of the camp is to spread awareness on eye disorders and their early detection. The camp will continue up to the next 45 days and will cover 3,500 school children, 5,000 truck drivers and 600 SHG women. Also, all will be screened for the spectacle number correction, and they will be provided with free spectacles.

August 20: World Mosquito Day Malaria kills over five lakh people every year

SUNDARA NARAYANA PATRO

When Ronald Ross discovered in 1897 that mosquitoes transmit malaria, he revolutionised our understanding of the disease and led to increased awareness about malaria prevention.

Today, the best way to prevent the disease is to avoid bites by infected mosquitoes. Insecticide-treated nets, preventive treatment for pregnant women and infants and indoor residual spraying are all ways to reduce transmission, but the prevalence of mosqui-



toes in hard-hit areas like Sub-Saharan Africa pose a challenge to eradication measures. Mosquitoes, those tiny blood-sucking insects, are responsible for transmitting serious diseases such as malaria. With no vaccine currently available, malaria, an ancient

disease that began afflicting humans from the beginning of agriculture and modern civilisation remains a deadly threat to people around the world.

Caused by Plasmodium parasites, malaria shows up in historic texts as far back as the first

millennium BCE. In fact, the first traces of malaria parasites were found in mosquito remains that are over 30 million years old!

Malaria has affected every continent except Antarctica and remains a widespread problem in parts of the world including Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and the Caribbean.

Over 200 million people still contract malaria each year. In 2010, 90% of malaria deaths occurred in Africa. The World Health Organisation reports concerns about drug-resistant malaria, which can hamper efforts to reduce the spread of

the disease. The World Mosquito Day honours the date when Sir Ronald Ross, a British Army surgeon working in India, proved that mosquitoes transmit malaria by identifying pigmented malaria parasites in mosquitoes that fed on an infected patient. This discovery revolutionised our knowledge of the disease and led to new preventive measures. Ross won the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 1902.

Ross declared the first World Mosquito Day then and there, stating that the world must be made aware of the link between

mosquitoes and malaria. Although an improved understanding of the disease has led to more innovative preventive measures and medical treatments, a malaria vaccine remains elusive.

The day's theme for 2024 is "Accelerating the fight against malaria for a more equitable world". It stresses the need to address the gaps in accessing malaria prevention, detection and treatment. We can defeat the deadly disease by maintaining good hygiene and keeping our surroundings clean.

(Dr Patro is president, Orissa Environmental Society)