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US FOR INTERNAL FAILURES

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MONEY 10
SENSEX TUMBLES
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CBI TO PROBE KOLKATA'S BESTIAL RAPE AND MURDER CASE

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In a verdict welcomed by the medical fraternity which was fearing destruction of evidence by the State police in the brutal rape and murder of a resident doctor of RG Kar Medical College Hospital, Kolkata, in the medical college's seminar hall, the Calcutta High Court on Tuesday ordered a court-monitored probe by the CBI into the crime.

Ironically, R G Kar Medical College Hospital was considered till a few years ago the best medical college in eastern India.

The Bench of Chief Justice TS Sivagnanam and Justice Hiranmay Bhattacharya, hearing five public interest litigations (PIL) and a private plea, in its order directed the Kolkata Police to immediately hand over the case diary to the CBI official present in the court.

Other related documents are to be handed over to the Central agency by 10 am on Wednesday. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had on Monday set the State police a deadline till Sunday to crack the case failing which, she warned, she would consider transferring the case to the Central agency. The agitators demanding justice for the 31-year-old victim, however, took the Chief Minister's decision with a pinch of salt wondering whether she was giving the



police some extra bit of time to tamper with or destroy evidence. They also questioned her move to transfer Sandip Ghosh the principal of the RG Kar Medical College to the NRS Medical College. "While passing the order, the court was particularly perturbed at the facts that the college authorities did not lodge any FIR and tried to let the crime pass as a suicide case whereas the police registered an unnatural death (UD) case, ..." there was clearly something in it and some people (the authorities) were trying to protect which could not escape the High Court justices' notice," Kaustav Bagchi, a BJP leader and a lawyer who is also one of the petitioners said.



The post-graduate student who was sleeping inside the seminar hall at the medical college after completing 36-hours of work was on Friday morning found dead with her body in a semi-nude condition setting off massive protests by doctors across the State. Later,

resident doctors in several cities in other States, too, joined the agitation for bringing the culprit/culprits to justice. Apparently, in a damage control exercise, the Kolkata Police immediately set up a special investigation team, and arrested one Sanjay Roy, a civic volunteer. However, the resident doctors said there were other insiders with high connections involved in the crime. They also attacked the principal for calling him the fountainhead of "everything that is bad and deplorable in the college". The court on its part wondered why the Health Department transferred Ghosh to the NRS Medical

College within hours of his resigning from his post following intense public outcry. The judges directed the Health Department to force the principal to go on long leave which he did by the end of the day.

The medical students across the State, including those of the RGKMCH, however, said they were not immediately calling off the 'cease work' stir and would take a decision only after a general body meeting. Welcoming the court order, Bengal Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari said his "next step would be to demand the resignation of the Health Minister Mamata who is also the Chief Minister."

He said, "The BJP MLAs will start a dharna at the State Assembly from tomorrow seeking her resignation... because she had gone to the victim's house not to express her sympathy but to 'manage' her family... this Ghosh who is a real racketeer and is close to Dr SP Das, the family physician of the Chief Minister, and so he does whatever he wants... the principal and the TMC students union have held the college to ransom... the situation is almost the same in other medical colleges of the State... these are a den of corruption and everyone knows where the money goes... so Mamata gave the principal a reward posting him elsewhere after he resigned."



Junior doctors take part in protest at the Rani Chennamma Circle against the rape and murder of a trainee doctor in Kolkata, in Hubballi, on Tuesday



Doctors and medical students protest against the sexual assault and killing of a Kolkata based post-graduate trainee doctor, at Nair Hospital in Mumbai, on Tuesday

National Fury: How we treat our women, our saviours, a Doctor!

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Medical services such as working of Outpatient Departments (OPDs) and non-emergency surgeries at various Government hospitals across the country, including the national Capital, continued to remain paralysed on Tuesday as the resident doctors' agitation against the rape-murder of a trainee doctor in Kolkata. On Tuesday, more resident doctors joined the strike led by the Federation of Resident Doctors' Association (FORDA). The incident has sparked widespread protests, with over three lakh junior doctors and healthcare

workers expressing deep concern over their safety. Amid the strike led by the FORDA, which said "the strike will not be lifted until justice is done and our demands are met", the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued notices to the West Bengal Government and the State's police chief in the matter. The commission on Tuesday said it has sought the reports from these authorities in two weeks. However, acting tough, as the Delhi AIIMS' Resident Doctors' Association (RDA) continued their indefinite strike on Tuesday too, the hospital administration warned them against holding any demonstration

on or around the hospital campus stating it was in violation of High Court directions and amounts to contempt of court. The administration issued an office memorandum drawing the attention of all resident doctors to the "Code of Conduct" as laid down by the High Court. It further stated that the violation of the High Court orders by the individual/students/employees/group of employees, students/Resident Doctors/Associations/Unions etc will be in contravention of the directions of High Court and make them liable for disciplinary actions and also for contempt of court. **Continued on Page 2**



Union Health Minister JP Nadda speaks on the RG Medical College rape and murder incident, in New Delhi, on Tuesday

Union Health Minister JP Nadda in damage control mode

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Days after the tragic sexual assault and murder of a post-graduate student at a medical college in West Bengal triggering nationwide agitation, Union Health Minister and BJP national president JP Nadda on Tuesday condemned the incident and hoped that the CBI probe will bring out the truth in the case. However, Nadda did not commit to implementing new laws related to the safety of doctors, a key demand of the medical community which under the banner of the Federation of Resident Doctors Association (FORDA) has been on strike, disrupting medical services in the hospitals. He, however, assured that the Central Government would take necessary actions against those involved in the incident and promised to address the broader concerns raised by doctors.

order. Lawlessness is at its peak and the sad thing is that atrocities on women are increasing day by day and all this happening despite the State having a woman Chief Minister. This is even more worrying. "I would also like to say the way the West Bengal Government has tried to hush up and suppress this case, is condemnable in the strongest terms. I welcome the decision of the High Court for the CBI enquiry. The CBI enquiry will bring out the truth." Regarding his meeting with the delegations of Doctors' Association in the last two days, he said he has assured them that the Central Government will take action against anyone connected with this incident. "I will definitely find a remedy for this and I am sure that whatever steps are necessary for this, the Government and the Ministry will take them." Meanwhile, the National Medical Commission (NMC), as directed by the Health Minister, issued advisory to all the medical colleges to ensure a safe working environment for doctors across the country. The advisory said, "Incidents of violence against doctors in medical colleges have been reported in recent past. All medical colleges are requested to develop a policy for creation of a safe work environment within the college and hospital campus for doctors. **Continued on Page 2**

New Bangladesh regime reaches out to Hindus

PTI ■ DHAKA

Reaching out to the distressed Hindu community members at the famous Dhakeshwari Temple here, Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus on Tuesday urged the people to "exercise patience" before judging his Government's role. Yunus, who took charge as the Chief Advisor of the interim Government on August 8 amid ongoing violence and vandalism, including against the minorities, also said each one's rights should be ensured "institutional decay" for the predicament that his country



Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus with Hindu community members at the famous Dhakeshwari Temple in Dhaka, on Tuesday

has fallen into. The meeting comes close on the heels of attacks on the minority Hindu population, vandalism of their

business and properties and devastation of Hindu temples hours in the violence that ensued for days following the ouster of Prime

Minister Sheikh Hasina on August 5. Dhakeshwari temple is one of the prominent shakti peethas. Meanwhile, the apex body of Hindus in Bangladesh on Tuesday said the minority Hindu community faced attacks and threats in 278 locations across 48 districts since the fall of the Hasina-led Government on August 5 and termed it as an "assault on the Hindu religion." The Bangladesh National Hindu Grand Alliance members also pointed to the increase in attacks in recent times and asserted, "We too have rights in this country, we were born here." **Continued on Page 2**

Sheikh Hasina booked for murder

PTI ■ DHAKA

Bangladesh's deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and six others, including two senior Ministers of her Cabinet and the sacked police chief, would face trial on murder charges, court officials said on Tuesday. The murder case filed against 76-year-old Hasina is the first so far against her since she resigned and fled to India on August 5. She and six



others over the death of a grocery shop owner during last month's violent clashes that led to the fall of her Government. **Continued on Page 2**

Delhi LG nominates minister Kailash Gahlot to hoist national flag on I Day

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Uncertainty over who will hoist the national flag in the absence of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, ended on Tuesday after Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena nominated Delhi Home Minister Kailash Gahlot to hoist the national flag at State Government function on Independence Day at Chhatrasaal Stadium. A controversy erupted with the jailed Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal directing Cabinet member Atishi to do the same. "Lieutenant Governor is pleased to nominate Minister (Home), GNCTD,



Delhi LG VK Saxena with Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot during foundation stone laying of multi-level electric bus depot, in New Delhi, on Tuesday

Kailash Gahlot to unfurl the National Flag at the State level Independence Day celebrations at Chhatrasaal

Stadium. Necessary arrangements may be made accordingly," Lieutenant Governor's principal

secretary Ashish Kundra said in a written communication to Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar. Contrary to Kejriwal's wish, Atishi won't be able to hoist Tricolour during the State Government function on the occasion of Independence Day. This year, because Kejriwal has been in custody since March in connection with the excise policy case, the AAP convener, nominated Atishi to replace him in a letter to the Lieutenant Governor on August 6. This is the first time both AAP and Delhi BJP are on the same page and welcomed the LG's decision. **Continued on Page 2**

Illuminated ahead of I-Day



Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus illuminated ahead of the Independence Day, in Mumbai, on Tuesday

Supreme Court closes contempt case on Baba Ramdev

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a relief to yoga guru Ramdev, his aide Balkrishna and Patanjali Ayurved Limited, the Supreme Court on Tuesday closed the contempt proceedings initiated against them for "violation" of the undertakings given before the court in the misleading advertisements case. While the apex court accepted their apology and closed the matter, it cautioned them to strictly abide by the terms of

their undertakings. "Any future intransigence on their part, whether by act, deed or speech that could tantamount to violating the orders of the court or dishonouring the terms of the undertakings, shall be viewed strictly and the ensuing consequences could indeed be grave," a bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Ahsanuddin Amanullah said. "In that eventuality, the sword of contempt that has now been returned to rest in its sheath,



shall be flourished as swiftly as these proceedings were originally initiated," the bench said in its 41-page verdict. The contempt proceedings was initiated by the top court which is hearing a plea filed by the Indian Medical Association alleging a smear campaign against the Covid vaccination drive and modern systems of medicine. In its November 21, 2023 order passed in the matter, the top court had noted that the counsel representing Patanjali

Ayurved had assured it that "henceforth there shall not be any violation of any law(s), especially relating to advertising or branding of products manufactured and marketed by it and, further, that no casual statements claiming medicinal efficacy or against any system of medicine will be released to the media in any form". The top court had said Patanjali Ayurved Ltd is "bound down to such assurance". **Continued on Page 2**

Fielding wife against Supriya in LS polls a mistake: Ajit

T N RAGHUNATHA ■
MUMBAI

In a public admission of an error for the second time in less than a week in the run-up to the forthcoming State Assembly polls, Maharashtra deputy chief minister and NCP (AP) Ajit Pawar has said that he had made a "mistake" of fielding his wife Sunetra Pawar against his cousin Supriya Sule in the recent Lok Sabha polls. Within days after going to town admitting that the Centre's move to ban onion export late last year was a mistake which cost the ruling MahaYuti dearly in the recently Lok Sabha polls, Ajit Pawar pushed the BJP-led

state government's women-oriented flagship scheme "Mukhya Mantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana" by admitting his mistake of mixing politics with family. The ruling MahaYuti - comprising BJP, Shiv Sena (Eknath Shinde) and NCP (Ajit Pawar) is banking heavily on the "Mukhya Mantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana" populist scheme in the State Assembly polls to be held in October this year. The scheme is aimed at providing financial assistance of Rs 1,500 per month to women in the state. Speaking to a Marathi news channel during his ongoing people outreach programme "Jan Samman Yatra", Ajit Pawar expressed his regret

over mixing politics with family in matters relating to his decision to field his wife Sunetra as a candidate against his cousin and sitting NCP (SP) MP Supriya Sule in the recent Lok Sabha polls from the family pocket-borough of Baramati constituency. "Politics should not be allowed to enter the home, where I made a mistake. I should not have fielded Sunetra against my sister," the NCP (AP) chief said. The contest between Supriya and Sunetra Pawar was the talking point of the Lok Sabha polls. Supriya, a sitting MP and daughter of NCP (SP) supremo Sharad Pawar, trounced her sister-in-law Sunetra by a margin of 1.58



lakh votes in the polls in the Baramati poll, Supriya polled 7,32,312 votes, Sunetra secured 5,73,979 votes. It is another matter that after her defeat, the NCP (AP) sent Sunetra to Rajya Sabha in the RS by-poll held in June this year. Ajit Pawar's expression of

remorse comes four days after Ajit Pawar apologised to the people, particularly women, for the Centre's decision to ban the onion export in December last year, a decision that had an adverse impact on the onion growing farmers in the state. Interacting with farmers, women, and traditional Maharashtra "paithani saree" weavers at Niphad in Nashik district, a major onion production hub, Ajit Pawar said: "I admit that onion export ban was a mistake. I apologise for that mistake. There will be no onion export ban again. I have told the central government and we in the state government have agreed that there will be no ban on

onion export," Pawar said. Seeking to keep the women voters in the state in good humour, Ajit Pawar—who also holds the State Finance portfolio - announced that the first instalment of Rs 1,500 under the "Mukhya Mantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana" will be released to women across Maharashtra on August 17. In the Lok Sabha polls, the ruling 'Mahayuti' (grand alliance) put up a poor performance by winning just 17 out of 48 seats (BJP-9, Eknath Shinde-headed Shiv Sena-7 and Ajit Pawar-led NCP --1), as against 31 seats won collectively the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) comprising Congress, Uddhav Thackeray-

led Shiv Sena and Sharad Pawar-led NCP. During the ongoing "Jan Samman Yatra", Ajit Pawar is attempting to win back the support of the aggrieved vote banks like farmers and women by talking about the MahaYuti government's recently-announced populist schemes. The MahaYuti schemes like the "Mukhya Mantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana", "Annapurna Yojana", "Baliraja Vij Savlat Yojana", "Yuva Karya Prashikshan Yojana" and the Rs 5,000 per hectare bonus scheme for cotton and soya-bean farmers are drawing traction from the beneficiary sections like women and farmers.

AAP must maintain Constitutional dignity of Tricolour: Vijender

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Vijender Gupta, Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly, has lambasted Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's latest play as nothing more than a publicity stunt. Kejriwal's proposal to have junior minister Atishi hoist the flag at the Delhi government's Independence Day celebration is just another of his cheap tricks to grab headlines, Gupta declared. Gupta wholeheartedly endorsed the Lieutenant Governor's decision to appoint Home Minister Kailash Gahlot for the flag-hoisting duty, exposing Kejriwal's blatant disregard for protocol. Gupta stated that this is not the first time Kejriwal has violated constitutional protocols. He recalled the 2021 fiasco where Kejriwal couldn't even display the National flag correctly during a press conference. Even more shocking was Kejriwal's 2014 attempt to derail Republic Day celebrations with his ill-conceived Rajput protest. Gupta didn't mince words: "Kejriwal treats our National



flag like it's his party's plaything. His immature, childish antics are an insult to our nation's most sacred symbol. He has absolutely no right to demean the National flag with his political games." The opposition leader tore into Kejriwal's letter to the Lieutenant Governor, calling it a flagrant violation of constitutional rules. "Let's not forget, Kejriwal is behind bars for the liquor scam. He has no business issuing orders from his jail cell," Gupta asserted. Such actions clearly go against prison regulations. Even the Superintendent of the prison has stated that the Chief Minister cannot issue any official directives or requests from

inside the jail. The prison official also warned that if Kejriwal continues such attempts, they would be forced to reduce the privileges and rights he currently enjoys. Gupta also took aim at Cabinet Minister Gopal Rai for his misguided orders to the General Administration Department. "Both Kejriwal and his Cabinet ministers are out of line, which is why the department has explicitly refused to comply with their orders," he said. The Leader of the Opposition stated that Kejriwal does not respect either the prison rules or the Constitution. Engaging in such unconstitutional attempts has become a habit for him. Gupta reminded that not only Kejriwal, but also his wife, Mrs. Sunita Kejriwal, recently tried to make the Chief Minister's letter viral by showing it to the media, in an unsuccessful attempt. The Leader of the Opposition appealed to the Aam Aadmi Party and its leaders to maintain the constitutional dignity of the National flag and avoid creating any such controversies.

India on way to becoming 3rd largest economy, says Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

India is steadily advancing towards becoming the world's third-largest economy under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Tuesday. The progress is aimed at bringing prosperity to 140 crore Indians, he said while flagging off a 'Tiranga Yatra Bike Rally' under the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign from his official residence in Lucknow on Tuesday. The chief minister also extended early greetings for the 78th Independence Day. The 'Tiranga Yatra Bike Rally', organised by the Bharatiya Janata Party Yuva Morcha in Lucknow, was driven by strong national pride and drew thousands of enthusiastic participants. "Two years ago, during the Amrit Mahotsav celebrating India's Independence, we had taken the 'Panch Pran'. In the Amrit Mahotsav year, through the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign, we proudly displayed the tricolour, a symbol of India's pride and glory, in every home," Yogi said. He highlighted that in 2022-23, Uttar Pradesh made history by hoisting the tricolour at more than five crore houses. The previous year, around four and a half crore houses proudly displayed the



national flag. "Responding to PM Modi's call, the Uttar Pradesh government is once again committed to reaching four and a half crore homes this year," he said. Yogi expressed gratitude to BJP officials and workers, acknowledging their vital role in supporting PM Modi's vision and spreading the tricolour across every household in the state. CM Yogi stated that in the past three days, enthusiastic workers from the BJYM had been leading 'tiranga yatras' across Uttar Pradesh. The participation and enthusiasm displayed by students, businessmen, and various social-cultural

organisations offered a glimpse of the emerging New India, he pointed out. "The tricolour represents 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'. It will be hoisted at every house from today until August 15," Yogi said. He urged everyone to participate and help ensure that every resident state plays a crucial role in this initiative. Earlier, Yogi walked from his residence, waving the tricolour and chanting 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai.' He called upon people to embrace the spirit of nationalism, keep the nation first, and commit to 'Panch Pran' resolutions.

VIT-AP university organises anti ragging awareness programme

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

VIT-AP University organized an Anti-Ragging awareness program on August 13, 2024, aimed at reinforcing the importance of maintaining a safe and supportive environment for all students. The program underscored the university's commitment to preventing any form of ragging and fostering a respectful academic atmosphere. The event featured a keynote address by S.Sathish Kumar IPS - Superintendent of Police, Guntur district who emphasized the strict prohibition of ragging both within and outside educational institutions under the A.P. Prohibition of Ragging Act, 1997. He highlighted the serious consequences of engaging in ragging, including suspension and dismissal from the college. He elaborated on the UGC regulations established in 2009 to combat ragging in higher educational institutions.

Sheikh Hasina booked for...

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"In line with a case filed by a resident of (Dhaka's) Mohammadpur area, Metropolitan Magistrate Rajesh Chowdhury has asked police to register it as an FIR," a court official said. He said that six others who were named in the case are: Awami League general secretary and former road transport minister Obaidul Quader, home minister Asaduzzaman Khan and sacked inspector general of police (IGP) Abdullah Al Mamun, Dhaka's police commissioner Habibur Rahman, Additional IGP Harun-or-Rashid and additional joint commissioner Biplob Kumar. While Hasina fled to India, the two ministers are believed to have secretly left the country hours before her resignation on August 5 while the whereabouts of the police officers remained unknown to the media. According to court officials, the magistrate asked Mohammadpur police station to record the case. A police official preferring anonymity said it was unclear which agency would be tasked to investigate the case. Home Affairs Adviser Brigadier General (retd.) Sakhawat Hossain speculated that 500 or more protestors and policemen were killed during the three weeks of violence which originated from a movement by Students Against Discrimination. The case against Hasina and six others was lodged on charges of killing a grocery shop owner in the Mohammadpur area in police firing on July 19 during a street march in support of the students' movement for reforms in a controversial quota system for government jobs. The case was filed by a well-wisher of the grocery store owner Abu Sayed.

Supreme Court closes contempt case on...

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The alleged non-adherence to the specific assurance and subsequent media statements by the firm had irked the apex court, which later issued notice to them to show cause as to why contempt proceedings be not initiated against them. In its verdict, the bench said, "...We are of the opinion that though the initial conduct of the proposed contemnors prior to their tendering an apology to the court showed that the same was in violation

of the undertakings given to this court, subsequent thereto, after they tendered an unqualified apology to this court, efforts have been made by them to take steps to make amends". It noted they also took steps to publicise the apology tendered by them through advertisements published prominently in the national and regional newspapers. "No doubt the wisdom of tendering an unconditional apology dawned belatedly on the proposed contemnors,

after this court rejected the first attempt made by them to offer a qualified apology, but their subsequent conduct demonstrates that they have made sincere efforts to purge themselves," the bench said. "Given the attendant facts and circumstances of the case and the effort made by the proposed contemnors to absolve themselves of acts that amounted to breach of undertakings given to this court, we are inclined to accept the apology tendered by them and close the matter,"

it said. Referring to the first affidavit filed by Balkrishna tendering an unqualified apology on behalf of Patanjali, the bench noted it had rejected the same for the reason that he had tried to justify his conduct by seeking to offer an explanation for the advertisements issued. "As already observed by this court, there cannot be a justification and an apology. The two things are incompatible and do not go hand-in-hand," it said.

National fury...

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It also asked all HoD and centre chiefs to send the attendance of the Resident Doctors everyday by 3 pm. Voices across the country are expressing deep concern over the safety gaps exposed by the recent rape and murder of a trainee doctor at a Kolkata medical college. Joint secretary of the Association of Resident Doctors, PGIMER, Chandigarh Dr Perugu Praneeth Reddy said that our protest continue today. But the emergency services at the hospital were on. We are demanding that safety for the doctors be ensured at hospitals. After the junior doctors went on the strike on Monday, PGIMER authorities said that emergency services will be on but the outpatient

department services would be curtailed, with the registration of only follow-up patients in respective departments. A doctors' association in Uttar Pradesh has written to Union Health Minister J P Nadda, pressing for security measures at medical institutions. Uttar Pradesh RDA's president Dr Hardeep Jogi said the association has written to the Union Health Minister, urging for safety and security measures at hospitals in light of the "disturbing and horrific" murder of the postgraduate student in the West Bengal capital four days ago. "The RDA Uttar Pradesh expresses its profound condolences for the loss of this young woman and strongly denounces the failures that permitted such a

grave offence to occur. The inability to safeguard our institutions reflects a critical lapse in administration. And governance," it stated. The RDA also sought an urgent meeting with the health minister to discuss the pressing issues faced by the medical community, the "escalating violence" against doctors and the "deteriorating working conditions" which have created "an atmosphere of fear". "This must be addressed to prevent future tragedies," it said. Junior doctors at state-run Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) in Ranchi on Tuesday started 'pen-down' agitation by boycotting OPD services and elective surgeries in protest against the rape and murder of a woman doctor in Kolkata.

Delhi LG nominates minister Kailash Gahlot to...

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Earlier in the day, both Saxena and Gahlot have attended a state level function, to laid the foundation stone of a multi-level electric bus depot in the Vasant Vihar area in the morning. "Keeping in view the current impasse created because of peculiar circumstance of non-availability Chief Minister, this Secretariat had sent a reference to the Ministry of Home affairs, Government of India. Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India has the remit of issuing guidelines for celebrations of Independence Day at the Centre as well as the State level. The Ministry vide its letter dated 13.08.2024 has authorized Lt. Governor to nominate any Minister of

GNCTD to unfurl the flag at the State Level function of Independence Day, 2024 to be held at Chhatrasal Stadium, Delhi," Raj Niwas said in its communiqué to Chief Secretary. Earlier in the day, the Delhi government's General Administration Department (GAD) refused to implement department minister Gopal Rai's direction for the hosting of national flag by Education Minister Atishi. This comes a day after GAD minister Gopal Rai directed the department to make necessary arrangements for Atishi to hoist the national flag, as Kejriwal desired. The GAD organises annual Independence Day celebrations at Chhatrasal Stadium, where the Delhi chief minister hoists the national flag as per tradition

and rules. Replying to Delhi minister Rai's communication, Navin Kumar Chaudhary, additional chief secretary GAD said that the department had sought convenience of the chief minister for his availability for the Independence Day but the office of chief minister has indicated his non-availability being in judicial custody. "The issue has therefore been brought to the notice of higher authorities and a decision is awaited," the communication states. Chaudhary further said, "It is absolutely clear that the above communication (Minister Letter) does not qualify in the permissible communication which can be sent outside prison...Any communication, written or

oral, in contravention of the rules quoted above, is not legally valid and therefore cannot be acted upon". "There are detailed laid down provisions for celebrating them as per the stature they deserve. Any deviations thereto or subjugation thereof will not only undermine the sanctity associated with them but may also amount to statutory illegality," Chaudhary said. He said Independence Day and Republic Day are national events with supreme constitutional sanctity. "As per practice, Delhi Police is responsible for the ceremonial march-past parade after unfurling of the national flag. The Minute to minute programme of the State level function of Independence Day is

finalized by the Delhi Police/Home department. The Home Department GNCTD and the Delhi Police play a primary role vis-a-vis the State Level Function of Independence Day apart making security arrangements for the function. Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor has also noted that matters related to police have been assigned to Home Department under the Allocation of Business Rules, 1993. In view of the above, Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor is pleased to nominate the Hon'ble Minister (Home), GNCTD, Kailash Gahlot to unfurl the National Flag at the State level Independence day celebration at Chhatrasal Stadium. Necessary arrangements may be made accordingly," it said.

New Bangladesh regime reaches...

From Page 1

The minority Hindu population has faced vandalism of their business and properties and devastation of Hindu temples in the students' violence that ensued for days following the ouster of prime minister Hasina, who soon fled to India on August 5. The Alliance's press conference took place on the same day as Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, who took charge as Chief Advisor

of the interim government on August 8, reached out to the distressed Hindu community members at the famous Dhakeshwari Temple here earlier in the day and urged the people to "exercise patience" before judging his government's role. Palash Kanti Dey, the Alliance's spokesperson and executive secretary said: "The incidents of vandalism, looting, arson, land grabbing, and threats to leave the country have been repeatedly inflicted on the

Hindu community due to the shifting political landscape." "This is not just an attack on individuals but an assault on the Hindu religion," Dey alleged during a press conference here. "As of Monday, there have been attacks and threats against the Hindu community in 278 locations across 48 districts. We have conveyed our concerns to Home Affairs Advisor Brigadier General (Retd) M Sakhawat Hussain, who has

assured us that these issues will be raised at the next cabinet meeting," he was quoted as saying by The Dhaka Tribune newspaper. Dey also emphasised that the alliance had long expressed its demands to various political parties over the past 24 years, but they had remained unmet. "We now hope that the interim government will address our longstanding demands. Additionally, we support the nationwide movement led by our

students," he added. Alliance's President Prabhas Chandra Roy lamented the recurring violence against the Hindu community during times of political change and said, "Whenever there is a change in government, Hindus are the first to be attacked." "Although there were fewer incidents in the past, they have increased recently. We want to live in this country with security. We were born here, and we have rights in this country," he said.

Union Health Minister JP Nadda in damage control...

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"The policy should ensure adequate safety measures at OPD, wards, and quarters. Corridors and campus are well lit in the evening for staff to walk safely from one place to another and all sensitive areas are covered by CCTV for monitoring." Furthermore, the advisory stressed the importance of implementing sufficient security steps, including the deployment of adequate security staff (both male and female) in various areas of the medical college and hospital campus, such as the OPD, wards, casualty, labour rooms, hostels, residential quarters, and other open spaces. The advisory also emphasised the importance of immediate action by college management in cases of violence against medical students and required that an FIR be lodged with the police. It stipulated that a detailed report on the actions taken must be submitted to the National Medical Commission (NMC) within 48 hours of the incident. Earlier, Nadda met with representatives from the Indian Medical Association (IMA), promising to address their demands for a swift investigation and improved safety measures for doctors in medical institutions.

Water level in Yamuna rising due to release of water from Hathinikund barrage: Bharadwaj

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The water level in the Yamuna is rising due to the discharge of water in the river from Haryana's Hathinikund barrage, Delhi's Irrigation and Flood Control Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj said on Tuesday, after reviewing the preparations to tackle the situation in case of flood.

The water level of the river has touched 204.35 metre at the Old Railway Bridge (ORB). The warning level is at 204.5 metre, Bharadwaj said, adding that around 10,000 to 13,000 cusecs of water is being discharged from the Hathinikund barrage presently.

"Munadi" (announcements) to warn people to stay away from the river and stop children from going near the river or swimming in it will start from Tuesday, the minister said. During the inspection, senior officials of I&FC department, senior officials of the revenue department, and



the District Magistrate and Sub-Divisional Magistrate of the area were also present with him.

"All adequate arrangements have been made by the Irrigation and Flood Control department."

Water boats, announcement equipment and all other necessary arrangements have been made. At present there is no danger of any kind, all situations are under control," he stated. Informing about the steps taken earlier by the department, Bharadwaj said, "Before the onset of monsoon, pilot cuts were made by the department in the middle of the mud islands in the middle of Yamuna, which have proved to be very effective this time when monsoon arrived."

The senior AAP leader added that people living in areas around Yamuna will be displaced and shifted to the upper parts if and when such a situation arises. "The government makes all the arrangements for their accommodation, food and medicines. Right now no such situation is seen to be arising in Yamuna that the people living on the banks of Yamuna should be shifted, but if any such situation arises, then all preparations have been completed by the department," he mentioned.

600 police personnel practise short-range firing ahead of I-Day

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Over 600 Delhi Police personnel of the northeast district on Tuesday practised firing with short-range weapons at the police shooting range here ahead of the Independence Day celebrations.

Bracing up for the security arrangements in the national Capital for the big event, DCP North East Joy Tirkey said that ahead of any big event, including Independence Day, Republic Day, or even the Lok Sabha or state election they try to refresh the weapon training of the police officers.

"Hence, ahead of the upcoming Independence Day celebrations and while honing their skills and proficiency, we managed to get 681 police personnel of North-East District to practice firing from Short-Range weapons," he added. The police personnel, who practised firing with short-range weapons, will be deployed at different strategic locations in Delhi, said a senior police officer, adding all the



police personnel are combat-ready and can deal with any untoward condition. The officer further said that they have already intensified night patrolling in the border areas. "Multi-layered barricading were installed at Delhi-Haryana and Delhi-Uttar Pradesh borders. SHOs are instructed to check all the

vehicles and their owners' documents entering the national capital," he added. On the occasion of the Independence Day, more than 3,000 traffic police personnel will be deployed to regulate the traffic and will be deployed at major junctions across the national capital, and also on roads connecting

the border to the Red Fort. "Security has been beefed up in the national capital and deployment of over 3,000 traffic police officers, more than 10,000 police personnel and 700 AI-based facial recognition cameras in the national capital ahead of the Independence Day celebrations," said the officer.

Patients suffer as OPD services at Govt hospitals hit due to docs strike

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Selective services in Government hospitals in Delhi remained closed on Tuesday for the second day as resident doctors' continued protesting while raising slogans of 'No safety, no duty' and 'justice for victims' in the hospital premises over the recent rape and murder of a trainee doctor in Kolkata. The protests in different hospitals across the city including centrally-run facilities All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) Hospital and Sardarjung Hospital have paralysed services such as OPDs (out-patient departments) and non-emergency surgeries. Meanwhile, AIIMS Delhi has warned its protesting resident doctors against holding any demonstration on or around the hospital campus stating it was in violation of High Court

directions and amounts to contempt of court.

The stir was in response to a call from the Federation of Resident Doctors' Association (FORDA), which said, "The strike will not be lifted until justice is served and our demands are met."

The association on Monday announced an extension of its indefinite strike after a meeting with Union health ministry officials failed to reach any resolution. FORDA president Aviral Mathur announced after the meeting that the strike would continue on Tuesday. "I, along with the association members and doctors, met with the Union health minister's team on Monday. Since no resolution was reached regarding the demands, the strike will continue for another day," Mathur said clarifying emergency services would continue to function.

However, the strike has also caused patients who are travelling from different corners of

the country to get treated in the city disappointed as people reeling from serious medical conditions had to return without getting any treatment.

A 47-year-old patient from Chhattisgarh's Raipur who travelled to Delhi for treatment at the AIIMS said to severe chest pain and breathing difficulties had to return home without receiving care as the doctors continued their indefinite strike. A hospital staff member at the AIIMS said that only patients with prior appointments were being treated while the doctors were on strike.

A female patient, who travelled from Raipur for her check-up, had been receiving treatment for a long time and needed to return for her follow-up due to chest pain and breathing issues. "I have been a cardiology patient here for a long time and I travelled from Raipur as I've been experiencing chest pain and breathing issues," she said.

App bike driver's rape, murder bid foiled by elderly couple; held

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police arrested an Indrive app bike driver who tried to sexually assault an air hostess, working with a top Indian airline, and attempted to kill her for objecting to the rape in New Delhi's Chanakyapuri. According to the police on Tuesday, he fled when an elderly couple stopped their car to rescue her in New Delhi's Lutyens Zone, near Buddha Jayanti Park, when Delhi is on high alert for Independence Day. The driver was completely drunk and has an FIR against him at the Hauz Khas Police Station in Delhi.

According to sources, the accused driver told the victim that she wasn't his first target and had raped several female passengers. The victim, a science graduate working as an air hostess with a top airline, lives in South Delhi. She had gone to East Delhi to meet a friend and go shop-

ping. On her way back to Dwarka, she booked a bike ride through the Indrive app, which was accepted by driver Jaideep. The ride started at 11:47 pm.

"I was shocked when he asked me to buy him an ice cream. He kept talking to me while riding and gave me his two phones to carry, asking me to give directions according to the map. I was totally shocked," the victim told the police. She added that ten minutes later, the driver demanded his phone back, saying he needed to make a call and later closed the location map. He took a wrong turn, despite the victim's objections. When she questioned him, he claimed it was a shortcut. After a few metres, the driver stopped the bike, and the victim became scared. She tried to signal other drivers for help, but nobody stopped. The accused then manhandled her, took her to a secluded area near a tree, and attempted to strangle her.

AAP has started Satyameva Jayate DP campaign: Atishi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Minister and Senior AAP leader Atishi on Tuesday said the AAP started a display picture (DP) campaign of 'Satyameva Jayate' (Truth alone triumphs) on all its social media handles to celebrate the victory of truth against the dictatorial central government of the BJP. Addressing the media persons, she said, "Starting Tuesday at 3 pm, all AAP leaders, workers and party handles will start this display picture of Satyameva Jayate as a campaign," she said, adding that for the last two years, the dictatorial central government of the BJP has left no stone unturned to harass the AAP-led Delhi government.

"False cases were filed against the leaders of the AAP and raids after raids were conducted. In these raids, they did not find even a rupee of corruption but still all the senior



leaders of the AAP were put in jail. Manish Sisodia, Satyendra Jain and Sanjay Singh were arrested, Delhi's popular Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was arrested," she alleged. She compared these arrests with the freedom struggle and stated, "Even at that time those who were fighting against the British were also put in jail under false cases. Jawaharlal Nehru, Lala Lajpat Rai and Mahatma Gandhi were in jail."

Hitting out at BJP, he said, "The BJP thought that they would break and suppress the AAP with this dictatorship but despite all their possible efforts, the AAP was not suppressed, the AAP did not break. And finally, even after 17 months of Manish Sisodia being in jail, truth prevailed, and he was released by the order of the Supreme Court. To celebrate the victory of truth, we are starting Satyameva Jayate DP campaign."

Foundation stone for multi-level e-bus depot laid

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena and Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot on Tuesday laid the foundation stone for India's first multi-level electric bus parking depot at Vasant Vihar in South West Delhi in a step towards enhancing the national Capital's public transportation infrastructure.

Speaking on the occasion, Gahlot said, "The Vasant Vihar Multilevel electric bus depot is not just a transportation hub, it is a symbol of Delhi's future-oriented vision for urban mobility. This depot will significantly enhance our capacity to manage the growing demand for public transportation while setting new standards in sustainability and innovation."

He added that with advanced green technologies, energy-efficient systems, and solar panels providing shading and renewable energy, this facility will not only meet today's needs but also serve as a model for future urban infrastructure projects. The state-of-the-art electric bus depot is designed to accommodate 434 buses, which is 3.5 times the current capacity of 125. It can also accommo-



date 230 cars and 200 bikes in its parking area. The height of the depot will be 35 metres and will span across five acres of land, with a total built-up area of 7.6 lakh square feet and ground coverage of 1.27 lakh square feet. The facility will include one basement and six parking levels, including the ground level, and is expected to be operational by

August, 2026. The total cost of the project is Rs. 409.94 crore. Built with a focus on sustainability, solar panels of 122 KW capacity, installed at the rooftop level will not only provide shade for buses but also generate nearly 600 KWh solar energy. Additionally, the facility will be equipped with 85 charging points for both buses and pub-

lic vehicles, promoting the adoption of electric vehicles in the city.

Further, Gahlot added, "The ground level of the depot will house 16 maintenance bed pits, ensuring streamlined servicing operations. Further, the basement will have car and bike parking. Buses will be parked at a 45-degree angle from the first to the fifth floor, maximizing space utilization and optimizing traffic flow." "A 6-meter wide ramp with a gentle 1:20 slope will allow smooth two-way traffic, ensuring efficient movement within the depot. Furthermore, the depot will have its own Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) and green air-purifying plants will be strategically placed at all levels, helping to improve air quality and offering a respite from Delhi's growing pollution concerns," he added.

Metro to begin its services at 4 am across all lines on I-Day

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro will commence its services at 4 am on all lines from all terminal stations on Independence Day on Thursday in order to facilitate the public to attend the ceremony.

In a statement by Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), they said that the train services will be available at a frequency of 15 minutes on all lines till 6 am on Thursday and thereafter, a regular timetable will be followed for the rest of the day.

"In addition, people who will be in possession of a bonafide invitation card issued by the Ministry of Defence for attending the Independence Day ceremony will be permitted entry and travel on production of



valid government issued photo identity card at stations," it stated.

DMRC's Principal Executive Director Anuj Dayal added that this arrangement will be valid for exit only at Lal Quila, Jama Masjid and Chandni Chowk metro stations, which are closest to the venue. "The same invitation cards will also

be valid for performing return journeys from these three stations only," he said.

The regular announcements will be made inside the trains to inform the passengers about these arrangements, Dayal said, adding the cost towards such travel will be reimbursed to the DMRC by the Ministry of Defence.

Rashtrapati Bhawan's Amrit Udyan to open for public from Friday

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A stone abacus, sound pipe and music wall are among the key attractions in the famed Amrit Udyan inside the Rashtrapati Bhawan, which will open for public viewing from Friday. Visitors to Amrit Udyan will also be given "seed papers" — a unique and eco-friendly memento — infused with seeds of Tulsi plant, a senior official said on Tuesday. President Droupadi Murmu will inaugurate Amrit Udyan on Wednesday and the garden will remain open for public viewing from Friday till September 15th, from 10 am to 6 pm. The last entry will be at 5.15 pm.

"As a symbol of new life and growth, seed papers encourage visitors to cultivate their

own green spaces at home. By sowing these papers, individuals can actively participate in nurturing the planet and witness the wonder of nature transform a simple piece of paper into a thriving plant," said Navika Gupta, Deputy Press Secretary to the President. She said there are "stone abacus", "sound pipe" and "music wall" in the garden, which will be special attractions for children. Crafted from natural materials, the stone abacus is an interactive learning tool that invites children to explore the world of numbers in a hands-on and engaging way. "Designed to blend seamlessly with the park's natural surroundings, the stone abacus offers a tactile experience, encouraging children to learn through play," Gupta told

reporters during a media preview of the garden. She said a sound pipe will allow children to experience first hand the fascinating world of acoustics. The music wall will be adorned with a variety of instruments made from recycled materials, inviting young minds to experiment with sound and rhythm, Gupta said. "By transforming discarded objects into musical tools, the music wall promotes environmental consciousness while fostering a love for music," she said. Efforts have also been made to make visit to the Udyan by differently-abled people as memorable. "Fragrance of rose at Long Garden, and sounds of wind chimes and water fountain make the Amrit Udyan a sensory garden too, making visit by visu-



ally impaired persons a memorable one. This has been done after an accessibility audit of Rashtrapati Bhawan and Amrit Udyan was done," said Mukesh Kumar, Director, President Secretariat.

Amrit Udyan is spread over a vast expanse of 15 acres in the Rashtrapati Bhawan -- the office and residence of the President of India. There are 'vertical gardens' - cascading waves of greenery, punctuated by bursts of colourful blossoms in a vertically arranged tapestry which serves as a focal photo point -- and 'Bal Vatika' -- specially curated garden for children with features like 'Story of a 225-year-old sheesham tree and treehouse among others. During Udyan Utsav in the year 2023 and 2024, 23 lakh people, including seven lakh school children, visited the Amrit Udyan. "For the first time, sports persons have been invited on 29th August on National Sports Day. Besides, teachers from schools and universities have been invited on 5th September on the Teachers Day to visit Amrit Udyan," Gupta said. A free shuttle bus service from Central Secretariat Metro Station to gate no. 35 (the entry gate for

Amrit Udyan) will also be available for the convenience of the visitors, she said. A wide variety of Summer Annuals, Bonsai Garden, landscape of rare and exotic flowers at the Central Lawn, Long Garden and Circular Garden. During the term of former Presidents Dr A P J Abdul Kalam and Ram Nath Kovind, more gardens were developed, namely -- Herbal-I, Herbal-II, Tactile Garden, Bonsai Garden and Arogya Vanam. The Central Lawn consists of flower beds, fountains, water channels and terraces. These flower beds are planted with 120 varieties of roses and 70 varieties of seasonal flowers. The Long Garden consists of rectangular and square-shaped rose beds of different varieties. Creepers along the side walls blossom with flowers in different colours.

In/) as well as through self service kiosks placed outside gate no. 35 for the "walk-in visitors". Originally, the garden included East Lawn, Central Lawn, Long Garden and Circular Garden. During the term of former Presidents Dr A P J Abdul Kalam and Ram Nath Kovind, more gardens were developed, namely -- Herbal-I, Herbal-II, Tactile Garden, Bonsai Garden and Arogya Vanam. The Central Lawn consists of flower beds, fountains, water channels and terraces. These flower beds are planted with 120 varieties of roses and 70 varieties of seasonal flowers. The Long Garden consists of rectangular and square-shaped rose beds of different varieties. Creepers along the side walls blossom with flowers in different colours.

BJP office-bearers meet to launch membership drive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI The BJP's national office-bearers are expected to meet on August 17 to finalise the launch of the party's membership drive, which will culminate with the election of a new party president.

EAM for strong India-US ties to tide over global tension

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday here warned of a "very grim forecast" for the world in the next five years given tension in West Asia, Ukraine and Russia and in Southeast Asia.



Office of the Superintending Engineer 1st Circle, Public Works Department, Almora

Table with columns: SI. No., Name of Work, Cost of Tender Form, Earnest Money (Rupee in lakh), Validity of Tender, Time of Completion, Contractor's Category of Registration for tendering.

MOULIN COMMERCIAL LIMITED. Extract of Statement of Audited Financial Results for the quarter and three months ended 30.06.2024. Table with columns: S. No., Particulars, Quarter Ended (30.06.2024, 31.03.2024), Year Ended (31.03.2024).

PUBLIC NOTICE We, Anjana Aggarwal W/o Mr. Tarkesh Aggarwal and Tarkesh Aggarwal both R/O A-189 West Azad Nagar, Street No: 17, 2nd and 3rd Floor, Delhi-51, have disowned and debarred our son Prince Aggarwal and his wife Sapna, from all our movable and immovable properties.

SUNIL HEALTHCARE LIMITED

Extract of Standalone and Consolidated Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter Ended 30th June 2024. Table with columns: S. No., Particulars, Standalone (3 Months ended, Year Ended), Consolidated (3 Months ended, Year Ended).

Notes: a) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter & three months ended 30.06.2024 filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.

PUBLIC NOTICE Be it known to all that the all partners of Ravi Polymers, 461 Phase-1 Barhi Industrial Area, Sonapat, Haryana-131101, declare that Ravi Polymers is the Manufacturer of PVC conduit and casing pipes.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, Sah Tower, Plot No-23, 3rd Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005. The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

ASHNOOR TEXTILE MILLS LIMITED

Registered Office : Behrampur Road, Khandas Village, Gurugram, Haryana- 122001, India, Tel: +91 (0124) - 4809756 CIN: L17226HR1984PLC033384 | E mail: atml_delhi@yahoo.com | Website : www.ashnoortext.com

Statement of Standalone Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter and Year Ended June 30, 2024. Table with columns: SI.No., Particulars, For the Quarter Ended June 30, 2024, For the Quarter Ended Mar 31, 2024, For the Quarter Ended June 30, 2023, For the Year Ended Mar 31, 2024.

Rungta Irrigation Limited

Statement of Standalone Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter ended 30-06-2024. Table with columns: S. No., Particulars, For the Quarter Ended (30/06/2024, 31/03/2024), For the Year Ended (31/03/2024).

RAMPUR FERTILIZERS LIMITED

EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED ON 30 JUNE 2024. Table with columns: S. No., Particulars, Standalone Results (Quarter Ended, Year Ended), Consolidated Results (Quarter Ended, Year Ended).

Notes: 1 The above standalone financial result for the quarter ended June 30, 2024 are prepared in accordance with the Indian Accounting Standard (IND-AS) as prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with rule 3 of the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 and Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Amendment Rules, 2016.

NOTES: The above is an extract of the detailed format of Financial Results filed with Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Financial Results is available on the Company's website at www.rampurfert.com and the same has been also sent to Stock exchanges, i.e. CSE and MSE to upload on website i.e. www.cse-india.com and www.mse.in respectively.

PUBLIC NOTICE General public is hereby informed that my client Sh. Devenendra Singh, S/O Saurvir Singh and his wife Shalini Singh, residing at House No. 1, Type-2, Block-1, Sector-1, Pustp Vihar, New Delhi-110017 have severed all their relations with their son Chetan Kumar Raghav due to his bad habits and behaviour.

PUBLIC NOTICE Public is hereby informed that my client Raj Kumar S/O Late Sohan Lal, R/O H.No. C-1st 806, Madangiri, New Delhi-110062, has severed all his relations from his younger brother Vinod @ Manoj due to his disobedience, misconduct towards my client.

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given that my client Jagjit Kaur is in process to avail the LAP against her Third Floor (with Roof rights) of built up property Bearing No. WZ-117, portion of Plot No. 332 and 332/2, area measuring 102 Sq. Yds. Part of Khata No. 356, Situated in the area of Village Khayala, colony known as Chand Nagar, New Delhi-110018 (taking loan from SHFL), having acquired the same vide Sale Deed dated 15.04.2024 executed by Shri. Sachdeva Dheeraj on 20.02.2017 (D.O.).

Notice I, Sambhav Jain S/O Sh. Sanjay Jain R/O H.No. 527, Sector 13-17, Panipat, Haryana, declare that I also owns house no. 1, L.D. Block, Ground Floor, Pitampura, New Delhi, of which I am the owner and till date I have not given my residence on rent. I have not mortgage the said house nor have taken any loan from any bank, N.B.F.C. etc.

It is informed to all concern that Sh. Jai Kumar S/O Late Sh. Jani Prasad R/O 160 Munirka Enclave New Delhi, is the Owner of Plot No. G-76, Sector-4, Noida, G.B. Nagar, U.P. He has executed a Notarized Agreement to sell dated 16/05/1999 in favour of Sh. Sahansar Pal Singh Tomar S/O Sh. Shyam Singh R/O 1/3660 Ram Nagar, Loni Road, Shahdara, Delhi-110032 and Registered G.P.A. in favour of Smt. Anita Tomar W/o Sh. Sahansar Pal Singh Tomar R/O 1466, Sector-37, Arun Vihar, Noida in Book No.- IV Volume No. 270 on page No. 627 to 632, Document No. 374 Dated 16/04/1999 at Sub. Registrar (I), Noida. Now the said above Plot is going to be transferred through the said above registered G.P.A. in favour of Sh. Sahansar Pal Singh Tomar S/O Sh. Shyam Singh R/O 1/3660, Ram Nagar, Loni Road, Shahdara, Delhi-110032. If anyone has/have any objection, he/she may file his/her objection along with the sufficient proof in the Residential Plot Department of Noida Authority, Sector 6 Noida within the 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

It is informed to all concern that Sh. Jai Kumar S/O Late Sh. Jani Prasad R/O 160 Munirka Enclave New Delhi, is the Owner of Plot No. G-76, Sector-4, Noida, G.B. Nagar, U.P. He has executed a Notarized Agreement to sell dated 16/05/1999 in favour of Sh. Sahansar Pal Singh Tomar S/O Sh. Shyam Singh R/O 1/3660 Ram Nagar, Loni Road, Shahdara, Delhi-110032 and Registered G.P.A. in favour of Smt. Anita Tomar W/o Sh. Sahansar Pal Singh Tomar R/O 1466, Sector-37, Arun Vihar, Noida in Book No.- IV Volume No. 270 on page No. 627 to 632, Document No. 374 Dated 16/04/1999 at Sub. Registrar (I), Noida. Now the said above Plot is going to be transferred through the said above registered G.P.A. in favour of Sh. Sahansar Pal Singh Tomar S/O Sh. Shyam Singh R/O 1/3660, Ram Nagar, Loni Road, Shahdara, Delhi-110032. If anyone has/have any objection, he/she may file his/her objection along with the sufficient proof in the Residential Plot Department of Noida Authority, Sector 6 Noida within the 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

RENOVATION & REPAIRS OF OFFICER'S CLUB AT OFFICER COLONY E-Tender Notice No. LMG/Engg/130 of 2024 dated: 09-08-2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Brief Description of Item: At Lumding. Renovation & Repairs of Officer's Club at Officer colony Lumding under ADENII/Lumding. Tender Value: ₹ 4,64,06,586.67. Earnest Money: ₹ 3,82,000/-. Date & Time of closing of tender: 15.00 hrs. of 04-09-2024 & opening at 15.00 hrs. of 05-09-2024. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 15.00 hrs. of 04-09-2024 in website www.ireps.gov.in

DRM (W), Lumding NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY Serving Customers With A Smile

Landslides in Kerala indicate climate change cannot be ignored, says UDF

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Congress-led UDF Opposition on Tuesday said the recent landslides in Wayanad and Kozhikode districts of Kerala indicate that climate change can no longer be ignored...



Satheesan said that when claims of Kerala being a "knowledge society" are made periodically, then all the scientific knowledge available in the world should be used to mitigate the impact of natural disasters.

has already promised to build 100 houses and the state government has assured that it would hold talks with the opposition as soon as land for the project is found.

Five killed as car falls into canal in Bihar



PTI ■ AURANGABAD

Five persons, all of them residents of Patna, were on Tuesday killed in Aurangabad district of Bihar where their car fell into a canal, a police officer said.

PAWRGID POWERGRID NOTICE. Approval under regulation-86 of CERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations '1999 and CERC (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations (2019) i) Truing up of Transmission tariff for 2019-24 tariff block...

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority E-TENDER NOTICE. E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firms for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS CHANGE OF NAME. I, Monika Nigam Khurana D/o Radha Mohan, W/o Bhupinder Mani Khurana R/o B-9/171, Sector-5, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Monika Nigam.

Table with columns: Particulars, Quarter ended 30 June 2024, Quarter ended 31 March 2024, Quarter ended 31 March 2024, Year ended 31 March 2024. Rows include Total Revenue from Operations, Profit/loss before exceptional items and tax, etc.

POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED (A Government of India Enterprise). Reg. Office: B-9, Qutab Institutional Area, Katarwa Sarai, New Delhi-110 016.

SUPERIOR FINLEASE LIMITED. Regd. Off: NS-92, Kharsa No-33/21, Ranaji Enclave, Najafgarh, Near Arjun Park Bus Stand New Delhi -110043. Extract of Statement of Un-audited Financial Results for the Quarter ended 30th June, 2024.

ReNew Fazlika Solar Power Private Limited. Statement of Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter ended 30 June 2024. Includes financial statements and ratios.

ReNew Akshay Urja Limited. Statement of Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter ended 30 June 2024. Includes financial statements and ratios.

IMPORTANT NOTICE. Keeping in view the Independence Day Ceremony-2024 at Red Fort on 15th August, 2024 the train movement between Delhi Jn. and Delhi Shahdara Stations will remain temporarily suspended for 2 hrs & 15 minutes from 6.45 a.m. to 09.00 a.m. Includes train rescheduling and cancellation details.

ReNew Akshay Urja Limited. Statement of Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter ended 30 June 2024. Includes financial statements and ratios.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Sunshine after the storm

Indian agriculture set to benefit from good monsoon and PM Modi's release of climate-resistant seeds

India's agricultural sector, the cornerstone of its economy, is set to benefit from a double dose of positive news this monsoon season. With forecasts predicting a normal to above-normal monsoon and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent announcement of 109 climate-resistant seed varieties, the outlook for the country's farmers is brighter than ever. These developments not only promise a significant boost for agriculture but also hold the potential to ease inflationary pressures—a key concern for both policymakers and the general public. A favorable monsoon is expected to drive agricultural growth in India, with a report from India Ratings predicting a 4.3% increase in FY25, up from 1.4% in FY24. The monsoon plays a critical role in sustaining food supply, which in turn satisfies consumer demand and helps stabilise food prices. Additionally, a good monsoon increases rural incomes, which can stimulate demand for fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG). Monsoon rains are vital for Indian agriculture, particularly for the kharif crop season, which includes staples like rice, maize, and pulses. With nearly 60 per cent of India's farmland being rain-fed, a good monsoon often translates to a successful harvest. This year's normal to above-average rainfall has raised hopes for a bumper crop season. A successful monsoon reduces the need for costly irrigation solutions, helping farmers save on input costs. As a result, rural incomes are expected to rise, driving consumer demand in villages and small towns, which are vital engines of the country's economic growth.



Against this promising backdrop, Prime Minister Modi's release of 109 climate-resistant seed varieties marks a significant step towards securing India's agricultural future. These seeds have been specially developed to withstand the growing challenges posed by climate change, including erratic rainfall, prolonged droughts, and rising temperatures. By enhancing crop resilience, these seeds aim to ensure stable yields even in adverse weather conditions. The introduction of these seeds is a forward-looking initiative that aligns with the government's broader agricultural strategy, which emphasises sustainability and self-reliance. These seeds are expected to reduce crop losses due to unpredictable weather, providing farmers with a safety net and helping to stabilise food production. This could lead to a more consistent food supply. In recent years, inflation, particularly driven by volatile food prices, has been a persistent concern for the Indian economy. A good monsoon and the adoption of climate-resistant seeds could bring much-needed relief to consumers, especially those in lower-income brackets who are most affected by rising food costs. During his second term, Prime Minister Modi had promised to double farmers' incomes—a goal that was challenging to achieve at the time. However, that target now seems within reach. The combination of good rainfall and resilient seed varieties could be the key to realising that vision and securing a prosperous future for Indian agriculture.

PICTALK



NCC cadets during full dress rehearsal for the 78th Independence Day celebrations at Red Fort, in New Delhi

Finding fault with the US for internal failures



BHOPINDER SINGH

The narrative of an 'American hand' in political unrest in South Asia sells, even as the root cause of instability often lie with its own politicians

The United States of America did not have a significant role in the run-up to the independence of the Indian subcontinent from the British Raj. Indeed, the Gadar Party started as a San Francisco-based anti-colonial organization, as did the New York-based India Home Rule League founded by Lala Lajpat Rai, but the Government of the USA had remained largely oblivious of the subcontinental developments. It was only in the post-World War 2 tensions between the competing 'blobs', when the Cold War started in earnest, that the USA went into overdrive to control the subcontinental narrative. To further its interest, the USA had backed military dictators in Pakistan, and undemocratic monarchies in Afghanistan and Nepal, while remaining decidedly hostile towards India.

Washington DC tellingly overlooked the genocidal conduct of the Pakistani Generals in what later became, Bangladesh. Americans were instrumental in harnessing toxic religiosity by creating the Afghan mujahedeen, the cause of which continues to this date. Pakistan was a 'Major Non-NATO Ally' and did most of its bidding in the region. The end of the Cold War with the implosion of the Soviet Union in the early 90s coincided with the rise of China as the new principal enemy. This led to a recalibration of allies and enemies, which eventually warranted a more pro-India outlook from Washington DC, even though an unnatural alliance with Pakistan persisted owing to the necessities of Afghanistan and tackling religio-terror.

For a variety of reasons, including the continuing 'War on Terror' in Afghanistan, the Middle East, and Iran, to now the latest Israel-Palestine War, perceptions of America within the Ummah (Islamic World), made it naturally unsavoury. This often makes the USA the prime suspect for anything that went wrong in Tehran, Kabul, Damascus, Islamabad to even Dhaka. Invariably the Americans are seen to be partaking in Samuel P



Huntington's 'Clash of the Civilisations', which seemingly pits the Americans as a force against the Ummah. America-bashing is a latent and potent undercurrent that is tapped by various political parties in the Islamic countries of the region like Pakistan, Afghanistan, Maldives or Bangladesh, even if the same is genuinely warranted or not. There is no denying that America has had an amoral past with many missteps and convenient overlooking of events, but it is equally true that many political parties have twisted and even extrapolated the same to suggest outsize agendas for Washington DC because they know that such a spiel feeds into the popular and basic instincts of their citizenry.

In Pakistan, amidst the turf wars between the Military 'establishment' and Imran Khan's Tehreek-e-Insaaf government, the wily Imran Khan dialled up a phoney 'cypher' controversy entailing a foreign power i.e., the USA. This move sought to conflate two enemies (one already imagined i.e., USA, and the other requiring some context i.e. Pakistani Military) to apportion a disproportionate role for the Americans, as it was safe and popular to do so. The Americans have historically had a say in Pakistani affairs, but the ouster of Imran Khan had more to do with the Pakistani 'establishment' tak-



WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT DHAKA UNDER HASINA HAD ADOPTED A BELLIGERENT STANCE AND EVEN COSIED UP TO ITS NEMESIS THAT IS, CHINA, BY ACCEPTING BEIJING'S OVERTURES – BANGLADESH WAS NOT CHINA'S BUNNY IN THE SAME WAY AS PAKISTAN IS, NOR WAS IT POISED TO GO THAT WAY

ing the initiative with Americans agreeing to the same, as opposed to the other way round. Today, realising his folly of having overplayed the America-hand storyline, Imran Khan has deftly redirected the attack onto his local political rivals as opposed to the Americans or even the Pakistani 'establishment', as done earlier. Now, after the self-created tinder-box-like situation and the subsequent implosion, Bangladesh's former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is believed to have drummed up the US hand in the recent coup. While it is true that Dhaka under Hasina had adopted a belligerent stance and even cosied up to its nemesis i.e., China, by accepting Beijing's overtures – Bangladesh was not China's bunny in the same way as Pakistan is, nor was it poised to go that way, either. It is true Hasina had declined the American request for a Military base in its Saint Martin Islands, but that was more out of good sense given the societal sentiments that prevailed and good local politics. The only thing that riled up Hasina was the routine concerns expressed by the USA that Hasina was increasingly undemocratic, intolerant and authoritarian (which she was) – but other than these concerns, both Hasina and the

Americans had a common enemy in religious-extremist forces that threatened the interests of both sides. Hasina also amplified her American rhetoric as it was without any accompanying risks and could endear her to Bangladeshi society, as the Ummah has been wounded by emotions of the Palestine war, and the tacit role of the USA. Hasina's purported accusation of the USA plotting regime change in Bangladesh (in her undelivered speech) needs to be read contextually. His supposed stance that she'd be in power if she had given away, "Saint Martin and Bay of Bengal", is more theatrical than factual as Bangladeshi (especially youth) had genuinely tired of her rule. If anything, the forces that have come to power reflect the sort of spirit and religious tenor that militates against American preferences. Hasina's exit has more to do with her hubris and excesses than with America working overtime to dislodge her. America is just a convenient (though often justified) enemy in Islamic countries and those who are inelegantly bumped out resort to blaming the USA hand on the rebound e.g., Pakistan earlier, Bangladesh now. (The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MOTHERS HAVE BIG HEART

Madam — In the world of sports, where records are measured in meters and seconds, Nadeem's Olympic gold throw of 92.97 meters and Neeraj's silver throw of 89.45 meters are remarkable feats. Yet, they pale in comparison to the "universal affection javelin throw" of infinite meters launched by their mothers. The media captured a heartwarming moment as both mothers wished their sons not just victory and medals, but everlasting friendship and affection. Indeed, the true champions here are the mothers of Nadeem and Neeraj, whose boundless care and love transcend international borders, setting a new record for the longest "affectionate and harmonious javelin throw" of infinite meters. Kudos to these incredible women for their unparalleled contribution to the spirit of sportsmanship and humanity.

PV Madhu Nivriti | Secunrabad

ADDRESS ATTACK ON MINORITIES

Madam — The ongoing attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh are deeply concerning. Despite Hindu support for the movement against the Sheikh Hasina government, the new regime has failed to protect them. Alarming, Indian opposition parties, vocal about minority rights in India, have remained silent on this issue. Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus, leading the interim government, has appealed for calm but to little effect. The anti-quota protests in Bangladesh, which led to the fall of the Hasina government, have now targeted Hindus, even though their involvement was primarily against the previous government. The situation worsened with the forced resignation of Bangladesh's Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan. Bangladesh remains an Islamic country, and protection for minorities is limited compared to India. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's offer to shelter "anyone" in distress is problematic, as it could enable more Bangladeshi infiltration into India, exacerbating the

Medics need support



The removal of the City Police Commissioner and the Medical Superintendent cum VP of RG Kar Medical College Hospital in Calcutta, following the horrific rape

demographic challenges in states like Assam and West Bengal. Mamata Banerjee's silence on the attacks against Hindus in Bangladesh is troubling, especially as her actions seem to prioritise vote-bank politics over national security and humanitarian concerns. The government must act fast as things are very fluid in Bangladesh.

K V Seetharamaiah | Bengaluru

LESSONS FROM WAYANAD

Madam — The recent landslides and floods in Wayanad, Kerala, have drawn global attention, reminding us of the ongoing vulnerability of our planet to natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods. Our Earth has always been a haven of beauty and abundance, providing a diverse range of species and natural resources like majestic mountains and expansive oceans. For millennia, Mother Nature has been humanity's nurturing cradle. I recall the massive floods of the early 1990s, which devastated regions in Tamil Nadu, including Korkai, Tiruchendur, Tuticorin, and

and murder of a 31-year-old medical professional on the hospital grounds, will not alone bring justice to this case. The Federation of Resident Doctors' Association (FORDA) has demanded a CBI inquiry and calls for decisive action. The frequency of such atrocities against doctors across the country, compounded by inadequate protection from many state authorities, is undeniable. The reluctance of junior doctors to speak out due to fear has led to even greater tragedies over the years. If this situation persists, it will severely impact medical care for millions of impoverished patients and place the medical profession in a critical condition.

A P Thiruvadi | Chennai

Tirunelveli. It is crucial for all Asian countries, especially those in the Himalayan region, to implement proactive measures such as adopting advanced technologies and large-scale afforestation to mitigate the effects of natural disasters. These events underscore the urgent need to harmonise human activities with the Earth's natural systems. Overexploitation of resources has pushed our planet to its limits, disrupting its balance. To address this, it is essential to regulate high-rise construction in earthquake-prone areas and shift focus from building concrete jungles to fostering green, sustainable landscapes. Regions like Korkai, Tiruchendur, Tuticorin, Tirunelveli, Marthandam, Nagercoil, and Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu serve as examples of how humans and nature can coexist harmoniously. By prioritising reforestation and sustainable land use, we can build a resilient future.

P Senthil Saravana Durai | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

The quest for real freedom in a divided society



VINOD BEHAL

Real liberation comes from transcending divisions and recognising our spiritual identity, a path that leads to peace, harmony, and tranquility

More than seven decades after we attained independence from the British, we are still enslaved—trapped in the bondage of caste, creed, religion, regionalism et al. This has created deep fissures in society, destroying the democratic fabric of amity, harmony and peaceful co-existence. All this is there because as individuals, society and a nation, we have not attained real or to say ultimate freedom that promotes peace, harmony and happiness.

What is real or ultimate freedom? It is a state of not being enslaved to physical senses, to mind and its desires. It means breaking free from toxic thoughts and the vices associated with it. We need freedom from prejudices of caste, creed and religion, greed and selfishness, anger and animosity, hate and hostility. But then why are we failing to achieve real freedom and how can we attain it? Real freedom is eluding us because we are facing an identity crisis. We don't know our real identity.



In reality, we are spiritual beings (having soul-based identity) in body form. But we make a fallacy of treating ourselves as a body and this unreal world as the real world.

The basic nature of our material existence is bondage and when we act upon the material desires of the mind and senses, we often take to unwise and unholy acts which lead to our sorrows and sufferings. Because of duality, we tend to discriminate against fellow beings and this dis-

our consciousness. Even Bhagavad Gita says that being situated in such a position, one is never shaken even amid the greatest difficulty and it is actual freedom from all miseries arising from material contact.

We can certainly attain ultimate liberation through self-liberation by way of self-realization that we are a pure and noble soul—a constituent of God. We can lead such an aware life constantly by strengthening our spiritual dimension through God's remembrance and the company of saintly persons. Lord Jesus set people free from bondage to live in the freedom that only comes from God. We shall be able to attain real freedom by living an enlightened life in the spirit of oneness (Vasudhaiva Kutumbkam) with the Creator and His creation, in turn turning this world into a happy, harmonious and peaceful place to live.

(The writer is a senior journalist; views expressed are personal)



FIRST COLUMN

FROM RIFTS TO RESOLUTION

It is very important to recognise that the world shall change when I change



BY RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

We all know that conflicts are a part of our everyday life and they form in our close relations, at a societal level & on an international level. Very often we see conflicts leading to aggression, hostility and war. However, conflicts can also be a stepping stone leading to change and wisdom; if we learn to handle them constructively. Since relationship conflicts are inevitable, learning to deal with them healthily is extremely crucial because when a conflict is mismanaged, it can harm the relationship. But when handled respectfully and positively, it provides an opportunity for growth, ultimately strengthening the bond between two people.

Any kind of conflict has two dimensions, internal and external. Internal conflicts arise when the mind and intellect are moving in opposite directions and external conflicts are caused when people or situations confront us and we are not sure how to cope with them. Some people view conflicts as an opportunity for a change and some see it as a natural global phenomenon. But others feel that conflicts are avoidable through better communication but they are frightened of the process. Due to this fear, they hold themselves back and content themselves by making a peace contract or a deal. However, such solutions are very temporary and can be seen as a band-aid solution, which might be effective for the short term only. We all know that conflicts ought to be resolved by use of intellect or reasoning because when conflicts are allowed to develop unhindered without intervention or when the parties involved fuel the



conflict, it often happens that the conflict evolves negatively. And that is why people seek guru's or senior's advice when they are faced with conflicting decisions. But the irony is that with all the information and advice that is available to us, we are unable to resolve matters because there is an acute implementation paralysis. We must not forget about the fact that the best source of judgement is a person's intellect because nobody can understand his feelings, situations and capabilities to deal better than his self.

We may seek advice from an experienced person, however, the sense of joy or security that we feel on hearing good advice is only temporary because it is not real. Just like the feeling of joy derived from thinking of eating something delicious is unreal, real joy comes only after eating the thing. We too have to undergo an experience to make it real. Remember! conflict triggers strong emotions and can lead to hurt feelings, disappointment, and discomfort. When handled in an unhealthy manner, it can cause irreparable rifts, resentments, and break-ups. But when it is resolved healthily, it increases our understanding of one another, builds trust, and strengthens our relationship bonds. A growing body of research has shown spirituality as a great antidote for all kinds of conflicts. Spirituality is like the medicine that heals the root of the disease and not just the symptoms. It is the only means that gives us complete solutions to conflicts. From a spiritual perspective, the most powerful value needed for conflict resolution is respect. This is because most of the people don't wish to negotiate when they have material power. Therefore, there's an urgent need for those to realize and respect their inner powers. Similarly, faith is also a very important element in conflict resolution, it is the key to mutual understanding. For global conflicts, the solution lies with the leadership. The leaders can bring about the much-needed change and make it trickle down the societies. Leaders of today must remember that any kind of change can be termed 'real' only when it affects the grassroots. It is thus very important to recognize that the world shall change when I change. Hence, people should not wait to be told that they need to change, instead, they should realise it themselves.

(The writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist, views are personal)

Rupee's fall against dollar is a wake-up call for India



BRAJESH KUMAR TIWARI

As the rupee weakens and inflation rises, strategic economic reforms to boost domestic manufacturing and reduce import dependency are urgently needed

The rupee hit a record low against the US dollar on August 5th and was trading at 84.09 per dollar. This is the biggest fall ever seen in the rupee and the rupee has reached its all-time low. If the currency of any country is stronger than other currencies, then the country is considered strong. In this globalized world, the value of every country's currency against the US dollar not only impacts the economy of that country but also affects the prices of many things in the market.

Rupee has Fallen 20 Times since Independence: The rupee has fallen almost 20 times since independence; in 1948, 1 dollar was equal to 4 rupees. At that time there was no debt in the country, then when the first five-year plan was implemented in 1951, the government started taking loans from foreign countries and then the value of the rupee also started decreasing continuously. The continuous outflow of foreign funds from financial markets and crude oil has increased pressure on the rupee. The economy around the world has seen two major shocks – the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine, Israel conflict. India is also not untouched by this. Today, the condition of currencies in major markets around the world is weak.

Dollar as King: According to the International Standard Organization list, there are a total of 180 currencies around the world, but among them, the American currency 'Dollar' has become a global currency. The price of most of the things exported is paid in dollars. Today the dollar is involved in 80 percent of the world's trade. The US dollar has the status of a global currency, which is why the value of the rupee against the dollar shows whether the Indian currency is strong or weak.

The falling value of the Rupee affects Common People: When the rupee becomes cheaper against the dollar, it has a direct impact on the economy. The falling value of the rupee brings inflation. Rising prices could accelerate inflation, which is already high. In such a situation, everything from the life of the common man to businessmen and government will be affected by the value of the rupee. The decline in global activity, investors' decision to invest money in safe global markets and increasing tension in global politics are among the main reasons behind the fall of the rupee. Even if we do not take seriously the fall and rise of a few paise in the rupee, they have a big impact on our lives.

The fall in the rupee has a direct impact on the country's economy, due to which import of petroleum products will become expensive and freight transportation will become expensive. This will have a direct impact on the inflation of every essential item. There is a sudden increase in all loans taken in foreign currency and the interest paid on them. Studying abroad will also be expensive.

Why the Rupee is falling: The value of the rupee completely depends on its demand and supply and import and export also have a direct impact. A country that imports more than it exports has a higher demand for dollars. Like India imports more than it exports. India is one of the major importers of crude oil and imports about 80 per cent of the oil, undoubtedly the rising prices of crude oil



IF WE START USING INDIGENOUS GOODS THEN THE COST OF IMPORTING FOREIGN GOODS WILL BE SAVED. FOR INDIA TO BECOME A \$5 TRILLION ECONOMY BY 2025, WE NEED TO EXPORT AT LEAST \$2.5 TRILLION WORTH OF GOODS AND SERVICES, AS EXPORTS CURRENTLY CONTRIBUTE ABOUT 25% TO THE TOTAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

in the international market are the main reason for the fall in the value of the rupee. Things to do for the value of the Rupee: Although the Central Government has assured to make every possible effort to stop the fall of the Rupee, now the Government will have to take concrete and tough steps. If the government tries to change its economy dependent on oil, then we can save a huge part of the foreign reserves and for this, we all should consider alternatives to oil. There is a need to pay attention to electric vehicles. Effective steps will have to be taken to stop the fall in the value of the rupee and keep the foreign exchange reserves rich.

Government Steps: The government is indeed striving to create a competitive, dynamic environment to provide sustained economic growth and enhance its relevance in international trade, PM Gati Shakti, National Single Window Clearance, GIS-mapped Land Bank, Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) etc. The manufacturing sector is expected to benefit from the implementation of recent policies like the PLI scheme. Its results are also visible in some areas, the development of coronavirus vaccines by Indian companies is a vivid example of indigenous talent. India has rapidly made its place in the Ease of Doing Business index released by the World Bank. India's EDB rank was 134th in the year 2014, whereas in the year 2023, it has become 63rd. India is ranked 40th in the Global Competitiveness Report Index published by the Geneva-based World Economic Forum, where it was ranked 60th in 2014. But all these reforms in the ranks have also failed to revive the manufacturing sector and provide the desired support to the Make in India campaign.

Big Time for Make in India: The government will have to move strategically towards controlling imports and increasing exports. This is the time to effectively

implement the 'Make in India' program which even after nine years is far behind in its effective contribution. Despite being the fifth largest economy, India contributes barely 1.6% to world exports. A primary objective of the campaign was to increase the share of the manufacturing sector in the Indian GDP to 25 per cent by 2022 although it has remained between 14 to 16 per cent in the last 9 years.

During the coronavirus pandemic, there was publicity that the companies leaving China were going to come to India, however, most of these companies have shifted their base to Vietnam, Taiwan, Thailand etc. and only a few have come to India. Every year crores of laptops, desktops and servers are sold in India, in which motherboards memory models and chips are being imported. We are dependent on other countries for these components. Even today, most of the items are not being produced but are being assembled. There is no justification for the import of Harmonized System products (HS-84, nuclear reactors, boilers, mechanical equipment and their parts), and HS-85 (electrical machinery) as most of these items can be produced locally. PLI schemes should be extended to MSMEs and emerging industries to increase exports.

The 15 per cent corporate tax rate for new investment in manufacturing should be extended to all industries including the service sector. The expansion and use of new-age technology applications such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT) and Machine Learning (ML) require tax incentives on capital or operational expenditure. The government should reduce the logistics cost to 6-8% of the GDP which is currently 14%, the good thing is that recently at the G-20 summit, there has been talk of setting up an economic corridor at the international level. The manufacturing industry in

India remains flawed due to the poor infrastructure of the country. Compared to China, which spends 20% of its GDP on infrastructure development, our country spends only 3%. Way Forward: At a time when the value of the rupee has crossed Rs 84 per US dollar, the role of 'Make in India' becomes very important. According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), India may face a shortage of about 29 million skilled workers by 2030. The economy needs more than policy window dressing to increase manufacturing activity. We need to understand that just passing bills and organizing investor conferences will not be enough to promote industrialization.

The manufacturing sector is constrained by large amounts of paperwork, be it labour, land or environmental clearances, stringent regulations and policy. Taxation and customs policies are complex to such an extent that it is cheaper to import things like medical equipment rather than manufacture the equipment domestically. India can make itself the next 'global factory' in the future, which is already fed up with China and is looking for alternative manufacturing hubs. There is a need to free the manufacturing sector from cumbersome rules.

Certainly, the fall of the rupee against the dollar can be controlled through such effective steps. Also, if we start using indigenous goods then the cost of importing foreign goods will be saved. For India to become a \$5 trillion economy by 2025, we need to export at least \$2.5 trillion worth of goods and services, as exports currently contribute about 25% to the total gross domestic product (GDP). India has no time to rest. We have come a long way, but the journey is not over yet.

(The writer is an associate professor at JNU, New Delhi; views are personal)

The strength of sisterhood: How women's circles empower and change lives

Women groups foster empowerment, drive economic progress, and challenge societal stereotypes, proving that together, women can achieve anything

Humans are inherently social beings, and women, in particular, thrive on social connections. This insight struck me during a recent celebration of Hariyali Teej, a Hindu festival dedicated to women. On this day, women don traditional attire, enjoy special foods, and revel in music, reflecting the profound significance of women's gatherings not only provide joy but also reinforce the unique strength women possess. This power is deeply rooted in their ability to manage and share energy, which flourishes through communal interactions. Women need to connect



SUGANDHA NAGAR

with their feminine essence and the best way to nurture this strength is by bonding with other women. Such connections are crucial for self-discovery and empowerment. The concept of Shine Theory, coined by journalist Ann Friedman and businesswoman Aminatou Sow, encapsulates this idea: exceptional women support each other to shine even brighter.

Historically, women have passed wisdom and experience through communal practices, whether through household chores or cultural rituals. For example, traditional activities like grinding spices together in Indian families or crafting quilts in Alice Walker's 'The Color Purple' symbolize unity and shared strength.

Everyday interactions among women not only ease the burden of tasks but also preserve cultural traditions and create a space for emotional exchange. These interactions form a vessel of healing and transformation, extending beyond personal growth to effecting positive change in their communities. In modern settings, such as neighborhood gatherings or

workplace environments, the same principles apply. Despite the often harsh competitive dynamics driven by stereotypes, supportive women's circles offer a vital source of relief and rejuvenation. Unfortunately, societal narratives and media perpetuate the myth that women are inherently competitive and unhelpful to one another. This stereotype undermines the historical practices of women uplifting each other and fosters unhealthy rivalry. Recent initiatives aim to counteract these negative dynamics by promoting women's economic empowerment. The Union Budget for 2024-25 proposes establishing working women hostels and supporting women-led self-help groups (SHGs). These



measures are designed to enhance financial stability and provide economic opportunities for women, particularly in rural areas. The goal is to transform women into 'Lakshmi Didi's' or those with an annual income exceeding INR 1,00,000, while also encouraging sustainable livelihoods and

improved living standards. The emphasis on SHGs highlights the importance of collective unity and mutual support among women. These groups not only provide economic benefits but also foster a strong network of women who support each other's growth and success. By encouraging more women to

engage in such supportive environments, we can pave the way for greater economic prosperity and gender equality. Sheryl Sandberg, former COO of Meta Platforms, emphasizes the power of women supporting women in her book, 'Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead'. She dispels the myth that women don't support each other, arguing that collaboration among women is key to achieving remarkable success. Successful women often have the backing of other women who help them reach their goals.

To overcome systemic discrimination and internalized biases, women must challenge the societal pressures that pit them against each

other. By rejecting stereotypes and fostering genuine support, women can create spaces where they feel safe to express themselves, show vulnerability, and receive the support they need.

Ultimately, female friendships and communal support not only inspire personal and spiritual growth but also enhance collective strength and performance. Women's circles provide a crucial platform for sharing energy, ideas, and support, enabling women to achieve their full potential and contribute positively to their communities.

(The author is a writer, social worker, culture enthusiast, and former UN employee; views are personal)

Iran rejects European leaders' call to refrain from retaliation

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Iran rejected a call Tuesday by three European countries urging it to refrain from any retaliatory attacks that would further escalate regional tensions. Iran calls it an "excessive request." The leaders of Britain, France and Germany in a joint statement Monday asked Iran and its allies to refrain from retaliation for the killing of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran last month. Iran has blamed Israel. The European leaders also endorsed the latest push by mediators Qatar, Egypt and the United States to broker an agreement to end the Israel-Hamas war. Talks are expected to resume Thursday. And they called for the return of scores of hostages held by Hamas and the "unfettered" delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza. Mediators have spent months trying to get the sides to agree to a three-phase plan in which Hamas would release the remaining hostages captured in its October 7 attack in exchange for Palestinians imprisoned by Israel, and Israel would withdraw from Gaza. After more than 10 months of fighting, the Palestinian death toll is nearing 40,000 in Gaza, according to the Health Ministry there. Meanwhile, Israel's far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir visited Jerusalem's most sensitive holy site Tuesday, in a pilgrimage seen by Muslims as provocative as regional tensions soar. Tensions over the compound have fueled rounds of violence before. Ben-Gvir, an ultranationalist settler leader, last visited the compound in July, which the Palestinian Foreign Ministry condemned as a "provocative intrusion" that endangered the fragile status quo regarding the Jerusalem compound. Ben-Gvir visited the flashpoint



site Tuesday morning as Jews marked Tisha B'Av, a day of mourning commemorating the destruction of the biblical Temples. Jews revere the site as the Temple Mount, believed to be the location of the First and Second Temples, and it is a holy site for Muslims as Haram al-Sharif or the Noble Sanctuary. The visit elicited a rebuke from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who said prayers there were a "deviation" from decades-old understandings at the site that prohibit Jewish worship there. In video released by his office, Ben-Gvir was seen strolling through the compound singing, "The people of Israel live!" while accompanied by dozens of supporters. One supporter yelled a Jewish prayer, which is not permitted under the longstanding arrangement in place at the site meant to ease regional tensions. Ben-Gvir has said he is changing the policy and, despite previous assurances to the contrary by Netanyahu, he repeated the stance Tuesday, adding that "very large progress" had been made to allow Jewish prayer at the site. Netanyahu said there was no change to the policy.

Israeli strikes kill at least 16

AP ■ DEIR AL-BALAH

Israeli strikes in Gaza killed at least 16 Palestinians, including four women and seven children, and orphaned another four children, Palestinian medical officials said Tuesday. Ten people were killed in a strike late Monday on a house near the southern city of Khan Younis, where Israel ordered mass evacuations in recent days, saying it must act against Palestinian militants. Nasser Hospital, where the bodies were brought, said another four children, including a 3-month-old infant, were wounded. The infant's parents and their other five children were among those killed. The parents of the other three wounded children were also killed, according to the hospital's list of casualties. An Associated Press journalist counted the bodies. A separate strike near Deir al-Balah in central Gaza killed a woman and her twin babies, who were four days old, and their grandmother. Another strike in central Gaza killed a man and his nephew. An Associated Press reporter counted the bodies at the nearby Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital and spoke to the father of the twins, who had planned to register their birth on Tuesday. Israel says it tries to avoid harming civilians and blames their deaths on Hamas because its fighters operate in residential areas. The military rarely comments on individual strikes, which often kill women and children.



Hindus in Bangladesh hold a rally condemning violence against them and other religious groups in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on Monday.

'Resignations of B'desh officials are legal'

AP ■ DHAKA

The head of Bangladesh's interim government, Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, says the high-profile resignations of authorities close to ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina are legal after student leaders who organised protests against Hasina's government issued ultimatums for them to quit. "Legally... all the steps were taken," Yunus, 83, told a group of journalists Sunday night. The country's chief justice, five justices and central bank governor have all resigned in the past few days, part of a dramatic transformation after weeks of protests against a quota system for government jobs turned into a mass uprising. Hasina resigned and fled to India last week. Yunus said a key priority of the interim government is to restore the independence of

the judiciary. He called former chief justice Obaidul Hassan "just a hangman." Syed Rezaat Ahmed was appointed the new chief justice on Sunday after his name was proposed by student leaders of the protests. Students vow to cleanse the political system of Hasina's rule, which they have denounced as autocratic. More than 300 people, including students and police officers, were killed in the weeks of violence. Yunus took over on Thursday after student leaders reached out. He said the students told him he was the only one they could trust. He said he accepted "because these are the guys who broke the local government," describing it as a "student-led revolution." "It's not my dream, it's their dream. So I'm kind of helping them to make it come true," Yunus said.

The interim government is expected to announce a new election, but it is not clear when it will be held. Yunus had been a longtime critic of Hasina and her government. An economist and banker by profession and known as the "banker to the poorest of the poor," he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for pioneering the use of micro-credit to help impoverished people, particularly women. Yunus ran into trouble with Hasina in 2008, when her administration launched a series of investigations into him and his Grameen Bank. He was put on trial in 2013 on charges of receiving money without government permission, including his Nobel Prize and royalties from a book. Yunus has denied the allegations, and his supporters say he was targeted because of his frosty relations with Hasina.

Khaleda Zia's BNP to hold sit-in across Bangladesh

PTI ■ DHAKA

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party of former prime minister Khaleda Zia will hold sit-in programmes in front of its party offices across the country on Wednesday and Thursday, demanding a trial be conducted against ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina for "genocide." Bangladesh Nationalist Party's (BNP) joint secretary general Ruhul Kabir Rizvi announced the programme on Tuesday and said that a prayer session will be held to commemorate Khaleda Zia's 79th birthday on Friday and to pray for those killed in the protest, The Dhaka Tribune reported. Special prayers have been arranged in Hindu temples and other places of worship, the report said. Rizvi urged all leaders and activists of the BNP and its affiliated organisations to participate in these programmes. Over 230 people were killed in Bangladesh in the incidents of violence that erupted across the country following the fall of the Hasina government on August 5, taking the death toll to 560 since the anti-quota protests first started in mid-July. An interim government was formed after the fall of the Hasina-led government, and its Chief Adviser, 84-year-old Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, announced the portfolios of his 16-member council of advisors last week. On Monday, seven political parties, including the Awami League's arch-rival BNP, met Yunus separately and said the interim government could take the time necessary to create a conducive environment for holding free and fair elections, The Daily Star newspaper reported.

Family calls for transparency after heatstroke death of Baltimore trash collector

PTI ■ BALTIMORE

The family of a Baltimore man who died of heatstroke while collecting trash for the city's public works agency is demanding increased transparency from local officials following his death. The relatives held a news conference Monday and called on the Baltimore City Council to conduct a series of investigative hearings and shed light on how the otherwise healthy Ronald Silver II succumbed to heat-related illness at work. "Ronnie Silver's death is an absolutely preventable tragedy. It should never have happened," said Thiru Vignarajah, an attorney representing the family. "And it was only because of a failure to respect the basic dignity and humanity of a trashman that this family had to hold funeral services for Ronnie Silver II on Friday." A copy of Silver's offer letter from the Baltimore Department of Public Works shows he started the job last fall and was making about \$18 an hour. Vignarajah said the letter

was a source of pride for Silver, who was working to help support his five children and fiancée. Silver, 36, died Aug. 2 as temperatures in the Baltimore area climbed to about 100 degrees (38 Celsius) and city officials issued a Code Red heat advisory. Local media outlets reported that Silver rang the doorbell of a northeast Baltimore resident that afternoon asking for help. The person who answered the door called 911 on his behalf. Department of Public Works officials have declined to answer questions about the events leading up to Silver's death, including whether supervisors were notified about his condition earlier in the shift. Critics say it was a tragic result of longstanding problems within the agency, including an abusive culture perpetuated by supervisors and a lack of concern for basic health and safety measures. Earlier this summer, the city's inspector general released a report saying that some agency employees —



including at the solid waste yard where Silver reported to work — didn't have adequate access to water, ice, air conditioning and fans to help them complete their trash cleanup routes in intense summer heat. In response to those findings, agency leaders promised to address the issue by properly maintaining ice machines, repairing broken air conditioners in their trash trucks, handing out Gatorade and giving employees an alternative to their traditional uniforms on hot days, among other changes. The agency also announced last week that it would provide employees with mandatory

heat safety training, including "recognizing the signs and symptoms of heat stroke and related illnesses." Vignarajah called those efforts "a day late and a dollar short." He said the Silver family hopes their loss will be a catalyst for change and "the reason that this never happens again," especially as record-shattering heat waves are becoming increasingly common worldwide. "We will not let the world forget Ronald Silver II," his aunt Renee Meredith said during the news conference. "Ronnie, we miss you and love you. And by the time we're done, every worker will be safer because of the mark you have left."

Greece on high alert as wildfire rages on

AP ■ ATHENS

A major wildfire has raged out of control in the northern suburbs of Athens, triggering evacuations of several areas as swirling winds hampered the efforts of hundreds of firefighters and dozens of water-dropping planes. The massive, fast-moving blaze on Monday sent flames to heights of over 25 metres (80 feet) as Greece sought assistance from other countries, activating Europe's mutual civil protection mechanism. The fire began Sunday afternoon about 35 kilometres (22 miles) northeast of Athens, burning several homes and businesses and sending a blanket of smoke and ash over the city centre. Power cuts hit parts of the Greek capital and affected traffic lights at major central junctions. Authorities said 15 people were injured, mostly due to smoke inhalation, as the blaze reached outlying sections of a suburb about 15 kilometres (9 miles) from the city centre. Greece's National Observatory said late Monday that satellite images show the blaze has affected about 10,000 hectares (25,000 acres). France would provide a heli-



copter, Italy two water-dropping planes and the Czech Republic 75 firefighters and 25 vehicles, officials said, while Serbia and Romania were also readying aid. Neighbouring Turkey's Foreign Ministry said the country would dispatch two firefighting planes and a helicopter, while Spain was also finalising reinforcements to send to Greece. The wildfire raced through pine forests left tinder-dry by repeated heat waves this summer. June and July were the hottest months ever recorded

in Greece, which also recorded its warmest winter ever. An early start of the fire season this year has strained Greece's firefighting force. "Firefighters have been working at full tilt for months," said Nikos Lavranos, head of Greece's main firefighters' union. "They are exhausted." Climate Crisis and Civil Protection Minister Vassilis Kikilias said Monday it was "an exceptionally dangerous fire, which we have been fighting for more than 20 hours under dramatic circumstances." Some

areas that were burning on a mountain northeast of Athens were particularly hard to reach, he added. Three hospitals, including a children's hospital, two monasteries and a children's home were evacuated on Monday afternoon. Cellphones in the area got at least 30 push alerts warning people to flee. "The wind would go in one direction and then in the other," said Spyros Gorilas, a resident of the area of Dionisi who hosed down his house with water to save it from the flames.

Harris more incompetent than Biden, Trump tells Musk

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris is a "third-rate phoney candidate" and "more incompetent" than her boss President Joe Biden, her Republican rival in the November election, Donald Trump, has said. In a much-anticipated audio-only interview with billionaire tech magnate Elon Musk on Monday on his social media platform X which was delayed by more than 40 minutes due to technical difficulties, the 78-year-old former president said, "She is a radical left lunatic," as he alleged that "she wants to be more Trump than Trump." Launching a scathing attack on the 59-year-old US Vice President, Trump described Harris as a "third-rate phoney candidate." He reiterated his allegation that Biden being replaced by Harris as a presidential candidate of the Democratic party was a coup. Musk agreed with the former president and said, "Her

behaviour is far left." "She (Harris) had three and a half years, and by the way, they have another five months that they can do something. But they won't do anything. It's all talk," Trump said. "She's incompetent, and he (Biden) is incompetent. And frankly, I think that she's more incompetent than he is, and that's saying something because he's not too good," he said. Trump would face Harris in the general elections on November 5. He accused Harris of having failed miserably on border security as hundreds and thousands of people entered the country illegally. Asserting that he is in favour of legal immigration, Trump said it is illegal immigration that he is against. "She is such a liar," Trump alleged on X, previously known as Twitter, on the day when he returned to the social media platform. Over a million people listened to the much-awaited

audio-only conversation, which started more than 40 minutes late because of technical issues. "There appears to be a massive DDOS (distributed denial-of-service) attack on X. Working on shutting it down. Worst case, we will proceed with a smaller number of live listeners and post the conversation later," Musk said in a post on X. During the interview, both Musk and Trump agreed that the crime rate has increased in the US because of the open border policy of the Biden-Harris Administration. "We're gonna have the largest deportation in the history of this country. And we have no choice," said the former president. Responding to a question from Musk, Trump also slammed Biden's foreign policy and applauded Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. "I got along well with them," he said, claiming there would

have been no war if he was the president of the United States. Meanwhile, Musk stressed that people respond to strength and not weakness and said, "We have some really bad people... we have some really bad people, and I say they are more dangerous than Russia and China." The biggest threat, he said, is not climate change but nuclear warming. The conversation between Trump and Musk started with the failed assassination attempt on the former president in Butler, Pennsylvania, on July 13. "It's very much, I say, an act of God. It's a miracle that it happened," Trump said. Commenting on the country's economy, he said the US is having the worst inflation in 100 years. Trump accused the Biden-Harris administration of the worsening of the US economy. "We need to reduce our government spending. ... We need, like a government effi-

ciency commission," Musk said. Trump also told Musk, the 53-year-old CEO of Tesla, that he was an "interesting character." During the conversation, Trump described China as a primary competitor in Artificial Intelligence and announced that he would close down the Department of Education and move them to the states. In this, he said he would need Musk's help. Trump, who has 88.8 million followers on X, had 10 posts on the social media platform, each of which has been viewed millions of times. Some of his posts had 34 million impressions. His first post, "Are you better off now than you were when I was president? Our economy is shattered. Our border has been erased. We're a nation in decline. Make the American Dream AFFORDABLE again. Make America SAFE again. Make America GREAT Again!" had 25 million impressions.

FBI probing Trump campaign charge of hacking by Iran

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The FBI is investigating allegations that sensitive documents from Donald Trump's presidential campaign were stolen in a cyber intrusion, as well as attempts to gain access to Vice President Kamala Harris' campaign, days after the Trump campaign declared it had been hacked by Iran. The FBI released a brief statement on the Trump matter reading, "We can confirm the FBI is investigating this matter." The Trump campaign provided no specific evidence of Iran's involvement, but the claim came shortly after Microsoft issued a report detailing foreign agents' attempts to interfere in the US election in 2024. The report cited an instance of an Iranian military intelligence unit in June sending "a spear-phishing email to a high-ranking official of a presidential campaign from a compromised email account of a

former senior advisor." Two people familiar with the matter said the Biden-Harris campaign was also targeted in the suspected Iranian cyber intrusion that is under FBI investigation. The people spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to discuss the details of the investigation. Politico reported Saturday that it began receiving emails on July 22 from an anonymous account. The source — an AOL email account identified only as "Robert" — passed along what appeared to be a research dossier the campaign had apparently done on the Republican vice presidential nominee, Ohio Sen. JD Vance. The document was dated February 23, almost five months before Trump selected Vance as his running mate. "These documents were obtained illegally" and "intended to interfere with the 2024 election and sow chaos throughout our Democratic process," Trump

campaign spokesperson Steven Cheung said. At least three staffers in the Biden-Harris campaign were targeted with phishing emails, but investigators have uncovered no evidence the attempt was successful, one of the people said. The attempts came before President Joe Biden dropped out of the race. The FBI began investigating that cyber incident in June and intelligence officials believe Iran was behind the attempts, that person said. Officials have also been in touch with tech companies in recent months about the possibility that people linked to the Trump and Biden-Harris campaigns were being targeted through email. Harris' campaign said in a statement, "Our campaign vigilantly monitors and protects against cyber threats, and we are not aware of any security breaches of our systems." It declined to address whether it had identified any state-based intrusion attempts.

Pak ruling coalition hails ex-ISI chief's impending court-martial

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD
Pakistan's ruling coalition has hailed the arrest of former ISI chief Lt Gen (retd.) Faiz Hameed in connection with a housing scheme scandal but jailed former premier Imran Khan's party decided to stay neutral and termed it the army's "internal matter". Hameed served as the director general of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) from 2019 to 2021, when Khan was prime minister and was accused of meddling in political affairs at his behest. According to the army, he was arrested on Monday by military authorities and court martial proceedings were initiated against him under provisions of the Pakistan Army Act for alleged misuse of authority. His arrest followed a probe into complaints against him by the owner of Top City Housing Society over an alleged raid at his house. Asserting that the military's

actions were "internal", former premier Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party chairman, Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, said the army is a disciplined and organised institution with its own procedures for dealing with both serving and retired officers, the Dawn newspaper reported. However, members of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), including Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, Senator Irfan Siddiqui, Senator Afnan, Rana Sanaullah as well as Pakistan People Party (PPP) leader Qamar Zaman Kaira, were more open in their views on the move, with Tarar calling it a "right decision". "Action against Faiz Hameed would have been taken on the basis of investigation," the minister said. Pointing out that only a brief announcement had been made by the military spokesman about the ex-ISI DG, Senator Siddiqui said, "When investigation will go forward, his



(Hameed's) political meddling will also be proved." Siddique quoted PTI founder Khan as saying that Hameed had supported his party inside Parliament by getting legislation passed and meeting the required number of members in the National Assembly. He said Hameed also remained involved in the general elections by backing the PTI. The senator said the former ISI chief had controlled the media and politicians and tried to control the judiciary as well.

Senior PML-N leader Sanaullah alleged that Hameed was involved in "political meddling" and on his instruction, the Faizabad sit-in was staged by a religious group, choking the main arteries of the federal capital for weeks. Sanaullah said action against him was taken in the light of the Supreme Court's order in the private housing scheme, Top City, whose owner filed a petition in the apex court last year, accusing Hameed of misusing his authority. The owner stated in the petition that on May 12, 2017, at the behest of Gen Hameed, ISI officials raided the top city office and his house and seized valuables, including gold, diamonds and money. Hailing the military's internal accountability system, PPP leader Qamar Zaman Kaira said an inquiry had confirmed multiple violations by Hameed that prompted the initiation of disciplinary proceedings under the Pakistan Army Act.

Without reforms, UNSC 'ill-equipped' to address global challenges: G4 nations

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

A reform of the UN Security Council that does not address the lack of representation, particularly in the permanent category, would only "exacerbate" the current imbalances in its composition and render it "ill-equipped" to address current global challenges, India has said on behalf of the G4 countries. "Recent global geopolitical events have clearly shown that the UN Security Council is unable to deliver on its primary responsibilities to safeguard international peace and security when the world needs it the most," Chargé d'Affaires and Deputy Permanent Representative of India to the UN Ambassador R Ravindra said on Monday. He was delivering a statement on behalf of the G4 countries — Brazil, Germany, Japan and India — at the UNSC High-Level Debate on 'Maintenance of International Peace and Security: Addressing the Historical

Injustice and enhancing Africa's effective representation in the UNSC. The realities of 1945, when the Council was established, have long been superseded by current geopolitical realities, with the need for change being felt across the board, Ravindra said ahead of next month's annual high-level UN General Assembly session which world leaders will attend. He noted that for the G4, the primary reason for the underperformance of the critical UN Security Council remains the non-representation of Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the under-representation of Asia Pacific in the permanent category. "It is the G4's firm belief, shared we believe by Africa and other groups, that any reform of the Council that does not address the lack of representation, particularly in the permanent category, would only exacerbate the current imbalances in the Council's composition and render it ill-

equipped to address today's international challenges," he said. The 15-nation UNSC comprises five permanent, veto-wielding members — China, France, Russia, the UK and the US — and 10 non-permanent members, without veto powers, who are elected for two-year terms. Underlining that the G4 has "walked the talk" when it comes to correcting historical injustices done to Africa, Ravindra said the group's model of UNSC reforms has clearly proposed that the Security Council membership increase from the current 15 to 25-26 by adding six permanent and four or five non-permanent members. Among the six new permanent members, two each are proposed to be from African States and Asia Pacific states, one from Latin American and Caribbean states, and one from West European and Other States. "On rights and privileges associated with permanent memberships, such as the veto, we also

support the Common African Position that as long as it exists, it should be available to all permanent members, both new and old alike," Ravindra said. Ravindra said that the G4 is convinced that African representation in permanent and non-permanent categories will be an indispensable part of UNSC reform for a more representative and effective Council. The group believes it is "inconceivable" that Africa, which constitutes over 70 per cent of the UNSC's agenda items under discussion, does not get a permanent voice at the horse-shoe table. "We as G4 continue to support fully these legitimate demands and aspirations from the people of Africa," he said, adding that the group's relationship with Africa is anchored in trust and mutual respect, and is focused on ensuring that Africa finds its "rightful" place in a new age of reformed multilateralism.

Pak's anti-terrorism court rejects bail plea of Bushra Bibi in 12 cases

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

An anti-terrorism court in Pakistan has rejected the bail application of Bushra Bibi, the wife of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan, in 12 cases related to the May 9 violence of last year which erupted when the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder was arrested in an alleged corruption case. Anti-terrorism court (ATC) Rawalpindi Judge Malik Ejaz Asif on Monday after hearing the plea of Bushra Bibi, 49, said that a thorough investigation was required in her case and subsequently dismissed the bail application. The judge also ordered that the investigation in her case should be completed in seven days. Bibi was seeking bail in FIRs registered in various police stations in Rawalpindi. Khan and Bushra were present in the court along with dozens of other accused who have been named as suspects in the May 9 violence that left more than 100 people dead. The violence started after the Pakistan Rangers arrested Khan inside the premises of the Islamabad High Court in a corruption case. The PTI supporters allegedly targeted civil and military instal-



him. Khan faces several cases and has been convicted in a few. Though the former-cricketer-turned-politician had secured bail or his conviction was set aside, he has not been released. Talking to journalists in Adiala jail while appearing for a hearing in a case of alleged corruption last week, Khan warned that the incumbent government led by Shehbaz Sharif would not last for more than two months. During his conversation with the media, he also referred to the comments he made earlier regarding the May 9 riots. He said that a wrong perception was created and that he had sought an unconditional apology. He also clarified that he would apologise if the PTI activists were found involved in the violent protests. He said that his party wanted justice in the May 9 events, elaborating on his offer to initiate dialogue, and adding that he made the offer to hold talks only for the sake of the country. "I will not strike any deal no matter how many cases they register against us," he said, adding that a deal is sought by those who had committed any wrongdoing. He also clarified that he has not received any offer for negotiations so far.

Teenager stabs 5 in Turkiye, held by cops

AP ■ ANKARA

A teenager wearing a helmet and bulletproof vest randomly stabbed five people at an open-air cafe in northwest Turkiye before being detained by police, officials and media reports said Tuesday. The 18-year-old, identified as Arda K., broadcast Monday's knife attack on social media through a camera attached to his vest, HaberTurk television reported. The victims were people relaxing after prayers at a mosque in Eskisehir, some 230 kilometres west of the capital, Ankara. The teenager was detained following a police chase, according to the Eskisehir governor's office. The five wounded individuals were hospitalised and two of them were in serious condition, according to the state-run Anadolu Agency. The assailant was also carrying an ax but did not appear to have used it. Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said an investigation had begun, while HaberTurk and other media reported the assailant is believed to have been influenced by a video game.

Philippines protests Chinese flares in path of patrol plane

AP ■ MANILA

The Philippine government said Tuesday it has filed a diplomatic protest against Beijing after Chinese jets flew dangerously close and fired a volley of flares in the path of a Philippine air force patrol plane over a disputed shoal in the South China Sea. The Chinese air force jets' hostile actions against the Philippine military's NC-212i light transport plane Thursday over the Scarborough Shoal was the first such aerial encounter since high-seas hostilities between Beijing and Manila in the busy seaway started to flare last year. Philippine military chief Gen. Romeo Brawner Jr. did not report any injuries or damage but condemned the Chinese actions, which he said could have had tragic consequences.

"If the flares came into contact with our aircraft, these could have been blown into the propeller or the intake or burned our plane," Brawner told reporters. "It was very dangerous." Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Teresita Daza said without elaborating that a diplomatic protest has been

transmitted to China. Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said over the weekend that the actions by the Chinese air force jets were "unjustified, illegal and reckless." "We call on the government of the People's Republic of China to cease all forms of provocative and hazardous

acts that could undermine the safety of Filipino military and civilian personnel in the waters or in the skies, destabilise regional peace, and erode the trust and confidence of the international community in the PRC," a Philippine government task force overseeing the South China Sea said Monday.

Yemen's Houthis seize UNHR office in Sanaa

AP ■ CAIRO

Yemen's Houthi rebels stormed the headquarters of the United Nations Human Rights Office in the capital, Sanaa, seizing documents, furniture and vehicles, a senior UN official said Tuesday. The seizure was the latest move in a crackdown by the Houthis on people working with the UN, aid agencies and foreign embassies. The crackdown comes as the Iranian-backed rebels have been targeting shipping throughout the Red Sea corridor over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip. The rebels took over the UN Human Rights Office's premises in Sanaa on August 3, after forcing UN Yemeni workers to hand over belongings, including documents, furniture and vehicles, UN Human Rights Chief Volker Turk said in a statement. "Ansar Allah forces must leave the premises and return all assets and belongings immediately," Turk said, using the official name of the Houthis. A spokesman for the Houthis didn't return phone calls and messages requesting comment.

The UN's Human Rights Office said it had suspended the office's operations in Sanaa and other Yemeni areas controlled by the Houthis following the June crackdown. But it still operates in the parts of Yemen controlled by the internationally recognized government. In June, the Houthis detained more than 60 people working with the UN and other NGOs, according to the UN Human Rights Office. Among the detainees were six workers with the Human Rights Office, who joined two of their colleagues detained by the Houthis in November 2021 and August 2023, it said. Days after the arrest campaign, the rebels said they had arrested members of what they called an "American-Israeli spy network." The Houthis issued what they purported to be videotaped confessions by 10 Yemenis, several of whom said they were recruited by the US Embassy in Yemen. The UN Human Rights Office said one of its staffers who was detained earlier appeared in a video in which he was forced to confess to allegations, including of espionage, the office said. The Houthis' claims could not be independently verified.

Houthi rebels target ship in Red Sea again

AP ■ DUBAI

A ship in the Red Sea was targeted in a third by Yemen's Houthi rebels Tuesday in their campaign of assaults over the Israel-Hamas war, officials said. The attacks come as the rebels' main sponsor, Iran, weighs possible retaliation against Israel over the assassination of Hamas official Ismail Haniyeh in July, which has renewed fears of a wider regional war in the Middle East. Already, the Houthi assaults have disrupted the USD 1 trillion annual flow of goods through the maritime route crucial to trade among Asia, Europe and the Middle East, while also sparking the most intense combat for the US Navy since World War II. The ship was first attacked around 115 kilometers (70 miles) south of the Houthi-held port city of Hodeida, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center said. An explosive was detonated near the ship, then a small vessel "acting suspiciously" flashed a light near the ship and came close, actions that were followed by a second blast, the UKMTO said.

shelling was launched. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition war monitor, said nine pro-government fighters were killed in the attack. The clashes in eastern Syria are the worst in nearly a year. Since 2017, the east bank of the Euphrates river in Deir el-Zour has been controlled by the SDF and the area is where hundreds of US troops are based. The river's west bank has been controlled by Syrian government forces and Iran-backed fighters.

US-backed Syrian fighters kill 18 pro-govt gunmen in rare attack

AP ■ QAMISHLI

US-backed Syrian fighters carried out a rare attack in eastern Syria, striking at three posts manned by pro-government gunmen and claiming that they killed 18 of them in a major escalation near the border with Iraq. The renewed clashes in Syria's eastern oil-rich province of Deir el-Zour on Monday came amid high tensions in the region following last month's killings of a top commander of

Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group in Beirut and the political leader of the Palestinian Hamas group in Iran. Israel was blamed for both attacks, and Iran and Hezbollah have vowed to retaliate. The Syrian government, which is backed by Russia and Iran, has vowed for years to liberate eastern Syria from US forces who have been deployed in the area since 2015 to help fight the Islamic State group. Monday's attack by members of the Arab-led Deir el-Zour

Military Council — part of the US-backed and Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces — came days after clashes and shelling between the SDF and pro-government gunmen left more than a dozen people dead. The Deir el-Zour Military Council said the new attack was in retaliation for government forces' shelling the villages of Dahla and Jdaidet Bakbara last week that left at least 11 civilians dead. The group said it attacked the area where the

shelling was launched. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition war monitor, said nine pro-government fighters were killed in the attack. The clashes in eastern Syria are the worst in nearly a year. Since 2017, the east bank of the Euphrates river in Deir el-Zour has been controlled by the SDF and the area is where hundreds of US troops are based. The river's west bank has been controlled by Syrian government forces and Iran-backed fighters.

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
e-Tender Call Notice No.
EM/PE/21/2024
No. EM/PE/TECH-30/2023/269
Date: 09/08/2024
Name of the work: Supply, Installation and Commissioning of 23 Nos. High Mast Lighting Tower inside the Port prohibited area. Estimated cost: Rs.2,91,96,112/- . Last date & time of submission of bid: dt.30/08/2024 up to 18:00 Hrs. Refer our website for details https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app. Sd/- Executive Engineer (E), PED-1/PPA/PR/28/2024-2025 dtd.12.08.2024

Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar
Tender Notice Reference No.GNDU/Gen/56-68/2024
The Department of G.N.D.U. Amritsar invites online bids for the following:

Sr. No.	Item	Quantity
1	Allotment of Canteens	5
2	Allotment of Shops	8

Closing Date & Time: 23-08-2024 at 5:00 P.M.
For details log onto www.eproc.punjab.gov.in
Note: Any corrigendum(s) to the tender notice shall be published on the above website only.
Assistant Registrar (General)
Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar
NA/12/24732/2023/36618 Dated CHD :- 8/13/2024

Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot
Faridkot Ph. 01639-256232, 256236
Corrigendum
Dated: 13-08-2024
In continuation to advertisement no. BFU-24/17 published in leading newspaper on 20/07/2024 to the recruitment of Joint Director (UCER)-01, Security Officer-01, Librarian Gr-I-01, Assistant Controller (F&A)-01, In-charge Central Registration Department-01, Medical Record Officer-02, Technical Supervisor (Blood Bank)-01, Radiology Supervisor-01 and Biochemist-03 under Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot. The portal was not started due to administrative reason. Now, the revised date of online application form is w.e.f 14/08/2024 to 03/09/2024.
Terms and conditions will remain same as per advertisement No. BFU-24/17. Sd/ Registrar
nil/12/21/2023/36625 Dated CHD :- 8/13/2024

Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot
Faridkot Ph. 01639-256232, 256236
Advt. No. BFU-24/18
Vacancies
Online applications are invited w.e.f. 14-08-2024 to 03-09-2024 from eligible candidates through University website i.e. www.bfuh.s.ac.in to the recruitment of Casualty Medical Officer (EMO)-05 & Lady Medical Officer-01 at constituent colleges/institutes of Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot (Guru Gobind Singh Medical College & Hospital, Faridkot).
For Application form, fee, detail of posts/updates/ other terms & conditions, visit university website: www.bfuh.s.ac.in.
Sd/- Registrar
nil/12/21/2023/36627 Dated CHD :- 8/13/2024

Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot
ADMISSION NOTICE -M.Sc. (Anatomy), M.Sc. (Physiology), M.Sc. (Biochemistry), Session 2024
Online Applications are invited available on University website for admission to M.Sc. in Anatomy, Physiology and Biochemistry Courses from 16.08.2024 to 31.08.2024 alongwith requisite fee through University Payment Gateway. Counseling will be held on 04.09.2023 (11:00P M) in Senate Hall, BFUHS, Faridkot. The selected candidates shall pay the tuition fee on the spot at the counseling venue in the shape of Bank Demand Draft in favor of Registrar, BFUHS, payable in Faridkot.
ADMISSION NOTICE for Post Basic Diploma in Oncology Nursing, and Neonatal Nursing-2024
Online applications are invited w.e.f 14.08.2024 to 24.08.2024 for admission to Post Basic Diploma in Oncology Nursing and Neonatal Nursing courses at Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital, Sangrur and University College of Nursing, Faridkot alongwith requisite fee through University Payment Gateway. Physical Counseling will be held on 02.09.2024 (12:00 noon) at University of College of Nursing, Faridkot. The selected candidates shall pay the tuition fee on the spot at the counseling venue in the shape of Bank Demand Draft in favor of Registrar, BFUHS, payable in Faridkot.
Admission Notice for PMNET (M.Sc.Nursing) Courses, session 2023
Online applications are invited for admission in all the Govt./ University/ Private colleges of Punjab through website w.e.f 14.08.2024 to 20.08.2024. The PMNET-2024 Computer Based Entrance Test for admission to M.Sc. Nursing course will be conducted on 02-09-2024. The date of counseling shall be notified on University website.
Note:- Any Notification/Corrigendum/Amendment by Govt. of Punjab will be followed. For at schedule/online counseling/details & updates visit us at: www.bfuh.s.ac.in regularly.
Registrar
nil/12/12/2023/36628 Dated CHD :- 8/13/2024

Tapir Constructions Limited
(CIN: U70200DL2014PLC267441)
Extract of Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter ended 30 June 2024
(₹ in Millions)

Particulars	Quarter ended 30 June 2024 (Unaudited)	Corresponding Quarter ended 30 June 2023 (Unaudited)	Previous year ended 31 March 2024 (Audited)
Total Income from Operations	1.7	6.1	24.8
Net (Loss) / Profit for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(22.8)	(7.3)	(71.5)
Net (Loss) / Profit for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(22.8)	(7.3)	(71.5)
Net (Loss) / Profit for the period after Tax, (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(22.8)	(7.3)	(71.5)
Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising (Loss) / Profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	(22.8)	(7.3)	(72.0)
Paid up Equity Share Capital	0.5	0.5	0.5
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	(2,140.3)	(2,052.7)	(2,117.5)
Securities Premium Account	-	-	-
Net Worth	(2,139.8)	(2,052.2)	(2,117.0)
Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	3,569.2	3,349.3	3,540.5
Outstanding redemption preference share	-	-	-
Debt Equity Ratio	(1.70)	(1.63)	(1.70)
Earnings per Share (EPS) (Face value Per Share ₹ 10 each)	-	-	-
- Basic (Amount in ₹)	(456.68)	(145.46)	(1,430.52)
- Diluted (Amount in ₹)	(456.68)	(145.46)	(1,430.52)
Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-
Debt Service Coverage Ratio	(0.35)	(0.05)	(0.06)
Interest Service Coverage Ratio	(0.35)	(0.19)	(0.35)
Current ratio (In times)	0.91	0.72	0.92
Total debts to total assets	0.71	0.73	0.71
Long term debt to working capital (In times)	(3.66)	(0.71)	(3.79)
Bad debt to account receivable ratio (In %)	-	-	-
Current liability ratio (In times)	0.77	0.95	0.76
Debtor turnover ratio (In times)	-	-	-
Inventory turnover ratio (In times)	-	-	-
Operating margin (In %)	-	-	31.91
Net profit margin (In %)	(1,310.62)	(118.67)	(288.53)

1. The above results have been reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors ("the Board") at its meeting held on 13 August 2024.
2. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly / Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 52(B), read with 52(4) of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/ Annual Financial Results are available on the Company's website (https://equinoxindia.com/tcl/) and on the website of BSE (https://www.bseindia.com) and NSE (https://www.nseindia.com).
Registered Office: Office no 202, 2nd Floor, A-18 Rama House, Middle Circle, Connaught Place , New Delhi- 110 001.
Place : Mumbai
Date : 13 August, 2024
For and on behalf of the Board of Directors
Abhishek Rajnithar Surve
Executive director

HARMANPREET & CO HAVE STRONG FOUNDATION FOR LA GOLD: MIKE

PTI ■ KOLKATA

After winning successive bronze medals at the Tokyo and Paris Olympics, the Indian men's hockey team has shown their strong foundation and they have it in them to go for a gold in four years' time in Los Angeles, feels the world renowned explorer Mike Horn.

The Swiss motivational coach's intense three-day mental toughness boot camp in the Alps pushed Harmanpreet and Co to their limits, in adventure tasks that also helps in coming out of their comfort zones and also form strong bond.

"The bronze they won is a reflection of their dedication, and I believe they have set a strong foundation for future success, including the possibility of going for gold in the next Olympics," Horn told PTI in an interview.

"The team's performance was exceptional, and they indeed came very close to clinching a gold medal. They showed remarkable skill, strategy, and mental toughness throughout the tournament. While they didn't secure the gold, the fact that they were so close is a testament to their hard work and determination.

"It's important to recognise that winning a medal, especially at the Olympics, is an immense achievement," added Horn, known for his work with MS Dhoni's 2011 World Cup-winning team, Kolkata Knight Riders in their 2014 IPL victory, and Germany's 2014

football champions. India started their campaign with a rusty win over New Zealand before they gradually started to find rhythm.

Their biggest win in the group stage came when they defeated Australia for the first time in 52 years. Their true mental fortitude and team bonding came to fore when they defeated Great Britain in a shootout, despite being reduced to 10 players early in the second quarter.

"I followed their journey at Paris 2024 very closely, and I was genuinely impressed by their resilience and how they handled the pressure. They have so much to be proud of, and it was an honour to be a small part of their journey," said the 58-year-old said.

The bootcamp was packed with extreme adventures, from walking on Glacier 3000, the highest peak of the Alps, to sleeping on grass — an experience that India defender Amit Rohidas had described as extremely back-breaking.

"They came into the camp with an incredible mindset, ready to push themselves and grow as a team," recalled the 58-year-old.

"I would like to think that the bootcamp contributed in some way to the team's success, but the real credit goes to the players and their relentless hard work and dedication. The bootcamp was designed to challenge them, and they responded brilliantly, but ultimately, it was their commitment and teamwork that shone through during the



Olympics." Horn also had special words of praise for skipper Harmanpreet whom he described as "all time greats". Harmanpreet was the top-scorer of the Olympics with 10 goals.

"What impresses me most about Harmanpreet is his ability to lead by

example. He's not just a great player but also someone who inspires his teammates to elevate their game. His leadership was crucial to the team's success, and he has undoubtedly cemented his place as one of the all-time greats in Indian hockey," Horn said. He also said it's "hard" to see that PR Sreejesh won't

be there at the goalpost. "Even though this was his last appearance for Team India, he played with the passion and intensity that have defined his entire career. During the bootcamp, Sreejesh was a pillar of strength for the team — his experience and leadership

were invaluable, and he set the tone for the younger players. "Considering his contributions to Indian hockey, it's hard not to wish he would continue. However, if this is indeed his final chapter, he leaves behind a tremendous legacy that will inspire future generations of players," he said.

Horn also spoke about newly-appointed India cricket team head coach Gautam Gambhir and recalled how he made the difference at KKR with his strategic acumen and game-reading skills. Gambhir began his stint with a 3-0 thrashing of Sri Lanka in the T20Is, but suffered a 0-2 defeat in the ODIs.

"Gambhir's transformation from a successful KKR captain to a title-winning mentor has been remarkable. As a captain, Gambhir was known for his strategic acumen and ability to inspire his team. He led by example, showing immense dedication and resilience, which were key to KKR's successes. Transitioning to a mentor role, Gambhir continued to be a significant influence. His deep understanding of the game and experience in handling high-pressure situations provided invaluable guidance to the team. He was able to connect with the players on a personal level, offering insights and support that went beyond just technical advice. Working with Gautam was a special experience. His passion for the game and commitment to excellence were truly inspiring. He has a unique ability to read the game and anticipate challenges, which made him an exceptional mentor. His presence and leadership helped foster a winning mentality within the team, proving that his contributions are vital whether on the field or off it," he signed off.



Para shuttler Bhagat suspended for 18 months, to miss Paris Paralympics

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tokyo gold medallist para shuttler Pramod Bhagat will not be able to defend his title at the Paris Paralympics after he was handed a 18-month suspension for breaching BWF's anti-doping whereabouts clause, leaving the Indian heartbroken.

"The Badminton World Federation can confirm India's Tokyo 2020 Paralympic champion Pramod Bhagat has been suspended for a period of 18 months and will miss the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games," the governing body said in a statement on Tuesday.

"In 1 March 2024, the Court of Arbitration of Sport (CAS) Anti-Doping Division found Bhagat in breach of the BWF anti-doping regulations for committing three whereabouts failures within 12 months."

The 36-year-old, an SL3 athlete, said he is saddened by the decision and it was a result of a technical glitch.

"It is an extremely hard decision for me. I respect WADA, I understand they are drawing a line for all players,

but to ban someone for technical reasons is not right," Bhagat told PTI.

"It is not like there is any substance issue, it is a issue of whereabouts failure, which I missed the test twice as I was in a different place but I have all the proof of filing the third time. But they didn't accept my appeal.

"It is a big loss for me. I was preparing for Paris, it is such a big thing for every athlete. I would have been a medallist. It is heartbreaking," Bhagat added.

Bhagat had appealed this decision to the CAS Appeals Division but it was rejected last month.

"On 29 July 2024, the CAS Appeals Division dismissed the Bhagat's appeal and confirmed the CAS Anti-Doping Division decision of 1 March 2024. His period of ineligibility is now in effect," the statement added.

His suspension is effective till September 1, 2025.

"My team and I have been proactive in appealing this decision, citing the technical issues that led to these failures. Unfortunately, despite our

efforts, we have not been able to resolve this matter before the upcoming games. "We respect the decision of the authorities and will abide by it, but this has been a challenging and emotional time for me as an athlete who has always competed with integrity." Bhagat had won a gold medal at the Tokyo Paralympics in men's singles SL3 category, beating Daniel Bethell of Great Britain in the final.

The 36-year-old Bihar-born shuttler had equalled the legendary Lin Dan of China by winning a fifth World Championships title in February last year at Pattaya, Thailand.

"It is extremely sad and unfortunate. He was a sure shot medal for India at the Paralympics but he is a fighter and I am sure he will come back stronger," Indian para-badminton head coach Gaurav Khanna told PTI.

Bhagat, who had contracted polio, resulting in a disability affecting his left leg at the age of five, is also a two-time Asian Games gold-medallist and is the current world No 3 in his category.

Manu aims for multiple Olympic medals

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ace Indian pistol shooter Manu Bhaker has set her sights on winning multiple medals at the Olympics in the future following her historic feat at the Paris Games.

The 22-year-old scripted history to become the first Indian athlete in post-independence era to win two Olympic medals in a single edition of the Games. Bhaker won a bronze each in the women's 10m air pistol and 10m air pistol mixed team event — where she had paired with Sarabjot Singh. She also came close to winning a third bronze in 25m pistol before finishing a creditable fourth in Paris. No Indian athlete has won more than two individual medals at the Olympics.

"I think we all work hard to win medals. But if that happens (winning more than 2 individual medals at Olympics) then that would be great. The aim is to work hard and better this performance in the



future," Bhaker told PTI Videos. "(I am) aiming to win many more Olympic medals for India," added Bhaker, who returned to the country after participating in the closing

ceremony. Bhaker had the honour of being India's flagbearer alongside veteran hockey goalkeeper PR Sreejesh at the closing ceremony on Sunday.

"Being the flag bearer was the opportunity of a lifetime, I am grateful that I got this opportunity and will cherish this for a lifetime," she said. "I have a very friendly bond with Sreejesh bhaiya. I have known him since I was a young kid. He is always very friendly, helpful and kind. He made it a lot easier for me in the closing ceremony."

Bhaker had returned to India last week but had flown back to Paris for the closing ceremony where she was the joint-flagbearer.

She was accompanied at the Indira Gandhi International Airport by her coach Jaspal Rana and mother Smedha.

"I am happy for her. I am happy for the players. When I went to Paris, I met the Hockey team, Aman Sehrawat, Neeraj Chopra. I just hope all these athletes keep winning medals and all the mothers of this nation will be happy," said Bhaker's mother.

Alexei beats Andrey in straight sets to win National Bank Open men's singles title

AP ■ MONTREAL

Australia's Alexei Popyrin, the No. 62-ranked player in the world, defeated fifth-seeded Andrey Rublev of Russia 6-2, 6-4 at the National Bank Open to win the biggest singles title of his career.

Popyrin had two lower-level ATP Tour titles on his resume coming into a week in which he faced five top-20 players in a row — and defeated all of them.

First came No. 11 seed Ben Shelton in the second round, then No. 7 seed Grigor Dimitrov, a contest in which he saved three match points. In the quarterfinals came No. 4 seed Hubert Hurkacz, who was up a set and a break in the second before Popyrin came back to win 7-5 in the third set.

Then American Sebastian Korda, who won the tournament in Washington, D.C., last week and was on a

nine-match winning streak, in the semifinals late Sunday night. And finally Rublev, who was looking for his third career ATP Masters 1000 title, his first on hard courts. But he had no answers against a player with whom he often trains at their mutual home base in Monte Carlo.

"I played a really, really high level of tennis, which I believed that I could play my whole life. But to put it into five matches in a row against I mean, six matches in a row against really high quality opponents is something else," Popyrin said.

Once it was over, Popyrin put his hands to his face and let the tears flow.

Popyrin won the first seven points of the match and from there, the hill was just too steep to climb for Rublev, who moves from No. 8 to No. 6 in the rankings with a week that included a win over world No.



1 Jannik Sinner. Popyrin will rise in the rankings from No. 62 to No. 23.

"I wanted to put a statement

in the first game, and I think I did that, which I think rattled him a little bit, which was part of the game plan. I just continued from there."

Popyrin said. As with Rublev, whose on-court emotions have often held back his career progress, Popyrin had been known more for his temper on the court than his game. On Monday night, he was cool, calm and collected. Rublev wasn't as serene. But he's happy with his progress on that front.

"Even today, because if we go back even one month ago — or even compare my match against (Popyrin) at Monte Carlo (in April) when I was losing, I was behaving 10 times (worse) — and it was the first round," he said.

"Here, it was a final. Much more pressure. Yes, I still showed a bit emotions today, but compared to the matches when I was losing the same way, I think I did much better job. That's why I had a little chance in the second set, but it was just not my time, I guess.

USA gymnastics says arbitration panel won't reconsider decision

AP ■ WASHINGTON

USA Gymnastics officials say an arbitration panel won't reconsider a decision asking gymnast Jordan Chiles to return the bronze medal she was awarded in the floor exercise at the Paris Olympics. USA Gymnastics says it will continue efforts to let Chiles keep the medal.

"USA Gymnastics was notified by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) on Monday that their rules do not allow for an arbitral award to be reconsidered even when conclusive new evidence is presented," USA Gymnastics said in a statement.

"We are deeply disappointed by the notification and will continue to pursue every possible avenue and appeal process, including to the Swiss Federal Tribunal, to ensure the just scoring, placement, and medal award for Jordan." CAS voided an on-floor appeal from Chiles' coach that vaulted her to third, saying the appeal came 4 seconds beyond the one-minute time limit for scoring inquiries.

USA Gymnastics disputed the timing, saying in a statement Sunday that the agency submitted video evidence to CAS that showed Team USA coach Cecile Landi first appealed 13 seconds before the



deadline. The dispute over such minute details sets up what could be a months- or years-long legal battle over the gymnastics scores.

The International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) said Saturday night it would respect the court's decision and elevate Ana Barbosu of Romania to

third. The International Olympic Committee confirmed the ruling Sunday, announcing that it was reallocating the medal. CAS ruled Saturday that Landi's inquiry to have 0.1 added to Chile's score came outside the one-minute window. The CAS ad hoc committee wrote that Landi's inquiry came 1 minute, 4 seconds after Chile's initial score was posted.

The IOC said in a statement it will be in touch with the USOPC regarding the return of Chile's bronze and will work with the Romanian Olympic Committee to discuss a reallocation ceremony honoring Barbosu.

The appeal could go to Switzerland's highest court, the Swiss Tribunal, or the European Court of Human Rights. Rebeca Andrade of Brazil won gold and Simone Biles of the U.

Six Americans advance with wins in Cincinnati Open qualifying

AP ■ CINCINNATI

Nuno Borges and Magdalena Frech, the top men's and women's seeds in the Cincinnati Open, advanced with wins in the qualifying round.

Borges, from Portugal, beat Aleksandar Vukic of Australia, 7-6 (4), 6-1, and Frech, from Poland, beat 14th-seeded Jessica Bouzas Maneiro of Spain, 6-1, 6-4.

Six Americans — three men and three women — advanced in the main draws. No. 5 seed Alex Michelsen of Aliso Viejo, Calif., defeated Mackenzie McDonald of Orlando, Fla., 6-3, 6-2; Brandon Holt of Rolling Hills, Calif., beat Zachary

Svajda of San Diego, 6-4, 2-6, 6-3; and Aleksandar Kovacevic of New York got past Australia's Rinky Hijikata, 6-1, 7-6 (5).

In the women's draw, 12th-seeded Taylor Townsend of Smyrna, Ga. Beat No. 4 Katie Volynets of Walnut Creek, Calif., 6-0, 6-3; Robin Montgomery of Washington defeated No. 16 Martina Trevisan of Italy, 6-4, 6-4; and Ashlyn Krueger of Springfield, Mo., edged Japan's Naomi Osaka, 6-3, 2-6, 6-3.

For the men, Italy's Flavio Cobolli beat 10th-seeded Tommy Paul of Boca Raton, Fla., 6-2, 4-6, 7-5. No. 3 Yoshihito Nishioka of Japan and No. 11 Corentin Mouet of

France also advanced. For the women, No. 15 Harriet Dart of Great Britain, defeated No. 5 Elna Avanesyan of Armenia, 6-4, 6-1. No. 3 Lulu Sun of Australia's Lulu Sun, No. 10 Varvara Gracheva, and No. 13 Y.F. Wang of China also advanced.

LOOKING AHEAD: The men's and women's main draw both resume tomorrow. Twelve Americans — 10 men and two women — will be on courts throughout the Lindner Family Tennis Center. No. 12 seed Ben Shelton of Atlanta will take on Reilly Opelka of St. Joseph, Mich., in the afternoon. No. 11 Taylor Fritz of Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif.

PONTING BACKS AUSTRALIA TO HAND INDIA 3-1 DEFEAT IN BORDER-GAVASKAR TROPHY

PTI ■ DUBAI

Ricky Ponting believes Australia will have a "point to prove" after two straight Test series defeats at home against India and backed the Pat Cummins-led side to win the five-match Border-Gavaskar Trophy 3-1 come November-December. India, who have returned victorious in both their previous Test assignments Down Under with identical margins of 2-1, will take on the world No.1 Australia in a five-Test series starting on November 22. "It's going to be a competitive series. Australia has got a bit of a point to prove against India in Australia on the back of what happened the last two series here," Ponting told 'The ICC Review'. "We are back to (having) five Tests as well, which is the other really important thing about this series. It has only been four Tests the last couple of time. (To have) five Tests, everyone is really excited by that and I don't know if there'd be too many drawn games. "I'm obviously going to tip Australia to win and I'm never going to tip against Australia. There will be a draw somewhere and there will be some bad weather somewhere, so I'm going to say 3-1 to Australia," he added. India and Australia have not played a five-Test series after their bilateral affairs came to be known as the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Before that, in 1991-92, India had toured



Australia for a five-Test series. Ponting backed India's left-arm seamer Khaleel Ahmed, whom he coached in the IPL at Delhi Capitals, to be a part of India's touring party. "Someone like Khaleel Ahmed, I think, could find himself on the Test

tour. He has just been over in Zimbabwe recently and played that (T20I) series over there, but a left-arm would be ideal for them to have in their touring squad," Ponting said. The former Australia skipper hoped both teams will be deploying full-

fledged bowling attacks. "(Mohammed) Shami will be back fit by then, (Mohammed) Siraj we know will be there-abouts somewhere and obviously (Jasprit) Bumrah is going nowhere. Both teams are going to line up really, really strongly," he said.

Ponting said the competitiveness between India and Australia is quite close to the Ashes rivalry against England. "I was a part of it when that really started to grow, when the rivalry really started to grow, was it's right at the back end of my career," Ponting said. "I've said for the last couple of years now, Australia have always had a fierce rivalry with England, obviously, and a very strong rivalry with South Africa. "But I think India is now sitting right on the back of what an Ashes clash is like and probably overtaken the rivalry with South Africa. Ponting said while Australia's squad looks more or less settled, it remains to be seen if Steve Smith would like to persist being at the opening slot. "Australia will pretty much pick itself. Probably, the only one question there might be with Australia again, is if (Steve) Smith's the right man to be opening the batting," he said. "That would be the only query that I can see there. But that was all about obviously bringing Cameron Green back into the side. "So I'll rephrase it, not whether Smith's the right man to open the batting but whether he thinks it's the right spot for him. Because if he doesn't think it's the right spot, then they'll make a change and get someone else back up there," Ponting added.



Sri Lanka Cricket ropes in Ian Bell as batting coach ahead of away Test series vs England

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka on Tuesday appointed Ian Bell as their batting coach ahead of their tour of England comprising three Tests. Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) announced on its website that Bell, who scored 7727 runs in 118 Tests, will start working with the national side later this week. "He will start working with the team from August 16 and remain until the conclusion of the three-Test match series," SLC CEO Ashley de Silva expressed. "We appointed Ian to bring in a person with local knowledge to help the players with key insights on the conditions there."

"Ian has a lot of experience playing in England, and we believe his inputs will help our team in this crucial tour. Sri Lanka's tour of England begins with the first Test at Manchester from August 21-25. The second Test will be played at Lord's from August 29-September 2 while The Oval will host the third and final Test from September 6-10. Meanwhile, England could be in a race against time with skipper Ben Stokes suffering a hamstring injury last Sunday while playing in The Hundred. Stokes sustained the injury while batting and was eventually helped off the field. He was taken for scans and was also seen walking with the help of crutches.



We didn't even get desired coach for Olympics: Ashwini

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian doubles badminton specialist Ashwini Ponnappa on Tuesday said she received little to no individual financial assistance from the sports ministry in the build up to Paris Olympics and even her request for a coach was turned down ahead of the just-concluded Games. The Sports Authority of India (SAI) had come out with a document, detailing the financial support provided to the Paris-bound Indian athletes. It mentions that Ashwini was provided Rs 4,50,000 under TOPS and Rs 1,48,04,080 under Annual calendar for Training and Competition (ACTC), which included the procurement of Game Ready recovery equipment, international competitions and sparring partner in the Tokyo cycle. "I'm absolutely shocked.. I don't mind not getting money but telling the nation that I got money is ridiculous. I haven't received it. Like if you're talking about national

camp, then that 1.5 Crore is spent on all the campers," Ashwini told PTI. "I don't have a specific coach. As for my personalised trainer, I'm paying for him myself. I'm not taking money from anyone. I've played on my own until November (2023). I was included as part of TOPS only after we qualified..." Ashwini, 34, has been one of the top Indian doubles player, having won a gold, a silver and a bronze in the Commonwealth Games 2010, 2014 and 2018 respectively. She has also competed in the London and Rio Olympics with Jwala Gutta. Detailing the Rs 1.48 crore spending, a SAI source said: "The Rs 1.48 crore has been spent on her on travel, stay, food, competition fee, DA in all the competitions that she participated in as part of the Indian team in the Paris cycle. "This money is given to BAI as part of ACTC." Ashwini, who had paired with N Sikki Reddy till August, 2022, joined hands with Tanisha Crasto in



December that year and started playing in international tournaments from January 2023. A series of good performances helped them seal their Paris berth, after which the duo were included in the TOPS scheme in May this year. "The ministry has always supported me. I've been part of the team for years and I'm grateful for the support I've received," Ashwini said. "The last year I haven't been supported and it's ok. But you can't say I've been given Rs 1.5 crore, if it's over four years, fair enough. As I was TOPS when I was partnering Sikki." Playing her third Olympics, Ashwini was left in tears after she and her partner Tanisha couldn't win a single match to make an unceremonious exit from the group stage. "I haven't played well, irrespective of the coach not being there, I take responsibility for that. But you can't say I'm getting this amount when I haven't even got this amount," she said.

I will meet hockey team before Sept 10 to chalk out future plans: Sports Minister

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Tuesday informed that he will hold a meeting with the bronze medal winning Indian men's hockey team before September 10 to chalk out future plans in its endeavour to clinch the gold medal in 2028 Los Angeles Games. Mandaviya on Tuesday felicitated star custodian PR Sreejesh, defender Sanjay, Amit Rohidas and striker Abhishek after their return from Paris on Tuesday morning. "It's been a wonderful performance from you guys, we didn't get the gold but we came very close to it and the way you guys inspired after the semifinal loss is commendable," Mandaviya said. "But it's not the end of the road and I will sit with you by September 10 and churn out future course of action so that

we should return with nothing less than gold from Los Angeles. I will seek your opinion how to go about it and try to provide you all possible support from the government." The minister also said he was satisfied with the performance of the Indian contingent even though they couldn't match last edition's result. In Tokyo India won seven medals including a gold, but in Paris the country could manage just six medals -- five bronze medals and one silver. The Indians, however, missed out on seven medals, finishing fourth, a fact which Mandaviya rued. "In Tokyo, we won seven medals but in Paris we won six. But the fact is we missed out on seven more medals by finishing fourth, which is a worthy performance," he said. Mandaviya had earlier felicitated the others members of the hockey who returned early.

PTI ■ JAIPUR

India aiming to win more than 25 medals at Paris Paralympics: PCI chief Jhajharia

India is hoping to win more than 25 medals from its largest-ever contingent of 84 athletes at the upcoming Paris Paralympic Games beginning on August 28, the country's governing body chief Devendra Jhajharia said on Tuesday. Jhajharia, himself a double gold medalist at the Paralympics, said the Indian contingent would look the carry the momentum of record-breaking performances in the 2021 Tokyo Paralympics and 2023 Hangzhou Asian Para Games. India had won 19 medals at the Tokyo Paralympics and a historic 111 medal at the Para Asian Games. "This is the biggest para

contingent India has ever sent to the Paralympics. We are very confident about the overall performance and are sure to win more than 25 medals," Jhajharia said here at an event organised by the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI). India is set to compete in 12 sports, including archery, athletics, badminton, canoeing, cycling, blind judo, powerlifting, rowing, shooting, swimming, table tennis, and taekwondo. "Most of our athletes are in excellent shape, having



trained rigorously for this event. We expect outstanding results, particularly in athletics, badminton, archery, and shooting. They are ready to make India proud," the PCI president said. The Indian team boasts of a mix of experienced and young athletes athletes. Many of them are participating in their second or third Paralympics. Amit Kumar Saroha, a seasoned athlete competing in his fourth Paralympics, will represent India in the

F51 category discus throw. The 39-year-old Asian Para Games medalist is the oldest member of the contingent. On the other end of the spectrum, the youngest athlete is 17-year-old archer Sheetal Devi, who shoots with her legs instead of her hands due to a medical condition that has afflicted her since birth. She recently made headlines by winning gold medals in individual compound and mixed team events in archery at the 2023 Asian Para Games. Meanwhile, 100 Sports Management Private Limited has been awarded the exclusive broadcasting and digital media right for Paris Paralympics in India, according to a release.

Premier League will have different look when season starts Friday

AP ■ LONDON

The Premier League rarely stands still. For the 2024-25 season starting on Friday, there are five newly hired managers, around \$1.6 billion worth of new players (and counting), new offside technology, updated financial regulations and a tweaked match schedule. **COACHING CHANGES:** A quarter of the coaches will be taking charge of a Premier League game for the first time, with Liverpool (Arne Slot), Chelsea (Enzo Maresca) and Brighton (Fabian Hürzeler) all having new managers and both Southampton (Russell Martin) and Ipswich (Kieran McKenna) gaining promotion with managers owning no top-flight experience. Throw in Julen Lopetegui being the new guy at

West Ham after 4 1/2 years of David Moyes at the helm and Steve Cooper replacing Maresca at Leicester, and the dugouts will look different this season. Most of the intrigue, however, will focus on Slot and what style he implements at Liverpool after the team's nearly nine years with the popular Jurgen Klopp. Rock n' roll could turn into more control, with Slot preferring more of a possession game. **SLOWER MARKET:** The Premier League's 20 clubs have spent as much on new players in this transfer window as those in Spain, Italy and Germany combined, according to transfermarkt.com. So why does it feel such a slow summer of trading? Maybe because there have been no blockbuster deals, with the most expensive being striker Dominic Solanke moving to Tottenham from Bournemouth for



65 million pounds (\$83 million). However, lots of deals for between \$30-70 million quickly add up - and there are still three weeks left in the window, during which Manchester City, Manchester United, Liverpool,

Arsenal and Chelsea are expected to weigh in. City (Savinho) and Arsenal (Riccardo Calafiori) have only made one new signing so far and Liverpool hasn't made any. Come the end of transfer deadline

day on Aug. 30, don't be surprised if Premier League clubs have spent way more than \$2 billion - even if most are balancing the books with sales because of the league's sterner financial rules. **SEMI-AUTOMATED OFFSIDES:** Expect offside decisions to be reached much quicker in the Premier League this season. The competition is introducing semi-automated offside technology for the first time, with the new system set to be launched during the first half of the season. Multiple cameras will track player movements and record data points on parts of the body that are relevant for an offside decision. Data is processed with artificial intelligence to create a 3D offside line that is alerted to the team of VAR officials. It is expected to take an average of around 30 seconds off the length of time it

currently takes VAR officials to come to a decision manually. Semi-automated offside rules were used at the 2022 World Cup and at the recent European Championship. **SPENDING RULES:** Last season in the Premier League was notable for some clubs, like Everton and Nottingham Forest, receiving points deductions for breaking the competition's profitability and sustainability regulations, which are now being more strictly applied. This coming season is the final year of those regulations, with two new forms of spending caps being trialed ahead of their introduction from the 2025-26 season. Teams in England's top division will trial a "Squad Cost Rules" system, which will limit spending on players to 85% of a club's soccer revenue and net profit or loss on player sales. A second system called "Top to

Bottom Anchoring" limits - or anchors - spending to a multiple of the lowest combined prize money and cash from TV rights forecast to be earned by a team. The league said the systems aimed to "improve and preserve clubs' financial sustainability and the competitive balance of the Premier League" as well as "promote aspiration of clubs. **NO WINTER BREAK:** The Premier League is renowned for being a relentless slog - even more so this season. There's no winter break for clubs this time, with the season starting later, to give players more time to recover from international tournaments this summer, and therefore being squeezed. Last year, for example, five games were held each weekend over a two-week period, giving teams at least one weekend off over January.