



**OPINION 6**  
WHY A NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY IS VITAL FOR INDIA

**WORLD 9**  
8 PALESTINIANS KILLED IN WEST BANK

**MONEY 10**  
STOCK MARKETS PARE GAINS TO CLOSE LOWER

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CHANU SETS SIGHTS ON HISTORIC PODIUM FINISH IN PARIS  
11 SPORTS

# India monitors a neighbour at war with itself



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar speaks in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday (l); people gather around the residence of Bangladeshi Prime Minister in Dhaka, Bangladesh

PTI

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■**  
NEW DELHI

A day after Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was ousted and arrived here after resigning, the Government informed Parliament it is monitoring the situation with regard to minorities in the neighbouring country and is in "close and continuous" touch with the Indian community there through its diplomatic missions. The Government also apprised MPs about Hasina's "very short notice" request to come to India "for the moment."

India, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also briefed an all-party meeting on the latest situation. He also did not rule out the role of foreign Government in the unrest there. Home Minister Amit Shah, External Affairs Minister Jaishankar and National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval held a meeting to review the fast evolving situation in Bangladesh. They also took stock of the readiness of the forces on the India-Bangladesh border. Doval had met Hasina at the Hindon airbase on Monday. In a statement in the Rajya Sabha, Jaishankar also briefed the Elders on Hasina's "very short notice"

## Sheikh Hasina's port of arrival fluid

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's travel plan to London remain fluid and she is likely to stay in India for a few more days after arriving here on Monday evening, sources said here on Tuesday. Hasina landed at the Hindon airbase on Monday in a C-130J military transport aircraft hours after resigning. This development arose after the



UK Government indicated that she may not get legal protection against any possible probe into the massive violent protests in her country, they said.

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request to come to India "for the moment".

"There are an estimated 19,000 Indian nationals there, of which about 9,000 are students. The bulk of the students, however, have already returned to India in the month of July," Jaishankar said.

Elaborating upon the sequence of events, he said "On August 5, demonstrators converged in Dhaka despite curfew. Our understanding is that after a meeting with leaders of the security establishment, Hasina apparently made the decision to resign. At very short notice, she requested approval to come for the moment to India."

"We simultaneously received a request for flight clearance from Bangladesh authorities. She arrived yesterday evening in Delhi. The situation in Bangladesh is still evolving," he said. "Army Chief General Waqaruz-Zaman, addressed the nation on August 5. He spoke about assuming responsibility and constituting an interim Government. We are in close and continuous touch with the Indian community in Bangladesh through our diplomatic missions," Jaishankar said.

India is also monitoring the situation with regard to the status of minorities, he said.

In the all party-meeting, Jaishankar informed them India has assured help to Hasina, who arrived here on Monday evening, and given her time to decide the future course of action, sources said.

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## Bangladesh prepares for interim Government

**PTI ■ DHAKA**

Bangladesh President Mohammed Shahabuddin on Tuesday dissolved Parliament to make way for the formation of an interim administration, a day after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned and fled the country following massive protests against her government.

"The decision to dissolve the parliament was taken following the President's discussions with Chiefs of three staff of Armed forces, leaders of different political parties, representatives of civil society and leaders of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement," said a statement issued by the President's office.

Over 100 people have been killed in the violence across Bangladesh as chaos reigned supreme hours after Hasina resigned as Prime Minister and fled the country on Monday, reports said on Tuesday amid signs of return to normalcy. The situation in Dhaka was largely calm on Tuesday morning after a day of unrest and a night of tension. Buses and other public transport were on the streets and traders were opening shops. Government vehicles were heading to offices. Many battery-run rickshaws plied the roads, BDNews24.Com newsportal said.

According to local media reports, 119 people have been killed in the violence and attacks on Hindu



temples and widespread looting in the capital and various other places. At least 109 people were killed in clashes in different parts of the country, including Dhaka, at the last moment of the one-point demand of the anti-discrimination student movement on Monday, Bengali language daily Prothom Alo reported on Tuesday.

Earlier, the newspaper reported the death of 98 people till 12 pm on Sunday. Another 16 deaths were reported in the middle of the night. The total death toll stood at 114 on Sunday. "With this, the total death toll stood at 440 in 21 days from July 16 to yesterday," the paper said. It said that 37 bodies were brought to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital between 11 am and 8 pm on Monday.



## BJP pillar LK Advani hospitalised

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■**  
NEW DELHI

Around a month after being discharged, senior BJP leader and former Deputy Prime Minister LK Advani was admitted to Delhi's Apollo Hospital again on Tuesday. The 96-year-old is stable and under observation, according to sources. According to a hospital source, Advani, who was born in undivided India, was admitted to the Apollo hospital here today. In the first week of July too, Advani was brought to this facility and discharged after being kept under observation for a couple of days. Prior to that he had been admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and was discharged following a night-long stay there. Advani served as the Deputy Prime Minister of India from 2002 to 2004 and as the Union Home Minister from 1999 to 2004.

## For Vinesh, the world is her oyster at the Olympics



Vinesh Phogat reacts after the round of 16 of the women's freestyle 50kg wrestling match against Japan's Yui Susaki, at Champ-de-Mars Arena, during the 2024 Summer Olympics, on Tuesday

AP/PTI

**PTI ■ PARIS**

Vinesh Phogat pulled off the biggest upset at the Paris Games by outwitting hitherto invincible Yui Susaki with a perfectly planned strategy before edging past Ukraine's Oksana Livach to storm into the women's 50kg semifinal as she inched closer to an elusive Olympic medal, here on Tuesday.

The Tokyo Games gold medalist and four-time World Champion Susaki had not lost any of her 82 bouts in her international career but the Japanese top seed hardly had an idea as to what was about to hit her in the opener which she lost 2-3.

Later, Vinesh quelled the

## Javelin king Neeraj set to beat his own record

**PTI ■ PARIS**

Defending champion Neeraj Chopra turned on the style as he stormed into the men's javelin throw final of the Olympic Games with a season's best effort of 89.34m in his very first attempt in the qualification round here on Tuesday. The Tokyo Olympics, the 26-year-old crossed the automatic qualifying mark of 84m in his opening throw to occupy the top spot in Group B.

challenge of former European champion and 2018 world championship bronze-medallist Livach 7-5 in the quarterfinal. Having endured two Olympic heart-breaks, the feisty 29-year-old, is now only one win away from ensuring her maiden Olympic medal.

Vinesh has every medal in her cabinet which includes three CWG gold, an Asian Games title, eight Asian Championship medals to go with two World Championship bronze but Olympic success eluded her both times in Rio and Tokyo.

"It's a miracle, no less than a miracle what Vinesh has done today. It was such a sad Monday due to Nisha's injury but Vinesh has lightened up the day," India's national coach Virender Dahiya said before leaving for Anitmt Panghal's draw.

It was not just the Indian camp that was celebrating but the wrestlers in the Susaki's half in the draw were relieved that the big obstacle has been removed. "With the world champion out, I thought I will now have a better chance. Vinesh was very strong. I tried to fight but I made a few mistakes," said Livach after her close 5-7 defeat against Vinesh. Thrown in at the deep end, Vinesh came up with a strategy to look for that one attack in the dying moments and pulled that off successfully. There was no action for the first 90 seconds as the two wrestlers measured each other.

## Manipur CM says illegal immigration the biggest threat to his people



**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ IMPHAL**

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Tuesday said illegal immigration is a grave threat to the state's indigenous people and asserted that those who entered after 1961 should be deported with Central Government's help.

In response to a query from Naga People's Front legislator Leishiyho Keishing in the Assembly, Singh described the situation as "alarming" and stressed the need for unity in addressing illegal immigration. He remarked, "It is an alarming situation. Illegal immigration has caused demographic changes but some sections do not believe it. Without unity, it is not possible

to deal with the issue." Singh said the State has a 398-km porous and unguarded international border with Myanmar, which complicates the detection of illegal immigrants. He recalled that a Cabinet sub-committee led by Tribal Affairs and Development Minister Letpao Haokip had been formed to investigate the issue. The sub-committee, working with the Home Ministry, identified nearly 2,480 illegal immigrants, though this figure is subject to correction, he said and added that detecting these immigrants is challenging when they blend with local populations.

The Chief Minister mentioned that new villages have been set up by illegal immigrants, with some areas inaccessible due to local conflicts with the Myanmar-based People's Defence Force (PDF). He said anyone sheltering illegal immigrants would face punishment under new orders. Previously, 140 to 150 immigrants from Churachandpur district were detained and moved to a shelter in Imphal, said the Chief Minister, adding that satellite data has revealed new villages forming after May 3, 2023, the day when the ethnic clashes started.

The implementation of the Inner Line Permit system is based on the year 1961, he said.



## Hindus now file caveat in SC on Mathura dispute

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

The Hindu litigants have filed a caveat in the Supreme Court seeking a hearing if the Muslim side approaches it challenging a recent order of the Allahabad High Court which rejected a plea against the maintainability of 18 cases related to the temple-mosque dispute in Mathura.

The caveat has been filed through advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain to ensure that no ex-parte order is passed against the Hindu litigants if the other group moves the top court.

A caveat application is filed by a litigant to ensure that no adverse order is passed against him or her without being heard. On August 1, the High Court had rejected a plea challenging the maintainability of 18 cases related to the Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah dispute in Mathura, and ruled that the religious character of the mosque needs to be determined.

The court had dismissed the Muslim side's contention that the suits filed by Hindu litigants relating to the dispute over the Krishna Janmabhoomi temple and the adjacent mosque violated the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act — and were thus not maintainable. The 1991 Act prohibits changing the religious character of any shrine from what existed on the day of the country's Independence. It exempted only the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute from its purview.

The cases filed by the Hindu side seek the "removal" of the Aurangzeb-era mosque they claim was built after demolishing a temple that once stood there. The Hindu litigants claim the mosque holds signs suggesting that it was a temple once.

The mosque management committee and the UP Sunni Central Waqf Board had argued that the suits were barred under Places of Worship Act and other laws. On May 31, the Allahabad High Court reserved its judgment on this maintainability plea after hearing both sides.

However, the court reopened the hearing at the request of Shahi Idgah counsel Mehmood Pracha.

Continued on Page 8

## Victims of electrical accidents to get compensation in Capital

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

In a first, Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission has come out with its compensation to victims of electrical accidents regulations, 2024, paving the way for financial assistance of ₹7.5 lakh in case of loss of life and ₹five lakh for more than 60 per cent disability due to electricity related mishaps in the city. The regulations stipulate a range of compensation for loss of life, injuries to people as well as loss of milk and draught animals, birds and poultry. If an electricity related accident causes 40-60 per cent injury to any person, he will get ₹one lakh as compensation, ₹25,000 for hospitalisation for over a



week and ₹10,000 in case of less than a week of hospitalisation, the regulations lay down. The quantum of compensation in case of loss of an animal involving any electricity related accident varies with ₹50,000 for each milch animal-buffalo, cow, camel and so on; ₹5,000 per sheep, goat, pig and others.

Continued on Page 8

## More houses for aam aadmi in Delhi

**SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI**

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) will soon launch three housing schemes offering a variety of flats located at different places across the city catering to income groups of all categories. Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena approved the housing scheme projects, beside a new policy for management and use of Community Halls and extension of time for completing construction on the residential, commercial, industrial and institutional plots. The proposal was approved at the Authority meeting at Raj Niwas on Tuesday. According to proposals, DDA Sasta Ghar Housing Scheme 2024 will offer lower income group (LIG) and economically weaker sections (EWS) flats at discounted rates in Ramgarh Colony, Siraspur,

Loknayakpuram, Rohini, and Narela through first come first serve (FCFS) mode, making housing more accessible and enabling a common man to their own houses in Delhi. Under the scheme, around 34000 flats are to be offered, with starting price as low as approximately ₹11.5 lakh. Under the General Housing scheme, flats of all categories including high income group (HIG), middle income group (MIG), LIG and EWS at different localities like Jasola, Loknayakpuram and Narela will be offered at 2023 prices without any price escalation. The starting price of flats is approximately ₹29 lakh and around 5400 flats are to be offered under this scheme. DDA's Dwarka Housing Scheme will offer MIG, HIG and higher category flats in Sector 14, 16B and 19B of Dwarka through an e-auction process. This will provide



an opportunity to people to own a house in the upscale area of Dwarka. About 173 flats are being offered under the scheme, with starting price of ₹128 lakh. To provide ease of living to the residents of Delhi, the Authority has also approved a new Policy for

Management and Use of Community Halls including relaxed rental structure and operationalization of ancillary facilities in Multi-Purpose Community Halls. The Authority took an important decision whereby an Amnesty Scheme has been given nod to renewal-cum-freehold conversion of Expired Term Leases (90 years) in 23 Nazul Estates. The scheme is proposed to be introduced, initially for a period of six months from the date of commencement. The renewal charges are proposed to be different in case of Residential and Mixed-Land use properties and shall further vary as per the size of the plot. The charges shall increase in a progressive manner, if in case the scheme is extended beyond the initial period of six months.

Continued on Page 8



## Woman banker found hanging at rented accommodation

**Lucknow (PNS):** A woman banker, identified as Kajal Bharti from Ballia district,



**NOTICE**  
NO- 15713822P, HAV (OSS) PARTHIBAN M S/O MOLUGAN VANDIGANOOR (VILL) SAMALPATTI (PO) POCHAMPALLI (TK) KRISHNAGIRI (DT) TN- 635306 DECLARE VIDE AFFIDAVIT NO- BL067387 DT 26 JUL 2024 IN MY SERVICE RECORD MY WIFE NAME R. RANJITHA WRONGLY MENTIONED. CORRECT NAME IS RANJITHA PARTHIBAN.

**NOTICE**

That's all inform to my correct name is Shakuntala wife off devnath. So my family register block development officer gauriganj in listed, my Aadhar card number 267520133500 in my name dayavati incorrect listed that is wrong. In this future my correct name Shakuntala wife off devnath of the name in identification her times. Shakuntala wife of devnath village shalhapur rampur chaudhary Tahsil- gauriganj District-amethi (u.p)

**NOTICE**

I, MOHAMMAD NOOR holding Indian Passport No: N1423992 issued at DUBAI on 30/08/2015, Permanent Resident of VILL PO MASEET PS HEEMPUR DEEPA TEH CHANDPUR BIJNOR and presently residing at DUBAI UAE do hereby change my name from MOHAMMAD NOOR to MOHAMMAD NOOR (Given name) MOHAMMAD (Surname) with immediate effect

**NOTICE**

I, Jagdeep Singh born (31.01.1997) in vill. Adampur, po. Murcha, Shahjahanpur, up India, have changed my name to Jagdeep Singh Josan and shall be known by this name starting today.

**NOTICE**

I have changed my name from ARISHA REHMAN to ARISHA TABISH W/o MOHD REHMAN for all future purpose, R/o H.No. 98, WAJIDPUR JAJMAU SHIWANS TENERY, Kanpur Nagar.

**NOTICE**

I have changed my name from MOHAMMAD NAFIS to USMAN C/o GORE LAL for all future purpose R/o H.No. 132/432 BABU PURWA T P NAGAR, Kanpur Nagar-208001

**NOTICE**

I have changed my Name from Mo. Nadim Khan to Mohd. Nadeem Khan S/o Ikhlaq Ahmad Khan R/o Plot no. 50, A garden No. 6, Rail Bazar, Eidgah colony Kanpur Nagar-01, In future I would be known & recognise by this name only.

**NOTICE**

It is informed to all the general public that in my passport my incomplete name is written as Dilshad Ahmad S/o Mubarak whereas my real name is Dilshad Ahmad son of Mubarak. From now on my name should be written and read as Dilshad Ahmed son of Mubarak. Dilshad Ahmad S/o Mubarak Resident - Village Tendha Police Station Kumarganj Tehsil Milkpur District Ayodhya

**NOTICE**

I Anand Kumar Tripathi S/O Mr. Devi Prasad Tripathi owner of Property 3/29, viram khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow- 226010 (U.P.), declare that we have lost our Original Allotment Letter, Original Lease deed and Original sale deed dated 27/07/1993 of our aforesaid property. Any objections in this regard may be submitted within 15 days of this publication. Mobile No. - +91-7054041486

was found hanging at her rented accommodation in Ganeshganj under Naka police station. Kajal, who had been living there for the past two years, allegedly took her own life on Tuesday morning. The police were alerted by the landlord, who was informed by other tenants that Kajal was not responding and had not opened her door. When the landlord looked through the kitchen window, Kajal was found hanging from a ceiling fan in her room. Police arrived at the scene and sent Kajal to a hospital, where she was pronounced dead. Aged around 26 years,



**NOTICE**

This is to inform the general public that my name in the passport has been erroneously recorded as Syed Sanobar Fatima whereas in other documents my name is Sanobar Fatima Syed which is correct Sanobar Fatima Syed D/o Mohammad Noorani syed R/o - 544/111 and Khwaza Colony Ekta Nagar Campel Road Balaganj Lucknow

**NOTICE**

This is to inform everyone that I, Raghavendra Kumar Tiwari, I am the owner of Shop No. 20A, Sander Dump Planning, Alambagh. I purchased this shop from the former owner, Mr. Virendra Kumar Tiwari, on June 13, 2012. The registry (chain deed) received from the former owner has been lost. An E-FIR has been filed regarding this, with the number 202400101488. Advocate: Bhpendra Nath Tripathi Contact: 9336127853

**NOTICE**

I, Vijay Kumar Rana declare that my daughter's name is Lovely Rana his actual date of birth is 11/01/2010. But wrongly in school record written, 11/01/08 now may be corrected as pr affidavit no. 13AE 243365.

**NOTICE**

I, Vijay Kumar Rana declare that my son's name is Lucky Rana his actual date of birth is 26/01/2012. But wrongly in school record written, 26/01/2010 now may be corrected as pr affidavit no. 13AE 243366.

**NOTICE**

I, Naveen Kumar Mishra, S/o Shri Dharm Prakash Mishra, R/o Dangipar, Bhausa Bazaar, Gorakhpur, U.P. - 273212. Currently residing at Icecream Factory, Near Patel Nagar, Neelmatha, Police Station PGI, Lucknow. I have evicted to my son Bipin Mishra from all my movable and immovable property due to his very bad habits, behavior and bad life style. I will have no concern with any future transactions done by him.

**NOTICE**

I have changed my son's name from Darshit Sachan to Nishkarsh Sachan. In future he should be known by this name only. Krishnesh Sachan S/o Late Akhilesh Sachan R/o- Vill+Post-Nonapur, Kanpur Dehat

**NOTICE**

I have changed my son's name from Darshit Sachan to Nishkarsh Sachan. In future he should be known by this name only. Krishnesh Sachan S/o Late Akhilesh Sachan R/o- Vill+Post-Nonapur, Kanpur Dehat

**NOTICE**

I Vinod Kumar Gupta, Proprietor of Natraj Production inform that, basement store of my house got flooded due to heavy rain on 01/07/24 where kept company's account books got completely damaged due to getting wet. I will be unable to show up in any legal department office.!

**NOTICE**

The Pass Certificate (index no. E090130770) year 2014 from Dr. Virendra Swarup Memorial Public School (school code UP/107), Kanpur of my son Anubhav Agarwal is actually lost. Anupam Agarwal S/o Late Om Prakash Agarwal, 60/01, Nayaganj, Kanpur

Kajal worked at HDFC Bank in Hazratganj. In a separate incident, 18-year-old Sunidhi Verma, a student of SKD Inter College, allegedly hanged herself in her home's upper room in Rajajipuram colony under Talkatora police station around 6:30 am. Her father stated, "The likely reason for her suicide was her failure in the Central Board for Secondary Education exams. Although she was admitted to Intermediate classes under the Uttar Pradesh Board in the same college, it seems the continuation of her studies there weighed heavily on her mind."

## IIM-Lucknow to start certification courses in financial planning

**Lucknow (PNS):** The Indian Institute of Management Lucknow (IIM, Lucknow) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with FPSB India to enhance financial planning education. Prof. Archana Shukla, Director-in-charge of IIM-L, and Krishan Mishra, CEO of FPSB India, finalised the agreement. The partnership will introduce online certification programmes in Financial Planning starting in the 2024-25 academic session. The programmes will be available to both students and working professionals. Mishra highlighted the importance of modern solutions in financial planning and advised students to start planning with their first salary. Dean (Programmes) at IIM-Lucknow Prof Vikas Srivastava emphasised the need to equip students with practical skills to excel in financial planning. This initiative aims to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical skills, preparing a new generation of financial planners for evolving industry needs.

## Man dies as toilet wall collapses on him

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

A man died in Lucknow after a toilet wall collapsed on him. The incident occurred in the Mahanagar police station area on Monday night. The injured man, Sujit Kumar Jha (35), was admitted to Civil hospital, where succumbed to injuries on Tuesday. According to reports, Sujit Kumar Jha was resting when the wall suddenly collapsed. His wife Chanda Devi, along with neighbours, rushed him to the Civil hospital, where he died during treatment. Chanda Devi stated that Sujit sustained severe injuries from the wall collapse and lost a significant amount of blood. She explained that they were renting the house where the incident occurred. Sujit was a daily-wager, and the family originally hails from Pavitra Nagar village, under the Fatehpur police station in Shivhar district, Bihar. Chanda Devi confirmed that other family members are safe and unharmed. The police suggested that the incessant rain might have weakened the wall, leading to its collapse over Sujit.



Neighbours gather outside the house where a toilet wall collapsed, leaving a man dead, in Mahanagar police station area of Lucknow

Meanwhile, in Indiranagar, the police conducted a night-long manhunt to arrest Neeraj Singh Bisht, who was accused of stabbing a woman on Monday night. Neeraj, a private employee from Keshav Nagar,

Gudamba, was apprehended after the woman, an accountant at a local shop, suffered serious injuries. She was attacked around 5 pm near a plywood shop in the area. She was rushed to a hospital, and her daughter filed a complaint with

the police later. DCP (North) Abhijeet R Shankar confirmed that the woman's condition is stable. He added that police teams conducted extensive raids overnight, leading to Neeraj's arrest, and the knife used in the

attack was recovered from him. The Gomti Nagar police arrested two accused wanted in a case of gangrape with a woman. Those arrested were identified as Suresh Chandra Verma of Virat Khand, Gomti Nagar (originally from Barabanki), and Manoj Kumar Verma aka Bantu of Barabanki. Both were arrested from their respective residences on the tip-off by an informer.

On Monday, the woman had visited the police station and submitted an application alleging that she was given intoxicants, stripped and raped. She further alleged that the accused made a video and threatened to make it viral. She also alleged that she was subjected to caste abuse and issued death threats. A spokesman said that on the basis of her complaint, a case was registered under sections 328/354A/376D/504/506 of the IPC as the incident had taken place before July 1, 2024. The accused were also booked under SC/ST Act. The spokesman said a team nabbed the accused. He said that the search was on for two more accused.

## FIR against govt hospital staff over stillbirth incident

**Bhadohi (PTI):** In a case of alleged negligence and conspiracy, the police on Tuesday registered a case against the medical superintendent, a nurse and another health worker of a government hospital in Uttar Pradesh's Bhadohi district following a stillbirth, officials said. The police said the case has been registered in light of the orders of the local court on Monday. Dinesh Yadav, a resident of Majhgawa village, brought his wife Archana Yadav (22) to the Digh Health Centre for delivery at 1 am on April 20. They alleged that no staff was present at the hospital and after two hours, Dinesh called the

superintendent, and four hours later, the nurse and auxiliary nurse and midwife (ANM) arrived who delivered the still-born baby. Chief Medical Officer Santosh Kumar Chak said. Yadav filed a complaint on May 9, alleging that the medical superintendent harassed him over the phone, and both the nurse and ANM threatened him, resulting in the death of the baby in the womb, he said. Chak stated in his report that the baby had died in the womb five days prior and was delivered stillborn naturally. However, Yadav filed a petition under Section 156(3) in CJM Sabiha Khatoon's court on May 15, arguing that if a nine-

month-old baby had died five days prior in the womb, it would have decomposed, endangering the mother's life. He claimed the investigation report was "baseless" and that the medical staff conspired and threatened them because they were annoyed that they were being called at 1 am. With no action from the police or the health department, he sought the court's intervention. CJM Sabiha Khatoon ordered the registration of the case against Dr Phool Chand Bind, the nurse, and the ANM on Monday. Police have registered a case and have begun an investigation.

## LDA seals unfinished warehouses storing perishable items

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

The Lucknow Development Authority on Tuesday identified warehouses storing foodgrains and perishable items in rural areas of the city and sealed off eight that were incomplete. LDA Vice-Chairman Prathmesh Kumar said the warehouses were sealed because their owners had not obtained permissions. Storage facilities in the capital and other parts of the state are often substandard, except for those managed by private entrepreneurs. A significant cold storage facility planned by LDA near Kisan Path hangs fire, and its operational status would have been highly beneficial. Currently, perishable items such as vegetables, fruits, non-vegetarian products, and ice cream can only last a day or two with the existing technology. This inadequacy is likely why nearly 50% of these items, except for fresh vegetables, are discarded as they spoil. Seasonal and fresh produce is sold within the day it arrives at the market, primarily from local farmers. Interestingly, potatoes transported into the city often spoil within three days due to rat infestation and other factors. Farmers are thus compelled to pay higher fees to private cold storage facilities to ensure longer preservation of their goods. The LDA has identified 27 warehouses in rural areas and their operators will soon be invited to partic-

ipate in seminars and lectures to learn about the latest preservation technologies. He also said that the sealed warehouses would be reopened after obtaining the necessary permissions from the authorities concerned.

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For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 31.07.2024 onwards  
Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> RTP-78/24  
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Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website- www.pspcl.in (Phone No. 0181-275289) E-mail: se-hq-ggssstp-ropar@pspcil.in  
**Press (Open) Tender Enq. No. 549/P-3/EMP-W-12747 Dated 05.08.2024**  
Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Purchase Cell-3) GGSSTP, Rupnagar invites Press Tender for Repair of Bush bearing of ID Fan Motor and PA Fan.  
For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to PSPCL Website [www.pspcl.in](https://www.pspcl.in) from 05-08-24 from 05:00 P.M. onwards.  
Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online PSPCL Website [www.pspcl.in](https://www.pspcl.in) RTP-79/24  
76155/12/3234/2023/36408 Dated CHD :- 8/6/2024

**कार्यालय प्राचार्य, डी०ए०-वी० कॉलेज, कानपुर - 208001**  
दूरभाष संख्या - 0512-2305534, 2306687  
:: निविदा सूचना ::  
दिनांक: 05.08.2024  
डी०ए०-वी० कॉलेज, कानपुर के केंद्रीय पुस्तकालय में छात्रों हेतु महाविद्यालय में संचालित कला, वाणिज्य एवं विज्ञान संकाय (स्नातक एवं परास्नातक) के विषयों की Text-Book/Reference Book निर्धारित प्रश्न पर सोलबन्द निविदा अधिकतम छूट के साथ अमानित की जाती है। कार्यालय में रुपये 500/- जमा करके निविदा फार्म प्रकाशन की तिथि से दिनांक 20-08-2024 को 2:00 बजे तक प्राचार्य कार्यालय से प्राप्त व जमा कर सकते हैं। पुस्तकों की जो सूची विभागों के प्रभारियों द्वारा पुस्तकालय को उपलब्ध कराई गई है वह सूची पुस्तकालयाध्यक्ष के पास अवलोकन हेतु उपलब्ध है। निर्धारित तिथि के उपरान्त/विलम्ब से प्राप्त किसी भी निविदा पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। बिना कारण बताये किसी भी निविदा को निरस्त करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरी के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा। प्राचार्य

## Woman subjected to abuse loses unborn child

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

In a case of dowry harassment in Thakurganj, a woman accused her husband and in-laws of subjecting her to such severe abuse that it led to the death of her unborn child. The woman claimed, "I was beaten, starved, and denied rest, which caused my child to die in my womb. Despite receiving Rs 10 lakh as dowry at the time of marriage, they continued to demand an additional Rs 50,000. My husband and in-laws used various tactics to pressurise me for more dowry. When the money wasn't provided, I was subjected to both mental and physical torture."

Reports said that Khushnuma from Tahseenganj (Thakurganj) married Ghufuran Ansari from Roshanabad Colony in Thakurganj in 2023. It is alleged that Khushnuma's father spent Rs 10 lakh on the wedding and dowry. After the marriage, Ghufuran Ansari, mother-in-law Bano, brother-in-law Imran, and sister-in-law Kulsum began taunting her for the perceived inadequacy of the dowry and the wedding arrangements. The family allegedly pressurised Khushnuma to provide an additional Rs 50,000 in cash. This led to further physical abuse. "My parents' financial situation is dire, as they spent all their savings on the wedding and gifts. Despite this, my father managed to provide cash and a car as part of the dowry. My in-laws forced me

to sell the car and took all the money from the sale," she alleged. Khushnuma further alleged that when she protested against the dowry demands, her in-laws beat her, even though they were aware of her pregnancy. Her health deteriorated significantly due to the abuse. She was eventually admitted to a hospital, where it was discovered that her child had died in her womb. "The doctors attributed the child's death to starvation, beatings, and both mental and physical torture," her parents claimed. The woman has filed a complaint at the Thakurganj police station, and the police are currently investigating the case.

## SIX ARRESTED IN ROAD HOLD-UP, ROBBERY CASE

With the arrest of six accused on Tuesday, the PGI police claimed to have solved a cash loot case involving an employee of a plywood trader. Those arrested were identified as Ansh Awasthi, Mohammed Shariq, Mausam Pal, Yuvraj Pal, Ashutosh Awasthi (all from Para), and Salman aka Kallu from Hardoi. The crime was committed on August 2, and Krishna Kant, a cashier and clerk, had lodged a complaint. DCP (East) Shashank Singh explained that Salman was the mastermind behind the heist. "Salman, who previously worked as a loader driver, knew that when a clerk travels with a delivery team, it usually means the clerk is carrying cash. He planned the robbery at Kisan Path," Singh said.

## Govt to launch wet waste disposal project in Greater Noida

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW/GREATER NOIDA**

The Uttar Pradesh government is gearing up to launch a 50TDP wet waste disposal project in Greater Noida. This initiative aims to convert 50 tonnes of wet waste per day into bio-CNG, benefiting 12 lakh residents across 380 square kilometres, encompassing 95 sectors and 124 villages within eight administrative zones of Greater Noida. Simultaneously, the government has commenced the establishment of a Sequential Batch Reactor Technology-based sewage treatment plant in Sector-1 of Greater Noida. This plant, with a capacity of 45 million litres per day, will be built at a cost of Rs 79.57 crore. The process of selecting agencies and allocating work for its establishment, operation, and testing is currently underway. Along with this, the waste disposal project, which will convert wet waste into bio-CNG, is progressing with a budget of Rs 17 crore. The Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority has initiated the process of selecting contractors through a quality and cost-based approach. The bio-CNG unit will be established in Astauli, Greater Noida, with the goal of promoting 100% scientific processing of municipal solid waste. Greater Noida currently employs a

decentralised waste management model with three approved processing units: two mechanical composting units (10 TPD each) and one bio-methanation unit (18 TPD). Additionally, some bulk generator zones manage their waste on-site. The new project aims to enhance this model by processing 50 TPD of wet waste into bio-CNG. The Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority is also focused on creating several clusters under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode to bolster waste management and scientific processing. This approach will increase the region's capacity to handle all generated wet waste efficiently. The waste processing unit in Astauli will be developed for an operational period of 25 years, with contractor selection and work allocation progressing rapidly. It is worth mentioning that the process of making road ready bio-fuel through bio-CNG will be accelerated by processing 50 TPD of wet waste. The generated bio-CNG will power various vehicles, including city buses. The produced bio-CNG will meet the Indian Standard Norms (BIS) and comply with the gas cylinder filling standards of the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO).

## ₹26.84 crore approved for modern machines, equipment at SGPGI

**Lucknow (PNS):** The Yogi Adityanath government, in order to enhance healthcare services in Uttar Pradesh, has initiated the process of equipping Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS) in Lucknow with cutting-edge machinery and equipment. In line with CM Yogi's vision, an allocation of Rs 26.84 crore has been approved for the installation and operation of 280 modern machines across 26 categories for the year 2024-25. This includes a range of advanced equipment such as portable echo machines, high-definition duodenoscopes, high-end ultrasound machines, and a robotic operation theatre. Additionally, the installation of CCTV cameras throughout the campus will be completed, paving the way for providing state-of-the-art health services. The project encompasses the installation of diverse and specialised machinery. In anaesthesiology, a transcranial doppler will be installed, while cardiology will be equipped with a portable echo machine. The central research facility (core lab) will receive a spectrophotometer, and the CVTS department will be fitted with a nitric oxide inhalation unit. Emergency services will benefit from an airway cart, and endocrine surgery will utilise an electrocautery machine. Furthermore, endocrinology will be enhanced with a refrigerated benchtop centrifuge, and



# UP to simplify family property division, management

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a significant move, after introducing the facility to transfer immovable property to blood relatives with a stamp duty of only ₹5,000, Uttar Pradesh is now set to simplify family property division and management. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has said that the stamp duty on the division of immovable property among family members, as well as on transferring property by a living person to their family members, should also be fixed at ₹5,000.

In a meeting on Tuesday, the chief minister stated, "High expenses often lead to disputes and court cases during family property divisions. By implementing minimal stamp duty, settlements among family members will become much easier." Emphasising that the state government, under the guidance of the Prime Minister, has undertaken numerous efforts to improve the ease of



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at meeting in Lucknow on Tuesday.

Pioneer

living for the common man, Yogi said: "Simplifying the property division and management process will provide greater convenience to the people." In the partition deed, all parties are joint shareholders in the divided property, and the division occurs among them. The proposed exemption in the

partition deed will cover all the lineal descendants of the same deceased who are co-owners. This means that if the current living sharer in the original property of the grandfather is an uncle, nephew, or niece, they can utilise this exemption. In a settlement deed, the settling party (living) distributes

their property among several parties. Under the proposed exemption, the settling party can transfer property to all their lineal descendants, regardless of generation. This means that property can be settled in favour of living great-grandparents, great-grandchildren, or any other descendants.

## Yogi offers prayers at Ram, Hanuman temples in Ayodhya

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath commenced a two-day visit to Ayodhya on Tuesday, marking the occasion with a series of devotional activities and inspections. Arriving in the evening, the chief minister first visited Hanuman Garhi, where he worshipped 'Sankatmochan Hanuman' and was presented with a memento. He then greeted the people and devotees gathered there. Following this, CM Yogi proceeded to the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi temple, where he offered prayers. He also took the opportunity to review the ongoing construction work at the temple site.

Earlier, the chief minister was accorded a warm reception by the mayor, public representatives, BJP leaders and local officials. This visit follows an earlier trip to Ayodhya during the Lok Sabha elections, where the chief minister visited Shri Ram and Sankatmochan Hanuman temples.



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath offers prayers at the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple in Ayodhya on Tuesday

# Rahul Gandhi calls cobbler, praises shoes sent by him

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Extending his emotional connection with Sultanpur cobbler Ramchet, Congress MP from Rae Bareilly Rahul Gandhi spoke to him over the phone on Monday to inquire about his well-being. Gandhi praised the shoes that Ramchet had sent him, saying, "You have made them beautifully."

He also mentioned that he walked around his residence wearing the shoes. A video of this went viral on social media on Monday evening, prompting local journalists to contact Ramchet, who confirmed the phone call with Rahul Gandhi. Ramchet runs a shop at Vidhayak Nagar crossing on the state and 2,292 cases of illegal liquor distillation were registered. Action was taken against 6,593 people for smuggling illegal liquor within the state border and 22 people were found involved in interstate liquor smuggling. The minister said that under the enforcement action in the state, 1,92,448 litres of raw liquor was caught, 20,699 litres of illegal country liquor and 9,875 litres of illegal foreign liquor were seized. As many as 1,921 accused involved in this were arrested, 376 people were sent to jail and 15 vehicles were seized.

shoes costing Rs 1,400 to Gandhi, with the cost covered by Gandhi's team. Around 11 am on Monday, Ramchet received a call from Rahul Gandhi. Overjoyed, he spoke with Gandhi, who asked about his well-being and business, praised the shoes, and inquired about the new sewing

machine. Ramchet addressed Rahul Gandhi as 'Malik,' but Gandhi requested that he refrain from using that term. Ramchet asked when he might see Gandhi again, to which Gandhi replied, "Soon." Ramchet became emotional while sharing the details of this conversation.

# Yogi for new policy to promote pvt investment in edu sector

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, at a high-level meeting with the Higher Education department officials on Tuesday, directed for formation of a new policy to encourage private investment in the sector. Key guidelines from the chief minister's meeting on Tuesday are as follows: Over the past seven years, one university per division has been achieved, with universities established in all 18 divisions. Construction is ongoing in several divisions. Now, the focus should shift to achieving one university per district. Currently, there are universities in 35 districts. The private sector can significantly support the establishment of universities in the remaining districts. Private sector investment in higher education should be promoted, as it can play a crucial role in



achieving our objectives. In light of the increasing demand for higher education in the state, private investment can significantly bolster government efforts to expand access. This will increase the number of institutions, courses, and seats available to students and enhance the quality of education and research. As the youngest state in India, Uttar Pradesh has a unique position in the higher education sector. With an average age of 21 years, which is expected to rise to 26 years by 2030, Uttar

Pradesh will contribute 16.5% to India's youth population. Currently, the state's gross enrolment rate (GER) is 25.6%, which needs to increase to 50% by 2035 according to the National Education Policy (NEP). A policy promoting private investment can help bridge this gap. Private investment in higher education is crucial at this time. Examine the related policies of other states, engage with stakeholders, and promptly develop and present a higher education promotion policy. The new policy should include incentives for investors, such as exemptions in stamp duty and capital subsidies. The new policy should also provide additional incentives for establishing universities in aspirational districts. Prioritise this aspect. Similarly, special incentive provisions should be included in proposals to develop campuses akin to the world's top-ranked universities.

# Excise revenue surges after enforcement drive

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Excise department has claimed a significant surge in revenue collection following the enforcement drive against illicit liquor and smuggling. In July 2024, the revenue receipt was of Rs 3,952.53 crore, which is 115 per cent more than the revenue received in the same month last year. Minister of State for Excise (Independent Charge) Nitin Agarwal said that the department had set the target of Rs 4,700 crore in the month of July, against which a revenue of Rs 3,952.53 crore was realised, which is 84.1% of the target. He said that for the current fiscal 2024-25, the government has set the target to earn excise revenue of Rs 58,310 crore, against which revenue of Rs 15,736.29 crore has so far been collected till July.

He said the officers had been directed to ensure the achievement of a 100% target. On the results of the enforcement drive, the minister said till July in the current financial year 2024-25, as many as 78,640 raids were conducted by the enforcement team in the state and 2,292 cases of illegal liquor distillation were registered. Action was taken against 6,593 people for smuggling illegal liquor within the state border and 22 people were found involved in interstate liquor smuggling. The minister said that under the enforcement action in the state, 1,92,448 litres of raw liquor was caught, 20,699 litres of illegal country liquor and 9,875 litres of illegal foreign liquor were seized. As many as 1,921 accused involved in this were arrested, 376 people were sent to jail and 15 vehicles were seized.

# Ayodhya rape survivor stable

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

The health condition of the Ayodhya rape survivor is stable as she continues to remain under treatment at a government hospital here, officials said on Tuesday. The 12-year-old girl was on Monday admitted to the Queen Mary's Hospital — the Obstetrics and Gynaecology department of the King George's Medical University (KGMU) here. "The condition of the girl from Ayodhya is stable. She is receiving treatment under the supervision of specialists. The treatment is progressing in a positive direction," KGMU spokesperson Dr Sudhir Singh said in a brief statement. She was referred to KGMU as the women's hospital in Ayodhya did not have the facility to provide adequate treatment, district's Chief Medical Officer

Sanjay Jain said on Monday. The UP Police on July 30 arrested Moid Khan, who ran a bakery in Ayodhya district's Bhadarsa Nagar and his employee Raju Khan, in connection with the minor's rape. Both accused allegedly raped the girl two months ago and also video recorded the act. The incident came to light after the girl was found to be pregnant during a medical check-up, police said. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders, including Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, have alleged that prime accused Moid Khan was a member of the Samajwadi Party and part of Faizabad MP Awadhesh Prasad's team, triggering a political slugfest. Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav on Monday claimed the BJP government was "using" the Ayodhya incident to defame his party.

# Spl focus on healthcare of women, kids during Maha Kumbh-2025

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government is undertaking extensive preparations for the Maha Kumbh-2025 in Prayagraj. The event, expected to draw a record number of devotees from across the country and the world, will last about two months. To ensure the health and well-being of the devotees, especially women and children, the government plans to appoint over 400 doctors and more than 700 paramedical staff in the Kumbh Mela area. Giving this information here on Tuesday evening, Kumbh Mela Officer Vijay Kiran Anand claimed that this medical team would provide round-the-clock services, with many beds reserved for women and children. Additionally, gynaecologists and paediatricians will be deployed in shifts to address

their health needs. He said, "As many as 407 doctors will be deployed to provide 24-hour health services to devotees in the Mela area. Additionally, 182 nursing staff, 150 ward boys, 354 pharmacists, and 60 lab technicians will be on duty." "Given the large expected turnout of women devotees, special health facilities are being arranged. Forty-eight women doctors will serve in three shifts in the fair's hospitals, and gynaecologists will be available around the clock. A labour room is being set up in the central hospital, supported by 40 specialist doctors. Furthermore, emergency services will be available 24 hours a day at the CHC and PHC. Adequate provisions for additional medicines, dressings, and other essentials are being made," he added. Additional Director of Health,

Prayagraj, Dr Rakesh Sharma said: "Following CM Yogi's directives, separate wards will be established for women and children in the Maha Kumbh Mela hospitals. Six each gynaecologists and paediatricians will be deployed in shifts, providing round-the-clock services. A temporary central hospital with 100 beds will be set up in the Mela area, with 30 beds allocated for women and 10 for children." Joint Director of Health Dr Vivek Kumar Mishra said, "The sub-central hospital will reserve ten beds for women and three children, while sector hospitals will allocate eight beds for women and two for children. Additionally, a de-addiction centre will be established in the Mela area, where a counsellor will educate individuals about the side effects of drugs. A paediatrician counsellor will also be available."

# 4 cops suspended in Bulandshahr for planting pistol in youth's car

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Four policemen were suspended in Bulandshahr following allegations that they planted a pistol in a youth's car to frame him in a false case, officials said on Monday. The action was taken after a video went viral on social media. Dinesh Kumar, father of the youth, Amit, alleged that his son was returning from a function on July 21 when some policemen stopped his car in a market and forcibly placed a pistol in the vehicle. A case was registered against Amit and he was sent to jail, Dinesh said. The incident occurred in the Shikarpur police station area. A purported video of the incident went viral on Monday in which the policemen are seen remov-

A purported video of the incident went viral on Monday showing a weapon from a motorcycle and placing it in a car. All policemen seen in the video have been suspended with immediate effect by the senior superintendent of police, the officials said. Superintendent of Police (Crime) Rakesh Kumar Mishra told reporters that the police station incharge of Shikarpur, the town outpost incharge and two constables had been suspended. A separate report was being sent in connection with

two home guards seen in the video, he said, adding that an inquiry report would be sent to the SSP. Meanwhile, in Rae Bareilly, a sub-inspector from Bhadokhar police station allegedly threatened to imprison a man if he did not cough up Rs 10,000. The man suffered a heart attack and died as a result. The incident occurred in Bela Khara village under Bhadokhar police station on Tuesday. Recent reports indicate that a dispute had arisen between two parties over the cutting of acacia trees. Shivdas Maurya had filed a case against Nukshar, the wife of Aslam, who allegedly attacked the victim with sticks. Sub-inspector Anil Yadav of Bhadokhar police station was

handling the case. According to Suresh Maurya, the brother of the deceased, Yadav demanded Rs 10,000 from Ramesh Maurya, the victim's brother, for filing a chargesheet. Yadav also threatened to imprison Ramesh if he did not pay the money and after registering a counter-case. Fearing imprisonment, Ramesh Maurya suffered a heart attack a few hours later, which led to his death on Tuesday. In response, local villagers and leaders from Hindu organisations staged demonstrations, calling for an inquiry and action against Yadav. Circle Officer (City) Amit Singh stated that the matter would be investigated and appropriate action would be taken.

# Head constable killed in road accident

PTI ■ MUZAFFARNAGAR

A 40-year-old head constable of Uttar Pradesh Police was killed when his motorcycle was hit by an unidentified vehicle here on Tuesday, police said. The head constable, Samar Yab, was posted in Shamli district, they said. According to a statement issued by the office of the senior superintendent of police, Yab's motorcycle was hit from behind by a speeding unidentified vehicle on Pinna-Charthawal road under Kotwali police station. The driver of the unidentified vehicle fled the spot after the accident. The body has been sent for post-mortem examination, the statement said.

**बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा Bank of Baroda** Regional Office Kanpur Dehat Region : 118/330, 2nd Floor, Kaushalpur, Gumti No. 5, Kanpur -208012

**Possession Notice** Branch : Auraiya, Distt. Auraiya

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the borrower and guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being with in 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with rule 8 & 9 of the said rules.

The borrower/guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the first charge of Bank of Baroda for amount & interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of 13 of the act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

**Name and Address of Borrower/Guarantor & Description of Mortgage Property and Out Standing Amount as per Demand Notice/Demand & Possession Notice Date**

**Borrower :** Smt Anita Devi W/o Shri Rakesh Babu, R/o : Padheen Darwaja, Uttari, Auraiya Distt. Auraiya and Shri Rakesh Babu S/o Shri Lal Singh, R/o : Village-Pata, Post-Pata, Auraiya. **Guarantor :** Shri Nitin Kumar S/o Shri Rakesh Babu, R/o : Village-Pata, Auraiya, Distt. Auraiya.

**Demand Notice Date :** 08-05-2024 • **Date of Constructive Possession:** 03.08.2024

**Property :** Land & Building Situated at Part of Gata No. 121, Mauza Auraiya, Pargana, Tehsil and Distt. Auraiya in the name of Smt Anita Devi W/o Shri Rakesh Babu, Area : 92.936 Sq. Mtr. **Bounded-North :** Rastia 18 Ft. Wide, **South :** Plot of Other, **East :** Plot of Jaat, **West :** House of Ganeshi.

**Outstanding Amount as per Demand Notice :** Rs. 11,99,297.95 + Intt. + Others Charges

**Total Dues as on Dated 03-08-2024 :** Rs. 12,33,540.28 + Intt. + Others Charges

**Date :** 07-08-2024 **Place :** Auraiya **Authorised Officer**

**ARYAVART BANK** आर्यावर्त बैंक (A Joint Undertaking of Govt. of India, U.P. Govt. & Bank of India) (मिाल सकार, उरार प्रदेश सकार एवं बैंक ऑफ इण्डिया का संयुक्त उद्यम)

Regional Office: C-930, 931, Civil Lines, Dewa Road, Barabanki-225001

**Possession Notice Under Rule-8(1) (for Imovable Properties)**

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized officer of ARYAVART BANK, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the securities interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand notice in the account mentioned hereunder on the dates mentioned before the names calling upon the borrower and guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notices along with interest within 60 days from the date of receipts said notices. The borrower/legal heirs of borrower and guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notices are hereby given to the Borrower/legal Heirs of borrower and guarantor in particular and the public in general that the undersigned has taken the possession of the properties described here below in exercise of power of conferred on him under section 13(4) of the Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned against each property. The borrower/legal Heirs of borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealing with the under noted property will be subject to the charge of ARYAVART BANK for the amount with interest and other charges etc. thereon. **The Borrower's/Guarantors attention is invited to provisions of section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets**

Details of Properties whose possession has been taken are as follows:-

Sr. No.	Name of Borrowers & Guarantors	Amount Outstanding	Description of Property & Name of Owner	Date of Demand Notice / Possession taken
<b>Branch: Ramnagar, District- Barabanki</b>				
1.	<b>Borrower:</b> Mr. Jitendra Kumar S/o Mr. A m b i k a P r a s a d, R/o Village-Harinayanpur, Majare- Madana, Post-Ramnagar, District-Barabanki-225205 <b>Guarantors:</b> 1. Mrs. Nirmala Devi W/o Mr. A m b i k a P r a s a d, R/o Village-Harinayanpur, Majare- Madana, Post-Ramnagar, District-Barabanki-225205 2. Mr. Dwarika Prasad S/o Mr. Ramanuj, R/o Village-Harinayanpur, Majare-Madana, Post-Ramnagar, District-Barabanki-225205	Rs. 5,95,346.22 + interest & expenses thereon from 01.04.2023	All that Part and Parcel of Ek Kita Plot Situated in Village Kadirabad, Pargana & Tehsil-Ramnagar, Distt- Barabanki, Area 52.04 Sq. Mtr. In the name of Mrs. Nirmala Devi W/o Mr. Ambika Prasad, R/o Village-Harinayanpur, Majare- Madana, Post-Ramnagar, District-Barabanki-225205. <b>Bounded as:</b> East: Plot Mishrial Pandey, West: Barabanki- Bahraich Pokhta Mukhya Marg, North: Plot Putilal Pandey, South: Khadanja Nagar Panchayat Ramnagar	08.05.2024 03.08.2024
2.	<b>Borrower:</b> M/S Avantika Digital Studio, Prop. Mr. Amit Kumar Sharma S/o Mr. Jagannath Prasad, R/o Mohalla Rani 2, Post-Ramnagar, District-Barabanki-225205 <b>Guarantors:</b> 1. Mr. Brijesh Kumar Jaiswal alias Bablu S/o Mr. Mata Prasad Jaiswal, R/o Mohalla & Kasba- Ramnagar, Post- Ramnagar, District-Barabanki-225205 2. Mr. Rajesh Kumar Singh S/o Mr. Indra Bahadur Singh, R/o Village-Amoli Telwari, Post- Ramnagar, District- Barabanki-225205	Rs. 1,52,404.40 + interest & expenses thereon from 30.09.2018	Shop situated in Mohalla- Ramnagar, Kasba- Ramnagar, Pargana & Tehsil-Ramnagar, Distt- Barabanki, Area- 8.00 Sq. Mtr. In the name of Mr. Brijesh Kumar Jaiswal alias Bablu S/o Mr. Mata Prasad Jaiswal, R/o Mohalla & Kasba- Ramnagar, Post- Ramnagar, District- Barabanki-225205. <b>Bounded as:</b> East: Dukan Vikreta, West: Khadanja, North: Makan & Dukan Kreta, South: Kuwa	08.05.2024 03.08.2024

**Date :** 07.08.2024 **Place :** Barabanki **Authorised Officer**



# One killed, 9 injured as two houses collapse in Kashi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

In a major incident, a woman died and nine people, including a woman constable, were injured after being trapped under the rubble when two seven-decade-old houses collapsed in Khova Gali under Chowk police station here late on Monday night. The incident took place in the sensitive yellow zone of Kashi Vishwanath area. After the collapse, the security forces and NDRF personnel were deployed there for rescue work and after hectic efforts for hours to remove the debris, the trapped persons were brought out and rushed to the Shiv Prasad Gupta Divisional Hospital for treatment. A 43-year-old woman Premalata died while nine others were hospitalised.



NDRF personnel carry out rescue work after two houses collapsed near the Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi on Tuesday. A woman died in the mishap. PTI

Later, Divisional Commissioner (DC) Kaushal Raj Sharma, District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam, senior police officers and others reached the spot. Local MLA Dr Neelkanth Tiwari also reached there. The DC said some heavy object had fallen on the woman who had died on the spot while the remaining nine people have been rescued and the compensation process has been started. According to the DC, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is also an MP from Varanasi parliamentary constituency, spoke to him over the phone early in the morning regarding the two houses that collapsed near Chowk. He said that he gave full detailed information to the PM about the rescue operations conducted by National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), fire, police, administration and the treatment of the injured in the hospital. The PM expressed his condolences to the family of the woman who died in the accident and directed the DC to



SP MLC Lal Bihari Yadav enquiring about the condition of an injured at SSPG Hospital in Varanasi on Tuesday.

provide better treatment to all the nine injured people. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has also instructed the district administration officials and NDRF teams to reach the spot, expedite the relief work and immediately take the injured to the hospital for proper treatment. He also wished for the

injured. He also met the victim's family and expressed condolences to the family of the deceased woman. The DC said that about 50 people in this area have been given notice so that their houses can be repaired. They will be asked to live somewhere else through the Municipal Corporation. Meanwhile, the Leader of Opposition in Legislative Council and Samajwadi Party (SP) MLC Lal Bihari Yadav reached SSPG Hospital along with former party's city president Vishnu Sharma to enquire about the well-being of all the injured persons of house collapse. He directed the acting Chief Medical Superintendent of the hospital Dr Mukund Srivastava that there should be no shortage in the treatment of all the injured and demanded to provide the best possible medical facilities. He also directed Vishnu Sharma to make a list of all the injured and the deceased in the incident and a detailed report of the same will be sent to SP president Akhilesh Yadav.

# BHU allows Bangladeshi pass-out students to continue in hostels

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

In view of the ongoing situation in Bangladesh, Banaras Hindu University (BHU) has decided to allow Bangladeshi pass-out students staying on campus to continue in hostels till the situation normalises in their home country. The decision has been taken in the interest of students who have completed their studies in the university and were to vacate hostels as mandated on the completion of the programmes. Coordinator, International Centre, BHU, Prof SVS Raju informed that keeping in view the challenges Bangladeshi students could face while returning to their home country, the university has decided that

those students who wish to continue their stay in university hostels, will be allowed to do so and extend all possible help to them. They will not be required to pay any charges for that as well. Prof Raju said, "We have assured the students that in case they face any other difficulty during their stay on campus, the university will take necessary measures to address it." They may stay here till the situation normalises in Bangladesh, he added. Every year the Banaras Hindu University enrolls hundreds of international students in various programmes. A large number of these students come from Bangladesh. Many of these students stay in university hostels on the campus.

# New research project sanctioned

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

A new research project titled "Enhancing Ecosystem Services Through Integrated Natural Resource Management Approaches" has been sanctioned to Dr C John Wesley, Associate Professor, Centre for Geospatial Technologies, SHUATS by the Council of Science and Technology (UPCST), Lucknow, to address the environmental challenges in the Ganga river basin, Uttar Pradesh. The research project is funded by the Council of Science and Technology Uttar Pradesh (CSTUP), this initiative aims to improve water quality and manage the ecosystem better. Dr C John Wesley, Principal Investigator of the research project informed that this project will focus on identifying the most degraded areas of the Ganga Basin, using advanced models to understand changes in ecosystem services over time and space and analysing different management strategies to find the most effective ones. The Ganga river basin, an important tributary of the Ganga river, provides vital services like freshwater supply, food production and flood control. However, activities such as deforestation, urban expansion and intensive agriculture are harming water quality and habitats. This research aims to understand

these impacts and develop strategies to mitigate them. The project highlights the need for a multidisciplinary approach to watershed management, combining scientific knowledge with community involvement. The results will benefit the Ganga river basin's health and support sectors like agriculture, industry and tourism, promoting overall well-being in the region. The Co-Principal Investigators of the Research Project are Dr Mukesh Kumar and Dr Vikram Singh from SHUATS and Dr Shakthi Suryavanchi, Scientist, National Institute of Technology, Roorkee, Uttarakhand.

**GANGJA SMUGGLER HELD:** The Soraoon police apprehended a ganja smuggler on Tuesday and seized 762.12 kg of ganja worth ₹2 crore from him. The police said the ganja was smuggled from Odisha and was to be supplied to many cities of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The police stopped a truck during checking and searched it. During it the ganja was recovered. Police is interrogating the arrested smuggler. DCP (Ganga Nagar) Abhishek Bharti said, the police had received inputs about ganja smugglers from an informer. The accused identified as Balkar Singh of Samana Mandi, Patiala, Punjab, was arrested near the culvert located in Lusanpur village.

# LIC launches new plans

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) & Managing Director (MD), Life Insurance Corporation of India Siddhartha Mohanty, launched new plans, LIC's Yuva Term and LIC's Yuva Credit Life on Monday. LIC of India launched new plans for providing term insurance and safety net against loan repayments, both available offline and online. LIC's Yuva Term is available offline through its intermediaries and LIC's Digi Term is available online only through its website. The purpose of these products is to cater to youngsters who wish to take term insurance in initial stages of life and give them a wider choice to buy offline or online. It has also launched a product to cover one's loan liabilities through term insurance. As today people are utilising loan facilities available for various needs, LIC has launched term insurance plan to cover loan liabilities like housing/education/vehicle etc for providing a safety net against loan repayments to the insured's family. LIC's Yuva Term/Digi Term is a non-par, non-linked, life, individual, pure risk plan. It is a pure decreasing term assurance plan wherein the death benefit will reduce over the term of the policy. Minimum age at entry is 18 year (last birthday). Maximum age at entry is 45 years (last birthday). Minimum age at maturity is 23 years (last birthday) and maximum age at maturity is 75 years (last Birthday). Minimum basic sum assured is ₹50,00,000 and maximum basic sum assured is ₹5,00,00,000. Benefit of attractive high sum assured rebate. Special lower premium rates for women. Choice of loan interest rate as appropriate to the policyholder at the inception of the policy. Amount payable on death of life assured during the policy term provided policy is in force and the claim admissible shall be sum assured on death.

# 2 killed as car rams into truck

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Two persons, including a doctor, were killed when their speeding car ramed into a truck ahead of them near Sirdharpur village on Agra-Lucknow Expressway in Unnao early on Tuesday. Their bodies have been sent for an autopsy. Dr Ram Nivas (42) of Khalilabad, Sant Kabir Nagar district, was posted at Titauli Health Centre of Sidharth Nagar. He was going towards Agra with Sufian (38)

son of Mehroof of Sarauli under Khalilabad police station. Around 5 am on Tuesday, their car suddenly ramed into the truck near Sirdharpur village under Bangermau police station area of Unnao. As a result both of them were killed on the spot. Meanwhile due to family discord, a youth committed suicide by hanging himself in Bilhaur Kotwali police station area on Monday night. Police probed the issue and sent the body for an autopsy.

# Rain disrupts life, causes further rise in Ganga level

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Rain with high intensity paralysed normal life for hours late on Tuesday afternoon, causing the water level of Ganga river to rise further in this holy city. The water level of the river here is rising by four cm per hour but may increase further as it was recorded rising at 12 and four cm per hour at upstream Prayagraj and Mirzapur respectively at 8 am on Tuesday as per the report of Middle Ganga Division-III of Central Water Commission (CWC). During 24 hours the water level has increased by 1.12 metres, rising to 66.46 metres from 65.34 metres a day ago. It continued rising right from Prayagraj to Ballia, including Mirzapur, Varanasi and Ghazipur. Though it was steady



The water level of Ganga continued to rise in Varanasi on Tuesday.

at upstream Phaphamu. At downstream Ballia the river was flowing at 55.45 metres during the day and the slight rise in the level will deteriorate the situation there as the warning level is at 56.615 metres. In

Varanasi, the level is at 70.262 metres. The residents of several villages of Daab areas surrounded by rivers Ganga and Gomti have heaved a sigh of relief as the water level of Gomti river has also recorded

steady at Jaunpur. The water level of the river has reached further close to the feet of Sheetla Mata Mandir at Old Dasawamedh Ghat forcing the devotees to reach the temple through the water. Many of the 'chowkis' of pandas have been submerged in the water. Dozens of low-lying temples located at internationally famous 84-odd ghats were either submerged in the water fully or partially. Meanwhile, good rain with high intensity badly paralysed normal life, especially in the evening hours leaving many areas waterlogged in the city areas. The rain left several localities, including Andhrapur, Teliabagh, Nagwa, Samnaghat, Dashawamedh, Godowlia, Luxa, Nai Sarak and the roads of many other markets and colonies waterlogged.

# Karpatra Deepawali celebrated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Dharma Sangh, the place of Dhanenace of 'Dharmasamrat' Swami Karpatri Maharaj, lit up with the light of lamps on Monday evening. Karpatra Deepawali was celebrated on the eve of Prakatya Divas in the 117th Karpatra Prakatyotsav being held at Dharma Sangh Shiksha Mandal located at Durgakund. As soon as 42,705 diyas were lit together amidst the auspicious sound of shhnai, the entire premises were bathed in the light of diyas. In the evening dusk, the grand Mani Mandir situated in the courtyard was decorated in a divine manner. First of all, Dharma Sangh Peethadheeswar Swami Shankardev Chaitanya Brahmachari Maharaj, Bapauli Dham Brahmachari Maharaj,



Mahesh Chaitanya Maharaj and Pt Jagjeetan Pandey lit the first lamp amidst Vedic mantras in the main hall of Mani Mandir, after which Vedic Acharyas and Batukas simultaneously lit lamps in the entire Dharma Sangh courtyard. On the occasion of Karpatra Prakatyotsav, lamps were also lit in the ground in front of the temple. Lamps were lit simultaneously at all places, including the temple main gate, Karpatra statue, Karpatra hall, Maharaj Niwas,

Annapura Bhojan Bhandar, Gaushala, garden, guest house and office. On the occasion, attractive decorations of electric fringes and 'deep malaas' were also done in the entire courtyard, starting from the main gate. On the occasion, symbols of Sanatan Dharma were made with lamps and various types of flowers, in which symbols like Swastik, Omkar, Trishul, Nandi, Shankh, Kamalpush etc looked very attractive. Proclamations like Har Har Mahadev were made with lamps. As soon as the lamps were lit in the entire premises, a very spectacular scene was seen in the entire Dharma Sangh. On the occasion of Karpatra Deepawali, rangoli of flowers was also decorated. The rangoli of Suswagatam on the main gate was very attractive, apart from that, the rangoli of lotus flow-

ers on the four pillars of Mani Mandir, the rangoli of a huge urn in the middle of the hall and the Sanatani symbols Om and Swastik all around and religious slogans like 'Dharma ki Jai Ho, Adharma Ka Nash Ho' with flowers were the centre of special attraction. On the occasion, Dharmasangh Peethadheeswar said that every year there is a tradition of celebrating Karpatri Deepawali on the eve of Karpatri Prakatya Divas. On this day, we bow down to Swami Karpatri Maharaj by lighting lamps equal to the number of days he has been on this earth. In Sanatan Dharma, the importance of lamps is considered very auspicious, so by lighting lamps we pray for the welfare of the world. During this, a huge crowd of devotees gathered in the temple premises.

# Induction programme organised

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

An induction programme was organised for newly admitted girl students (BA first semester) with the help of the steering committee in the auditorium of Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Kidwai Nagar, on Tuesday. The programme commenced by garlanding and worshipping Goddess Saraswati by the principal and all the committee members. In the convenor of the steering committee, Professor Sangeeta Sitani, welcomed the Principal of the college, Professor Anju Chaudhary. Professor Chaudhary introduced the newly-admitted girl students to various facilities of the college and encouraged them for their bright future. In the said programme, information about Samarth Portal was given to the students by Deepika Srivastava. Various committee coordinators of the college like Proctorial Board, Career Counselling, Grievance Redressal Committee, NCC, NSS, Health Hygiene Committee, Rovers and Rangers Unit, Alumni Committee, Sports Committee etc. informed the students regarding their respective committees. The anchoring of the programme was done by Prof Manisha Shukla.

# DM: Encourage public to hoist national flag

'Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A meeting of departmental officers was held in the Vikas Bhavan auditorium here on Monday under the chairmanship of District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam regarding Independence Day on August 15 and the 'Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan' programme to be celebrated on the occasion. Directing the departmental officers concerned, the district magistrate said that as per the intention of the government, people should be motivated to use the national flags kept safe in every house as a souvenir of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav in the 'Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan' to be conducted again this year between August 13-15. He emphasised that the process of 'Har Ghar Tiranga' should be ensured by complying with the Flag Code for reuse of flags. Under the campaign, from August 13 to 15 the general public will be encouraged to hoist the national flag at their homes, commercial establishments, industrial, educational,

Anganwadi centre as as, hospitals and public places. He also held a meeting with the public representatives concerned and directed the officials to ensure necessary arrangements to make the campaign successful. Chief Development Officer (CDO) Himanshu Nagpal, ADM (City) Alok Verma and other departmental officers were prominently present in the meeting. Meanwhile, as per the instructions of national president JP Nadda and state president Bhupendra Singh Chaudhary, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will organise various programmes on August 15 (Independence Day). Regional BJP president Dilip Patel said that in the 112th edition of 'Mann Ki Baat' programme, which is broadcast on the last Sunday of every month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while referring to 15th August, had said that 'Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan' should be associated with it. "For the last several years, everyone's enthusiasm for 'Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan' remains high in the entire country. People have a craze for taking selfies with the tricolour and posting them on social media", he said. Patel said that Tiranga Yatra will be organised under the leadership of Yuva Morcha in every assembly on August 11, 12 and 13. From August 12 to

14, a cleanliness programme will be run around the statues and monuments of great men. From August 13 to 15 garlands will be offered to the statues and monuments of great personalities. On August 13, 14 and 15 every worker will contact the people and ensure their participation in hoisting the tricolour in every house and business centres. He said that August 14 is 'Partition Remembrance Day'. "It is a painful story of the partition of India and unprecedented human displacement and forced migration", he said, adding that on this day while organising a seminar at the district level, tribute will be paid to the lakhs of people killed by remembering the dark chapter of partition. On this occasion an exhibition will also be organised in all the metros. After the conclusion of the seminar, a silent procession will be taken out. Patel said that public representatives, party office-bearers and workers will have an effective role in all these above programmes. It is mandatory to upload photos of all these programmes on Nammo App and Saral App. Regional media in charge Navratan Rathi said that to make the programme successful and effective, preparatory meetings will be held at the district level on August 6, 7 and 8 and meetings will be held in all the mandals on August 9 and 10.

# IFFCO Employees' Union poll held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

In the IFFCO Employees' Union election held on Tuesday, Pankaj Pandey was elected as president. He defeated Santosh Kumar by 23 votes. Pankaj Pandey got 107 votes, Santosh Kumar 84 and Manoj Kumar Tiwari 22 votes. Vijay Kumar Yadav with 92 votes was elected as general secretary. He defeated Vinay Kumar Yadav by two votes who got 90 and Manoj Kumar Srivastava got 28 votes. Dharam Singh Patel was elected as vice-president. He Dharam Singh Patel got 87 votes, Prabhakar Kumar 86 and Suresh Kumar Singh Yadav got 87 votes. Salik Ram Patel won by lottery due to tie of votes as joint secretary (Organisation). Salik Ram Patel



got 61 votes, Santaj Ali 61, Vinod Kumar Yadav 60 and Veeram Yadav 30 votes. For the post of Joint Secretary (Publicity) Abhayraj Yadav got 91 votes, Rajneesh Rao 88 and Rahul Kumar got 34 votes.

Gaurav Srivastava won the post of treasurer by three votes by securing 80 votes. Atul Tiwari got 77 votes and Dinesh Kumar Maurya got 55. Abhishek Patel and Ram Chandra Gautam were elected

as assistant secretary. Abhishek Patel got 77 votes, Ram Chandra Gautam 85, Vineet Kumar Rai 71, Ram Babu Jaiswal 64 votes, Annie G Nair 38 votes and Gyan Singh Patel 25. Manoj Patel and Vinod Kanooja were elected as executive members. Manoj Patel got 77 votes, Vinod Kanooja 77, Sunil Kumar Pal 60, Sunil Vaishya 53, Md Arif Ansari 57 votes and Pankaj Singh 40 votes. Senior Executive Director (Unit Head) Sanjay Kudesia, HOD Human Resources Shambhu Shekhar, IFFCO Officers' Association president Anurag Tiwari and general secretary Swayam Prakash congratulated all the winning candidates. Election Officer PK Patel praised the employees for the peaceful completion of the election.



# Ensure protection of minorities in Bangladesh, VHP urges Govt

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

The Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) on Tuesday urged the government to take "every possible" step to ensure the safety of Hindus, Sikhs and other minorities in Bangladesh, claiming that "fundamentalists" are targeting them in several districts of the neighbouring country.

Addressing a press conference, VHP president Alok Kumar called for strict security vigil on the Indo-Bangladesh border, saying that attempts could be made to "orchestrate infiltration" into the Indian territory taking advantage of the prevailing situation in the neighbouring country.

He also asked the world community to take "effective action" for the safety of minorities and protection of human rights in Bangladesh which he said is "trapped in a strange uncertainty, violence and anarchy". "In the recent past, religious places, business establishments and houses of Hindus, Sikhs and other minorities have also been rampaged in Bangladesh.



Till last night, 22 houses in Panchgarh district alone, 20 houses in Jhenaidah and 22 shops in Jessore became targets of the fundamentalists and in many districts even crematoriums were vandalised," he said. There is "hardly" any district left in Bangladesh which has not become a target of their "violence and terror," he added. "In Bangladesh, the houses, shops, offices, business establishments of Hindus and women, children and even the centres of their belief, faith and worship such as temples and

gurudwaras are not safe. It can be said that the condition of the oppressed minorities there is going from bad to worse," Kumar said.

He claimed that a lot of damage has been done to ISKCON temple in the neighbouring country. "The Vishva Hindu Parishad urges the government of Bharat to take every possible step for the safety of minorities in Bangladesh," he said, adding, "It is appropriate to point out that Hindus, who were once 32 per cent in Bangladesh, are now less than

8 per cent and they too are victims of continuous jihadi persecution."

Kumar said it is possible that taking advantage of the prevailing situation, a "big attempt" may be made to orchestrate infiltration into the Indian territory through the 4,096-kilometre-long Indo-Bangladesh border.

"We have to be extremely cautious about this. Therefore, it is necessary for our security forces to keep strict 24x7 vigil on the borders and not allow any kind of infiltration," he added. The VHP president said after the resignation of the Hasina government and her leaving the country, the process of formation of interim government in the neighbouring country is underway.

"In this hour of crisis, Bharat stands firmly with the entire society of Bangladesh as a friend. We wish that democracy and a secular government be re-established in Bangladesh as soon as possible. The society and government of Bharat will continue to support Bangladesh in this matter," he added.

## Minister raises concern over safety of Sikh, Hindu shrines

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

Union Minister of State for Railways and Food processing Ravneet Singh Bittu expressed serious concern on Tuesday over attacks on "Sikh shrines and Hindu temples located in Bangladesh" and urged External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to take up the issue with the Army authorities or the interim government of Bangladesh.

In a written communication to Jaishankar, Bittu said, "Since the population of Sikhs in Bangladesh is very small and certain anti-India elements were indulging in rampage of religious places, the Sikh community is worried about the safety of Sikh

shrines in Bangladesh."

"I, therefore, urge you to take up the issue with the Army authorities/Interim Government of Bangladesh to protect the historical Sikh shrines viz. Gurdwara Nanak Shahi and Gurdwara Sangat Tola situated in Dhaka along with the Hindu temples," Bittu said. "It is relevant to mention here that Guru Nanak Dev ji and Guru Teg Bahadur Sahib had visited Dhaka and these gurudwaras were built in their memories," he added. Bittu urged Jaishankar to assure the Sikh and Hindu communities in Bangladesh that the Indian government will take all necessary steps to protect the Sikh shrines and Hindu temples in Bangladesh.

## Specify steps taken for stability: Cong MP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

In the wake of the Bangladesh situation, Congress MP Manish Tewari on Tuesday said many countries in South Asia have been hit by political instability in the last three-four years and asked the government to specify what steps it has taken to maintain political stability in the region. Bangladesh has plunged into uncertainty after extraordinary street protest over job quota forced Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to quit and flee.

Raising the issue of the Bangladesh situation during the Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha, Tewari said India has had a special relationship with Bangladesh and played a special role in the creation of Bangladesh in 1971 due to which the geographical map of South Asia changed for a second time after 1947.

"The situation prevailing in Bangladesh is very sensitive and concerning. In January 2024, the Awami League formed the government under Sheikh Hasina for the fourth time in a row and within six months of that, a situation arose that a movement arose due to which Sheikh Hasina had to resign and even leave the country," the former Union minister said.

"I want to bring to notice that not just in Bangladesh, in the last three-four years there are many countries in South Asia that have been hit by political instability, be it Myanmar, Sri Lanka or Maldives. Even in Pakistan, the hold of the military is increasing on the civilian government," Tewari said. He further said China's intervention in the western Indian Ocean has increased.

# Taslima blames Hasina for rise of Islamists

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

Author Taslima Nasreen, who was exiled by then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, said on Tuesday "Hasina in order to please Islamists threw

me out of my country in 1999 after I entered Bangladesh to see my mother in her deathbed and never allowed me to enter the country again. The same Islamists have been in the student movement who forced Hasina to leave the country

today." The same Islamists who threw her out of Bangladesh have forced Hasina to flee, said Nasreen, exiled from the country in the 1990s following protests over her book "Lajja". On Monday, Hasina resigned

and fled the country amid massive public anger over her government's controversial quota system reserving 30 per cent jobs for families of veterans who fought the 1971 liberation war. More than 400 people have been killed in the

protests. Nasreen has been living in exile since 1994 after she faced criticism from Islamist fundamentalists for her writings on communalism and women's equality in Bangladesh.

Some of her books, including her breakthrough novel "Lajja" (1993) and her autobiography "Amar Meyebela" (1998), were banned by the Bangladesh government for their subject matter. "Lajja" attracted severe criti-

cism as it detailed violence, rape, lootings and killings of Bengali Hindus after the Babri Masjid demolition in India. "Hasina had to resign and leave the country. She was responsible for her situation. She made Islamists to grow.

She allowed her people to involve in corruption. Now Bangladesh must not become like Pakistan. Army must not rule. Political parties should bring democracy and secularism," the author said in another post on Monday.

# Cong, BJP MPs spar over Budget proposals in LS

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

The Union Budget for 2024-25 has nothing for the salaried class, and the middle class, and it neither addresses the issue of unemployment nor takes any step to reduce out-of-pocket expenditure for households, Congress MP Amar Singh said in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

Initiating the debate on the Finance Bill, the Fatehgarh Sahib MP said it appears in the Budget that the Union government was taxing the poor, while sparing the rich. BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, meanwhile, welcomed the Budget and called it "historic".

"From what the government has proposed, it appears the Centre intends to take away every single rupee from the salaried class, the common man, while the rich are being spared," Singh said.

"If we look at Income Tax, the tax on individuals is 19 per cent of total tax, while the corporate tax is 17 per cent. Why is the income tax more? In every way,



you are increasing individual tax, and bringing down the corporate tax. Who is the government working for?" he asked. He said the World Inequality Report has revealed that one per cent of the richest people in India have 40 per cent of the wealth, and accused the government of benefitting the higher income groups. "I want to suggest the finance minister. Around 70 per cent

Income Tax Returns have nil tax... Exempt those up to Rs 5 lakh income, it will increase public consumption and reduce poverty," he said. He questioned whether the exemptions given by the government to the corporate have generated any jobs. Singh said the Economic Survey has said India needs to generate an average of nearly 78.5 lakh jobs annually until

2030 in the non-farm sector to cater to the rising workforce. He also claimed the finance minister said nothing about food inflation which is at 10 per cent. He also questioned what the government was doing on its promise for a law guaranteeing a minimum support price (MSP) on crops to farmers who protested against the now-scrapped farm laws. BJP MP Nishikant Dubey,

meanwhile, welcomed the Budget and called it "historic". "Across the world, economies are growing at 2.5 per cent to 2.7 per cent. India is a ray of hope for the world," he said, lauding Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for it. "We are working towards the goal of a developed India by 2047," he said. Dubey said the NDA government has proposed to abolish angel tax, as it is competing with Singapore and Abu Dhabi, adding that it will generate employment. He further attacked the Congress over its demand for a caste census. "I want to ask the Congress, many people in this country do not believe in religion, caste... how will they participate in caste-based census?" he said.

Dubey also said he has with him the Congress manifestos from 1952 to 1990, and claimed it said the party was against OBC reservation. He also alleged that the Congress wants to bring reservations for Christians and Muslims through "backdoor".

# Sufi body welcomes Govt move to amend Waqf Boards Act

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

The All India Sufi Sajjadanashin Council (AISSC) on Tuesday welcomed the Government's decision to amend the law governing Waqf boards, saying it was long due. The Government is all set to bring a Bill in Parliament to amend the 1995 law governing Waqf boards to ensure more accountability and transparency in their functioning and mandatory inclusion of women in these bodies, according to sources. AISSC chairman Hazrot Syed Naseruddin Chishty demanded a separate Dargah Board under the amendments.

"In the present Waqf Act, there is no mention of dargahs at all. The Waqf Boards do not recognise the traditions of the dargah as many of our traditions are not there in sharia, so we demand a separate Dargah Board," he said at a press conference. Chishty alleged the Waqf Boards work in a "dictatorial manner" in their present



form and have no transparency at all.

"We are hopeful that the draft Waqf Amendment Bill will be comprehensive and serve the interests of all stakeholders. Following a thorough examination of the draft, we intend to submit our recommendations and proposal," he added. The AISSC representatives, including the chairman met National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, earlier on Monday and presented their concerns. "We were given assurance by the NSA and the Minority Affairs Minister that all the stakeholders will be consulted and the amendments will be in the interest of the Muslims,"

Chishty said. Earlier in the day, Rijiju said the AISSC delegation discussed a range of important issues concerning the Muslim community and added that it was a "fruitful" and "forward looking" discussion.

"Last evening a delegation of the All India Sufi Sajjadanashin Council (AISSC) comprising of the most revered & prominent Sajjadanashins from various Dargahs across India met me under the leadership of Shri Syed Naseruddin Chishty, Chairman & Successor of the Present Spiritual Head of Ajmer Dargah to discuss a range of important issues concerning the Muslim community. It was a fruitful & forward looking discussion. They lauded & praised the efforts of PM Shri @narendramodiji towards the welfare of the entire community and minorities in general. They also committed themselves towards the Sankalp of Viksit Bharat 2047. Shri Shehzad Poonawalla, national spokesperson of BJP, was also present," he said in a post on X.

# INDIA Bloc protests, demands rollback of GST on life and health insurance premiums

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

Members of the INDIA Bloc on Tuesday staged a protest on the Parliament premises demanding the rollback of the 18 per cent Goods and Services Tax (GST) on life and health insurance premiums. MPs from various parties, including TMC, Congress, AAP, and NCP (SC), gathered on the steps leading to Makar Dwar, carrying placards reading "Tax terrorism" and raising slogans against the tax.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge criticized the GST hike, describing it as a severe blow to the middle class, which is already struggling under the burden of high taxes and medical inflation. He called the tax an example of the BJP's exploitative policies.

In a post in Hindi on X, Kharge said, "Today in the Parliament premises, INDIA parties demanded immediate removal of 18% GST on health and life insurance premiums as this extortion is a severe blow to our people, especially the middle class." "The middle class is already struggling under the burden of the Modi government's tax collection policies. India's medical inflation rate is the highest in Asia in 2024 - at 14%! On top of that, this 'Gabbar Singh Tax' on life



insurance and health insurance is inhuman, and another condemnable example of BJP's policy of plundering from 'opportunity in disaster', Kharge said. In a post in Hindi on X, Rahul Gandhi said, "The Modi government even collected Rs 24,000 crore from millions of common Indians who pay health insurance premiums every year by saving every penny to ensure that they do not have to bow down to anyone in case of a 'health crisis' in life." Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor said the INDIA bloc parties' protest against the imposition of 18 per cent GST on life and medical insurance premiums is absolutely justified. "India is already the country whose citizens pay the highest out-of-pocket expenses

for health crises in the world. Senior citizens who have taken health insurance are now paying the highest GST rates in the world. How does the government intend to attain the goal of 'insurance for all by 2047', when it is instead ensuring the unaffordability of insurance to most?" Tharoor said on X. Trinamool Congress MPs and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee have been raising the issue, writing to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has also urged the Finance Minister to reconsider the GST, arguing that it hinders the growth of the insurance industry and penalizes individuals facing life uncertainties.

# SC lists plea challenging Bombay HC's verdict to uphold dress code

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said it has ordered listing of a plea challenging the verdict of the Bombay High Court which had upheld a decision of a Mumbai college to impose a ban on wearing of 'hijab', 'burqa' and 'naqab' inside the campus.

The high court had on June 26 refused to interfere with the decision of the Chembur Trombay Education Society's N G Acharya and D K Marathe College imposing the ban, saying such rules do not violate students' fundamental rights. It had said a dress code is meant

to maintain discipline which is part of the college's fundamental right to "establish and administer an educational institution".

Taking note of submission seeking urgent listing of the appeal, a bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said it has already assigned a bench for the matter and that it would be listed soon. Lawyer Abiha Zaidi, appearing for petitioners, including Zainab Abdul Qayyum, sought urgent hearing saying the unit tests in the college are likely to commence on Wednesday.



The top court is yet to conclusively decide the legality of such diktats issued by educational institutions. A two-judge bench of the top court, on October 13, 2022, had delivered opposing verdicts in the hijab controversy emanating

from Karnataka. The then BJP-led state government had imposed a ban on wearing the Islamic head covering in schools there.

While Justice Hemant Gupta, since retired, had dismissed the appeals challenging the judgement of the Karnataka High Court which had refused to lift the ban, Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia had held there shall be no restriction on the wearing of hijab anywhere in the schools and colleges of the state. The present controversy stems from the decision of a Mumbai college.

The Bombay High Court trashed the plea against the ban

and said the dress code was applicable to all students irrespective of religion or caste. The students, who were in the second and third year of the science degree course, had moved the high court, challenging a directive issued by the college imposing a dress code under which students cannot wear a hijab, naqab, burka, stoles, caps and badges on the premises. The students had claimed it was against their fundamental right to practice religion, the right to privacy and right to choice. The college's action was "arbitrary, unreasonable, bad-in-law and perverse", the plea had said.

# Penalty does not apply to PM Jan Dhan accounts, says Sitharaman

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said there is no need to maintain minimum balance in Jan Dhan as well as basic savings accounts, and banks impose penalties only in cases where customers fail to maintain a requisite amount in their accounts. The Minister was replying to a question in Rajya Sabha during Question Hour regarding public sector banks collecting about Rs 8,500 crore in penalty from customers for non-



maintenance of minimum balance in accounts in five years. "Since the member is talking about banks collecting money for basic minimum balance which is not there in the account, that does not apply to PM Jan Dhan accounts and basic accounts of the poor

people. It is only for others whose minimum balance is expected to be at a certain level," Sitharaman said.

It emerged in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha that public sector banks collected around Rs 8,500 crore under this head in five years starting FY 2019-20. Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary also informed the Lok Sabha last month that state-owned banks have charged depositors Rs 2,331 crore penalty for not maintaining the average monthly minimum balance in FY24.

# AFSPA removed from most parts of Northeast, Parliament informed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958, which gives powers to the armed forces operating in disturbed areas to search, arrest and open fire if they deem it necessary, has been removed from most parts of the northeast, except a few districts and some police station areas, Parliament was informed on Tuesday. In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said there has

been a considerable reduction in the number of "disturbed areas" under the AFSPA and the law has been withdrawn completely from Tripura (from May 27, 2015) and Meghalaya (April 1, 2018). The AFSPA has also been withdrawn from all districts except four in Assam, he said. Rai said the AFSPA has been withdrawn gradually in Arunachal Pradesh and it is currently applicable only in three police station areas in Namsai district and three other districts — Tirap, Changlang and Longding.





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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Ignominious exit

Sheikh Hasina resigns as the Prime Minister of Bangladesh and flies to India leaving New Delhi in a quandary

It was writing on the wall which Sheikh Hasina the former Prime Minister of Bangladesh could not read. The people had turned against her. No wonder she had no choice but to resign and leave for the friendly country, India. The protests over the past few months paralysed Bangladesh. The initial spark was the students' demand for doing away with the reservation for the relatives of freedom fighters which evolved into a broader demand for political reforms and the resignation of Hasina Government. The unrest reached a crescendo, with more than 100 deaths in violent clashes between protesters and security forces. Protesters eventually stormed her official residence. Sheikh Hasina's political career has been a roller coaster ride. She is the daughter of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the founding leader and first President of Bangladesh. Hasina's political journey began in earnest after the assassination of her father and most of her family members in 1975. Exiled in India during the subsequent military regimes in Bangladesh, Hasina was elected



as the President of the Awami League in 1981. She returned to Bangladesh in 1981. She was instrumental in reviving the Awami League and making it a formidable political force.

Sheikh Hasina first became Prime Minister in 1996 after the Awami League won the general elections. Allegations of corruption and political instability led to her party's defeat in the 2001 elections. But she returned to power in 2009 after the Awami League's landslide victory in the 2008 elections. Her subsequent terms as Prime Minister (2009-2024) have been marked by significant economic growth but also highhandedness which ultimately led to her downfall. Her tenure has

been marked by efforts to consolidate power, leading to accusations of authoritarianism and suppression of dissent. But the fact remains that under her leadership, Bangladesh has made significant strides in poverty reduction, women's empowerment, and achieving key development milestones. After a long rule of 15-years she was out of sync with the ground realities; calling people traitors and clamping curfew and issuing shooting orders were grave mistakes which she had to pay for. Her ouster has put New Delhi in fix. India will now have to navigate the uncharted choppy waters of diplomacy in the Bay of Bengal. The alternatives to Hasina's government include the right-wing Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), the Jatiya Party, and the army, all of which perceive India as a dominant influence and would like to keep her at bay. The volatility in Bangladesh raises security concerns for India, particularly in the border regions. Sheikh Hasina's departure has significantly altered the political dynamics. No matter who replaces Hasina it would adversely affect Indo-Bangladesh relations. Bangladesh may now move closer to China. New Delhi will have to deal with the interim government and make friends with the BNP and Jatiya party not to mention the army Generals who would be calling the shots for a while till new elections take place.

## PICTALK



People walk to their work as torrential rains lash Shimla

## Why a national security strategy is vital for India



ASHOK K MEHTA

The military has always codified its practices and procedures for institutional memory. So why is the Government shy of it and using the CDS to justify it?

It is official now. After a decade of speculation over not whether and when a National Security Strategy (NSS) will be prepared and released, we were told that a written NSS is not needed. India's second CDS, Gen Anil Chauhan, recently said at India International Centre New Delhi while releasing the book Indian Craft of War, that a National Security Policy, using the term as an alternative to NSS, was not needed in writing. He added: "we have practices and processes in place...otherwise how did we do Article 370; handle COVID; Balakot air strikes...". A cerebral retired General noted, "it is in the head".

That we have gone on for 75 years without NSS does not mean we don't need one. The strategic ambiguity over not naming adversaries, missions, risks and opportunities is not worth a naya paisa in the contemporary geopolitical context. The contradiction is this: in the cradle of strategic thinking, Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, its Commandant, Lt Gen Verinder Vats, regularly underlines the virtues of NSS to his tri-service students. There is no merit in explaining why a written document is necessary, indeed essential.

All democracies, even authoritarian regimes have an NSS or White Paper on defence and security. For starters you can open former COAS Gen MM Naravane's latest unreleased book, Four Stars of Destiny, to learn of his unenviable predicament in waiting for orders during a grave and critical operational situation on LAC post-Galwan. Tragically, the Indian military has shied away from demanding a White Paper, Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) or any political guidance from the ruling political class. At a recent seminar on national security at New Delhi's IIC, former NSA Shiv Shankar Menon disclosed categorically that during the UPA regime, a draft NSS was prepared thrice but it never saw the light of day. For Menon's presentation, the discussant was former defence security NN Vohra, former Governor J&K, and Principal Secretary to



the Prime Minister.

He endorsed Menon's claim and if further confirmation was needed it came from former Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran who was chairing the event. All three stated that the absence of political will let the NSS drafts collect dust. This raises the issue of the role and responsibility of not only civil servants but also more importantly of Service Chiefs who fail to persuade or even gently coerce the PM/RM on the issuance of written directives. In their single-service operational mission papers, they guesstimate their likely missions from the speeches of the Prime Minister during the Combined Commanders' Conferences or elsewhere. The BJP/NDA government has fared no better than the UPA in providing political guidance to the armed forces. Its stellar achievement though was the creation of CDS, which for lack of consensus both among the armed forces and the political class, remained missing for decades.

Then, in a burst of zeal, the BJP announced the appointment of CDS in December 2019 without consulting anyone. It is now stuck in the old groove of securing consensus among the military over theorisation. It has taken a full five and a half years for RM Rajnath Singh to state, that too, in response to



TRAGICALLY, THE INDIAN MILITARY HAS SHIED AWAY FROM DEMANDING A WHITE PAPER, STRATEGIC DEFENCE AND SECURITY REVIEW (SDSR) OR ANY POLITICAL GUIDANCE FROM THE RULING POLITICAL CLASS

a question during an interview with PTI in May that consensus is growing among the services. Also in May, Gen Chauhan stated during a lecture at USI New Delhi that theorisation was "imminent" though "there were differences over reforms". As CDS has become synonymous with theatrisation the government needs to be as decisive in setting a deadline for its blueprint and implementation as it was in appointing the CDS.

But the IAF, especially has been saying that an NSS is a prerequisite to theatrisation. In 2018 when the Defence Planning Committee was created under NSA Ajit Doval, it was widely expected that an NSS would be prepared by it. It is no secret that two drafts of NSS are lying with Doval - one prepared by Integrated Defence Staff and another by NSC Secretariat in 2021-22. But Gen Chauhan has closed the door to a scripted NSS though he did release last month a written tri-service cyber-space doctrine. Earlier, a tri-service Training Doctrine was also released which attracted severe criticism for its loopholes. One can ask how these documents can be written when there is no NSS and National Defence Strategy. India is the only emerging power with the fifth largest economy and fourth largest armed forces that does not

have an NSS/NSP though it has fought four short wars, - lost one, won one with the remaining two ending in stalemate - and one casualty-ridden successful border skirmish.

There is hardly any mention or recognition of India's first out-of-area 32-month IPKF CIS mission in Sri Lanka where coercive diplomacy failed even as 1171 Bravehearts sacrificed their lives. The CDS recently called IPKF a minor operation. High time an NSS was written after a strategic defence review. I can vouch for it as a member of the Defence Planning Staff, the forerunner of IDS, which produced the country's first Defence Plan 2000 in 1988 after conducting a Security and Technology Environment Review that was lauded in Parliament. It was possible due to the political guidance from RRM Arun Singh and three dynamic service chiefs. The military has always codified its practices, processes, and procedures to be good for institutional memory. So why is the government shy of doing it and using CDS to justify it

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. The views are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## BURDEN OF OVER TOURISM

Madam — Apropos the article, "The global crisis of over-tourism", published on August 5, this is my response. With tourism expanding globally all the time, the term 'overtourism' is becoming a concern, which highlights the spiralling number of visitors taking a toll on cities, landmarks and landscapes. As tourist numbers worldwide returned towards pre-pandemic levels, the debate around what constitutes 'too many' visitors continues. Dealing with overtourism, therefore, has become a priority. But despite the mounting howls of protest, tourism promotion endures and unsustainable hordes of tourists continue to descend on cities, beaches and other natural wonders. In an effort to manage the flow of tourists, some cities have taken drastic measures to limit the effects of overtourism, including the introduction of new revised taxation arrangements and fines linked to new local laws. But it's a fine line to tread.

If tourist arrivals see a dramatic decline, it would likely have considerable economic repercussions for those who rely on them. Tourism should be part of the wider destination management system, which must also consider transport and mobility, the preservation of public spaces, the local economy and housing, among other aspects of daily life. Therefore, research, planning and a close dialogue among city administrators, the tourism industry, civil society groups and local residents are essential.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

## DEATH OF SANITATION WORKERS

Madam — In the span of last six months, 43 sanitation workers lost their lives while cleaning sewers and septic tanks. These deaths took place despite manual scavenging has been banned and several policy measures have subsequently been put in place to prevent it. The fact is that despite recognising the dehumanising nature of their occupation and understanding how their caste status further

## Djokovic wins gold medal



Djokovic carved out a break point in the second game of the opener and three more in the

fourth, all saved by the Spaniard but the vintaged tennis won the first gold medal for the veteran tennis player. Then it was Serbia's turn to demonstrate his famed powers of resilience off three break points in the fifth game and another five in a marathon ninth game.

In a roller-coaster duel, Alcaraz served a set point in the 12th game but his senior opponent dominated the tie break to claim the opener after 93 minutes on court Philippe Chatrier. There was no let up in the second set and the serve volley game saw veteran Djokovic having greater control in the tie-break to win the game, set, match and the gold medal in a scintillating display of tennis.

Jayanthy CK Maniam | Mumbai

## SHEIKH HASINA RESIGNS

Madam — Now that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh has resigned, a new chapter begins in the country's history. This could be a positive sign for a brighter future. On Sunday, fierce clashes in Bangladesh resulted in the deaths of 91 people, and last month, around 150 demonstrated against the government's failure to address conflicts. This illustrates that the government has been too arrogant and stubborn to describe.

The Bangladeshi Government lost the touch with ground reality and ignored the concerns of its people. It is not rocket science to implement a few amendments in the quota system, but the government's behavior had been arrogant to say the least. It only confined itself to the welfare of its supporters. There is hope for a prompt restoration of stability in the neighboring country.

Jakir Hussain | Kanpur

## Suppressing scientific studies is injurious to nation's health

Limiting scientific inquiry not only jeopardises public safety but also undermines trust in the authorities responsible for managing such crises

The recent instance of the Kerala government's contentious gag order banning scientific institutions from studying the land slide-affected areas of Wayand has been met with resistance from the scientific community and civil society. Hours later, the order was withdrawn at the behest of the state's Chief Minister. But what is still worrying is how a government or a bureaucrat drafts such an insane order restricting the scientific community from undertaking any studies at Meppadi Panchayat, Wayand, where the multiple landslides occurred on the morning of July 30 and airing their views to the media. Whatever has happened in Wayand in the Western Ghats region or the Uttarakhand or Himachal Pradesh in the Himalayan belt is due to the hiding of scientific information from the public.



These occurrences have emphasised the urgent requirement for thorough catastrophe planning and response methods, encompassing catastrophic earthquakes and tsunamis, industrial mishaps, and pandemics. An essential component in formulating these strategies is the implementation of scientific research carried out at disaster sites. Research conducted at catastrophe sites can improve preparedness and response techniques, ultimately preserving lives and mitigating economic losses in future occurrences. Imposing restrictions on scientific study threatens the general population's safety and erodes people's confidence in the authorities and organisations responsible for managing disasters. Freedom of scientific expression is crucial for all types of scientific research. To

foster the continuous acquisition of knowledge, it is essential to create an atmosphere where scientists can openly communicate their ideas, exchange discoveries, and provide constructive criticism to one another without any concerns about being censored or facing negative consequences. Impeding scientific studies and suppressing the freedom of expression within the scientific community presents a severe danger to the advancement and credibility of Science. Science and scientific facts reveal the truth because researchers conduct systematic studies. In that case, why should one hide it from the media or the public? Unfortunately, every scientist in the country needs approval from their higher-ups to publish a paper or even a popular science article.

A committee of few who don't have any work except criticising others oversees the author's creativity. It's a pathetic situation. It's like making things more complicated so that no one dares to venture into new things. Over the past few years, there has been a concerning

increase in the occurrence and severity of catastrophes, including those caused by nature and human activities. These occurrences have emphasised the crucial requirement for thorough catastrophe planning and response methods. During the Joshimath sinking incident, there were reports of ISRO satellite images that showed that many parts of the Himalayas, including the famous Shimla ridge, were sinking. Unfortunately, that report soon vanished from the public domain. Had the information been available, people would be prepared to move from these regions instead of clinging to it. Restricting scientific investigation and hiding the information can lead to misinterpretation by unscrupulous historians, who may distort the true scientific explanations of natural disasters for their interest. This could harm future generations' comprehension of the scientific causes underlying these calamities.

(The writer is an adjunct faculty at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru. Views are personal)



BIJU DHARMAPALAN





## FIRST COLUMN

## ACCEPTANCE - THE KEY TO REDUCING SUFFERING

When we accept reality, our anger tends to decrease and the pain subsides considerably



BY RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

If you ask anyone what is suffering? they would simply say that it is something that's caused by or is a result of negative events that happen in our life. However, this is not so, because in an actual sense, suffering is never what happens, it is how you feel about what happens in your life. We must understand that suffering is a feeling and our strongest feelings are nothing but our emotions, and when emotions get negative, they give pain. So, in simple words, suffering is our resistance to our negative emotions and our pain. It's a pain about our pain. Hence, we must understand the fact that suffering is the result of OUR emotions and not the events of our Lives.

We all experience pain in our day-to-day lives because it's inevitable and it is a part of being human. However, how many of us have pondered over this philosophical question of life - "What Causes Us PAIN?" or "What is the Cause of Our Negative Emotions?". Our pain might stem from losing a dear one, losing our job, a bad breakup, a fatal accident or undergoing any other kind of trauma or situation. However, when we hide from facing or accepting reality, we create suffering. Therefore, it should be clearly understood that we are the sole creator of good and bad in our lives and hence it's futile to blame others by saying things like - "It's not fair, why Me? this shouldn't have happened with me at least or I can't bear this anymore! etc..."



There is a deep instinct in most of us to fight the pain we experience deep within, however, in most cases it backfires and we end up experiencing double the pain. The reason behind this is our tendency to avoid and, in some cases, hide our pain or pretend that it isn't present. Deep within we might ruminate about our suffering, without doing anything about it because of our stubbornness to accept it openly.

A wise person would instead accept the reality and become light instead of getting heavy on the mind because accepting simply means that you stop trying to deny your reality and you acknowledge it because sometimes accepting the painful emotions can reduce our suffering because we are no longer running from them or pushing them away. It however does not mean that you approve of a situation or that you don't want it to change, it's all about reducing our suffering, so if you have been hurt by someone, it's best to accept that YES you were hurt and then move on with your life rather than pondering over why, how, what... Remember! To forgive or not is each one's prerogative, but acceptance is necessary for moving forward in life or else we would get stuck in a quagmire of wasted thoughts.

Once we accept reality, our anger tends to decrease and the painful situation loses the power it has over us. There is no denying the fact that emotional pain is an intrinsic part of all our lives, however, we create needless suffering when we don't accept reality. When we practice acceptance, we let ourselves move on, we open the door to freedom and we take steps to improve our lives. Most of us may find it hard to accept reality and still prefer to wait for time and situations to change, however in doing so, we forget that time does not heal everything, but acceptance will heal everything.

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

## Need for rationalising taxes on fertilisers



UTTAM GUPTA

The GST Council, responsible for tax rate decisions has yet to resolve the tax discrepancies despite multiple discussions and recommendations

For over five years now, the fertilizer industry has been facing an 'inverted duty structure'. Inverted duty structure refers to a situation in which raw materials (RMs) are taxed at a higher rate than finished products in whose manufacture these are used. But, there was little that the Budget presented by the Union Finance Minister (UFM) Nirmala Sitharaman on July 23, 2024, could do to address it.

Fertilizers and RMs used in their making are mostly taxed under the GST (Goods and Services Tax) regime. The GST Council - headed by the UFM that includes finance ministers from all States and UTs - has the mandate to fix tax rates besides deciding the procedures for registration, payment of taxes, GST return filing, and other related matters. So, the responsibility for fixing any anomalies in their taxation also lies with the GST Council.

The issue was discussed in the 45th (September 2021) and 47th (June 2022) meetings of the GST Council; but no decision could be taken.

Meanwhile, on August 9, 2023, the Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilisers recommended that the Union Government propose to the GST Council to reduce tax rates on fertilizers as well as RMs used in their making. In its 53rd meeting held on June 22, 2024, the Council referred the matter to the Group of Ministers (GoM) on rate rationalization to take a holistic view.

At the outset, let us look at the present structure of taxing fertilizers.

To make fertilizers affordable to farmers, the government controls their maximum retail price (MRP) at a low level, unrelated to the cost of production and distribution, and reimburses the excess of the cost over MRP as a subsidy to the manufacturers. In the case of urea, the MRP is about one-tenth of the cost, whereas for all other fertilizers, the price is nearly one-third.

When the government spends heavily on its budget to make fertilizers available to farmers at a fraction of their cost, it makes no sense to impose a tax on them. This increases the cost, only to be reimbursed as an additional subsidy, to the manufacturers. It is a typical case of taking from one hand and giving back from the other.

Two major components of the fertilizer supply chain are taxed under two different regimes: one under GST and the other under the pre-GST regime. All finished fertilizers such as Urea, di-ammonium phosphate (DAP), ammonium sulphate etc are taxed under GST at 5 per cent. Most RMs such as sulfuric acid, ammonia, phosphoric acid etc (these are used for making DAP and other complex fertilizers) are also covered under GST. While sulfuric acid and ammonia are levied 18 per cent GST, phosphoric acid attracts 12 per cent tax.

However, natural gas (NG), used for the manufacture of all domestic urea, is taxed under the pre-GST regime. Electricity, a utility intrinsic to the fertilizer-making process, is also kept outside GST.

GST is a single nationwide tax with a provision for set-off tax paid on inputs. It subsumes within it more than a dozen taxes from the pre-GST era, namely cen-



WHEN THE GOVERNMENT SPENDS HEAVILY FROM ITS BUDGET TO MAKE FERTILISERS AVAILABLE TO FARMERS AT A FRACTION OF THEIR COST, IT MAKES NO SENSE TO IMPOSE A TAX ON THEM. THIS INCREASES THE COST, ONLY TO BE REIMBURSED AS AN ADDITIONAL SUBSIDY, TO THE MANUFACTURERS

tral excise duty (CED), service tax, and sales tax/value-added tax (VAT). The Constitutional Amendment Act of 2016 on GST, while providing for the inclusion of NG (besides other petroleum products such as petrol, diesel, ATF etc) under its ambit, kept it 'zero-rated' meaning it continues to be under the pre-GST regime. The GST Council has put fixing the rate for NG (besides ATF) on its agenda umpteen times only to defer it.

Taxing under pre-GST results in a cascading effect on the cost of NG and electricity. Gas companies like Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) are outside the GST ambit and can't claim credit for the taxes paid on their purchases of inputs, consumables, and equipment, leading to a higher price. Even as NG attracts nil CED on supplies to fertilizer plants, its delivered cost is boosted by VAT, which can be as high as 24.5 per cent in Andhra Pradesh (AP).

Other local taxes, for instance, Gujarat's "purchase tax" on that portion of inputs consumed for making urea that is sold outside the state, also add to the cost. In the case of electricity, power companies don't get any credit for taxes paid on inputs viz., equipment, stores, and so on, used in its generation and distribution, leading to higher costs.

Further, under the Constitution, entry 53 in the State List of the Seventh Schedule empowers states to impose tax (or electricity duty) on the sale and consumption of electricity, except

when it is consumed by the Union Government or the Railways. For electricity duty, too, electricity companies don't get any offset. This further exacerbates the cost of power supplied to fertilizer plants.

Even in areas where the materials are covered under GST hence, no cost cascading effect, the inverted tax structure plays a spoiler. The higher GST levied on ammonia/sulfuric acid/phosphoric acid as against much lower GST on finished fertilizers results in an 'unabsorbed' input tax credit (ITC), as the output tax falls far short of the input tax. The situation gets exacerbated because of the government's control over the MRP of fertilizers at a low level.

Considering that the cost of making fertilizer available to farmers (sans taxes) by itself is substantially higher than the price the Union Government wants them to pay, ideally, it shouldn't levy any tax as the proceeds from such levy will have to be paid back as an additional subsidy. Even if it wants to levy, ideally, all components in the supply chain have to be brought under GST and fertilizers, and all inputs and RMs should be in the lowest tax slab of 5 per cent.

While the tax rate on fertilizers is already 5 per cent, this will require lowering the tax rate on all RMs viz. ammonia/sulfuric acid/phosphoric acid from the current 18/12 per cent to 5 per cent. The tax on micronutrients such as zinc (Zn), boron (B), manganese (Mn), iron (Fe) etc should also be lowered from the

existing 12-18 per cent to 5 per cent in line with the recommendation of the Standing Committee as their importance for plant growth and ensuring balanced nutrient use. NG and power should be brought under GST and taxed at @5 per cent. Lowering tax on RMs by itself won't address the problem of unabsorbed ITC. This is because the MRP of finished fertilizers is substantially lower than the cost, even with the same GST, tax paid on RMs/inputs would still be higher than output tax liability. This can be resolved only when the government gives subsidies to farmers under direct benefit transfer (DBT) and lets manufacturers charge full price from the farmers.

Lowering tax on ammonia/sulfuric acid/phosphoric acid on supplies to fertilizer manufacturers to accommodate their special needs but leaving GST on supplies to other industries such as detergents, paints, dyes, plastics, etc unchanged can lead to large-scale diversion and misuse as it is impossible to track every grain of supply and ensure that it is used for the intended purpose. We have seen this happening in the case of urea where setting its MRP at a low level prompts diversion.

Diversion/misuse is inevitable in any regime of differential taxation/pricing based on the end use of the product. The only way to prevent it and yet meet the intended objective is DBT. Well, this is shaping up!

(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

## India's abolition of Angel tax: A major boost for startups and investment

The removal of this tax, combined with procedural simplifications, promises to create a more dynamic and supportive environment for startups

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in her seventh Budget, has proposed to abolish the Angel Tax, a significant move aimed at bolstering the Indian startup ecosystem. This tax had long been a contentious issue between startups and the Income Tax Department, acting as a major hindrance to growth and investment. The abolition of this tax, if coupled with procedural simplifications, could indeed be a game-changer, fostering a more vibrant and dynamic startup ecosystem that encourages innovation and entrepreneurship. The Angel Tax, essentially a tax on capital raised by unlisted companies through the issue of



B K JHA

shares, was introduced under Section 56(2)(viii) of the Income Tax Act, 1961. It taxed investments above the fair market value of a company as 'Income from other sources', primarily affecting angel investors. The excess realization was considered income and taxed accordingly. This provision, while well-intentioned to curb money laundering, ended up stifling

genuine investments and became a nightmare for startups. The abolition of this tax removes a significant barrier that has long hindered the growth of startups and discouraged investment. Startups can now raise capital without the looming fear of being taxed on perceived excess valuations, which often did not account for the future growth prospects and potential of these young companies.

This move aligns with the government's broader agenda of promoting innovation, employment, education, skilling, and research. The abolition of the Angel Tax is expected to boost the entire startup ecosystem by making it easier for startups to attract investments.

This, in turn, will stimulate economic growth and job creation. For instance, the comprehensive digitalization of taxpayer services and the simplification of the GST tax structure are indicative of the government's commitment to digitalization, which will benefit tech startups across various fields such as education, healthcare, and taxation. India has been a global leader in creating successful entrepreneurship opportunities in recent years.

The investor community, including high-net-worth individuals (HNIs), foreign funds, venture capitalists, and angel investors, has remained bullish on the growth potential of the Indian startup ecosystem.



However, the Angel Tax had cast a shadow over this optimism, causing significant distress among startups and investors alike. While the government's initiatives such as Startup India, Stand-up India, and Digital India have provided a favourable environment for startups, the Angel Tax was a significant pain point. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) had even

shaken the startup ecosystem by directly deducting income tax under Section 68 from the bank accounts of certain startups on unexplained cash credits. The abolition of the Angel Tax, coupled with the recent notification simplifying compliance procedures, reflects the government's responsiveness to the concerns of the startup community. Startups no longer need to procure a fair market value certificate issued by a merchant banker or seek approval from an inter-ministerial board. Instead, they can request angel tax exemption from the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) with the necessary supporting documents.

The CBDT is mandated to respond to such applications within 45 days, providing much-needed clarity and certainty to startups. While the abolition of the Angel Tax is a significant step forward, its impact will depend on the implementation and further simplifications of procedures. The focus should be on creating a startup-friendly regulatory environment that encourages investment and innovation. The government's emphasis on digital public infrastructure and the digitalization of the economy will also play a crucial role in supporting tech startups and fostering a culture of innovation. Overall, the abolition of the Angel Tax is a welcome move that promis-

es to remove a significant barrier to startup growth and investment. However, for this initiative to truly be a game-changer, it must be accompanied by procedural simplifications and a supportive regulatory environment. The government's continued focus on innovation, digitalization, and economic growth will be crucial in realizing the full potential of this policy change. This could very well mark the beginning of a new era for the Indian startup ecosystem, driving innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic growth in the years to come.

(The author is a senior journalist and the views expressed are personal)



# BJP-JD(S) 'Mysuru Chalo' march to demand CM's resignation continues

PTI ■ MANDYA (KARNATAKA)

The combined opposition, BJP and JD(S), on Tuesday continued their protest march, demanding the resignation of Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah over the alleged Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) site allotment 'scam'. The week-long Bengaluru - Mysuru padayatre (foot march) has sought to highlight the alleged fraudulent allotment of sites to land losers by MUDA, including to Siddaramaiah's wife Parvathi. The fourth day of the 'Mysuru Chalo' protest began at Nidaghatta near here and is scheduled to cover a distance of 20 km to reach the district headquarters city of Mandya. BJP State President and MLA B Y Vijayendra, former Deputy Chief Minister C N Ashwath Narayan, Deputy Leader of Opposition in Assembly Arvind Bellad, several legislators, leaders and workers from both parties took part as the march resumed. A large number of workers and leaders from both parties were seen marching shouting



slogans against Siddaramaiah and the Congress government, holding BJP and JD(S) party flags and placards, amidst sounds of drum beat. The stretch through which the march passed was decked up with flags of both parties, bunting and portraits of prominent leaders at several places. Kick started on Saturday at Kengeri near Bengaluru, the march on its first day had covered a distance of 16 km to reach Bidadi, 22 km on day two to reach Kengal, and 20 km on day three to reach Nidaghatta. In the MUDA

'scam', it is alleged that compensatory sites were allotted to Siddaramaiah's wife Parvathi in an upmarket area in Mysuru, which had higher property value as compared to the location of her land which had been 'acquired' by the MUDA. The MUDA had allotted plots to Parvathi under a 50:50 ratio scheme in lieu of 3.16 acres of her land, where MUDA developed a residential layout. Under the controversial scheme, MUDA allotted 50 per cent of developed land to the land losers in lieu of undeveloped land acquired from them for

forming residential layouts. BJP leaders have claimed that the MUDA 'scam' is of the magnitude of Rs 4,000 crore to Rs 5,000 crore. The Congress government on July 14 constituted a single member inquiry commission under former High Court Judge Justice P N Desai to probe the MUDA 'scam'. Based on a petition filed by advocate-activist T J Abraham, Karnataka Governor Thawarchand Gehlot had issued a 'show-cause notice' on July 26 directing the Chief Minister to submit his reply to the allegations against him within seven days as to why permission for prosecution should not be granted against him. Subsequently, the Karnataka government had 'strongly advised' the Governor to withdraw his 'show-cause notice' to the CM, and alleged 'gross misuse of the Constitutional Office' of the Governor. The council of Ministers after their meeting had said a concerted effort is being made to destablise a lawfully elected majority government in Karnataka for political considerations.

# Himachal Govt doing nothing to help victims: Kangana

PTI ■ SHIMLA

Actor-MP Kangana Ranaut on Tuesday visited disaster-hit Samej in this district and accused the state government of doing 'nothing' to help the victims. "Yeh dil dehlai deni wali trasadi hai" (it is a heart-wrenching tragedy). People have lost all their family members, including children. They are terrified and in trauma. I would request the state government to provide immediate relief (financial assistance) to the affected families," Ranaut, who interacted with the flashflood victims in Samej in Rampur subdivision, said. The BJP MP from Mandi also demanded a special inquiry into allocation of funds by the Congress-led Himachal Pradesh government to the flood-affected families last year. Himachal Pradesh has been pumelled by heavy rains for almost a week. Fourteen bodies have been recovered so far and 40 people are still missing after flash floods triggered by cloudbursts hit Kullu's Nirmand, Sainj and Malana, Mandi's Padhar and Shimla's Rampur subdivision on the night of July 31, officials said. "Malana in Kullu district has been disconnected and the villagers are themselves



making the bridge," Ranaut said. She accused the state government of doing 'nothing' to help the affected people in Samej village, where over 30 people are missing. "I cannot see anything being done by the state government. Not a single thing has been done here by ministers which is inhuman," the BJP leader alleged. Samej village, about 148 km from here, has been worst hit in the flash floods. Rampur, Kullu and Mandi are under the Mandi parliamentary constituency from where Ranaut was elected in the recently held Lok Sabha polls. "I have come as a representative of the Union government. The central government will provide funds to help the flood-affected people but we all know that financial assistance was also given last year after the monsoon disaster. These funds go to the state government and are distributed by them," she

# HC waives cooling off period for estranged couple

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Change in social conditions and a rapidly evolving society require a realistic approach to be adopted, the Bombay High Court has said while granting divorce to a couple and waiving the mandatory six months cooling off period. A single bench of Justice Gauri Godse, in the judgment on July 25, said the waiting period is a "precautionary provision to avoid any injustice to any party and rule out the possibility of reconciliation". Once the court is satisfied that the parties have taken a conscious decision to separate and move ahead and there is no possibility of reconciliation, the court should adopt a realistic approach and exercise the discretion to waive the waiting period, Justice Godse said. A copy of the order was made available on Tuesday. The court granted a decree of dissolution of the marriage of the Pune-based couple who had sought divorce on grounds of mutual consent and also for the six-month waiting period to be waived. The purpose of the waiting period needs to be correctly understood while deciding the application for a waiver, Justice Godse noted.

# Bangladesh unrest: Keep peace, says WB Govt

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Bengal administration has issued an 'alert statement' for the citizens asking them to keep peace and communal harmony in the face of Bangladesh crisis. Issuing an official statement, the Bengal Police urged the people not to pay heed to rumors and desist from posting provocative statements on the social media, the police administration said, that "the state administration is alert and vigilant. Keep calm and maintain peace. Given the current situation in neighbouring Bangladesh, we have noticed a few posts and videos on social media that may create discord and unrest." The communiqué from the police administration came hours after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee appealed to the people with "folded hands" to keep a communally peace-

ful atmosphere in the face of political turmoil across the River Padma. "I appeal to all the people of Bengal to maintain peace and ignore provocations... This is my appeal to the people of all the communities with folded hands to remain calm and not engage in communal behavior... act responsibly as the hour demands you to do so... I request the citizens not to take the law into their own hands," Banerjee said. Appealing to the political parties to desist from uploading contents in the social media that could ignite tension Banerjee said that there were some political parties which were uploading disturbing posts and asked them from doing things that could disrupt peace and communal harmony. "The situation in Bangladesh is disturbing and we too are disturbed about that... but there is no point in dragging any issue to this side (of the border)

... no one should write or post anything that may disturb peace here," she said urging the politicians to "discharge their responsibility" by not posting "irresponsible things." The Chief Minister would not make any opinionated statement about the developments on the other side of the border. The Left too appealed to the people not to step into communal traps laid down by vested interests. "It is the matter of a different country and our national Government and its Foreign Department must be looking into it... so there is not much to say about this except the fact that this is the time to exercise restraint and show political maturity," CPI(M) leader Sujan Chakrabarty said. Bengal incidentally shares the longest border with Bangladesh with a vast portion of it remaining either unfenced or covered by rivers that mostly flow through Sunderbans.

"It is very difficult to keep a check in these porous borders as there are areas where a mohalla or even a house or a pond is divided between India and Bangladesh. There are places where the front portion of the house is in India whereas the stable or the mango orchard is in Bangladesh... so how do you keep a check, particularly when there is virtually no policing in that country," said a former DIG of the Border Security Force adding the security forces and the State police were acting with "full coordination." Reports said that the BSF officials were holding meetings with the villagers in the border areas to strengthen the intelligence network so that people from the other part of the border cannot sneak in easily. "Night vigil cameras have been fixed and the jawans are doing overtime duty to patrol the border," the former official said.

# 2018 arms haul case: HC grants bail to five accused citing prima facie insufficient evidence

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court has granted bail to five persons arrested by the Maharashtra Anti Terrorism Squad (ATS) in connection with a 2018 arms haul case and for allegedly conspiring to attack the Sunburn festival in Pune, citing prima facie insufficient evidence to prove the conspiracy charge. A division bench of Justices Bharati Dange and Manjusha Deshpande, in the order of July 30, also took note of the long incarceration of the accused persons with bleak chances of the trial ending soon. The ATS arrested five persons in 2018 after it seized arms, ammunition

and explosives from the residence of two other accused in the Nallasopara area of Thane district. The ATS had claimed the arms and explosives were to be used to target the Sunburn festival in Pune in December 2017. The bench perused the witness statements and other evidence submitted by the prosecution in its chargesheet and said they were "insufficient". "We have prima facie formed an opinion that these statements are insufficient to establish the charge of conspiracy against the appellants before us," the court said. The court noted that none of the alleged attacks were carried out. "The Sunburn programme was, in fact, successfully

completed without any disturbance, but the arrest in the present case was made in the first week of August 2018, eight months after the programme was over," the court said. It further noted that the accused were arrested in 2018, and only two witnesses have been summoned in the trial till date. The prosecution intends to examine 417 witnesses in the case. "The chances of timely completion of trial appear to be bleak. Speedy trial has received recognition of the fundamental right of a person facing accusations," the bench said. The bench granted all five accused bail on a personal bond of Rs 50,000 each and directed them to appear before the ATS's Mumbai

office once a month and before the trial court for each hearing. The court was hearing five appeals filed by the accused challenging a special court order denying them bail. The accused have been booked under various provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), Indian Penal Code (IPC), Explosives Act and Explosive Substances Act. The five accused, Sujith Rangaswamy, Amit Baddi, Ganesh Miskin, Shrikant Pangarkar and Bharat Kurane, were arrested in 2018. The ATS had, during the interrogation of two accused, Sharad Kalaskar and Vaibhav Raut, raided their residential premises and seized arms, ammunition and explosives from Nallasopara.

# Terrorists trapped in upper reaches of Udhampur

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A heavily armed group of terrorists has been trapped by the joint team of security forces in the upper reaches of the Basantgarh area of Udhampur district during an ongoing search operation late Tuesday evening. According to initial reports, a few rounds have been fired from both sides and the area has been cordoned off to prevent the escape of these terrorists.

Confirming the reports, Additional Director General of Police, Jammu range Anand Jain in a post on X said, "Based on specific intelligence about the presence of terrorists a joint search operation was launched by security forces in an area near Kabristan, Thanda Pani Khaned under the jurisdiction of Police station Basantgarh. Contact has been established and a few rounds have been fired from both sides. The area has been cor-

doned off". A Border Action team of the Pakistani army had earlier targeted an Indian army post in the Machal sector of North Kashmir's Kupwara district in which one soldier was killed in action and four others received injuries on July 27. Meanwhile, to further beef up security across the Jammu region the Indian army has already deployed more than 3000 troops and 500 para commandos to flush out the foreign



terrorists occupying Jammu Heights'. In addition, 2000 BSF jawans and 2 additional battalions of the Assam Rifles have also

been inducted in a phased manner to plug the routes of infiltration. A broader consensus emerged during recent high-level security review meetings to bolster the anti-infiltration grid in the region. According to official sources, a total number of 901 terrorists including some of the top commanders of the various terrorist outfits have been eliminated across Jammu and Kashmir since the Abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019.

# AAP to contest all 36 Assembly seats in Mumbai

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Opposition Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which is a part of the Congress-led I.N.D.I.A opposition bloc at the national level, has set the cat among the pigeons by announcing that it would independently contest all the 36 seats in Mumbai in the Maharashtra Assembly polls to be held in October this year. The AAP's decision to contest all the 36 Assembly seats in Mumbai will complicate the poll scenario as it will result in four-cornered contests in most of the constituencies in the metropolis.

The development should be seen in the light of the fact that there will be four political entities --BJP-led MahaYuti and Shiv Sena (UBT)-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), the Raj Thackeray-led MNS and Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP --- will be vying with one another for the 36 seats in the city. Though the MNS and AAP are not the main contending parties, they will cut into the traditional vote banks of the MahaYuti -- comprising BJP, Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar-led NCP -- and MVA -- comprising Shiv Sena (UBT), Congress and Sharad Pawar-led NCP and alter the poll arithmetic in Mumbai.

# India monitors a neighbour at war...

From Page 1 Briefing political party leaders in Parliament House, Jaishankar said India has spoken to the Bangladesh Army Chief to ensure the safety of over 10,000 Indian students in that country, the sources said. Replying to questions from various leaders, including Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, the minister did not rule out the role of foreign governments in the unrest in the country but emphasised that the situation was too fluid, and the government has been keeping a watch on the evolving situation, they said. In the meeting, Rahul Gandhi asked if foreign governments might be involved in fuelling the crisis there. Jaishankar said that households and properties belonging to minorities were targeted by protestors in the neighbouring country. Noting that it has been not even 24 hours since Hasina arrived in India, he said she is in a state of shock and the government is giving her time to recover before it speaks to her over various issues, including her future plans, the sources said.

Various leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, conveyed their full cooperation to the government on the issue. YSR Congress leader V Vijaysai Reddy said his party supports the government in the interest of the country. "Briefed an All-Party meeting in Parliament today about the ongoing developments in Bangladesh. Appreciate the unanimous support and understanding that was extended," Jaishankar said in a social media post after the meeting. The all-party meeting was attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, Health Minister J P Nadda, JD(U) leader and Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan', JD(S) leader and Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy, Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, DMK leader T R Baalu, SP leader Ram Gopal Yadav, Trinamool leader Sudip Bandypadhyay, NCP leader Supriya Sule among others. The AAP claimed that despite having 13 Members in Parliament -- 3 in Lok

Sabha and 10 in Rajya Sabha -- it was not invited to be part of the all-party meeting. "The issue of national security does not depend on who the prime minister is happy or angry with. Not inviting the Aam Aadmi Party, a national party with 13 MPs, to this important all-party meeting shows the petty mentality and lack of seriousness of the government," AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said in a social media post in Hindi. Singh said he hoped for an elected government to be established in Bangladesh to preserve the values of democracy and peace. "Now, whatever government is formed there, it should have good relations with India. Along with this, we also need to keep an eye on the borders at this time," he added. CPI(M) member P Santosh Kumar said the situation in Bangladesh was very volatile. "We are with the people of Bangladesh, not with Jamaat-e-Islami, military or with Sheikh Hasina. We are with students of Bangladesh. This is the fate of all autocrats," Kumar said.

# Sheikh...

From Page 1 Hasina, who landed at the Hindon airbase on Monday in a C-130J military transport aircraft hours after resigning as the Prime Minister, has been shifted to an unspecified location under tight security, they said. The former Bangladesh prime minister, accompanied by her sister Sheikh Rehana, planned to leave for London from India to take temporary refuge but the option is not being pursued now. This is after the UK government indicated that she may not get legal protection against any possible probe into the massive violent protests in her country, they said. The Awami League leader planned to travel to London through India and her aides informed Indian authorities about it before she landed in Hindon, sources said. Hasina decided to travel to London as Rehana's daughter Tulip Siddiq is a member of the British Parliament. Tulip is economic secretary to the Treasury and Labour MP for Hampstead and Highgate.

# More houses for aam...

From Page 1 Further, renewal-cum-freehold conversion applications under this scheme shall be disposed of, on payment on prevalent conversion charges, ground rent and other pending dues. Also an Amnesty Scheme for waiver of interest component calculated on damage charges was approved. In a decision which is very relevant to the sanitation and hygiene maintenance of the city, the Authority approved the change of land use for land provided by DDA to MCD for construction of a Bio Methanization Plant at Gazipur. The Authority has approved extension of time till December 31, 2025 for completing construction on the Residential, Commercial, Industrial and Institutional Plots allotted by DDA.

# Victims of electrical accidents to...

From Page 1 In case of draught animals like horse and bull, compensation will be Rs 25,000 per animal, Rs 15,000 per calf, donkey, pony, mule and such other animals. The assistance may be restricted for the actual loss of economically productive animals and will be subject to a ceiling of Rs 3 lakh for milch animals or Rs 1.5 lakh for draught animals per household irrespective of loss of a larger number of animals. In case of poultry, the compensation will be Rs 100 per bird subject to a ceiling of Rs 5,000 per beneficiary, according to the regulations.

# Vijayan terms Centre's claims about Wayanad unsubstantiated

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Tuesday unleashed a series of allegations against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and Union Minister for Environment and Forest Bhupender Yadav for making unsubstantiated charges against Kerala for last Tuesday's landslide in Wayanad that reportedly claimed more than 400 lives. "Though Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah were the first callers following the landslides and they ensured all possible help in the rescue and relief operations, the central government made a volte-face and started blaming the State Government. Union Minister Yadav went one step further and humiliated those who lost their lives in the natural disaster. He alleged that

those who died in the landslide and flood were encroachers," said Vijayan while addressing a specially convened press meet on Tuesday evening at Thiruvananthapuram. He alleged that the Centre was forcing scientists and environmental experts to publish reports blaming the Kerala Government for the natural disasters. "I have seen copies of letters by the Centre asking the scientists to come out with allegations against the State administration," said the chief minister. He reportedly said that union forest minister's charge was despicable and deplorable. The Chief Minister said that the landslide and illegal quarrying are no way linked to each other. "The nearest place where quarrying is happening is 10 km from the epicenter of the spot where the landslide took place. The Central Government is playing cheap politics on the natural disaster," said Vijayan.



# B'desh President dissolves parliament, clears way for fresh elections

PTI ■ DHAKA

Bangladesh President **Mohammed Shahabuddin** on Tuesday dissolved the parliament to make way for the formation of an interim administration, a day after prime minister Sheikh Hasina resigned and fled the country following massive protests against her government.

"The President dissolved the Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) under an executive order," a Bangabhaban (presidential palace) spokesman told PTI.

"The decision to dissolve the parliament was taken following the president's discussions with chiefs of three staff of armed forces, leaders of different political parties, representatives of civil society and leaders of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement," said a statement issued by the president's office. Officials said a full-fledged interim government is expected to be announced later Tuesday. The president's move to dissolve the parliament has cleared the way for fresh elections.

The spokesman also said Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chief and ex-premier **Khaleda Zia** was freed from house arrest. The 79-year-old

former prime minister has long battled various ailments, including issues related to the kidney, lung and heart. The process to release those arrested since July 1 has started, and many have already been released, he added.

The Students Against Discrimination group earlier set a deadline for dissolving the 12th parliament which was formed after the January 7 elections installing Hasina as the premier for the fourth straight term.

In a video posted on social media early Tuesday, **Nahid Islam**, one of the key coordinators of the movement, proposed Nobel laureate **Mohammad Yunus** as the head of interim government. He said they have already talked with 84-year-old Yunus, who has agreed to take the responsibility to save Bangladesh.

"No government other than the one proposed by the students will be accepted. As we have said, no military government, or one backed by the military, or a government of fascists, will be accepted," said Nahid, flanked by two other coordinators.

Yunus is currently out of the country but welcomed the ouster of Hasina's regime,

describing the development as the "second liberation" of the country. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for his anti-poverty campaign through the Grameen Bank, a mode; which was replicated across continents.

He has agreed to lead the interim government as its chief adviser, the Daily Star reported, citing a source.

"If the students can sacrifice so much, if the people of the country can sacrifice so much, then I also have some responsibility. Then I told the students that I can take the responsibility," Yunus said.

He had been in a protracted row with Hasina's government due to obscure reasons while authorities initiated a series of investigations against him after she came to power in 2008. He was charged under dozens of cases. In January, Yunus was sentenced to six months in jail by a court on charges of labour law violation.

Meanwhile, the death toll in the anti-government protests on Tuesday climbed to 440, with 100 more deaths reported after Hasina's departure, according to local media, even as efforts were on by the army to bring the situation under control in the violence-hit nation. Despite the high death toll,

there were signs of a return to normalcy on Tuesday, with police and army patrolling the streets, **BDNews24.com** news portal said.

The situation in Dhaka was largely calm on Tuesday after a day of unrest and a night of tension. Buses and other public transport were on the streets and traders were opening shops. Government vehicles were heading to offices. Many battery-run rickshaws plied the roads, it added.

Additional IGP **AKM Shahidur Rahman** was on Tuesday appointed as the focal person of the Bangladesh Police. He will act as the coordinator within the police force during this crisis period. The move comes as senior officials of the police force are trying to normalize police operations by overcoming anger, resentment, and fear.

Bengali language daily **Prothom Alo** reported that at least 109 people were killed in clashes in different parts of the country, including Dhaka, during the anti-discrimination student movement on Monday. The newspaper earlier reported the death of 98 people till 12 pm on Sunday. Another 16 deaths were reported in the night. The total death toll stood at 114 on Sunday.

# Indian mission in UK issues safety advisory amid violent clashes

PTI ■ LONDON

The High Commission of India in London on Tuesday issued a safety advisory for Indian nationals to "stay vigilant and exercise due caution" amid ongoing violent clashes which have targeted immigrants and asylum-seekers in parts of the UK since last week. The advisory posted on the social media channels of the Indian mission also provides emergency contact information for anyone in need of urgent assistance. It comes a week after the fatal stabbing of three young girls in Southport, north-west England, and incor-rect social media claims over the UK-born suspects' asylum-seeker status.

"Indian travellers would be aware of recent disturbances in some parts of the United Kingdom. The High Commission of India in London is closely monitoring the situation," reads the message entitled 'Advisory for

Indian Citizens Visiting the UK'.

"Visitors from India are advised to stay vigilant and exercise due caution while travelling in the UK. It is advisable to follow local news and advisories issued by local security agencies, and to avoid areas where protests are underway," it added. The contact provided for India House at Aldwych, London, in case of an emergency is: +44-2078369147 and [inf.london@mea.gov.in](mailto:inf.london@mea.gov.in).

Birmingham in the north and Plymouth in southern England witnessed the latest scenes of clashes between two sets of protesters overnight on Monday.

A man is in a serious condition in hospital after being attacked in a suspected hate crime in Belfast, Northern Ireland, and police officers were attacked with bricks in Darlington, northern England. The British government said it has accelerated its plans to deal with prison capacity

to ensure sufficient space for an expected rise in prisoners due to rioting after hundreds of arrests have been made.

"I think we have seen serious acts of violence designed to cause terror to a section of our community," Neil Basu, the former head of counter-terrorism policing, told the BBC. Basu also blamed social media companies for not taking tough enough action to clampdown on misinformation and said "we should be appealing" to advertisers to cut the funding of social media giants if responsibility was not exercised. Meanwhile, the UK's National Crime Agency (NCA) and Department for Science, Innovation and Technology are investigating the role of foreign state actors amplifying misinformation and disinformation about the UK riots, including cracking down on automated online bots.

"Clearly we have seen bot activity online, much of which may

well be amplified with the involvement of state actors amplifying some of the disinformation and misinformation that we've seen," said Prime Minister **Keir Starmer's** official spokesperson, but declined to say which states may be involved.

On Monday after a high-level COBRA security meeting, Starmer pledged a "standing army" of specialist officers to stamp out the riots across several cities in the country, which he has termed as "far-right thuggery."

"I've asked for the early consideration of the earliest naming and identification of those involved in the process, who will feel the full force of the law," he said.

Many of his own Labour Party MPs and Opposition members are calling for Parliament to be recalled from its summer recess to debate the issue, but Starmer has so far insisted the government needs to focus on restoring calm on the streets.

# At least 24 killed in hotel owned by Awami League leader in B'desh

PTI ■ DHAKA

At least 24 people, including an Indonesian national, were burnt alive by a mob in Bangladesh at a starred hotel owned by a leader of Awami League party after its leader Sheikh Hasina resigned as prime minister and fled the country, local journalists and hospital sources said on Tuesday.

The victims, mostly boarders, were burnt alive late on Monday night as the mob set afire **Zabir International Hotel** owned by district Awami League general secretary **Shahin Chakkladar** in Joshor district. "The dead included an Indonesian national," a local journalist told PTI in Dhaka over phone.

He added the doctors at Joshor General Hospital confirmed they counted 24 bodies while surviving hotel staff feared more bodies could be found inside the debris.

Media reports suggested unidentified mob, opposed to the Awami League (AL) regime, set the ground floor of the hotel on fire which quick-



ly spread to the upper floors. There were almost identical reports from across the country where the angry mob simultaneously vandalised residences and business establishments of many Awami League leaders and activists, including its central office in

Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital. Bangladesh descended into chaos on Monday after Hasina resigned, surreptitiously fled the country and landed in India while the army stepped in to fill the power vacuum. As the news of Hasina's departure spread, Dhaka and other

parts of the country saw fresh round of violence in the already battered South Asian nation with mobs resorting to street violence, vandalising government property and even breaking into Hasina's government residence and looting the interiors.

# US urges its citizens not to travel to Bangladesh

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The United States on Tuesday recommended its citizens not to travel to Bangladesh, witnessing civil unrest, crime, and terrorism following the resignation and fleeing of former prime minister **Sheikh Hasina**.

Elevating its travel advisory to the highest 'Level 4: Do Not Travel' category, the US State Department has also recommended the departure of non-emergency US government employees and family members. Over 100 people have been killed in the violence across Bangladesh as chaos reigned supreme hours after Hasina resigned as prime minister and fled the country on Monday, amid signs of a return to normalcy.

"On August 5, 2024, the Department ordered the departure of non-emergency US government employees and family members. Travellers should not travel to Bangladesh due to ongoing civil unrest in Dhaka," the State Department said in its advisory.



Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer welcomes Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said, the Sultan of Oman to 10 Downing Street in London on Tuesday.

Travellers should be aware of petty crimes such as pickpocketing in crowded areas, the advisory said, adding that crimes such as muggings, burglaries, assaults, and illegal drug trafficking constitute the majority of criminal activity in Bangladesh's major cities, but there are no indications foreigners are being targeted because of their nationality. These crimes tend to be situational, based on time and location, it said.

According to the travel advisory, terrorist attacks can happen with little or no warning, with terrorists targeting public areas such as tourist locations, transportation hubs, markets/shopping malls, restaurants, places of worship, school campuses, and government facilities.

"Because of security concerns, US Embassy personnel in Bangladesh are subject to some movement and travel restrictions. The US government may have limited ability to provide emergency services to US citizens in Bangladesh due to these travel restrictions, a lack of infrastructure, and limited host government emergency response resources," it added.

# Kamala Harris picks Minnesota Gov Tim Walz as running mate

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US Vice President **Kamala Harris**, who is of Indian and African heritage, has formally secured the Democratic presidential nomination becoming the first Indian-American to win the nomination from a major political party and chose Minnesota Gov **Tim Walz** as her running mate on Tuesday.

Harris, 59, would face Republican presidential candidate and former president **Donald Trump**, 78, in the general elections scheduled to be held on November 5.

Harris picked Minnesota Governor **Tim Walz**, 60, to be her running mate on Tuesday morning ahead of the Philadelphia rally, Washington Post said quoting sources.

Walz has served 12 years in Congress before he became Minnesota governor in 2018. Earlier last month, Harris abruptly thrust into the role of presidential candidate after President **Joe Biden** withdrew from the race for the White



House. Harris' nomination became official on Monday night after she received 99 per cent of the votes of the pledged and automatic delegates at the conclusion of the roll call vote after a five-day round of online balloting by Democratic National Convention delegates.

As many as 4,567 delegates from across the country cast their vote for Harris. The next steps in the nomination process include the certification of the roll call by the

Democratic National Convention (DNC) secretary **Jason Rae**, and the acceptance of the nomination by Harris and her running mate, certified by DNC Chair (DNCC) **Minyon Moore**.

The Convention is to be held in Chicago from August 19 to 22. "With the support of 99 per cent of all participating delegates in the virtual roll call, Vice President Harris has historic momentum at her back as we embark on the final steps in officially certifying her as our party's nominee," DNC chair **Jaime Harrison** and DNCC chair **Minyon Moore** said in a joint statement.

Last Friday, Harris was declared the 2024 presidential nominee of the ruling Democratic Party after she won enough votes from Democratic delegates in a virtual roll call.

A step away from breaking the last glass ceiling of the United States, Harris became the first ever woman of colour to be on the top of a presidential ticket of a major American political party.

# 8 Palestinians killed in West Bank as world leaders try to avoid regional war

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Israeli fire during military raids in the occupied West Bank killed eight Palestinians, including four teenagers, and wounded another seven, Palestinian officials said Tuesday, as world leaders try to stop tensions in the Middle East from boiling over into a regional war.

An Israeli airstrike on a village in southern Lebanon killed four people, the country's Health Ministry said. Later Tuesday, Lebanon's Hezbollah launched a drone attack on northern Israel, wounding five people, in response to the killing of one of its fighters.

Israel and Hezbollah have exchanged near-daily strikes for the past 10 months during the war in Gaza.

Leaders in Egypt and Türkiye say they are exhausting all avenues possible to prevent the Israel-Hamas war from becoming a wider regional conflict after the killings of a senior Hezbollah commander in Lebanon and Hamas' top political leader in Iran. But Israeli Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu** told his Cabinet over the weekend that Israel is already in a "multi-front war" with Iran and its proxies.

The only corridor for humanitarian aid to enter southern Gaza has been shut down, apparently because of fighting in the area. The Palestinian territory has been plunged into a severe humanitarian crisis in

## Hezbollah launches drone attack in northern Israel

Lebanon's Hezbollah launched a drone attack Tuesday on northern Israel, wounding at least seven people, in response to the killing of one of its fighters in an Israeli airstrike.

The attack did not appear to be linked to Hezbollah's vow to avenge the killing of one of its top commanders in an Israeli airstrike in Beirut the previous week, which has raised fears of an all-out war.

Hezbollah has launched near-daily drone and rocket attacks

since the start of the Gaza war in what it says is an act of solidarity with the Palestinians. Israel has responded with airstrikes, one of which killed four people in southern Lebanon earlier Tuesday, according to Lebanese authorities. Hezbollah said it launched a drone attack targeting army bases in northern Israel in retaliation for the killing of a lower-level commander in a strike late Monday. Gal Zaid, spokesperson for Galilee Medical Center,

said it was treating one severely wounded person and four others with mild injuries. Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service said it was treating seven wounded in three locations in Western Galilee. The Israeli military said "a number" of drones entered from Lebanon, one of which was intercepted. It said several civilians were wounded near the coastal town of Nahariya, some 6 kilometres south of the border, without giving a precise

## Attack on Iraqi military base injures US personnel

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Several US personnel were injured in a suspected rocket attack at a military base in Iraq, US defense officials said Monday, in what has been a recent uptick in strikes on American forces by Iranian-backed militias.

The attack comes as tensions across the Middle East are spiking following the killings last week of a senior Hezbollah commander in Lebanon and Hamas' top political leader in Iran, in suspected Israeli strikes. Both groups are backed by Iran. The US defense officials said troops at al-Asad air base were still assessing the injuries and damage, and it appeared that as many as seven military troops and civilians were injured. Earlier Monday, Iraqi security officials confirmed the attack, but no group has claimed responsibility.

The American officials said the US looked into reports of a possible second attack at the base but determined there had not been another one.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss military operations. The White House said the president and vice president were briefed on the attack.

# UN fires additional staffers after probe finds potential involvement in attack on Israel

AP ■ JERUSALEM

The United Nations said Monday it has fired additional staff members from its agency for Palestinian refugees after an internal investigation found they may have been involved in the Hamas-led October 7 attack against Israel. The UN secretary-general's office announced the move in a brief statement to journalists. **Farhan Haq**, Deputy Spokesperson for the Secretary-General, did not elaborate on the UNRWA staffers' likely role in the attack or on the evidence that prompted its decision. UNRWA previously fired 12

staffers and put seven staffers on administrative leave without pay over the claims. The group of nine staffers the UN announced it had fired Monday includes some from each group, said **Juliette Touma**, communications director for UNRWA.

The UN did not clarify how many have now been fired from the agency in total. The UN's internal watchdog has been investigating the agency since Israel in January accused 12 UNRWA staffers of being involved in the October 7 attack on Israel, in which militants killed 1,200 people and abducted some 250 others. Israel's allegations initially led

top donor countries to suspend their funding for UNRWA. That caused a cash crunch of about USD 450 million dollars. Since then, all donor countries except for the US have decided to resume funding.

Oren Marmorstein, the spokesperson for Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, wrote on X following the announcement of the firings that Israel was again calling for donor countries to suspend funding "as the funds may go to terrorist elements."

"UNRWA is part of the problem and not part of the solution, and anyone who seeks the best interests of Israel, the Gaza Strip and the region

should act to replace UNRWA's activities with other agencies," he wrote.

The UN watchdog charged with investigating UNRWA, called the Office of Internal Oversight Services, said it drew on evidence provided by Israel in discussions with Israeli authorities. It said it could not independently corroborate that evidence since it did not have direct access to it. The investigators also reviewed internal UNRWA information, including staff records, email and other communications data.

It said it found sufficient evidence pointing to nine employees' potential involvement in the October 7 attack.



# Stock markets pare gains to close lower, Nifty falls below 24,000

PTI ■ MUMBAI



Stock markets surrendered Searly gains and settled lower in volatile trade on Tuesday with Sensex losing 166 points and Nifty ending below the 24,000 level due to fag-end selling in banking and telecom stocks.

Falling for the third straight day, the 30-share BSE Sensex settled at 78,593.07, down 166.33 points or 0.21 per cent, as 17 of its constituents declined and 13 gained.

The index opened sharply higher and rallied further 1,092.68 points or 1.38 per cent to a high of 79,852.08 on value-buying by investors. However, the barometer faltered later and hit a low of 78,496.57 as banking shares came under selling pressure.

Similarly, the NSE Nifty declined 63.05 points or 0.26 per cent to settle below the 24,000 level at 23,992.55. The index surged 327 points or 1.35 per cent to 24,382.60 in intra-day trade but failed to hold onto gains.

"The domestic market tried to rebound mirroring the Asian markets. However,

momentum was short-lived and closed below the threshold level of 24,000. Investors are watching the appreciating Yen, weak US economic data, and rising geopolitical tensions," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services said. From the 30 Sensex pack, State Bank of India, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bharti Airtel, Titan, HDFC Bank, IndusInd Bank, Axis Bank and Bajaj Finance were the biggest laggards. JSW Steel, Tech Mahindra, Larsen & Toubro, Hindustan Unilever, HCL Technologies and Reliance Industries were among the gainers from the pack.

The RBI Monetary Policy Committee started three-day deliberations on Tuesday. The RBI governor will announce the bi-monthly policy on Thursday. Suman Bannerjee, CIO, Hedonova, said, "Amid persistent inflationary pressures, particularly due to rising food prices, the RBI is expected to maintain the current benchmark rate. This cautious approach is designed to balance economic growth with price stability." Asian markets also rebounded sharply, where Seoul, Tokyo, and Shanghai settled significantly higher. Hong

Kong, however ended lower. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 share index soared as much as 10.7 per cent early Tuesday, a day after it plunged the most in 37 years. European markets were trading in the negative territory. The US markets ended with deep cuts on Monday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 10,073.75 crore on Monday, according to exchange data. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.30 per cent to USD 76.52 a barrel.

The BSE benchmark plummeted 2,222.55 points or 2.74 per cent to settle at over a month's low of 78,759.40 on Monday, marking its worst single-day retreat since June 4, 2024. During the day, it tanked 2,686.09 points or 3.31 per cent to 78,295.86.

The NSE Nifty slumped 662.10 points or 2.68 per cent to settle at 24,055.60. During the day, it tumbled 824 points or 3.33 per cent to 23,893.70. Nifty also saw its worst single-day fall since June 4, 2024, when markets crashed more than 5 per cent after the general election results.

# Rupee recovers from all-time low level, closes 16 paise higher at 83.93/USD

PTI ■ MUMBAI



The rupee recovered from its all-time low level and settled for the day 16 paise higher at 83.93 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, on suspected intervention by the Reserve Bank.

Forex traders said mixed to weak global equities on rising concerns over recession fears in the US and the geopolitical tensions in the Middle East dented investor sentiments. Moreover, the sentimental impact of unwinding of the Yen carry-trade weighed on the riskier currencies such as the rupee. However, suspected intervention by the Reserve Bank supported the local unit.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.92 and touched an intra-day high of 83.84 and a low of 83.97 against the dollar during the session.

It finally settled at 83.93 (provisional) against the American currency, up 16 paise from its previous close. On Monday, the rupee slumped 37 paise to settle at an all-time low of 84.09 against the US dollar. "We expect the rupee to trade with a negative bias on risk

aversion in the global markets, amid geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and rising risk of recession in the US which may lead to outflows by foreign investors. However, overall weakness in the US dollar and declining crude oil prices may support the rupee at lower levels. "Any further intervention by the RBI may also support the rupee. Traders may take cues from trade balance data from the US. Investors may watch out for RBI's monetary policy decision this week. USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 83.75 to Rs 84.20," said Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, gained 0.37

per cent to 103.07 points. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading 0.17 per cent lower at USD 76.17 per barrel in futures trade, on fears of spreading Middle East conflict that could hit supplies, outweighing fears of a possible US recession that could hurt demand in the world's biggest oil consumer. In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex fell 166.33 points, or 0.21 per cent, to cost at 78,593.07 points, while the Nifty declined by 63.05 points, or 0.26 per cent, to 23,992.55 points. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Monday, as they offloaded shares worth Rs 10,073.75 crore, according to exchange data.

# BCCI paid ₹2,038 crore GST in FY23, FY24



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gross GST revenue collection from BCCI during 2022-23 and 2023-24 fiscal years was Rs 2,038.55 crore, Parliament was informed on Tuesday. Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said BCCI, which is the apex body for the promotion of cricket in India, is an autonomous body registered under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975.

"Services by way of admission to sporting events like Indian Premier League attract GST @ 28 per cent.

During Financial Years 2022-23 and 2023-24, Gross GST revenue collection from BCCI was Rs 2,038.55 crore," Chaudhary said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.

He said the Income Tax department has denied tax exemption to BCCI under Section 11 of the I-T Act, and the matter is now sub-judice. Section 11 of the I-T Act deals with charitable institutions.

BCCI is claiming exemption under section 11 of the Income Tax Act, 1961. However, during assessment proceedings, the exemption is being disallowed by the Income Tax department.

"The issue of the BCCI's tax exemption is currently sub-judice. Further, there is no direct tax proposal pending in this regard, at present," Chaudhary said. BCCI does not receive any grants from any scheme of the Ministry of Sports, he added.

In reply to a separate question, Chaudhary said from July 2017 to June 2024, the number of GST evasion cases booked by Central Tax formations in Gujarat was 13,494. The amount of GST evasion was about Rs 52,394 crore, involving the arrest of 214 persons.

# Softbank-backed Unicomm eSolutions IPO fully subscribed within hours of opening for bidding

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



The initial public offering of SoftBank-backed SaaS platform Unicomm eSolutions Ltd got fully-subscribed within hours of opening for subscription on Tuesday.

The initial share sale received bids for 2,09,25,906 shares, as against 1,40,84,681 shares on offer, translating into 1.49 times subscription, as per NSE data till 13:42 hours.

The portion for Retail Individual Investors (RIIs) attracted 6.66 times subscription, while the category for non institutional investors fetched 1.01 times subscription.

Unicomm eSolutions Ltd on Monday said it has garnered over Rs 124 crore from anchor investors. The issue, with a price band of Rs 102 to Rs 108 a share, is open for public subscription from August 6-8.

The issue is entirely an offer-for-sale (OFS) aggregating up to 2.56 crore equity shares valued at Rs

276.6 crore at the upper end of the price band. Since the IPO is completely an OFS, the entire proceeds will go to the selling shareholders. Under the OFS, SB Investment Holdings (UK) Ltd, an affiliate of Japan's SoftBank, will offload 1.61 crore shares, and promoter AceVector Limited (formerly known as Snapdeal Limited) will sell up to 94.38 lakh shares. Founded in 2012, Unicomm eSolutions is India's leading e-commerce enablement software-as-a-service (SaaS) platform. The company's suite of SaaS

solutions enables end-to-end management of e-commerce operations for brands, retailers, marketplaces, and logistics service providers. It serves a large and growing base of clients in India, including Lenskart, Fabindia, Zivame, TCNS, Mamaearth, Emami, Sugar, BoAt, Portronics, Pharmeasy, Cello, Urban Company, Mensa, Shiprocket and Xpressbees. IIFL Securities and CLSA India are the book-running lead managers to the issue. Shares of the company will be listed on BSE and the National Stock Exchange.

# Bangladesh crisis poses significant concerns for India's textile, apparel industry: CITI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



Bangladesh, which is facing its worst political crisis since Independence in 1971, poses "significant concerns" for India's textile and apparel sector, particularly for companies operating factories in the neighbouring country, the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry said on Tuesday.

The domestic textile industry body believes that any supply disruption in Bangladesh will have an immediate impact on the supply chain, potentially affecting production schedules and delivery timelines of Indian firms. "The situation in Bangladesh is indeed concerning, and we are closely monitoring the developments. Bangladesh's growth in the textile sector has been inspiring and has lent strength to the trade flows in the entire subcontinent.

"While we are concerned about the impact on the supply chain and the potential delays and disruptions it might cause, we are hopeful that the situation will improve soon,"

Chandrima Chatterjee, Secretary General, Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) said. According to CITI, Indian companies with manufacturing operations in the country are likely to face challenges in maintaining their production flow, leading to delays and potential shortages in the market. This disruption could affect the availability of products and might force companies to seek alternative manufacturing solutions to mitigate the impact. "Amid the uncertainties in Bangladesh, there is already a

noticeable shift towards alternative manufacturing hubs such as a strategic move by companies to diversify their production bases and reduce dependency on a single market," CITI stated. It observed that Indian textile hub Tirupur, known for its robust textile and apparel manufacturing capabilities, may emerge as a key beneficiary of this shift. Bangladesh is facing its worst political crisis since independence in 1971, with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigning amid massive anti-government protests.

Bangladesh Army Chief General Waqar-uz-Zaman on Monday announced that an interim government would be taking over the responsibilities. "Several major global brands that rely on Bangladesh for their sourcing needs will also be affected by these disruptions. Brands with significant portions of their supply chain rooted in Bangladesh may experience delays and a decrease in the availability of their products. This, in turn, could lead to a ripple effect across the global retail market, affecting inventory levels and sales," CITI said.

Bangladesh is a crucial market for Indian textiles, serving as both a manufacturing hub and a significant export destination. "The Indian industry is deeply concerned about the current events and hopes for the swift restoration of normalcy. Stability in Bangladesh is vital for maintaining the smooth operation of cross-border trade and production," CITI said.

# Sebi issues cautionary statement, passes directions to protect investors from unregistered entities

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



To safeguard retail investors, Sebi has taken several measures, including cautioning them against trading on stock tips given by unregistered entities, conducting probes and issuing directions against non-compliant ones, Parliament was informed on Tuesday.

Under the Sebi's rule, no person can render investment advice unless he is registered with the capital markets regulator.

Sebi (Investment Advisers) norms specify the eligibility conditions for registration, obligations and responsibilities and procedure for action in case of default, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary in a written reply to Rajya Sabha. Responding to a query on steps taken by the government to protect retail investors against the frauds happening in the social media in the name of giving advice as stock market experts, Chaudhary said that Sebi has issued several press releases advising investors to deal with only registered investment advisers for availing investment advisory services.

Investors can check the registration status of the entity providing investment advisory services on the regulator's website. Additionally, the regulator has cautioned investors against

trading in the securities markets based on the tips/recommendations provided by unregistered entities/persons and entities impersonating Sebi-registered intermediaries, the minister said.

"On receipt of any complaints/references against unregistered entities carrying out such activities, and also after suo moto cognizance, Sebi conducts examination of these entities. In case of non-compliance, appropriate sections of the Sebi Act, 1992 and various Sebi Regulations are invoked, and requisite directions are issued to non-compliant entities," he added. Further, the issue of the association of Sebi-regulated intermediaries with such unregistered persons or entities was discussed in the Sebi's Intermediary Advisory Committee. Considering its recommendations, a proposal for carrying out necessary regulatory amendments to restrict the association of all Sebi-regulated intermediaries with any unregistered entity has been approved, Chaudhary said.

# RBI starts deliberations on monetary policy amid expectations of status quo on interest rate

PTI ■ MUMBAI



Reserve Bank's rate-setting panel started its three-day deliberations for the next set of bi-monthly monetary policy amid expectations of no change in benchmark interest rate in view of concerns on inflation and economic growth remaining steady.

The decision of the RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das-headed six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will be announced on Thursday.

The MPC may also refrain from rate cut as economic growth is picking up, notwithstanding the elevated interest rate of 6.5 per cent (repo rate), said experts.

Retail inflation based on consumer price index (CPI) increased to a four-month high of 5.08 per cent in June as food items, including vegetables became dearer. The government will release the data for July later this month.

"RBI is likely to pause as food price movements currently is imparting a positive bias to RBI 4.5 per cent projection...Likely prospects of an excess rainfall in August and September could also have a debilitating impact on food prices," said a SBI research report.

It also expects the Reserve Bank to continue with its monetary stance of withdrawal of accommodation.

According to a report of Goldman Sachs, the MPC is likely to keep the policy rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent on August 8.

"We expect the RBI MPC to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at the Aug 8 meeting at 6.50 per cent, with a 4:2 vote in favour, retain the monetary policy stance of 'withdrawal of accommodation', sound relatively optimistic on growth, and continue to reiterate the commitment to the 4 per cent headline inflation target," it said. The central bank last hiked the repo rate to 6.5 per cent in February 2023 and since then it has held the rate at same level in its last seven bi-monthly monetary policy reviews.

Commenting on the RBI's monetary policy, Radhika Rao, Executive Director and Senior Economist, DBS Bank, said that in light of the firm

expectations over the last week. We maintain our forecast of an RBI rate cut in December; but note the risk of a delay if inflation does not progress in line with the RBI's expectations," Sodhani said. Sanjoo Bhadana, Founder and MD, 4S Developers, too said the MPC is likely to keep the repo rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent as risks from higher food inflation pose a challenge for the apex bank. "We hope the central bank withdraws its accommodative stance and help provide an impetus to the housing momentum by enabling aspiring homebuyers to enter the market," Bhadana said.

H S Bhatia, managing director, Daweebo India, said lower interest rates can boost consumer confidence and spending power, driving demand for durables. "However, the RBI's primary focus on managing inflation might restrict its room for monetary easing. The policy's impact on disposable income will be crucial as it determines consumer spending capacity," he said.

Additionally, any measures to improve credit availability could benefit the sector. A supportive policy stance can propel growth in the consumer durable market, Bhatia added. The MPC is entrusted with the responsibility of deciding the policy repo rate to achieve the inflation target of 4 per cent, keeping in mind the objective of growth.

domestic growth-inflation mix, the RBI MPC is likely to reiterate its cautious view and retain its 'withdrawal of accommodation' stance. "Policymakers will monitor developments in the US Fed policy as markets price in a near-certain rate cut in September and US yields having corrected sharply amidst signs of cooling economic activity," Rao added. Shreya Sodhani, Regional Economist, Barclays, said the MPC commentary on the global economic outlook and the domestic inflation trajectory will be in focus later this week. "We expect the MPC to remain on hold in the upcoming meeting later this week (August 6-8), as it considers the progress of the monsoon, international commodity prices, the uptick in domestic input prices, and the repricing in US Fed

# Electric vehicle sales rose 55.2% to 1.79 lakh units in July, says FADA

PTI ■ MUMBAI



Electric vehicle sales registered a 55.2 per cent on-year growth at 1,79,038 units in July driven by a massive 96 per cent jump in e-two-wheeler sales, automobile dealers' body FADA said on Tuesday.

The total electric vehicles sales for July 2023 were at 1,16,221 units, according to the monthly sales data from Federation of Automobile Dealers' Association (FADA). The electric two-wheelers sales during the previous month stood at 1,07,016 units, up 95.94 per cent, from 54,616 units sold in July last year, while the electric three-wheeler sales grew 18.18 per cent at 63,667 units, from 58,873 units year earlier, as per FADA.

The commercial vehicle sales during the reporting month was also on an upward trajectory, growing two-fold on a year-on-year basis to 816 units, from 364 commercial vehicles sold in July 2023, it stated.

Passenger vehicles, however, declined 2.92 per cent at 7,541 units in July, as against 7,768 units in the same month of last year, as per data.

"The rising market share in the 2W and 3W EV segments for July 2024, with YoY growth rates of 95.94 per cent and 18.18 per cent respectively, and a market share of 7.4 per cent and 57.6

per cent, respectively for the month, is a clear indication of the growing acceptance and demand for electric vehicles in India," FADA President Manish Raj Singhania said.

The PV segment, while showing a marginal year-on-year decline of 2.92 per cent, maintains a market share of 2.4 per cent, Singhania said, adding that the CV segment has shown remarkable growth with a year-on-year increase of 124.2 per cent and a current (July) market share of 1.02 per cent.

The combination of attractive discounts and the anticipation of the discontinuation of the EMPS (Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme), despite its extension, has significantly boosted sales, he said.

Announced by the Ministry of Heavy Industries in March, for a four months period-April 1,2024 to July 31,2024? to boost the adoption of EVs across the country with a total outlay of Rs 500 crore, the EMP scheme has now been extended by September 30, while the scheme's outlay has also been increased to Rs 778 crore.



# RESILIENT CHANU SETS SIGHTS ON HISTORIC PODIUM FINISH IN PARIS

PTI ■ PARIS

Away from the spotlight owing to an injury-plagued buildup, Mirabai Chanu will be in focus on Wednesday when she attempts to become India's first weightlifter to win two Olympic medals but a challenging field and lingering fitness concerns stand in the way.

The lifter, who opened India's tally on the first day of the competition at the Tokyo Olympics with a sparkling silver, has kept a low profile since suffering hip tendonitis during the Asian Games last October.

Chanu has endured a rather underwhelming Olympic cycle thanks to injury and workload management. Her best effort since Tokyo came at the 2022 Commonwealth Games where she lifted 201kg (88kg+113kg). She had won the silver in Tokyo by heaving 202kg (87kg+115kg).

Competing in her pet 49kg weight category, Chanu is likely to be in the scramble for a silver or bronze if she matches or better her personal best in both sections. Reigning Olympic champion China's Hou Zhihui is the favourite to defend her title.

While there are still murmurs surrounding her fitness after she returned from a five month hiatus following the hip injury, both Chanu and chief national coach Vijay Sharma have asserted that the Manipuri has completely recovered.

"We know that Mira has to go well beyond the 200kg mark. 202kg will not cut it this time but somewhere around 205-206kg should do it. But we are prepared for the challenge," coach Sharma told PTI.



However, this is easier said than done, as the 29-year-old has struggled to surpass her personal best of 88kg in the snatch, set at the 2020 National Championships, and 119kg in clean and jerk, achieved at the 2021 Asian Championships, for quite a while.

While Chanu, who turns 30 on Thursday, will have one eye on her competitors' barbells, the Manipuri's main battle will be with herself at the South Paris Arena.

Her performance in the snatch section continues to be her achilles heel and her mediocre clean and jerk performance recently also doesn't inspire confidence.

While a 90kg snatch lift continues to elude Chanu, four of her competitors have breached the coveted mark.

Having said that, Chanu has been known to be a fighter and one of the most tenacious athletes in the country. Be it battling intense menstrual camps to win a medal in Tokyo or attempting a 117kg clean and jerk lift despite injuring herself during the Asian Games, she has shown her resolute side.

Despite the absence of North Korea's Asian Games champion and world record holder Ri Song Gum, the 49kg event is a highly competitive contest. Chanu has set an entry weight of 200kg

alongside two others — USA's three-time Pan American champion and a world bronze medalist Jourdan Delacruz and 2021 world champion Surodchana Khambao of Thailand.

Zhihui and two-time European champion Romanian Mihaela Cambei have set entry weights of 210kg and 205kg respectively.

Chanu has been training in Paris for a month. She also got help from American Dr Aaron Horschig, a former weightlifter-turned-physical therapist and strength and conditioning coach, who has been working with Chanu since 2020.

# Lauren, Diana bring experience to women's basketball teams

PTI ■ PARIS

Diana Taurasi wishes people would stop talking about her age. Lauren Jackson just admits it — she's old.

The two 40-plus WNBA greats are in the quarterfinals of the Olympics and have a potential matchup in the offing Friday if they can help their countries advance Wednesday.

While the 42-year-old Taurasi is playing in her sixth straight Olympics, Jackson is back after a 12-year gap from her last one.

"It's crazy. You know, I never, ever anticipated that I'd be back here again," the 43-year-old Aussie said. "I couldn't have imagined it, three years ago. Two years ago, a year ago. Six months ago. Like, I just wasn't going to be doing it. So to be here, it's like it really does feel so different to what it used to feel like."

Jackson retired in 2016 after knee injuries derailed her career. She had hoped to compete in the Olympics that year, but an ACL injury ended that dream. She made a return playing domestically in Australia and then helped the Opals to a magical run to a bronze medal at the 2022 World Cup, which the country hosted.

She scored 30 points in that bronze medal game. The Australians would love to see

another game like that when they play Serbia in the Olympic quarterfinals Wednesday.

Australia and the U.S. Didn't meet two years ago in the Worlds, but they could play Friday. That would be the latest contest between Jackson and Taurasi. The two friends have squared off many times over the years in the Olympics, WNBA and other international contests.

"It's a bit of a time warp. You know, I think being in this environment again, it is crazy. And like I said, I've just taken every day as it comes and it's got me back here," Jackson said. "So long as I'm able to contribute, play defense, get some rebounds, you know, not let my team down in those minutes. I'm happy ... And I feel like I'm doing my job."

Unlike Jackson, Taurasi has been a bit annoyed with the narrative that she's old for an Olympic basketball player. There were people outside USA Basketball that said she should have been passed over for a younger player, like WNBA rookie Caitlin Clark.

"If there's one thing you can't escape in this country, it is ageism. I've gone back and forth with this answer. When you dedicate your whole life, your whole career to something, and you get the question of, 'Why don't you just retire?'" Taurasi said

before the Olympics began. "It's something I've been doing since I was 5. It's something I've dedicated my whole life to. And it's just so easy ... For a question to be brought up in a manner where it's not meant to be disrespectful. But if you're the person being asked, it is a bit disrespectful."

No women's basketball player has ever played in six Olympics and none have been as successful as Taurasi. She feels that there's a gender bias with age more commonly brought up against women.

"I tell people that all the time, especially in women's sports, in women's professions. Only a woman would have 20 years of experience and it'd be an Achilles' heel, instead of something that is treasured and used as a way forward, for sport and for women."

While both Jackson and Taurasi haven't put up huge numbers on the court yet during the Paris Games, their experience has been invaluable to their teammates.

"She's like another coach. She's had so many years of experience and the way she sees the game is really special," U.S. Forward Napheesa Collier said. "She's really smart in the way that she can break things down and sees what's open and how to dissect the game."



AP ■ PARIS

Cuban Greco-Roman wrestler Mijain Lopez has earned a shot at a record fifth Olympic gold medal in wrestling.

Just two weeks shy of his 42nd birthday, Lopez beat Azerbaijan's Sabah Saleh Shariati 4-1 on Monday and advanced to the final in the 130-kilogram category.

Lopez knew there were doubters, but he gladly has proven them wrong. By clinching at least silver, Lopez has tied West Germany's Wilfried Dietrich for the most Olympic wrestling medals with five.

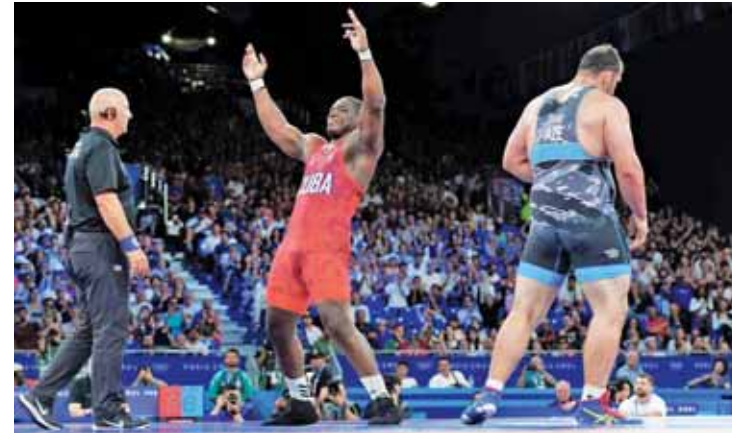
"I know some people were skeptical, but I knew I was ready for this," Lopez said in comments translated from Spanish. "Whenever I compete in the Olympics and world championships, I do it trying to bring joy to my country. We want to listen to our anthem tomorrow."

# Lopez, 41, wins semis to earn shot at record 5th gold in wrestling

After Tuesday, he's done. "I'll be retiring, it's over," he said. "We need to make some space for those who are coming (into the sport). Wrestling for me has been the love of my life, for all of my life."

Lopez will face Chile's Yasmani Acosta Fernandez in the final on Tuesday at Champ-de-Mars Arena. Acosta defeated China's Meng Lingzhe in the semifinals. The score was 1-1, but Acosta Fernandez got the win on criteria because he scored last. Acosta Fernandez was born in Cuba but moved after he couldn't get opportunities in the big events because Lopez was in the way.

Lopez was excited about the matchup.



"We share a brotherhood, we have the same blood," Lopez said.

Last Olympics, Lopez became the first male wrestler to win four gold medals when he dominated in Tokyo, blowing through the field unscored upon in four matches.

On the opening day of competition in Paris, he continued his dominance. In his first match, he defeated South Korea's Lee Seung-chan 7-0. In the second round, he surprisingly was scored upon, but still defeated Iran's Amin Mirzazadeh, the top seed and 2023 world champion, 3-1 to advance. In the semifinal, Lopez led 3-0 at the break. Shariati scored a point for passivity, then nearly scored again before Lopez scored on a reversal to go up 4-1. After time ran out, Lopez held up his right hand with all five fingers outstretched.

"I'm so happy," he said. "It has been a very special day, not only for Latin America, but the whole world."

# Jena on verge of crashing out early from javelin throw even

PTI ■ PARIS

India's Kishore Jena on Tuesday finished ninth in the men's javelin throw Group A qualification round with an underwhelming throw of 80.73m, which left him on the verge of making an early exit from the Olympics.

Jena will await the result of Group B qualification round where superstar Neeraj Chopra will begin his campaign later in the day.

All those who throw 84m or above, or at least 12 best performers from Group A and B combined will advance to the final to be held on Thursday.

Jena's opening throw was 80.73m, and he fouled his second attempt before coming

up with 80.21m in his last effort.

Julian Weber of Germany topped Group A with a first round throw of 87.76m while former world champion Julius Yego (85.97m) of Kenya and Tokyo Olympics silver medalist Jakub Vadlejch (85.63m) of Czech Republic were second and third respectively.

Toni Keranen (85.27m) of Finland was the fourth athlete to go past the automatic qualification mark of 84m.

Jena had booked an automatic Olympics berth with his 87.54m throw for a silver medal in the Asian Games in October last year.

After that, he crossed the 80m mark in just one out of six competitions before Tuesday.

# Mahuchikh and other medal winning Ukrainians put attention on war

AP ■ PARIS

Yaroslava Mahuchikh, the Ukrainian world-record high jumper, may have just won Olympic gold, but she and other winning athletes from Ukraine are not resting in Paris - they're trying to shine the spotlight on the war tearing apart their country.

"The Olympic Games are about peace," she said. "But Russia didn't stop, and during these Games, there were massive attacks on Ukrainian cities."

These missile strikes forced Mahuchikh to spend the last two and a half years mostly abroad as she focused on her main goal - the Olympic gold, which she won Sunday.

She trained far from her family, including in Portugal, Estonia, Belgium and Germany. She occasionally comes to her

hometown of Dnipro in eastern Ukraine, but every time she left the country, she didn't know when she would return.

"To achieve such high results on the international stage, you need to train abroad," Mahuchikh said. "And it is very sad, and I really want us to be able to train fully at home for the next Olympic cycle."

Despite the hardships, she succeeded, saying that the war gave her motivation and a greater purpose to represent her country. But the success was bittersweet.

When she broke a 37-year-old world record last month, jumping 2.10 meters (6.88 feet), her joy was brief.

"We were happy on the first evening, but the next day ... Unfortunately, we have a very aggressive enemy," she said. "Russia struck Ohmadyt. And



honestly, there was no joy anymore," referring to the missile attack in Kyiv last month that hit the largest children's hospital in Ukraine.

Sunday was a successful day for Ukraine at the Olympics, with three athletes from the country scoring medals in

athletics. Fellow high jumper Iryna Gerashchenko won bronze, and Mykhaylo Kokhan scored the bronze in the hammer throw.

Russian athletes, competing as neutrals because of the war on Ukraine, also have won medals at the Paris Games. The first

was silver for tennis players Mirra Andreeva and Diana Shnaider in women's doubles Sunday.

Neutral athletes from Belarus, a key Russian ally, also won gold and silver medals in the men's and women's trampoline competitions, respectively, on

Friday, and Belarusian rower Yauheni Zalyai won a silver Saturday. Mahuchikh and other Ukrainian athletes have spoken out against the presence of Russian competitors at the Paris Games.

The three Ukrainian athletes who have won medals came to the Ukrainian house dubbed Volia Space on Monday. They said that they were short on sleep because while the attention lasts, they are trying to give as many interviews as possible, raising awareness about the war.

"It is very important to win and keep winning," Mahuchikh said. "It is difficult for Ukrainian athletes to focus solely on sports, our thoughts are at home with our families."

The 22-year-old athlete said there are still many things that could be conquered.

# Biles closes out with her 11th career medal — a silver in floor exercise

AP ■ PARIS

Simone Biles wrapped up her final day of the Paris Olympic s with more hardware for the greatest gymnast of her generation.

The woman who didn't think she'd even be here a couple years ago will leave Paris - and perhaps her final Olympics - with three golds and a silver, earned Monday when she placed second in the floor exercise.

It marked the first time in her career that Biles did not win the floor exercise at a major competition. She finished second to Rebeca Andrade of Brazil. Third went to American gymnast Jordan Chiles, who was bumped to bronze when the U.S. Coaches asked for a review of her degree of difficulty on the routine.

The review changed her score just enough to push her onto the podium, where the three Black women posed together

four days after Biles, Andrade and Sunisa Lee, who is Hmong-American, stood in the same spot following the all-around. Their collective success is symbolic of a sport that is becoming more diverse and more inclusive at the highest level.

Prior to the floor exercise, Biles and Lee failed to medal on the balance beam. Both gymnasts made mistakes and wondered if Paris organizers' decision not to play music during the events created a distracting eerie silence.

Biles is now an 11-time Olympic medalist and hasn't ruled out trying to compete in Los Angeles in 2028.

A look at some of the highlights of Day 10 of the Paris Olympics: U.S. Has mixed results in beach volleyball Two U.S. Teams fell on the sand at Eiffel Tower Stadium, with Taryn Kloth and Kristen Nuss losing to Canada in the women's quarterfinals a

few hours after Chase Budinger and Miles Evans lost to Norway in the men's.

Only Miles Evans and Andy Benesh advanced on the day, joining Kelly Cheng and Sara Hughes in the elite eight.

Kloth and Nuss are ranked No. 2 in the world, and Nuss said she was "definitely a little heartbroken."

Brandie Wilkerson and Melissa Humana-Paredes beat Nuss and Kloth 21-19, 21-18, leaving the country that has won four of the last five women's gold medals with just one team in the bracket.

Budinger, a former NBA player, and Evans lost in straight sets to Norway, the defending Olympic champions. Already at Paris, five-time Olympian and Rio de Janeiro gold medalist Laura Ludwig of Germany has been eliminated, and the 42-year-old Herrera has said he will retire.

Swimming in the Seine The



Seine River was determined safe enough to swim in and Olympic triathletes plunged into the murky water for the mixed relay event after organizers said bacteria levels in the long-polluted Paris waterway were at acceptable levels.

The plan to hold the swimming portion of the triathlons and the marathon swimming events in the Seine was an ambitious one as swimming in the river has, with some exceptions, been off-limits since 1923 because it has been too toxic.

Water quality tests were reviewed Sunday night and the results indicated the water quality at the triathlon site had improved over the preceding hours and was within the limits mandated by World Triathlon by Monday morning.

In a very close sprint finish, the team from Germany won the gold medal in the team relay. The United States took silver and Britain clinched bronze.

The decision to allow the event to go forward with swimmers in the Seine came after Belgium's Olympic committee announced Sunday that it would withdraw its team from the mixed relay triathlon after one of its competitors who swam in the river last week fell ill. Another three triathletes - of the more than 100 who competed in the men's and women's races last Wednesday - became sick in the following days, though it's unclear whether the water was to blame.

Spain reaches second straight Olympic soccer final Juanlu Sanchez came off the bench to lift Spain into a record-equaling fifth Olympic men's soccer final. Sanchez scored in the 85th minute at Stade de Marseille to seal a 2-1 win over Morocco and set up a final against either France or Egypt. Morocco led 1-0 at halftime after the tournament's leading scorer Soufiane Rahimi converted a penalty in the 37th.

Spain evened the score in the 65th after Fermin Lopez showed quick feet in the box and fired a left-footed shot low in the bottom corner. It was the Barcelona midfielder's fourth goal of the tournament and over-exuberant celebrations earned him a yellow card after kicking the corner flag and breaking it in two.

It was Lopez's assist that set up Sanchez to sweep his winning goal low into the far corner. Spain, which won gold at the

1992 Barcelona Olympics, lost in the final at the Tokyo Games three years ago to Brazil.

British cyclists set world record in women's team sprint The British trio of Katy Marchant, Sophie Capewell and Emma Finucane shattered the world record in the women's team sprint while beating New Zealand in a head-to-head showdown for the gold medal to open the track cycling program.

In the three-lap race, the British trio trailed Rebecca Petch, Shaane Fulton and Ellesse Andrews after the first 250 meters. But they quickly pulled ahead after the second lap, then blitzed the last to finish in 45.196 seconds, earning their nation's first medal inside the Velodrome National de Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines.

Despite its proud sprinting tradition, the British had repeatedly missed the podium since the event's debut in 2008.



# INDIA BATTERS IN FOCUS AGAINST LANKA

## To avoid 1st series loss to SL in 27 years

AP ■ COLOMBO

The onus will be on Indian batters, particularly the talismanic Virat Kohli, to follow the path laid down by skipper Rohit Sharma and tactfully counter the spin challenge in the third and final ODI here on Wednesday to avoid their first series defeat to Sri Lanka in 27 years.

It's certainly not the start Gautam Gambhir, a stickler for victories, would want in his first ODI assignment as the team's head coach.

India's previous bilateral ODI series defeat against the Islanders came in 1997. The Arjuna Ranatunga-led Lankans then inflicted a 0-3 hammering on Sachin Tendulkar and his men.

Since then, India and Sri Lanka have played 11 bilateral ODI rubbers home and away, with the 'Men in Blue' emerging on the right side of the result in all of them.

India will not be able to win the current three-match series after succumbing to the hosts by 32 runs in the second ODI, and conceding a tie in the first game.

This position of discomfort is brought upon the team by the batsmen, who seemed to have been plagued by indecisiveness on a RPSC pitch that offered plenty of



turn to the spinners. Curiously, none reflected that brittleness more than star batter Kohli. He has made 38 runs in two matches, but more than the volume of runs, the manner of his dismissals evoked

greater concern. Kohli looked subdued in the first match and of six-wicket man Jeffrey Vandersay in the next, before eventually getting consumed by them. He looked a far cry from the

pottered around the leg-spin of Wanindu Hasaranga in the first match and of six-wicket man Jeffrey Vandersay in the next, before eventually getting consumed by them. He looked a far cry from the

dominant batsman who once cracked four hundreds at this very same venue. Perhaps, Kohli should direct his mind to happier times than allowing it to be fettered by the demons of the present.

A flowing Kohli is imperative for India's healthy run in the middle overs, be it while chasing or setting a target. But then his turmoil is a true reflection of the struggle that has gripped the Indian

batting unit. In Shivam Dube, India have a designated spin-basher, but the left-hander could not even pick a regulation leg-break by Vandersay in the second one-day, getting trapped in front of the wicket.

Shreyas Iyer and KL Rahul too have lorded over spinners in the past, but here their feet and wrists have been unresponsive against the Lankan slow bowlers. They seemed to be going through a temporary memory loss as to how to rotate strike, the most effective weapon to keep spinners in check on tracks such as the ones at the Premadasa.

They just need to watch the batting of Rohit to find a remedy - not so much in his approach but more in the confidence and planning behind his knocks. There is no need to gild the lily while describing Rohit's batting, still his taming of the Lankan bowlers - pace and spin alike - has been exceptional.

Often a 44-ball 64 would contain a few chancy shots, but Rohit's strokes were so well-calculated that they hardly appeared risky. Can his colleagues take a cue?

**Parag to get the call?** From a combination perspective, the team

management might look at the position of Dube, despite a 24-ball 25 in the first match.

Under the existing conditions, Riyan Parag's spin, either off-spin or leg-spin, might come handier than the honest medium pace of Dube, and the former is an equally good hard-hitter.

From their part, the Indian bowlers too should improve their effort in the business end as they failed to apply finishing touches to Lanka after reducing them to 142 for six and 136 for six.

**TEAMS (FROM)**  
**INDIA:** Rohit Sharma (C), Shubman Gill (VC), Virat Kohli, KL Rahul (WK), Rishabh Pant (WK), Shreyas Iyer, Shivam Dube, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohd. Siraj, Washington Sundar, Arshdeep Singh, Riyan Parag, Axar Patel, Khaleel Ahmed, Harshit Rana.  
**SRI LANKA:** Charith Asalanka (c), Pathum Nissanka, Avishka Fernando, Kusal Mendis, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Kamindu Mendis, Janith Liyanage, Nishan Madushka, Dunith Wellalage, Chamika Karunaratne, Akila Dananjaya, Mohamed Shiraz, Maheesh Theekshana, Asitha Fernando, Eshan Malinga, Jeffrey Vandersay.

## Allman wins second straight Olympic title in discus throw

AP ■ SAINT-DENIS (FRANCE)

Sam Kendricks appreciates the Olympics again. Valarie Allman never stopped. It's just the healing power that medals have to mend and reinforce feelings.

In a short span Monday night, Allman won her second straight Olympic title in the discus throw, while Kendricks captured silver in a pole vault competition that featured Sweden's Armand "Mondo" Duplantis breaking his own world record.

The medals from Allman and Kendricks, 31, gave the U.S. 11 so far in the meet, including three golds.

Three years ago in Tokyo, Kendricks didn't get the chance to compete. He was placed in isolation because of a positive COVID-19 test and didn't feel supported by Olympic officials.

It led to some pretty hard feelings - feelings that had the Mississippi native wondering if he even wanted to compete in Paris. His love-loathe relationship is back on path to love after he earned a silver medal. It pairs with the bronze he captured at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games.

"I was definitely bitter," Kendricks said. "I wasn't going to come to Paris until it was proven to me that it was going to be great and shining into the future."

"It's tough, being turned away from. All of a sudden you're sick, and every doctor throws you to the wolves, and all of a sudden you're stuck in isolation when Team USA is supposed to love you."



It took some soul-searching for him to arrive in Paris for another Olympics. "Rather than run away from it like I really wanted to, you've got to come back," Kendricks said. "You've got to face that lion."

Kendricks went up against a pole-vaulting beast in Duplantis, the 24-year-old from Louisiana who competes for his mother's native Sweden. Kendricks watched the journey up close of Duplantis blossoming into the world's best. It culminated Monday with Duplantis clearing 6.25 meters (20 feet, 6 inches) to defend his gold medal.

"His story is written in the stars, for sure," said Kendricks, who cleared 5.95 meters (19-6 1/4) to hold off Emmanouil Karalis of Greece. "But I think mine will have a tapestry hanging on my wall one day worthy of reading."

Same with Allman's tale. After winning in Tokyo, the 29-year-old who competed for Stanford realized she needed to dial back on the

discus training. It had become her sole focus in and out of the global pandemic.

"I think I might be the only person in the world that probably had too much discus in their life," Allman joked. "When you want to be as good as you can at something, you slowly start making sacrifices, and you don't realize that it's happening."

To scale back, she bought a house and hung out with friends.

"Such basic things," Allman said. "When I went out to perform, I said that no matter how it played out, I'm so grateful that I get to do what I love. No matter if I get a medal, whatever color it is, if I don't get a medal, this is going to be a night that I'm proud of the fight that I showed. I think there was something freeing in that."

Early on, Allman showed some jitters by fouling on her first attempt.

"I felt the weight of like, Holy crap, this is the Olympics," Allman explained. "It took me a minute to find my groove."

She went 68.74 meters (225-6) on her second throw and 69.50 (228-0) on her fourth. It was enough to beat Feng Bin of China and Sandra Elkasevic of Croatia.

"Pressure is becoming my friend," Allman said. "I think it's one of those things I've learned can bring out the best in you if you embrace it."

"To walk into the ring having one attempt left and knowing I'd already won, it was hard fighting back tears.

## American entries cut in half in Paris Olympic beach volleyball tournament

AP ■ PARIS

On the Champ de Mars, where the first mayor of Paris was sent to the guillotine during the Reign of Terror, the American beach volleyball squad got cut in half.

Two U.S. Teams fell on the sand at Eiffel Tower Stadium on Monday, with Taryn Kloth and Kristen Nuss losing to Canada in the women's round of 16 a few hours after Chase Budinger and Miles Evans lost to Norway in the men's.

Only Miles Partain and Andy Benesh advanced on the day, joining Kelly Cheng and Sara Hughes in the elite eight.

"Definitely a little heartbroken," said Nuss, who along with her former LSU teammate formed the No. 2 team in the world rankings.

"We came in wanting to bring home gold back to the United States. That's been our goal for the past four years. So to go out in the round of 16 is obviously an earlier exit than we would have liked."

Brandie Wilkerson and Melissa Humana-Paredes beat Nuss and Kloth 21-19, 21-18, leaving the country that has won four of the last five women's gold medals with just one team in the bracket.

Wilkerson isn't just a giant killer in Olympic beach volleyball: She's an American giant killer. She also eliminated the U.S. Pair of Cheng and Sarah Sponcil in the first round of the pandemic-delayed Tokyo Games.

"That's what she's good at doing," Humana-Paredes said with a laugh.

"But honestly," Wilkerson



said, "they're an amazing team. And it's a whole new tournament. It's a whole new Games, whole new atmosphere. We're all different skill levels from what I was even, four years ago."

"We knew we were going to play this team at some point. They're one of the best teams in the world. We thought it would be later in the tournament, because we both deserve to have a shot at those medals. But when we're put in this situation, we were ready to respond."

In other men's matches on Monday, Qatar beat Chile in straight sets, setting up a quarterfinal matchup with Partain and Benesh. Spain beat Poland, keeping six-time Olympian Pablo Herrera alive in his quest for his first medal since he won silver in Athens, 20 years ago.

On the women's side, Latvia beat Germany, Spain beat the Netherlands and Brazil beat Japan.

Budinger, a former NBA player, and Evans lost in straight sets to Norway, the defending Olympic champions, on Monday afternoon. To start off the night session, first-time Olympians Benesh and Partain knocked out four-time Olympian Paolo Nicolai and his partner, Samuele Cottafava, 21-19, 21-18.

"I am very in awe of how long they've been playing at such a high level. It's definitely difficult to keep pushing your body after you're at such a level of excellence. So I'm really inspired by those guys," said Partain, who at 22 is the youngest person ever to represent the United States in Olympic beach volleyball.

"It's cool that beach volleyball is a lifelong sport that you can play at a really high level till how old they are - and even past," he said. "So I'm really glad to be a part of the sport that can do that encourages that and it's part of its, kind of aura."

Already at Paris, five-time Olympian and Rio de Janeiro gold medalist Laura Ludwig of Germany has been eliminated, and the 42-year-old Herrera has said he will retire.

The defending men's gold medalists from Norway are 27 and 28 and the top-ranked team from Sweden features a pair of 22-year-olds.

Nicolai said he hasn't made a decision on whether to go for a fifth Olympics. He would be 40 for Los Angeles in 2028.

"I'm 36, and I have to be sure that if I started a new Olympic journey, that I'm ready to do it," he said. "Because I know how difficult it is to be focused for four more years."

So, is it a young person's sport?

"I hope so, because that means that we have a great future," Nicolai said. "The Norwegians, Swedish, they are the top two in the rankings. And they are really young. So that's great because they are full of energy. And so maybe after this tournament we can do something more for our sport because we deserve it."

"In all the two weeks, the crowd was always full and always crazy for the beach volleyball," he said. "That's the moment for us, for our sport to grow."

## Karthik joins Paarl Royals

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former wicketkeeper batter Dinesh Karthik was on Tuesday signed by Paarl Royals for the third season of the SA20, making him the first Indian cricketer to participate in the South African league, starting on January 9.

Karthik, 39, retired from all forms of cricket in June this year and since then he has been roped in as a mentor-coach by IPL side Royal Challengers Bengaluru.

"I have so many fond memories of playing in and visiting South Africa, and when this opportunity came about, I couldn't say no because of how special it would be to come back to playing competitive cricket and win this incredible competition with the Royals," said Karthik, who has played 180 matches for India across all three formats.

His last competitive T20 outing was for RCB in the IPL 2024, for whom he made 326 runs in 14 matches at a strike-rate of 187.36.

Karthik's last match in India colours was against Bangladesh during the T20 World Cup in Australia in 2022.

"I am delighted to be joining the Paarl Royals team which oozes a lot of experience, quality and potential. I am certainly looking forward to joining the group and contributing to what should be an exciting season," Karthik, who was roped in as the league ambassador a day earlier, said.

## Spain beat Morocco to reach its second straight Olympics final in men's soccer

AP ■ MARSEILLE (FRANCE)

Juanlu Sanchez came off the bench to fire Spain to a record-equaling fifth Olympic men's soccer final. Sanchez struck in the 85th minute at Stade de Marseille to seal a 2-1 win over Morocco and set up a final against France at the Paris Games.

"The moment passed so fast that I didn't even realize it, but then when you realized that you scored the goal that puts your team in the final, well, I'm really happy," Sanchez said.

Morocco led 1-0 at halftime after the tournament's leading scorer, Soufiane Rahimi, converted a penalty in the 37th.

Spain evened the score in the 65th when Fermin Lopez showed quick feet in the box and hit a left-footed shot low in the bottom corner. The Barcelona midfielder then provided the assist that set up Sanchez to sweep his winning goal into the far corner.

"I think that my goal changed a bit the match, and I think it was a great match for the whole team and we deserved it," Lopez said. "And here we



are."

Spain, which won gold at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, lost

to Brazil in the final at the Tokyo Games three years ago. It will get the chance to make

up for that and add to what has already been a successful year after the men's senior team won the European Championship last month.

"It's basically a World Cup for the under 23s" Spain coach Santi Denia said about playing for the gold medal on Friday at Parc des Princes in Paris.

For Morocco, it was another painful loss at a semifinal of a major tournament. It will face Egypt for the bronze medal on Thursday in Nantes. Egypt lost to France 3-1 hours after Morocco's defeat.

Morocco became the first

Arab and African nation to advance to the semifinals of the World Cup in 2022 - eventually taking fourth place.

"We were really motivated today to play in the final. What has happened has happened," Morocco coach Tarik Sektioui said. "And now we must be focused on the next game. There is a medal to be won."

That's not nothing for us. It's very important for us that we return to Morocco with a medal. Playing in front of a fervent crowd, largely comprised of

Morocco supporters, it threatened another upset at these Games after already beating Argentina in the group stage.

Rahimi had scored five goals going into the game and took his total to six when he coolly fired down the middle to beat Spain goalkeeper Arnau Tenas from the spot.

Spain came close to leveling in first-half stoppage time when Alex Baena's 25-yard effort was deflected onto the outside of the post.

The equalizer came through Lopez' clinical finish - his fourth goal of the tournament

- and his over-exuberant celebrations earned him a yellow card after kicking the corner flag and breaking it in two.

Morocco had come close to a potential late winner before Sanchez sealed the victory for Spain, which has taken silver on three occasions, with its only gold coming in '92.

Brazil is the only other men's team to have played in five finals at the Olympics, including the past three.

Spain's women's team is also into the semifinals - it faces Brazil on Tuesday, also in Marseille.

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