



BITTER EXPERIENCE

Actor Nargis Fakhri says many claimed she was pregnant when she returned to films in 2019 after a three-year break

LEISURE P2



1ST TIME NOMINATION

Author Geetanjali Shree's novel 'Tomb of Sand' has become the first Hindi fiction shortlisted for the Booker Prize

INTERNATIONAL P10



BENZEMA SINKS CHELSEA

Karim Benzema's second successive hat-trick in the Champions League helps Real Madrid thrash Chelsea

SPORTS P12

Two BJB students detained in fake certificate case

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 7: Two students have been detained by Badagada police for allegedly getting admission into BJB Autonomous College in the Odisha capital by submitting forged disability certificates. Sources said Thursday that the Badagada police are currently questioning both the students. They are trying to ascertain whether any of the college staff is involved in the forged certificate case.

Earlier Tuesday, principal of the college, Niranjan Rath had lodged FIRs against eight students for furnishing fake certificates to get admission. Efforts are now on trace the others.

The illegal act came to fore after Rath discovered some discrepancies in the documents furnished by the students. He investigated the matter and found that eight had submitted forged disability certificates to get admission to the college. Badagada police started an investigation into the matter after the college authorities lodged complaints against the offenders. The Odisha Higher Education Department had earlier January 22 instructed the principals of all colleges across Odisha to lodge FIRs at the local police station against students who have submitted fake disability certificates to get admission.

DAMAYANTI IS CUTTACK'S YOUNGEST DY MAYOR

Cuttack: Even as BJD leader Subash Singh was sworn in Thursday as the Mayor of the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC), it was 21-year-old student, Damayanti Majhi who hogged the limelight. She became the youngest Deputy Mayor of the CMC and created history of sorts. A tribal girl of Balisahi Slum in this city and an M Com student of Ravenshaw University, Damayanti successfully contested the CMC polls held last month and was elected as the corporator of Ward No. 49 of the civic body. She is also the youngest corporator of the CMC. She was elected unopposed.

NO RELIEF FOR PATEL DESPITE COURT ORDER

New Delhi: The CBI was ordered by a court here to 'immediately' drop the lookout circular (LoC) against former Amnesty International India Chief Aakar Patel, who was stopped Wednesday from flying to the US. The investigating agency was also asked to hand over a written apology to Patel, given the 'mental harassment' he had suffered. However, Patel tweeted Thursday night that he has again been stopped at immigration from boarding the flight at Bangalore airport. "Have been stopped at immigration again. CBI has not taken me off their look out circular. Immigration says no one in CBI picking its calls," Patel tweeted. **MORE P9**

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K'taka Muslims feel Hindu heat

Hindu activists in Karnataka have now turned their attention to Muslim mango traders and sculptors

AGENCIES

Bangalore, April 7: It seems that campaigning against the minority community is the order of the day in Karnataka. In the recent past, there have been campaigns by Hindu activists against the Hijab, halal and banning of Muslim traders in temple fairs. Now the Hindu organisations have turned their attention to Muslim mango traders and sculptors who make idols of Hindu gods. It should be stated here that the majority of mango traders in Karnataka are Muslims. The Hindu organisations are also preparing to challenge the issue of 'halal certification' in the court. They are prepared to wage a legal battle questioning the system of 'halal certification' as against the Food Safety and Standards Association of India (FSSAI), the governing and monitoring body of food business in India.

Sources said that the list of halal products is being prepared. They added that in court, these organisations will say that halal certification is illegal and the only authority to certify food is FSSAI. Though the ruling BJP is trying to distance itself from banning mango traders, it is maintaining silence on other issues. The Opposition Congress and JD(S) have slammed the Karnataka



government for these recent developments. AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi has stated that the Karnataka government is enforcing 'untouchability on Muslims'. Melukote Cheluvanaraya Swamy temple Sthanik Srinivasan said Thursday he will take up a campaign across Karnataka to ban Hindu idols being sculpted by Muslim sculptors. "The idols of Hindu gods sculpted by Muslim artists can't be installed in Hindu temples, it is against traditions. I will tour the state and create awareness in this regard," Srinivasan said.

'Sri Ram Sena' has also extended the support to ban installing of idols in temples that are sculpted by Muslims. It has given a call for temple authorities not to get any idols made by the Muslim sculptors. Meanwhile, the campaign to ban Muslim traders in mango trade has gained momentum in Karnataka. Hindu activists are running an online campaign to take back the mango wholesale trade dominated by Muslim businessmen. Chandru Moger, 'Hindu Janajagruthi Samiti' coordinator has appealed to the Hindus to buy fruits from only Hindu vendors and boycott Muslim traders.

PROBE ORDERED

Bangalore: Karnataka CM Basavaraj Bommai ordered a Thursday a probe into a video released by terror outfit Al-Qaeda lauding student Muskan Khan of Mandya district who shouted 'Allahu Akbar' at a mob during the recent protests against the Hijab ban in the state. "I have directed the police chief to probe the matter and verify the truth regarding the video, which is said to be released by an Al-Qaeda terrorist. Once the report is available, further action will be decided," Bommai said. Hindu activists have demanded action against the girl.

Centre's Lingaraj verdict irks many

The Ministry of Home Affairs has said several sections of the proposed ordinance were in conflict with the AMASR Act and so it had no option but to vet it

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 7: The Union government challenging the promulgation of an ordinance by the Odisha government to bring in a special legislation for redevelopment of Lingaraj Temple has sent ripples through the political spectrum as well as the general public. The Odisha government had promulgated the ordinance in 2020 to formulate a law like that of Puri Srimandir for redevelopment of Lingaraj Temple and its peripheral area here in the city.

However, the Centre has imposed curbs on it and returned the ordinance to the Odisha Governor. The move by the Union government has triggered sharp reactions from various quarters. Many have dismissed the move and alleged that the Centre wants to foist its laws on the state government to take control of ancient monuments in Odisha. Ekamra MLA and Minister Ashok Chandra Panda justified the state government's move to bring an ordinance and sought to know if developmental work

could be undertaken in Kashi Vishwanath, Somnath and Kedarnath shrines, then why not at the Lingaraj Temple. "Why the Centre is adopting one yardstick for development of Kashi Vishwanath, Somnath and Kedarnath temples and a different norm in case of Lingaraj Temple?" Panda asked. "The state government has already clarified about the ordinance to the Centre, and if needed, it would clarify on the issue once again," Panda added.

The Centre has pointed out that the state's ordinance on Lingaraj Temple and eight other temples around it are not under the 'legislative competence' of the Assembly and it violates the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958. The ordinance is fully contradicting AMASR Act, which prohibits any kind of new construction in the area within 100-metre periphery of the protected monuments. Besides, the area lying 200 metres from the prohibited area is called control area. **Contd...P4**



IRREGULAR by MANJUL



MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	59034.95 ↓ 575.46
NIFTY	17639.50 ↓ 168.20
DOLLAR	76.85 ↑ ₹0.35
EURO	82.96 ↑ ₹0.25
GOLD	₹51,827 ↑ ₹231
SILVER	₹66,420 ↑ ₹115

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX	36.2°C	35.8°C
TEMP. MIN	25.1°C	25.0°C
Humidity	74%	76%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Dry weather mostly	

Journo assaulted, chained

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasure, April 7: Nilagiri police in Balasure district are in the dock for allegedly assaulting a journalist and then chaining him to the bed while he was undergoing treatment at the district headquarters hospital (DHH) here. Journalist Lokanath Dalei, who works for a vernacular daily and a TV news channel, alleged Thursday that he was assaulted mercilessly by Nilagiri police station IIC Draupadi Das, following which he lost his senses.

Dalei has also alleged that Das held a grudge against him because he exposed their involvement in corruption. "I had reported the appointment of 11



homeguards on the basis of forged age certificates. Also I had written about the IIC's involvement with drug dealers in Nilagiri. So I had to bear her wrath," Dalei has been quoted as saying by the website of the daily.

Dalei's vehicle was involved in a collision April 4 with that of homeguard Niranjan Rana of Nilagiri PS. A heated argument followed, but peace prevailed after intervention by the locals. **MORE P3**

The matter however, did not end there. Dalei said he was informed Wednesday that the homeguard had lodged a complaint against him and he was asked to visit the Nilagiri police station. When he arrived, his mobile phone was taken away and the IIC assaulted him.

After he lost consciousness, Dalei was first taken to the Nilagiri Hospital from where he was then taken to Balasure DHH. However, his predicament did not end there as policemen attached a handcuff to his leg and then chained him to the bed. However, as pictures of his condition went viral on the social media and his family protested, Dalei was released from the hospital. **MORE P3**

Pak SC runs out Imran

CJP pointed out that the deputy-speaker's ruling quashing the no-confidence motion against Pak PM is violation of Article 95

AGENCIES



Islamabad, April 7: Pakistan's SC struck down National Assembly Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri's controversial move to dismiss a no-confidence motion against PM Imran Khan, in a major blow to the cricketer-turned-politician who is now likely to face a no-trust vote in Parliament after the ruling. The bench restored the parlia-

ment and declared the advice by Prime Minister Khan to President Alvi to dissolve the assembly as unconstitutional. The court ordered the speaker to call the session of the national assembly April 9 at 10.00am to organise the no-confidence vote. During the hearing, Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial noted deputy speaker's ruling is, prima facie, a violation of Article 95. Suri, who is associated with Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, had April 3 dismissed the no-confidence motion against the premier claiming that it was linked with a 'foreign conspiracy' to topple the government and hence was not maintainable. Minutes later, President Ari Alvi dissolved the National Assembly. Chief Justice Bandial, heading the five-member bench comprising Justices Ijazul Ahsan, Mohammad Ali Mazhar Miankhal, Munib Akhtar and Jamal Khan Mandokhel, declared as unconstitutional the ruling April 3 by the deputy speaker.

Telangana criminal arrested in Cuttack

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, April 7: One of the 'most wanted' criminals in Telangana police's list for the last couple of years, murder-accused Omar Farooq was arrested at the Cuttack Railway Station late Wednesday evening. Farooq was travelling in the Shalimar-Chennai Coromandel Express when he was nabbed.

Following a joint raid, a Special Task Force (STF) team of Telangana police with the help of Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel managed to identify Farooq and he was promptly arrested him, a police official said.

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leisure



ALICIA FELT 'UNPROTECTED' WHILE FILMING NUDE SCENES

Swedish actress Alicia Vikander doesn't like how filmmakers fail to properly take care of actors while filming nude scenes. In a recent interview, Alicia recalled how she felt unprotected while enacting one such nude scene.

BRITNEY OBJECTS TO PAYING HER MOM'S ATTORNEYS' FEES

Pop star Britney Spears has asked a court to deny her mother Lynne Spears' request that Britney pay the attorney fees she accumulated as she tried to help end her conservatorship. Mathew Rosengart, Britney's lawyer, insists that she shouldn't have to pay Lynne's \$663,202 legal bill.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You are an imaginative and enterprising person, and today you may taste success. Ganesh says that you are ambitious but warns you not to take on more work than you can handle. You are positive about your capabilities, so work sincerely and have faith in God.

TAURUS
There is every possibility that you will enjoy a good rapport with people around you, predicts Ganesh. You will think with your stomach today, craving for delicacies. Such a feeling might be because of repressed hunger. Something refreshingly different might be on the cards today, says Ganesh.

GEMINI
Your mind will be uneasy and anxious due to some reason today. You will be unable to express your anxieties. You will be able to secure the love of your partner by sharing your feelings. You need to let go of the past and strive to keep on moving forward with confidence, says Ganesh.

CANCER
A restless or irritating mood is indicated. Keep you cool and be calm even in adverse circumstances, suggests Ganesh. If you do so, you will always succeed in life. It is difficult to wriggle out of adversity, if you have hot temper.

LEO
You will seek the opinion of others in a lot of matters today. You need to patiently listen to others and keep your lips sealed during the course of conversations today. Your self-confidence may take a beating today, hence do not take any important decisions. It is time for a major change in your work or field of work, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
Professionalism will be overshadowed by personal preoccupations. Drill your way out of problems today by meeting them head-on. Don't get stuck up on the emotional front, especially in the evening, cautions Ganesh.

LIBRA
Ganesh says the inner artist in you will come to the surface today and you will showcase your imagination powers too. You will be able to focus on topics of interest today. Those of you in the field of interest will find themselves moving ahead. There may be signing of beneficial legal deals today for you.

SCORPIO
You can be fondly called as 'the perfectionist' today. Right from being punctual to following a systematic method for your work, you do it all. All in all, you set an ideal example for the people around you, says Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
Get ready to rule hearts today. Your thoughtful insights into other people's psyche might just help you write a book on it! In the battleground of love, you will win over your sweetheart all over again, probably with a nice, slow dance coupled with a fantastic candlelit dinner.

CAPRICORN
It has become difficult for you to bear the heavy weight of responsibilities on your shoulders. But, be prepared for some more; the weight is about to get heavier as more responsibilities are going to be added. You will no longer enjoy the work, and it will bring down your efficiency level to an extent, feels Ganesh.

AQUARIUS
Academically, you have performed exceptionally well, and Ganesh congratulates you for that. You will inspire and motivate a number of people, and may create a fan following, too. This, however, doesn't mean that you throw your weight around. Keep a humane and humble approach towards others.

PISCES
Those who work hard to move towards their goals will do well today. It is a good day for business. You will be able to do a lot of new things in your job-business today. With Ganesh's blessings you will definitely succeed, but you need to work hard without getting disappointed.

REMINISCING GURUJI



Odissi exponents (L-R) Padma Shri Ileana Citaristi (Odisha), Rina Jana and Nandini Ghosal (both from Kolkata) held the audience spellbound at Utkal Rangamancha, Bhubaneswar, Thursday. The event titled *Remembering Guruji*, organised by cultural organisation Art Vision in collaboration with GKCM Odissi Research Centre, was held to mark the 18th death anniversary of legend Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra.

THEATRE TREAT



A scene from the historical play *Ahe Nilashaila* staged at Rabindra Mandap, Thursday. Written by Shankar Tripathy and Pratima Hota, the play was directed by former secretary of Odisha Natya Sangh Lala Biren Ray. The cast of the star-studded show, which will be staged for the next three days, included Lawrence Behera, Sofia Alam, Shradha Panigrahi, Hadu and several other TV and film actors.

Nargis opens up on being body shamed



Mumbai: More often than not, celebrities are often criticised for their body image especially on social media platforms. Having said that, actress Nargis Fakhri recently opened up on the issue.

In an interview with a news portal, Nargis shared that she was a victim of fat shaming when she took a three-year break after the 2016 film *Azhar* and returned to the big screen with 2019 film *Amavas*.

With a drastic change in her body, rumours were rife that the actress had taken a maternity break. In fact, several sources also claimed that she was pregnant. Later on she had penned a strongly worded note on Instagram with before and after pictures. When asked about it, the actress shared that there is a certain look or appearance people expect from you, and hence it often becomes a pressure to maintain that.

She recalled how people constantly asked her to put on weight, when she first came to India, because she was 'too skinny'. And the fact, she did put on weight, people started assuming that she was pregnant. She revealed that she was hurt but later realised it's her job to take care of herself and started working out.

Abhishek on why he wants to get tutored by SRK



Mumbai: Abhishek Bachchan, Yami Gautam, and Nimrat Kaur's *Dasvi* just released on OTT platforms. Ahead of the premiere, the actors were busy promoting their film and giving interviews. In one such conversation with an entertainment media portal, Abhishek revealed that he would like to get tutored by Shah Rukh Khan.

When Abhishek was asked if his character in *Dasvi*, Ganga Ram Chaudhary had to go take tuition from a Bollywood actor, who would that be. To this, he replies Shah Rukh Khan. On being asked why, Junior B said, "Because he's immensely well-read." He continued, "Shah Rukh's knowledge of everything is wonderful. And I love people like that, and I love to sit and talk to people that you get to learn from. And he's like a sponge for knowledge."

Abhishek revealed that he had traveled with SRK once when they were shooting for a film together. He shared that Shah Rukh had five books on the centre armrest, and he would randomly pick up something and start reading.

Mumbai: Tennis legend Leander Paes is quite excited about his upcoming project as he has signed up for an animated show titled *Little Leander* based on his life journey.

He has signed up for the show with the studio Green Gold Animation who earlier delivered popular animation series *Chhota Bheem*.

Talking about the project, Leander said, "I'm thrilled for this show to be made because this in a way also becomes my legacy to stay. This is a very heartwarming opportunity because through this series I will be communicating with young minds and looking to inspire them toward positive development. The thought in itself is very fulfilling."

Rajiv Chilaka, Founder & CEO, Green Gold Animation said, "We are privileged when we get to witness genius in any field and Leander has given us many of those moments." IANS

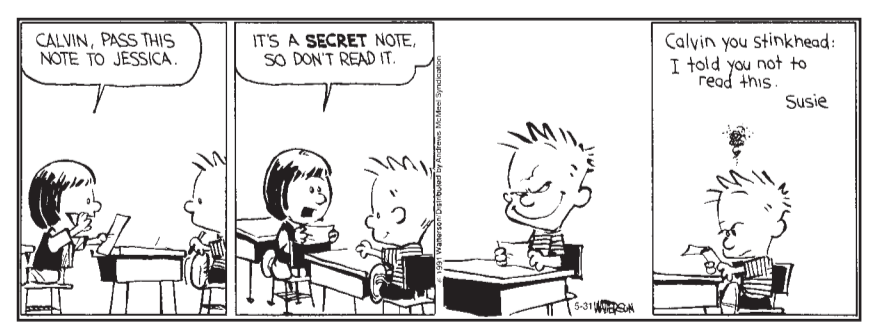
Animated show on Leander soon



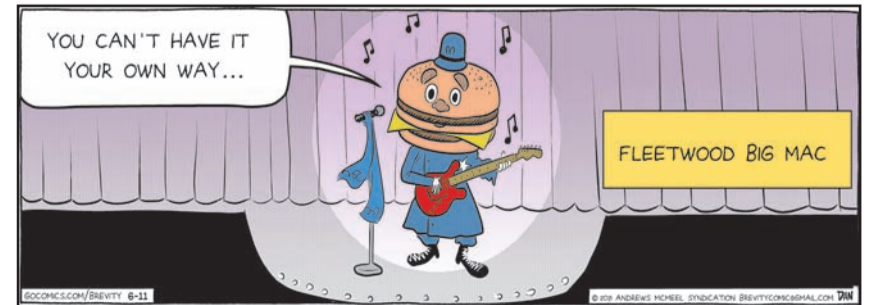
PEANUTS



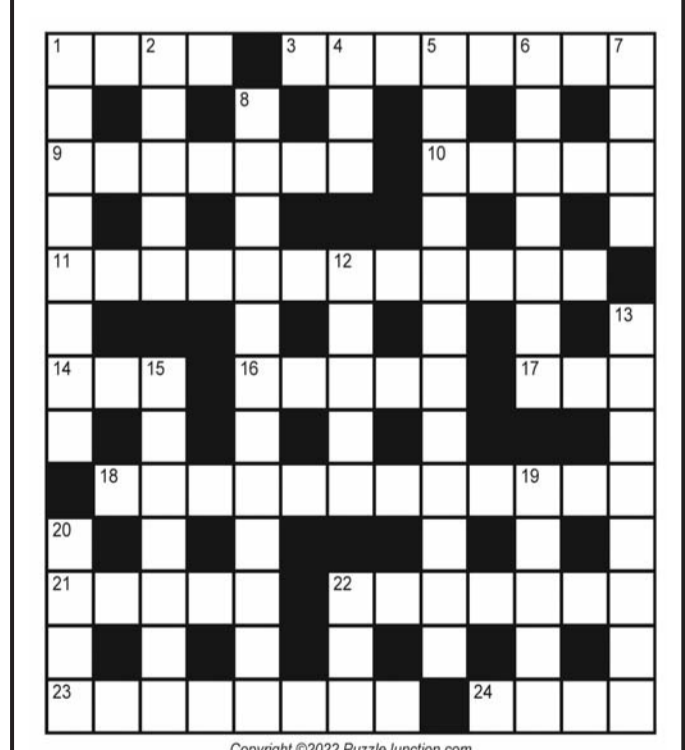
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



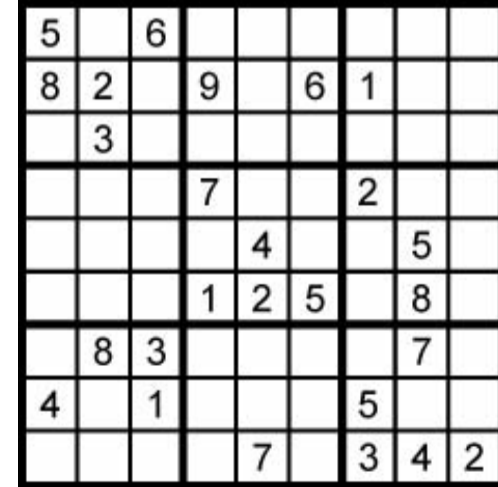
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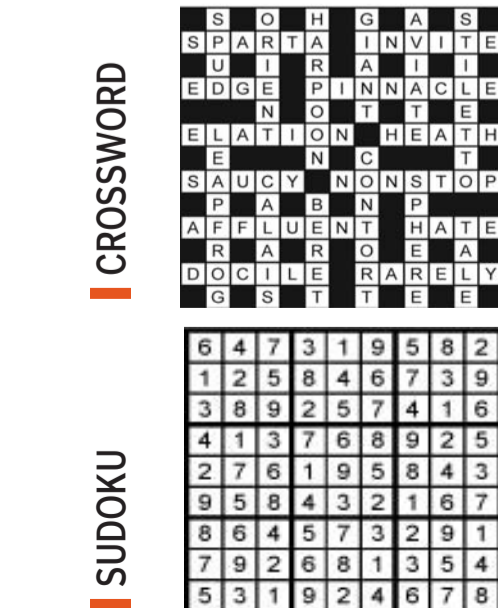
- Across**
- 1 Carryall
 - 3 Clear soup
 - 9 Relaxation
 - 10 Cattle farm
 - 11 Staffordshire dog breeds (4,8)
 - 14 Pouch
 - 16 Leguminous plant
 - 17 Reverence
 - 18 Boxer's class
 - 21 Tedious (2-3)
 - 22 Indicates
 - 23 Lady Godiva city
 - 24 Reeled
 - 6 Roman goddess of wisdom
 - 7 Canyon sound
 - 8 Type of health supplement
 - 12 Helicopter part
 - 13 Throw away
 - 15 Russian dramatist
 - 19 Clutch
 - 20 Stylish
 - 22 Elton John, e.g.

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



SOLUTIONS

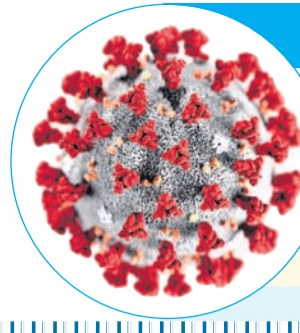


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



MOTHER WORSHIP

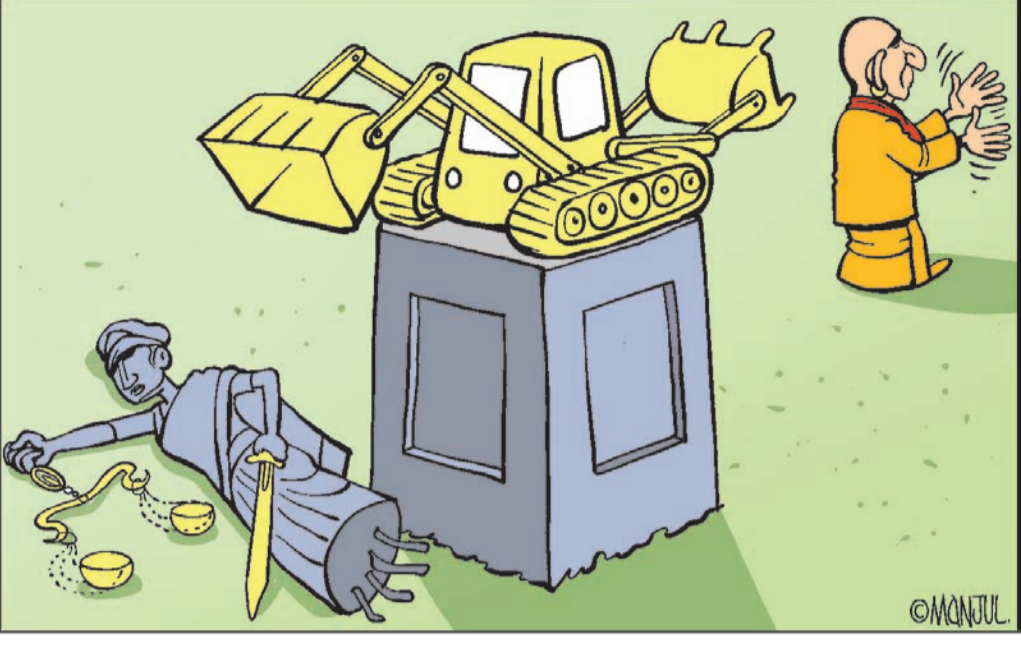
Goddess Basanti Durga being worshipped at a pandal in Chandini Chowk area of Cuttack, Thursday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	49,58,18,709	43,16,24,614	61,93,374
India	4,30,31,958	4,30,31,958	5,21,530
Odisha	12,87,801	12,78,441	9,121

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Security at Srimandir to be stepped up: SJTA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, April 7: The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) has planned to introduce a slew of measures to enhance security in and around Srimandir in the wake of vandalism at the shrine's kitchen.

The SJTA Thursday held a meeting with the servitor members of Srimandir Managing Committee and the district administration to step up security at the 12th century shrine.

Henceforth, the SJTA will hold weekly meeting to review security related issues at the shrine. Earlier, the review meeting used to be held once in a month, sources said.

The temple authorities have also decided to install wireless CCTVs on the shrine premises to tighten round-the-clock surveillance.



Henceforth, the SJTA will hold weekly meeting to review security related issues at the shrine. Earlier, the review meeting used to be held once in a month

“Earlier, the temple administration had installed around a hundred CCTVs on the shrine precincts. But, many of these CCTVs were lying defunct,” said a source.

Though the shrine has a designated security force called Jagannath Temple Police Service (JTPS), the authorities have urged the state government to deploy additional police personnel at the temple. “We don't have adequate JTPS

personnel. That is why we've urged the state government to deploy additional police personnel at the shrine. We've also pleaded with the government to take necessary steps for appointing adequate number of JTPS personnel and other security staff for Srimandir,” said an SJTA official.

The shrine authorities have also decided to install CCTVs near the temple kitchen and deploy secu-

urity personnel at four strategic places to check any untoward incidents.

“Srimandir tradition forbids us to install CCTVs at the shrine's kitchen. But, we've identified four strategic places to install CCTVs and deploy security personnel to enhance surveillance,” said the official. Puri Collector Samarth Verma said the police have been asked to check the devotees thoroughly with metal detectors at the four gates of Srimandir. “The CCTV cameras installed at the four gates will be connected to a control room for better supervision,” he said.

Notably, at least 80 clay stoves at Srimandir kitchen were found vandalised Sunday morning. The police have arrested a person in connection with the incident Wednesday.

Impleadment plea: Sardar mines' response sought

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, April 7: The Supreme Court (SC) Thursday asked the Sardar Mines Private Ltd (SMPL) to file its response to an application filed by the Union Ministry of Mines for the impleadment in a petition filed by the SMPL seeking direction to Odisha government to execute mining lease deed in its favour for the remaining 10 years out of the 30 years it was entitled to.

A three-judge bench of the SC headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana posted the matter for hearing after a week and asked the SMPL to file its reply.

“Ministry of Mines filed impleadment application in this matter. The state government expressed no objection. We direct the peti-

tioner to file an affidavit after one week,” the court said.

The bench comprising Justices Krishna Murari and Hima Kohli showed reluctance on the Centre's impleadment application.

“If we permit everyone to come and seek for impleadment like these things, how can we hear cases,” the bench said.

“With great respect, the Union government is not everyone,” said Solicitor General Tushar Mehta.

Significantly, the impleadment application was mentioned by the solicitor general before the bench of the Chief Justice.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the SMPL, opposed the impleadment application of the Ministry of Mines and submitted that the dispute was between the company and the state.



It is to be mentioned here that the SMPL has filed a special leave petition in the SC against an order of the Orissa High Court (HC) wherein the HC had held that the company had waived its right for the grant of lease of 30 years which it had obtained earlier by executing a lease

for 20 years and that the provisions of Mines and Minerals Development Act, 2015 operated as a bar to seek any renewal beyond 20 years. The mining lease is sought in respect of over 947.046 hectare in Thakurani B-Block Iron Ore Mines in Keonjhar district.

The state government had January 13 asked the SMPL to hand over possession of the mines, including stock of minerals, plant and machineries, building structures, etc, to the mining officer.

According to the mining company, the state government towards the end of 20 years had started to circumvent its rights for the remaining period of 10 years on one or the other pretext. “The state government took a somersault and took a stand that the lease was only for 20 years and that the HC by an erroneous interpretation has come to a conclusion that the lease was for 20 years and not 30 years,” it stated, adding that the state government should be restrained from taking any coercive action against it during the pendency of the appeal in the SC.

Take action against police brutality: Rights activist

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 7: A human rights activist here Thursday filed a complaint with National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) against Balasore district police for allegedly harassing and falsely implicating a senior journalist in Nilagiri.

In his complaint, Himansu Sekhar Nayak wrote that as per reports published by different newspapers, senior journalist Lokanath Dalei was found with his leg chained to the hospital bed where he was admitted for treatment following his arrest and subsequent torture by the Nilagiri police custody on April 6. “While undergoing treatment

at the hospital, his legs were chained to the bed. The cops did not take the approval of the concerned magistrate for handcuffing the detainee. This is in severe violation of Human Rights under Article 14, 15(1), 19(1), 20(3), 21, 22(1), 22(2) and 32 of the constitution of India and Article 02, 03, 05 of universal declaration,” the complaint said.

The complainant requested the NHRC to direct the Chief Secretary of Odisha to pay the compensation of ₹5 Lakh to the victim. The compensation amount meant for the victim should be recovered from the erring officials of Nilagiri police station in Balasore, the complaint read.

DSPL-440

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

“ଓଡ଼ିଶାର କୁଶଳୀ ହାତ ଭାରତର ଆତ୍ମା କରେ ଆଲୋକିତ”

ରବୀନ୍ଦ୍ର ଚକ୍ରବର୍ତ୍ତୀ
ପୁରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

୧୭ ତମ

ତୋଷାଳି

ଜାତୀୟ ହସ୍ତଶିଳ୍ପ ମେଳା

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ଓଡ଼ିଶା ହସ୍ତଶିଳ୍ପ ସଂଗ୍ରହାଳୟ
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OIPR-31004/13/0063/2122

ROYALE WEDDING COLLECTION

KMR

Kalamandir Royale

309, DISTRICT CENTRE, CHANDRASEKHARPUR, PH : 2303866/966
364, SAHID NAGAR, JANPATH, PH : 0674-2544299/399

MENSWEAR, SAREES, LEHENGAS AND GOWNS

of the day quote

I had a broad discussion on cabinet expansion. The party brass has obtained all the information. Nadda has said further discussion would be held during his visit to Karnataka for the state party executive committee meeting

Agencies involved in disaster management should ensure that alerts generated for calamities should timely reach the remotest panchayat location in the country and organisations like NCC, women groups and home guards should be brought on board for this task

The government's consistent position has been that India desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan and is committed to addressing issues, if any, bilaterally and peacefully in an atmosphere free of terror, hostility and violence



Instead of adjourning Parliament two days early, the government should have had the courage to listen to a serious debate on fuel price rise and consumer inflation

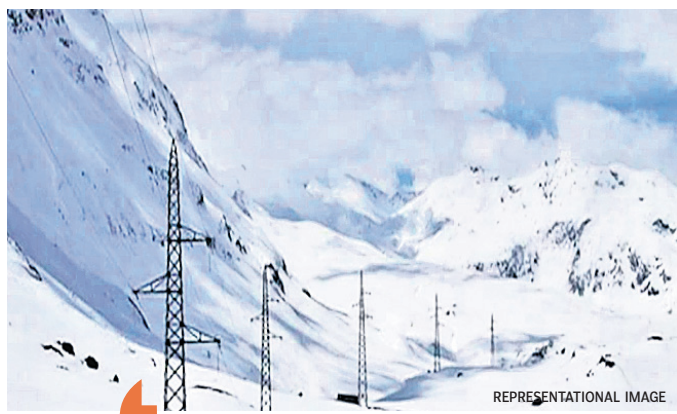
HONEY SINGH 'MANHANDLED'

Singer Hirdesh Singh, popularly known as Yo Yo Honey Singh, has alleged that he was manhandled and threatened during a concert in South Delhi's Hauz Khas area March 27, police said Thursday



India foils attempt of Chinese hackers

THE MINISTER SAID THAT ACTION WAS TAKEN BACK IN 2018 AGAINST SUSPECTED CYBER ATTACKS ON THE COUNTRY'S POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM



Our defence against cyber attack is strong. These were probing attacks in December, January and February. They did not succeed. But we are aware

New Delhi/Beijing, Apr 17: Power Minister R.K. Singh Thursday said the country has a strong defence against any kind of cyber attacks, amid reports of Chinese state-sponsored hackers targeting power grid in Ladakh.

"Our defence against cyber attack is strong. These were probing attacks in December, January and February. They did not succeed. But we are aware," Singh said on the sidelines of a clean energy ministerial senior officials meet in the capital.

There are reports that power sector in the country was targeted by hackers in a long-term operation which was carried out by a state-sponsored (Chinese) group. According to the reports, the hackers targeted seven Indian state centres responsible for carrying out electrical dispatch and grid control near a border area disputed by the two nuclear neighbours.

trojan ShadowPad, which is believed to have been developed by contractors for China's Ministry of State Security, leading to the conclusion that this was a state-sponsored hacking effort.

He was responding to a query about a report by private intelligence firm Recorded Future on Wednesday that claimed that suspected Chinese hackers targeted the Indian power grid in an apparent cyber espionage campaign.

Somaiya, son booked for misuse of Vikrant funds

The Trombay Police filed the case following a complaint by a retired Indian Army soldier Baban B. Bhosale, invoking Indian Penal Code Section 406, 420 and 34 against the father-son and others



Mumbai, April 7: The Mumbai police have registered a case against Bharatiya Janata Party activist Kirit Somaiya and his son Neil K. Somaiya in connection with the alleged siphoning of around Rs 57 crore collected through 'crowdfunding' to save the decommissioned aircraft carrier Vikrant, here Thursday.

The Trombay Police filed the case following a complaint by a retired Indian Army soldier Baban B. Bhosale, invoking Indian Penal Code Section 406, 420 and 34 against the father-son duo and others.

The development comes a day after Shiv Sena MP and Chief Spokesperson Sanjay Raut made the sensational allegations that an amount of Rs 57-crore collected from the masses under the guise of saving Vikrant, which bowed out

of service in 1997 and later scrapped, was swindled off by Somaiya. However, Somaiya has stoutly denied the allegations and said he was prepared to face any probe in the matter; even as a large number of Shiv Sainiks staged protests against him in Chembur; Raut said that the revelations came in an RTI application filed by an activist Dharendra Upadhyaya to the Maharashtra Raj Bhavan, which sent its reply last month.

SHORT TAKES

Punjab man hurt

Srinagar: A driver from Punjab was shot and injured by militants in J&K's Pulwama district Thursday, police said. "A non-local driver, identified as Sonu Sharma of Pathankot, was shot and injured by militants in Yader village of Pulwama. "He was shifted to hospital for treatment and the area has been cordoned off for searches," a source said.

NIA conducts raids in Kashmir

Srinagar: National Investigation Agency (NIA) carried out raids at multiple locations in Kashmir Valley Thursday in connection with the terror funding case being probed by the agency. NIA sources said the sleuths of the investigating agency with the assistance of the local police and the CRPF carried out raids in the Tangmarg area of Baramulla district. The raids were also conducted in parts of Srinagar district, including Mustafabad Zainakote, Nowgam and Chanapora.

2,105 returned to Kashmir Valley

New Delhi: The Ministry of Home Affairs has said a total of 2,105 Kashmiri migrants have returned to Kashmir Valley for taking up jobs provided under Prime Minister's Development Package after the abrogation of Article 370. The Ministry said a total of 841 Kashmiri migrants had returned to Kashmir Valley in 2020-21 while 1,264 people went back in 2021-22. Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai on Wednesday told the Rajya Sabha that four Kashmiri Pandits among 14 Hindus were killed by terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir since 2019.

Two injured in 'Army firing' outside mosque

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, April 7: At least two people were injured in an "accidental discharge of weapons" by Army personnel during an altercation with worshippers outside a mosque in Jammu and Kashmir's Handwara area Thursday, officials said here.

The altercation broke out between the worshippers, who were coming out of a mosque in Handwara town of Kupwara district, and the Army personnel, who were recording videos, they said. A defence spokesperson said two civilians were injured in an "accidental discharge of weapons" during a scuffle between the soldiers and protesters. The injured were identified as Abdul Ahad Mir and Mujeeb Ahmad Sofi, the officials said, adding that they were rushed to the SKIMS hospital at Soura here.

"Troops of 21 Rashtriya Rifles were on a routine patrol in Handwara town. In view of an Iftar party planned by the Army near the Town Chowk, the troops took a few photos of the Jamia Masjid in Handwara at about 1.30 pm to showcase happiness and offering of prayers during the holy month of Ramzan," the spokesperson said, adding that they also requested a local resident to get a few photos clicked from inside the mosque.

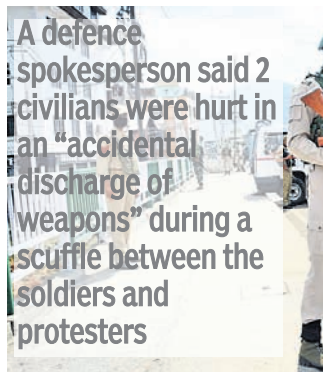
"When he was going to take the photos, some rogue elements protested and instigated others to get into an altercation with the troops. While attempting to pacify them, two-three individuals got into a scuffle with the troops, wherein there was an accidental discharge of weapons, injuring two civilians," he said.

Political parties condemned the incident, with People's Conference chairman Sajad Lone, who hails from Handwara, claiming that it was a result of the "sorry state of affairs" prevailing in the Union Territory.

"What a sorry state of affairs. One of the most peaceful towns Handwara at the receiving end. Hoping against hope the guilty are punished," he said in a tweet. People's Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti expressed dismay and shock over the incident.

Hitting out at the security forces for "barging" into a religious place, "profiling" worshippers and "shooting civilians at will without any fear of justice", she said such incidents highlight the level of unaccountability pervasive across institutions in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Government of India's interference in religious matters by its unwarranted surveillance of a simple act of offering prayers shows that Kashmiris pay dearly for the illusion of Naya Kashmir," the former J&K chief minister said in a tweet.



A defence spokesperson said 2 civilians were hurt in an "accidental discharge of weapons" during a scuffle between the soldiers and protesters



A customer buys tomatoes from a vendor at a market in Mumbai

PTI PHOTO

Andhra ministers resign

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amaravati, April 7: All 24 ministers Thursday submitted their resignation to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy ahead of the proposed reorganisation of the Council of Ministers. The incumbent Ministers put in their papers at the meeting of the Cabinet, which was their last, at the Secretariat here.

The ministers remained in their posts for exactly 34 months. "We have all submitted our resignations. The Chief Minister said some experienced ministers would be re-inducted to run the government. Some others will be given party responsibilities," Information and Public Relations Minister Perni Venkataramaiah (Nani) told reporters after the Cabinet meeting.

The AP Council of Ministers will be reconstituted here on April 11 with new faces. At least four ministers, who resigned today may be re-inducted into



the Cabinet on the 11th, the ruling YSR Congress sources said. The Chief Minister had a meeting with Governor Biswa Bhushan Harichandan on Wednesday night, wherein the Cabinet reorganisation was discussed, the sources said.

Caste criteria is likely to play a key role in the formation of the new cabinet, they noted. When he took over as Chief Minister on May 30, 2019, Jagan had announced that he would undertake a complete overhaul of his Cabinet after two and a half years and take in a new team.

'Asked to strip by cops': Journo

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sidhi (MP), April 7: A journalist and a few activists who were protesting against the arrest of an artist were detained and forced to strip down to their undergarments while in police custody in Madhya Pradesh's Sidhi district.

After the photos of the detained persons in underwear went viral on social media, two local police officials were transferred, a senior police official said Thursday.

A local journalist and some activists were protesting "in unauthorised manner" in front

of the Kotwali police station here against the arrest of Neeraj Kunder, director of Indravati Drama School, on April 2. Kunder had been arrested for allegedly posting defamatory posts on Facebook using a false identity against local BJP MLA Kedar Nath Shukla and his son Gurudutt Sharan Shukla, said Kotwali police station-in-charge Manoj Soni.

A group of activists along with local "YouTube journalist" Kanishk Tiwari staged a protest in front of the Kotwali police station, shouting slogans against MLA Shukla and Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

'XE variant slightly tuned up version of Omicron'

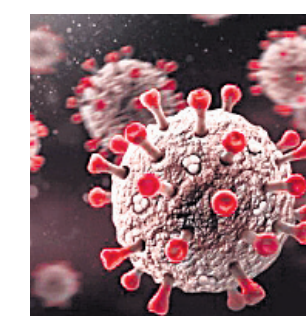
JAYADEVAN SAID THE XE VARIANT IS THE COMBINATION OF BA.1 AND BA.2 WHERE X STANDS FOR RECOMBINANT TYPE AND E IS THE SEQUENCE OF ITS DISCOVERY

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, April 7: Going by the trends so far, there is nothing sur-

prising about the discovery of the new XE variant. XE variant is a slightly tuned up version of Omicron, not an all-new variant, Rajeev Jayadevan, Co-Chairman National IMA COVID task force, said Thursday.

Jayadevan said the XE variant is the combination of BA.1 and BA.2 where X stands for Recombinant Type and E is the sequence of its discovery. Mutation and recombination are techniques used by viruses to become fitter.



coronavirus. However, the Union Health Ministry denied the report which claimed that the first case of COVID-19 variant XE has been detected in India. What has been no-

ticed is that XE could be about 10 per cent more transmissible than the dominant BA.2 variant. But that is a very small advantage that XE has, and even this has not been confirmed as of now.

"Over the past 2 and a half years, the COVID-19 virus has been continuously evolving to spread faster between its hosts. By nature, this particular virus wants to spread to more people," said Jayadevan adding that to achieve this, the virus attempts to improve its fitness. In biological terms, the fitness of the virus is defined in two categories - faster transmissibility from one person's cells to another person's cells,

and, secondly, immune evasion.

"All recombination events need not result in a fitter virus. Some recombinant products could be failures. But when infection in the community goes unchecked and it gets to do this millions of times, like rolling of dice, at one point, a correct sequence happens - where the daughter virus emerges fitter than its parents", Jayadevan said.

He said that it forms clusters as it successfully spreads to people, and this gets noticed during genome sequencing. Only these successful sublineages make news which are given names like XD, XE etc, Jayadevan concluded.

ଗୃହ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଓ ନଗର ଉନ୍ନୟନ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର
Housing & Urban Development Department, Govt. of Odisha

ଜଟଣୀ ପୌର ପରିଷଦ, ଜଟଣୀ
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL: JATANI
ଘାଟ-ଜଟଣୀ, ଜିଲ୍ଲା-ଖୋର୍ଦ୍ଧା, ୭୫୨୦୫୦
At/PS- Jatani, Dist-Khordha (Odisha), Pin-752050
E-mail:municipalityjatani@gmail.com, Phone.No.0674-2490826
No.1007/Jatani, Date:07.04.2022

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

No. C-50: The Jatani Municipality invites EOI from reputed NGOs/ Registered Body/ Individual Body engaged in the care and welfare of cattle for operation and maintenance of "GOSALA" in Village Sandhapur, Ward No.09 under Jatni Municipality, Dist- Khordha. Sandhapur "GOSALA" has been constructed over an area of about 05 acres of land having capacity of about 1000 cattle. The application form/ eligibility criteria along with terms and conditions can be obtained from the office of undersigned before submission date or can also be downloaded from municipality website i.e www. iatnimunicipality.in and submit their proposals to the office of Executive Officer, Jatni Municipality from date 08.04.2022 to date 25.04.2022 in working hours from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The pre-bid meeting will be held on 12.04.2022 at 12:00 P.M. in the office of undersigned and the bid will be opened on date 26.04.2022 at 12:00 P.M.

Sd./-Executive Officer, Jatani Municipality
OIPR-13041/11/0001/2223

AL QAEDA TERRORIST VIDEO

Hindu activists seek probe against K'taka student



AGENCIES

Bangalore, April 7: Following the release of a video by Al Qaeda global terrorist Ayman Al Zawahiri showering praises on BV Muskan Khan, a student from Karnataka, the Hindu activists have demanded a probe into the matter. They have also urged the investigating agencies to take Muskan into custody.

Divyva Hagaragi, a Hindu activist from Kalaburagi district Thursday demanded the arrest of B.V.Muskan Khan, a student from Mandya district, who was praised by Al Qaeda global terrorist Zawahiri for raising slogans of 'Allahu Akbar' against a crowd shouting 'Jai Shri Ram' at the height of hijab controversy.

"The student needs to be taken into custody and investigated and ascertain whether she has terror links. Until the investigation is done, she should not be let out," she said. "If any links are found with terror outfit Al-Qaeda, Muskan should be sent to Pakistan," she said.

Meanwhile, Minister for Health

'Al-Qaeda indulging in polarisation in India'

BANGALORE: The Congress Thursday lashed out at Al-Qaeda for wading into the hijab controversy in Karnataka and said the banned terrorist organisation has no business to comment about the the internal affairs of the country. The grand old party also charged the BJP and right wing organisations with trying to 'polarise' and 'vitiante' the atmosphere of Karnataka with an eye on the 2023 Assembly polls. Condemning the behaviour of Karnataka Home Minister Araga Jnanendra, it demanded that he be sacked and a case be booked against him, alleging that he tried to disturb peace.

K Sudhakar Thursday commenting on the video by Al Qaeda terrorist Zawahiri said Muskan is an innocent. "What can you expect

from terrorists," he stated. "I don't know why Muskan reacted that way. Everyone should follow the law of the land. Education must be a priority over religion," he stated.

Al Qaeda global terrorist Zawahiri in his 9 minute video praised Muskan Khan, a Karnataka College student from Mandya district for raising Islamic slogans in the college premises at the height of the hijab crisis in the state.

In the video titled 'The Noble Woman of India', Zawahiri has composed and recited a poem in praise of the Karnataka student. He maintained in the video that he came to know about Muskan Khan through social media videos and was 'moved by the act of a sister'. Zawahiri has slammed the countries for banning hijab.

Reacting to the video and praising Muskan, the father of the girl, Mohammad Hussain maintained that his daughter was more interested in studies.

Hussain stated that he and his family, especially daughter, do not want any unwanted attention. "It has become a big headache for us. We do not know him. I saw Zawahiri for the first time. We are happy here and living like brothers in Mandya district of Karnataka, we do not want anything," he explains.

He further said that they are putting them into trouble and they should not do this. It only creates confusion here. "It is wrong to drag Muskan. I request them, do not drag the matter any further," he said.

Hussain maintained that since the college authorities have not given a chance for Muskan to wear a veil and write exams, she would be admitted to a different college in Mysuru where she will continue her studies, he added.

K'taka Cabinet reshuffle on cards amid unrest

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, April 7: Amid unrest following a series of developments leading to communal polarisation in Karnataka, the ruling BJP is mulling Cabinet overhaul to put the party in an advantageous position in the 2023 Assembly elections.

The high command has taken all the information and assured to take a decision after discussing the matter with local leaders, party workers and organisational secretaries.

"I have met party President JP Nadda and discussed the matter. But, was not able to meet Home Minister Amit Shah. The cabinet expansion will also have to be discussed with him and National Organisational Secretary Santhosh Ji," he said. As per sources in the



party, the ministers, including the senior leaders, have come under the pressure and are more worried about saving their portfolios rather than the situation in the state. Rumours have it that the party is likely to give opportunities to more

Chief Minister Bommeni, after concluding his recent New Delhi trip, Thursday said that the matter of cabinet expansion had been discussed with the party leaders in details.

The senior leaders have said that they will talk about it during the state executive committee meeting April 16 and 17 at Hospet in newly formed Vijayanagar district

than 10 new faces in the cabinet by dropping many seniors.

National General Secretary CT Ravi's statement that leaders of other parties would be joining BJP in Karnataka has enraged many power blocks in the state within the BJP party. Former Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa is putting all efforts for getting a plum post to his son

B.Y. Vijayendra. The party is also contemplating over the issue as it will have consequences on Yediyurappa's involvement in the election campaign in the upcoming Assembly elections.

The decision of BJP high command to postpone the cabinet expansion has surprised state BJP leaders who were hopeful of cabinet rejig after Ugadi festival.

Meanwhile, MB Patil, Chairman, Campaign Committee of Congress Thursday slammed the BJP saying when the state is on fire, CM Bommeni is busy with the issue of cabinet expansion. "This is too much from the BJP party. One after the other controversies are being created. Everything has been done for vote bank politics and polarisation. Everything will boomerang on the ruling BJP," he stated.

FITNESS MANTRA



Youngsters participated in the 'Yoga Mahotsav' in front of the Red Fort in New Delhi, Thursday on the occasion of the World Health Day

MEAT BAN ISSUE IN DELHI

Minorities panel issues show-cause notice to mayors of 3 corporations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 7: The Delhi Minorities Commission has issued a show-cause notice to mayors and commissioners of three municipal corporations in the city seeking an explanation on what basis they have decided to ban or shut meat shops during Navratri.

The Delhi Minorities Commission has sought a detailed report within 24 hours and asked the mayors to appear before it Friday. A copy of the notice has been marked to commissioners of three civic bodies.

The south and east Delhi mayors had on Tuesday asked meat shops in their jurisdictions to remain shut during Navratri, saying "most people do not consume non-vegetarian food" for these nine days, even though there was no official order issued by the civic bodies.

However, there has been no such word from the North Delhi Municipal Corporation, which like the other two is also ruled by the BJP. Mayors don't have the power to issue such orders, which can only be taken by a municipal commissioner.

"News reports about the subject have observed that the mayor is acting as a law unto himself. What he is calling for violates the basic free guaranteed in the Constitution. "Such proclamation can also insight and encourage hoghish behaviour on the ground. Senior authorities and the courts should step in and put a stop to such behaviour," the Minority Commission Chairman Zakir Khan said in the show cause notice issued Thursday.

He sought an explanation from the mayors forthwith "on which laid down rule and regulation, it has been decided by you to ban or shut down meat shops during Navratri".

Fear spread wide across meat markets in the city after South Delhi Municipal Corporation Mayor Mukesh Suryan threatened serious action if the meat shops were not shut down during the nine-day festival.

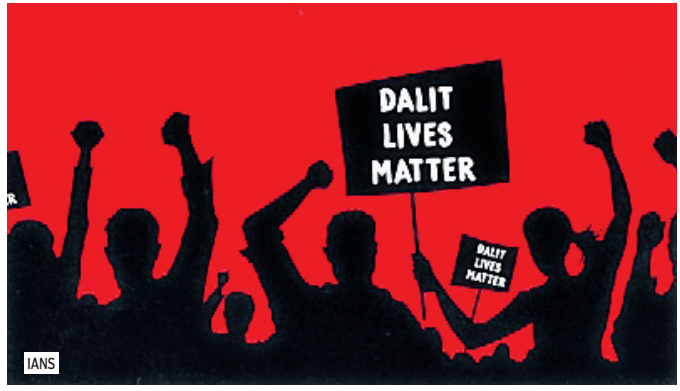
Dalit family forced to leave village after police action to check untouchability

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Koppal, April 7: Following the boycott of a Dalit family by villagers, the subsequent police action against the practice of untouchability has put at risk the future of the victim family in the village in Koppal district of Karnataka. The police and Dalit organizations supported the Dalit man at the time of the FIR and arrests, but have failed to provide succour to the family.

The family of Chandrashekar Shivappa Dasar, a 29-year-old Dalit man, has been allegedly forced to move out of Miyapur village in Koppal district following the police action against untouchability including the arrest of five persons belonging to the upper caste. Dasar, who has to take care of his parents and two children including a new born baby, told IANS that after the police action, his life turned to hell in the village.

"When my wife was 9 months pregnant and faced health issues, a villager who gives a car on rent denied me transport. The whole village stopped talking to me after the police action. More than that they saw me as if I was a rapist. We could not send our 4-year-old son to the Anganwadi centre.



Talking about his livelihood and future, Dasar said that he is planning to move to the nearby town of Kushtagi and starting a small business there. "People used to tell me that I don't speak at all, now they have boycotted me completely. I don't feel safe anymore in the village," he said.

Dasar has got a Rs 1 lakh loan from the government but feels that he should at least have been given a loan of Rs 5 lakh to restructure his life. Recalling what happened, Dasar said that his family had gone to the Marutheshwara temple in Miyapura village to get the 'abhisheka' (ritual) done on the occasion of the birthday of his son

UP COUNCIL POLLS

DELHI GOVT DECLARES 'DRY DAYS' IN BORDER AREAS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 7: The Delhi government has asked liquor vends, situated within 100 metres in the national capital from Ghaziabad, to observe 'dry days' for three days from Thursday on account of the biennial election to the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council.

In an order issued Thursday the Delhi government excise department has also asked the vends to observe a dry day April 12 on account of the counting day.

"On account of the Biennial Election to the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council, 2022, dry day has been declared from 4:00 PM of 7 April, 2022, to 9 April, 2022 till the end of poll, and 12.04.2022 (full day) on account of counting day," the Delhi government excise department said.

"All the licensees of the department whose retail vends/ premises are situated within 100 metres in Delhi from Ghaziabad observe Dry Days on dates as mentioned above,"

On account of the biennial election to the UP Legislative Council, 2022, dry day has been declared from 4pm of seven April, 2022, to 9 April, 2022 until the tip of ballot, & 12.04.2022 (full day) on account of counting working day

DELHI FEDERAL AUTHORITIES EXCISE PART

the order stated. The biennial election for 36 seats of the UP Legislative Council will be held April 9. The 36 seats are spread across 35 local authorities' constituencies, where polls were earlier planned on two different dates, but they will be conducted together April 9 now. The counting of votes will be taken up April 12. The voters in these elections are the village heads, members and chairmen of block development councils and Zila panchayats and corporators of urban civic bodies besides MLAs and MPs.



Delhi Cong holds protest against central govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 7: The Congress Delhi unit Thursday staged a protest at Jantar Mantar against the BJP-led government at the Centre over the continuous rise in petrol, diesel and CNG prices.

Several Congress leaders and workers participated in the party's 'Mehngai Mukht Bharat' campaign and raised slogans against the Centre. Delhi Congress president Anil Chaudhary alleged, "The prime minister is least bothered about the common man."

"The protest over the issue was "started by Rahul Gandhi from Parliament and now it has spread across the nation", he said, adding the stir would intensify in the days to come. "Instead of poverty they (BJP) talk about eradicating the Congress from the country. This was just the first phase of our movement and we will continue to raise our voice," Chaudhary said.



Vegetable prices soar in Delhi due to high transportation cost

AGENCIES

New Delhi, April 7: Vegetable prices in Delhi and adjoining areas have shot up due to an increase in the transportation cost following the fuel price hike, leaving the customers as well as the sellers struggling.

Vegetable sellers say they are facing shrinking profits and reduced sales as due to the increased transportation cost and the ultimate hike in the buying price, they are bound to sell vegetables at a higher price, which means either a low margin for them or limited sales. Dharmendra Singh, a vegetable vendor in Lajpat Nagar, said the prices of vegetables have gone up.

"Tomatoes are now being sold for Rs 40 per kg whereas earlier, the price was between Rs 25 and Rs 30. Bottle gourd is now being sold for Rs 40 per kg. Even the price of



potatoes has gone up. It is now available for Rs 25 per kg. Earlier, it used to be sold for Rs 10 per kg. "The prices of most of the vegetables have gone up. We hardly make any profit. We buy the vegetables paying a fixed price from the market. Another problem is that we do not get to choose the vegetables at the mandis. We are given a fixed slot and some times, inferior quality vegetables get mixed up. With

Cab, auto drivers threaten strike

NEW DELHI: With a sharp hike in CNG prices, auto, cab, and taxi drivers in the city have threatened to go on an "indefinite strike" from April 18 if the government doesn't provide subsidy on the fuel or increase the fare. Associations of auto, cab and taxi drivers will hold protests against the Centre as well as the city government at Jantar Mantar on Friday and at the Delhi Secretariat April 11 against rise in CNG prices. Sarvodaya Drivers Welfare Association Ravi Rathor, who claims to have around 4 lakh drivers as members in Delhi-NCR, said that his association will go on an "indefinite strike" if their demands to reduce CNG prices or increase in fare are not fulfilled. Delhi's public transport, including cabs, autos, taxis and buses, is majorly CNG driven. CNG prices in the national capital on Thursday were hiked for the second day in a row by Rs 2.50 per kilogram, taking the total increase since March to Rs 12.5 per kg.

available in the market for Rs 350 per kg, which means you would not even get one for Rs 10. Capsicum is Rs 100 per kg. Then the customers bargain. They know that the prices have gone up, but still they ask for chilies for free," Akhilesh said.

Deepak Ranjan, a vegetable seller at Sector 76 in Noida, also echoed similar views and pointed out that the rates have gone up at the vegetable markets due to the fuel price hike, coupled with damage of crops in Gujarat due to a cyclone. "Due to the hike in the prices of petrol, diesel and cooking gas, the transportation cost has increased, causing a ripple effect on vegetable prices. The rates of lemons are soaring because of a natural calamity in Gujarat, while other vegetables that come from different states have become costlier due to the high transportation cost," he told PTI.

of the day quote

People are troubled by the rising prices of fuel and other essential goods

Let me make it amply clear in most unequivocal terms that we condemn the statement of Al-Qaeda...

Rajya Sabha adjourned 2 days early even though Oppn was ready to pass WMD & Antarctica Bills...

SHORT TAKES

Birbhum violence: CBI arrests four

Rampurhat (WB)/New Delhi: In the latest development in the Birbhum violence case, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Thursday arrested four persons from Mumbai...

Three ATM robbers arrested

New Delhi: The Special Cell of the Delhi Police on Thursday said that they have busted a Mewati gang and arrested three of its members who were wanted in a number of ATM robbery cases...

Gold seized in Manipur, 1 held

Imphal: The Manipur Police Thursday seized around 3 kg gold valued at around ₹1.50 crore -- suspected to have been smuggled from Myanmar...

Russian national arrested in Goa

Panaji: One Russian national has been arrested from the beach village of Arambol in North Goa, resulting in the seizure of 2.40 kg marijuana...



Country's economic situation getting bad to worse; I doubt if states will be able to pay salaries in coming days

MAMATA BANERJEE | BENGAL CM

IN THE OFFING

The Goa police is mulling the purchase of a helicopter to assist road accident victims in the state, even as newly-appointed Director General of Police Jaspal Singh Thursday said that a chopper would also aid the state police in keeping watch over large swaths of area



Budget Session ends; stormy scene in RS

The Session, which had 27 sittings spread over two months, witnessed spirited debates on a range of issues, while Opposition members said the Narendra Modi government had concluded the proceedings ahead of schedule as it wanted to "run away" from the debate on high fuel prices



Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi greets Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, during a meeting after the Lok Sabha was adjourned indefinitely, in New Delhi

New Delhi, April 7: The Budget Session of Parliament concluded Thursday, a day ahead of schedule with the Rajya Sabha witnessing stormy scenes as opposition disallowed Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu to complete his customary valedictory address...

Sabha were by and large smooth, the Rajya Sabha witnessed an angry exchange between Naidu and opposition members, including Mallikarjun Kharge, Derek O'Brien who wanted a discussion on repeated hike in fuel prices...

in the entire session, but at least "this scam" should be discussed. However, Naidu rejected the opposition plea and called for Zero Hour. As opposition members trooped into the Well, Naidu adjourned the proceedings sine die without the customary valedictory address...

OMAR GRILLED IN J&K BANK CASE



New Delhi, April 7: The ED questioned NC leader Omar Abdullah Thursday in connection with the purchase of a building by J&K Bank some 12 years ago when he was Jammu and Kashmir chief minister...

They called me for questioning in connection with an ongoing investigation in a nearly 12-year-old case. I answered them as much as I could. I will further help them if they need me. They did not accuse me of anything

OMAR ABDULLAH | FORMER J&K CM

After spending more than five hours at the ED office here in response to summons sent last week, Abdullah told reporters that he had not been accused of anything and that he had "answered them as much as I could"...

statement, which also said that the ED's action was another case of misuse of investigative agencies by the central government. According to the sources, Abdullah maintained during the questioning that as chief minister, he had no role in the purchase of the building...

Ukraine universities allow students to intern at local hosps

New Delhi, April 7: Ukrainian medical universities have allowed their foreign students to gain practical training at hospitals and clinics in their own countries, giving relief to thousands of Indian students who have fled the war-hit nation...



The universities have also urged foreign governments to provide practical training opportunities to their students so that they can gain requisite skills. After being shut due to the deteriorating security situation in Ukraine in the face of intense Russian offensive...

rescue of such students, several hospitals and private clinics here have started offering practical classes and internships. "In the current situation in Ukraine, students are taught with the help of technologies. But students do not have the opportunity to learn practical skills directly at the clinical departments of the University and treatment and pre-

vention facilities of the Dnipro city," a Dinipro State Medical University (DMSU) said in a notice. The DSMU has appealed to public institutions of the countries of foreign students "to provide medical practice opportunities for students of the university in the spring semester 2021/2022 academic year in public and private clinics in your country"...

Man sets son on fire in fight over accounts

Bangalore, April 7: In a shocking incident, a man set his son afire after the latter threatened to finish him off over monetary dispute in Bangalore. The disturbing CCTV footage of the incident has become viral on social media. The deceased was identified as Arpith (25). The accused identified as Surendra, a resident of Azadnagar, has been taken into custody by police. According to police, Surendra had torched Arpith on April 1.

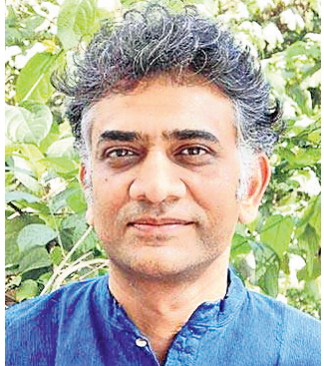
Police said Arpith could not manage the unit properly and was unable to give account's detail for ₹1.5 crore earlier too

Arpith, who had been admitted to the Victoria hospital in Bengaluru, succumbed to burn injuries Thursday. Surendra, who was running a fabrication unit, has made his son Arpith its in-charge. Police said Arpith could not manage the unit properly and was unable to give account's detail for ₹1.5 crore earlier too. This time, Arpith spent ₹12,000 for personal reasons due to which his father got infuriated. On the fateful day, the father and son duo quarrelled over the issue and Arpith told his father that he wouldn't give details of the accounts as he is determined to finish him (Surendra) off. They quarrelled before workers and father threw flammable substance on his son and torched him. Arpith and eye witnesses have recorded their statements to the police. The police are investigating the case.

Drop airport alert against Patel: Court to CBI

The court noted the CBI submission that the investigation was continuing since 2021, and said if Patel was a flight risk, he would have been arrested

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Pawan Kumar passed the order and directed the probe agency to file a compliance report. Earlier during the arguments, the CBI opposed the application of Patel saying there was a likelihood of him fleeing from justice if he was allowed to leave the country. The CBI said that Patel was highly influential. "We are not demanding for arrest. We are saying he should not cross the country," the agency said. The court noted the CBI submission that the investigation was continuing since 2021, and said if Patel was a flight risk, he would have been arrested. The



court said he could have run away during the investigation also then. Patel's counsel had opposed the CBI's contention, claiming that cit-

Tight security at Yogi's residence

Locknow/Gorakhpur: Even as investigations continue into the attack on the Gorakhnath temple in Gorakhpur, security has been beefed up at the official residence of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Lucknow and also at the Gorakhnath temple, of which he is the head priest. According to official sources, two platoons of CRPF have been deployed at the chief minister's Lucknow residence and women personnel will also be deployed round the clock. "All visitors will be properly screened and any suspicious movement in the area will be checked immediately. People coming for Janata Darbar and other functions will have to go through strict security checks," said a senior official.

izens' rights are being railroaded by the agency. "It is time that we send a suitable reply to law enforcement agencies and society," he told the court. Patel's application has further sought the court's permission to visit the US to take up his foreign assignment and lecture series organised by various universities till May 30. It submitted that Patel was stopped by immigration authorities at the Bangalore International Airport on Wednesday while he was boarding a flight to the US. The application claimed that the action was taken despite an order by a Gujarat court granting him permission to travel abroad.

After 41 yrs, man convicted for impersonating landlord's missing son

Patna, April 7: A person, who fraudulently claimed to be the missing son of a big landlord in Bihar's Nalanda district and even became heir to his property, has been unmasked after 41 years. The court of Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Manwendra Mishra has convicted accused Dayanand Gosai under various sections of the IPC sections including cheating and criminal conspiracy and sent him to jail. The case was similar to many Bollywood blockbusters where someone replaced the son of a rich man due to similar looks and personality. In this case, the story began way back in 1977 when Kanhaiya Singh, son of big landlord Kameshwar

Singh went to Chandl block for a examination but never returned home. A missing complaint was registered in the Silaw police station. In 1981, a beggar, who was later identified as Gosai, came to Morgawan village and went door to door seeking alms. When some villagers ask him about his identity, he said that he is Kanhaiya Singh, son of Kameshwar Singh. As Kameshwar Singh was called to the spot, the beggar greeted him and called "Papa". As it was five years, no one could identify him properly, but as Gosai gave information related to Kanhaiya Singh and his family, Kameshwar Singh accepted him as his missing son and took him to the house. However, Kanhaiya Singh's mother Ramsakhi Devi, was not convinced and refused to accept



him as a son, citing some physical features of her son that were absent in him. While the elderly Kameshwar Singh, 75, had under the beggar's and villagers' persuasion, accepted Gosai as his missing son, Ramsakhi Devi filed a case against him, alleging that he was a fraud and seeking he not be allowed to inherit the property.

However, after a few years, Ramsakhi Devi died due to illness and elderly age, and as Kameshwar Singh had already accepted him as son, a local Nalanda court declared Gosai as his heir. Kameshwar Singh was having two shopping cum residential complexes in Patna with each spread in 15 kathas and worth more than

₹200 crore at current market price. Besides 150 bighas agricultural land in Morgawan village, he owned two buildings and some more residential plots in the village. Gosai now started living a luxurious life, especially after Kameshwar Singh also passed away. However, Vidya Singh, the daughter of Kameshwar and Ramsakhi Devi, continued her mother's fight. She challenged the decision of Nalanda court in the Patna High Court but it ruled in favour of Gosai. Vidya Singh then went to the Supreme Court, which ruled that the case has several points which need investigation. It had also observed that a case cannot be rejected on the basis of death of a complainant. Following that decision, the hearing of the fraud case started

again in a Nalanda court, but saw may delays. Three months ago, ACJM Mishra directed the judicial officers to start speedy trials of every case lodged before 2000. This case came to his notice and he directed it be heard on a daily basis. "During the hearing of the case, we have submitted proof that the person who posed as Kanhaiya Singh is actually Dayanand Gosai, son of Prabhu Gosai, a native of Jamui district," said Dr Rajesh Pathak, the prosecution lawyer. "We managed to find three persons named Nandan, Vishnu Gosai and a Chokidar of the village who identify him as Dayanand Gosai, younger son of Prabhu Gosai. During the hearing, we demanded for the DNA test of the alleged person which he denied," he added.

international

of the day quote

Gabon is greedy to attract more Indian companies. We also want to develop our tourism sector and encourage more Indians to visit our country and in turn, we also want Gabonese to visit India and further enhance the bond between the two countries

HUGUES MBADINGA MADIYA | FOREIGN INVESTMENT MINISTER

While much of the public attention in recent years has been focused on foreign interference, domestic threats are on the rise globally

NICK CLEGG | META'S PRESIDENT FOR GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Strong deterrence through the Korea-US military alliance and combined defence posture cannot be emphasized enough in a grave international security situation surrounding the Korean Peninsula, including North Korea's ICBM launch

YOON SEOK-YOUL | FORMER PROSECUTOR GENERAL OF SK

SHORT TAKES

Pak's passport again 4th worst in world

Lahore: Pakistan's passport has been again ranked the fourth worst in the world by the Henley Passport Index, which grades travel documents from different countries on the basis of international mobility enjoyed by their holders, Express Tribune reported. According to the index, Pakistan is placed on the 109th position on the list, with visa-free access to only 31 destinations across the world. Only three other countries' passports rank lower than Pakistan's in the world which include Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Yemen's Prez steps aside

Sanaa: Yemen's exiled president stepped aside and transferred his powers to a presidential council Thursday, as international and regional efforts to end the country's long-running civil war gained momentum with a two-month truce. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, major players in the conflict appear to have played a role in President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi's decision, quickly welcoming it with a pledge of \$3 billion in aid. The head of the new council has close ties to Riyadh.

Austria to expel 4 Russian diplomats

Vienna: Austria Thursday announced its decision to expel four Russian diplomats for activities incompatible with their diplomatic status. The diplomats to be expelled include three staff members of the Russian Embassy in Vienna and one staff member of the Russian Consulate General in Salzburg, said the Austrian foreign ministry on Twitter. Xinhua news agency reported. The Russian diplomats have been declared persona non grata and have been requested to leave Austria before April 12, said the ministry.

Flu set to return to Australia

Sydney: Australia's two-year drop in influenza cases have ended as flu numbers are on the rise ahead of winter here. Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, when large sections of the population were in lockdown and international borders were closed, flu numbers plummeted to record lows, Xinhua news agency reported.



As we adjust to the new normal, do continue exercising social and personal responsibility, such as by testing ourselves if we feel unwell, and abiding by prevailing safe management measures. Let's continue marching forward to get through this pandemic together

LEE HSIEN LOONG | SINGAPORE, PM

SHANGHAI BECOMES NEW COVID EPICENTRE

Shanghai has become the epicentre of Covid cases in the country as it set a record of six-straight days of logging around 20,000 cases, as the city ramped up mass testing to tackle the rapid spread of the Omicron variant



Rishi Sunak faces questions over wife's UK tax status

Sunak has come under pressure in recent weeks after his mini-Budget last month was seen as not doing enough to tackle the rising cost of living crisis amid soaring energy and fuel prices amid the knock-on impacts of the pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine conflict

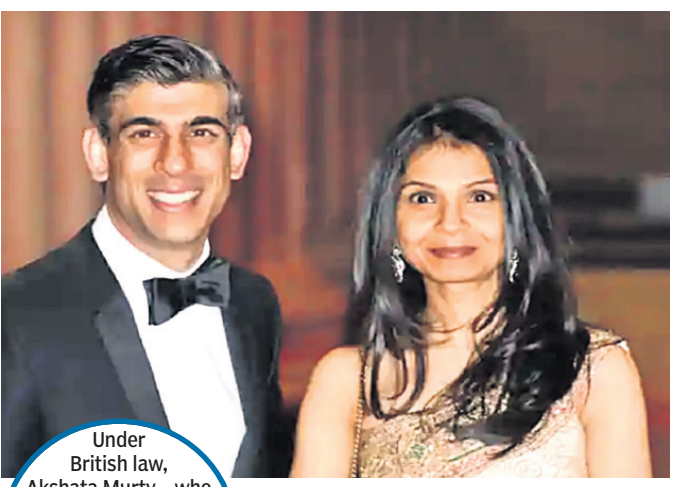
AGENCIES

London, April 7: UK exchequer Chancellor Rishi Sunak, the son-in-law of Narayana Murthy, has once again come under fire as it has been revealed that his wife Akshata Murthy has a non-domicile status for UK tax purposes which means that Akshata Murthy does not have to pay tax to the UK on income outside Britain. The UK Opposition has ques-

tioned the non-domicile tax status of India-born Akshata Murthy, daughter of Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy, and demanded an urgent explanation from her husband - UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak.

A non-domicile status means Murthy, who owns shares in Infosys, is not legally bound to pay tax in the UK on income earned overseas. A spokesperson for Murthy, 42, who is a director at venture capital firm Catamaran UK, said the non-domicile status is because India does not recognise dual nationality and that the professional pays all the legally required tax in the UK.

"Akshata Murthy is a citizen of India, the country of her birth and parent's home," the spokesperson said. "India does not allow its citizens to hold the citizenship of another country simultaneously. So, according to British law, Ms Murthy is treated as non-domiciled for UK tax purposes. She has always and will continue to pay UK taxes on all her UK income," the spokesperson said. British Prime Minister Boris



Under British law, Akshata Murthy - who has lived in the UK for nine years - would be automatically deemed domiciled in the UK after 15 years

The latest focus on Sunak's wife comes in the wake of attacks last month over Infosys presence in Moscow, while the UK Chancellor imposed economic sanctions and called upon all UK businesses to end their Russian dealings over the conflict in Ukraine

Johnson refused to be drawn over the issue when asked to comment during a visit to a nuclear power plant for the launch of the country's new

energy strategy Thursday. "I think it is very important in politics if you possibly can to try and keep people's families out of it," said Johnson.

Russia suspended from UN Human Rights Council

AGENCIES

United Nations, April 7: Russia was suspended from the UN Human Rights Council after the 193-member General Assembly on Thursday voted to adopt a resolution moved by the US that received 93 votes in favour and 58 abstentions, including by India.

The resolution titled 'Suspension of the rights of membership of the Russian Federation in the Human Rights Council' was adopted with 93 votes in favour, 24 against and 58 abstentions. Those abstaining included Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka and UAE. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Dmytro Kuleba tweeted that "Russia's rights of membership in the UN Human Rights Council has just been suspended. War criminals have no place in UN bodies aimed at protecting human rights. Grateful to all member states which supported the relevant UNGA resolution and chose the right side of history."

The General Assembly resumed its Emergency Special Session after a request from Antigua and Barbuda, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Georgia, Japan, Liberia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States and the Head of the Delegation of the European Union, on behalf of 27 members of the European Union.



The Human Rights Council consists of 47 Member States, elected directly and individually by secret ballot by the majority of the members of the General Assembly.

The General Assembly, by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, "may suspend the rights of membership in the Council of a member of the Council that commits gross and systematic violations of human rights."

The Assembly voted on the draft resolution that "decides to suspend the rights of membership in the Human Rights Council of the Russian Federation."

Russia's current membership on the Council ends in December 2023. The only time a Member State was suspended from the Geneva-based body was Libya in 2011 when in an unprecedented move a resolution was adopted in the General Assembly that had expressed "deep concern about the human rights situation" in Libya in the wake of Muammar Al-Gaddafi's violent

India abstains on resolution

India abstained on a General Assembly resolution that was passed Thursday suspending Russia from the UN Human Rights Council. Permanent Representative TS Tirumurti said after the vote: "If India has chosen any side, it is the side of peace and it is for an immediate end to violence." He said of the abstention, "We do so for reasons of both substance and process." He said that India abstained because it had reservations about how "due process" was applied to the resolution, while it "unequivocally condemned" the killings in Bucha in Ukraine, which was the impetus for the resolution. "We firmly believe that all decisions should be taken fully respecting due process, as all our democratic polity and structures enjoin us to do. This applies to international organisations as well, particularly the United Nations," he said after the vote.

crackdown on anti-Government protesters. The draft resolution notes the Human Rights Council resolution of March 4, 2022, in particular its grave concern regarding reports of "gross and systematic violations and abuses of human rights" and "violations of international humanitarian law" committed by Russia during its aggression against Ukraine.

Ukraine seeks arms from NATO

AGENCIES

Kyiv, April 7: Ukraine told residents of its industrial heartland to leave while they still can and urged Western nations to send "weapons, weapons, weapons" Thursday after Russian forces withdrew from the shattered outskirts of Kyiv to regroup for an offensive in the country's east.

Russia's six-week-old invasion failed to take Ukraine's capital quickly and achieve what Western countries say was President Vladimir Putin's initial aim to oust the Ukrainian government.

Russia's focus is now on the Donbas, a mostly Russian-speaking region in eastern Ukraine. In Brussels, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba urged NATO to provide more weapons to help prevent further atrocities like those

reported in Kyiv's northern suburbs. Ukrainian authorities are working to identify hundreds of bodies they say were found in Bucha and other towns after Russian troops withdrew and to document what they say were war crimes.

"My agenda is very simple... it's weapons, weapons and weapons," Kuleba said as he arrived at NATO headquarters for talks with the military organization's foreign ministers about Ukraine's fight to defend itself.

Some NATO nations worry they may be Russia's next target, but the alliance is striving to avoid actions that might pull any of its 30 members directly into the war. Still, he NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg urged member nations to send Ukraine more weapons, and not just defensive arms.

US ends "normal trade ties" with Russia

Washington: Congress voted overwhelmingly Thursday to suspend normal trade relations with Russia and ban the importation of its oil, ratcheting up the US Response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine amid reports of atrocities. House action came after the Senate approved the two bills with 100-0 votes. The measures now go to President Joe Biden to be signed into law. Lawmakers overwhelmingly support the substance of the two Bills, but they had languished for weeks in the Senate as lawmakers worked to hammer out the final details. Biden has already taken executive action to ban Russian oil, liquefied natural gas and coal to the United States. The legislation puts the effort into law. The bill to end normal trade relations with Russia paves the way for Biden to enact higher tariffs on various imports, such as certain steel and aluminum products, further weakening the Russian economy under President Vladimir Putin. It also ensures Belarus receives less favorable tariff treatment.

'Tomb of Sand' makes it to International Booker shortlist

Geetanjali Shree's book translated into English by Daisy Rockwell and described by the judges as "loud and irresistible novel", will compete with five other titles from around the world for the prestigious 50,000 pounds literary prize, which is split evenly between the author and translator

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London/New Delhi, April 7: Author Geetanjali Shree's novel 'Tomb of Sand' Thursday became

the first Hindi language work of fiction to be shortlisted for the International Booker Prize.

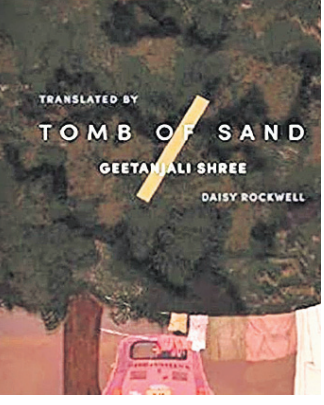
"The (International) Booker is a very special recognition and I wasn't waiting for it, wasn't expecting it, so its coming is a wonderful surprise for me and recognition for our work - what Daisy (Rockwell) my translator has done and my original work 'Ret Samadhi'," Shree told PTL.

"It is such a wonderful ratification that it comes from the Booker committee, and it has come repeatedly, first they put me on the longlist and now the shortlist ... Of course, it takes a bit of time to sink in," said the 64-year-old author, hoping to attend the award ceremony in London May 26 this year.

The other five titles in the shortlist announced at the London Book Fair include: 'Cursed Bunny' by Bora Chung, translated by Anton



Hur from Korean; 'A New Name: Septology VI-VII' by Jon Fosse, translated by Damion Searls from Norwegian; 'Heaven' by Mieko Kawakami, translated by Samuel Bett and David Boyd from Japanese; 'Elena Knows' by Claudia Piñeiro,



translated by Frances Riddle from Spanish; and 'The Books of Jacob' by Olga Tokarczuk, translated by Jennifer Croft from Polish. "Translation is an intimate, intricate dance that crosses borders, cultures and languages. There is lit-

tle to compare to the awe and exhilaration of discovering a perfect pairing of writer and translator," said Frank Wynne, chair of the judges and the first translator to lead the Booker judging panel.

"As a jury we have had the pleasure of reading many extraordinary books, and choosing a shortlist from among them has been difficult and sometimes heart-breaking. These six titles from six languages explore the borders and boundaries of human experience, whether haunting and surreal, poignant and tender, or exuberant and capricious.

"In their differences, they offer glimpses of literature from around the world, but they all share a fierce and breath-taking originality that is a testament to the endless inventiveness of fiction," he said. For the first time in 2022, the

shortlisted authors and translators will each receive 2,500 pounds, increased from 1,000 pounds in previous years - bringing the total value of the prize to 80,000 pounds.

Keeping extremely busy after her novel created history by making it to the longlist of International Booker Prize 2022, New Delhi-based Shree, author of three novels and several story collections, said a flood of congratulatory WhatsApp messages broke the good news to her.

Shree, the Mainpuri, Uttar Pradesh-born author, whose work has been translated into several languages - including English, French, German, Serbian, and Korean - has received and been shortlisted for a number of awards and fellowships. "Tomb of Sand" is one of her first books to be published in the UK.

FOR A CAUSE



People bathe in a pond, colored red to signify blood, during a protest performance against the Russian invasion of Ukraine in front of the Russian embassy in Vilnius, Lithuania

PTI PHOTO

DE KOCK LIFTS SUPER GIANTS

Titans lock horns with Punjab Kings



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

TIGHT SPELL: Ravi Bishnoi (C) is congratulated by his teammates after dismissing a Delhi Capitals batter, Thursday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Navi Mumbai, April 7: Quinton de Kock showed imperious form in his knock (80, 52b, 9x4, 2x6) as Lucknow Super Giants outplayed Delhi Capitals by six wickets for their third successive win in their debut IPL season here Thursday.

Lucknow eventually managed to get the job done with the young Ayush Badoni (10 n o) hitting the decisive four and a six off Shardul Thakur (1/29) in the final over.

Earlier, Shaw's knock was all class before Lucknow bounced back in the game with an impressive bowling performance. Young leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi (2/22) was the standout performer for the new IPL entrants.

Mumbai, April 7: Gujarat Titans' lethal pace attack is all set to ask some probing questions to the dynamic Punjab Kings top-order when the two teams lock horns in an IPL match Friday.

In terms of composition and balance, both Gujarat and Punjab are very different and that makes for an enticing contest on a Brabourne Stadium track where runs are always on offer.

Punjab in their three games have shown that the approach this year would be to go hammer and tongs during the Powerplay overs and set the tempo for the rest of the innings.

Sanctions for Rana, Bumrah

MUMBAI: Kolkata Knight Riders batter Nitish Rana has been reprimanded and fined 10 per cent of his match fees for a level 1 offence during his team's IPL match against Mumbai Indians.

Senior MI pacer Jasprit Bumrah has been let off with a reprimand for breaching the code of conduct during the same game, which KKR won by five wickets here Wednesday.

The IPL press release, however, doesn't exactly specify the breach. "Nitish Rana from Kolkata Knight Riders has been reprimanded and fined 10 per cent of his match-fee for breaching the IPL's Code of Conduct during his team's match against Mumbai Indians at Pune," the media release stated. "Rana admitted to the Level 1 offence of the IPL Code of Conduct and accepted the sanction," it further stated.

In case of Bumrah, there was no financial penalty and only a warning. "Jasprit Bumrah from Mumbai Indians has been reprimanded for breaching the IPL Code of Conduct during his team's match against Kolkata Knight Riders at Pune. Bumrah admitted to the Level 1 offence of the IPL Code of Conduct and accepted the sanction," the BCCI stated.

For Level 1 breaches of the Code of Conduct, the match referee's decision is final and binding.

comfortable chase and the KL Rahul-led side made sure it was, getting home with two balls to spare on a tricky surface.

De Kock was at his destructive best as he shared a 73-run stand with his opening partner Rahul (24). The South African wicketkeeper-batter was particularly harsh on compatriot Anrich Nortje who was playing his first game since November. The fit again pacer, playing his first IPL game in India, was smashed for three fours and a six by De Kock in an over leaking 19 runs.

In what turned out to be a forgettable night for Nortje, the South African pacer had to be taken off the attack later after bowling two waist-high no balls.

After Rahul's fall, his team needed 76 off the last 10 overs. De Kock, who collected nine fours and two sixes, put the team on the cusp of victory with his second 50-plus score of the tournament.

With the pitch not the easiest one to bat on, Lucknow struggled to finish the game with even the in-form Deepak Hooda (11) and experienced Krunal Pandya (19) not finding the big hits.

adds to the potency of the Gujarat attack but their batting still looks a bit questionable save Shubman Gill and skipper Pandya.

While senior openers Shikhar Dhawan and spinner Agarwal are yet to make significant contributions, it would be an onerous job against the Titans attack.

It is the middle-order of Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Livingstone and newcomer Jitesh Sharma, that is expected to provide fireworks with M Shahrukh Khan and Odean Smith at the rear. They would like to target the weak Indian bowlers like Rahul Tewatia and Varun Aarons.

However where Gujarat might face problems is in the batting front. Shubman Gill is the only assured batter they have till now. Vijay Shankar as a top-order batter has looked far from convincing and Matthew Wade hasn't yet hit the rhythm although he is capable of big hits. Abhinav Manohar is very new at this stage while Tewatia and David Miller aren't exactly known for their consistency.

In case of Punjab, they have two match-winning bowlers in Kagiso Rabada and leg-spinner Rahul Chahar but Arshdeep Singh, debutant Vaibhav Arora and Livingstone himself did a commendable job against Chennai.

Ferguson and Mohammed Shami make for the most potent new ball pair after the first two weeks. With head coach Anil Kumble they would like to devise a strategy to keep Punjab Kings under check during the Powerplay overs.

Hardik Pandya again bowling full tilt and touching 140 clicks also

Stern Dutch test awaits India eves

BENZEMA DOES IT AGAIN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, April 7: Olympic champions, the Netherlands have arrived with their second-string side but the Indian women's hockey team still faces a stern test when it clashes with the world number one rival in the double-leg FIH Pro League tie, starting here Friday.

None of the players, that competed for the Netherlands during their successful Olympic campaign, features in the visiting side but the Indians can't breathe easy, going by the standard of the sport in the Dutch land.

The last time, the two teams clashed during the Tokyo Olympics, the Netherlands had hammered India 5-1. However, the Indian women so far have done well in their debut season. They are placed fourth in the standings with 12 points from six games.

Netherlands, on the other hand, are sitting atop the table with 17 points from six matches. India captain Savita is aware of Netherlands' strengths but since they are playing at home and have a Dutch coach to guide in Janneke Schopman, it might help them in some way.

But the Indians can have a sigh of relief that the Dutch have



fielded a completely new-look and young side for these two encounters. The captain said it would be a mistake to underestimate Netherlands, just because

they don't have a single Olympian in their squad.

Rani Rampal, the skipper of India's squad in the Tokyo Olympics where they cherished a historic fourth-place finish, is available for selection and it augurs well for the side. But Savita said with important tournaments lined up this year, a decision on whether Rani plays in the upcoming two games will be decided by the coach.

The Indians would look to take forward the good work they did

In-form India start favourite vs Korea

Potchefstroom: Unbeaten so far in the tournament, a confident India team is expected to steamroll lower-ranked Korea and seal the semifinal spot in the Junior Women Hockey World Cup, here Friday. The Indians finished on top of Pool D with maximum nine points from three victories. After humbling Wales (5-1), Germany (2-1) and Malaysia (4-0), India go into the quarterfinals with a superior 11-2 record. On the contrary, with just three points in their kitty, Korea finished second in Pool C on account of a better goal difference. With three Olympians in the squad in skipper Salima Tete and strikers Sharmila Devi and Lalremsiami, the Indians looked a completely dominant side, rich with big match experience. But the star of India's performance so far in the tournament has been young striker Mumtaz Khan, who has scored five goals so far, including a hat-trick against Malaysia Wednesday. In other quarterfinals of the day, Netherlands will take on South Africa, England will face United States and Argentina will be up against Germany.

Frenchman's second successive hat-trick in the Champions League give Real Madrid edge over Chelsea

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, April 7: Back-to-back Champions League hat tricks just reinforce the enduring value of Karim Benzema's clinical finishing to Real Madrid.

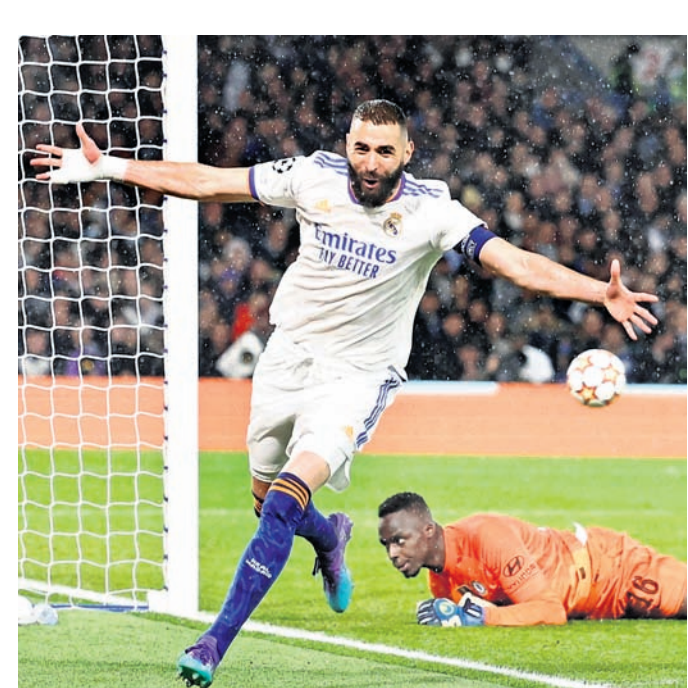
Carlo Ancelotti sees so much more being provided by the 34-year-old forward he compares to a fine wine. "He is more of a leader every day," the Madrid coach said after Benzema's goals produced a 3-1 victory over Chelsea in the quarterfinals Wednesday.

This latest goal burst could end Chelsea's title defense, barring the type of second-leg collapse by Madrid that Paris Saint-Germain endured last month at the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium.

Benzema now has 37 goals in 36 games in all competitions this season, including the three that turned around the last-16 meeting with PSG.

The France international is almost single-handedly keeping the Spanish giants on the path to a record-extending 14th European Cup — and a fifth for himself — and powering them to regaining the La Liga title. Of Madrid's last 11 goals, 10 have been scored by the mainstay of the team for the last 13 years.

The first two at Stamford Bridge were thumping headers inside three first-half minutes in the driv-



RUNNING RIOT: Karim Benzema wheels away in celebration after scoring against Chelsea at the Stamford Bridge, Wednesday

ing rain, while the third was gifted to him in a manner that raised doubts about whether Chelsea can muster a comeback in Madrid Tuesday.

Chelsea had given itself hope of recovering when Kai Havertz reduced the deficit with a header five minutes before halftime from

Jorginho's cross. But only a minute of the second half had elapsed when Chelsea's slack defending proved so costly.

Edouard Mendy was about 30 yards out from goal when the ball came to him and the goalkeeper brought it down with his chest. Rather than clearing down the field, he sent a short pass tamely to the dawdling Antonio Rudiger. It was a gift for Benzema to intercept before striking into the unprotected net with Mendy still stranded outside the penalty area.

The precision of Benzema's first-half headers — after getting on the end of crosses from Vinicius Jr. in the 21st minute and Luka Modric in the 24th — was in contrast to the shortcomings of Chelsea's No.9. Substitute Romelu Lukaku had a great chance with a header of his own when there was still more than 20 minutes to go, but glanced it wide of the post, resulting in groans around Stamford Bridge.

An all-English semifinal is looking less likely. The winner of this quarterfinal will face Manchester City or Atletico Madrid, with City ahead 1-0 after Tuesday's first leg at the Etihad Stadium.

Sindhu, Srikanth storm into quarters

VILLARREAL STUN BAYERN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Suncheon, April 7: Ace Indian shuttlers PV Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth progressed to the quarterfinals but Lakshya Sen was ousted after losing his second round match at the Korea Open Super 500 badminton tournament here Thursday.

World No.7 Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medallist, got the better of World No.26 Japan's Aya Ohori 21-15, 21-10 in a lopsided contest to take her head-to-head contest against the Japanese to an overwhelming 12-0. The third seeded Indian will

next face familiar foe in Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrunphan, whom she had defeated in the final of the Swiss Open last month.

The former World Champion, who has claimed two Super 300 titles this season at Syed Modi International and Swiss Open, enjoys a 16-1 lead in 17 meetings against the World No.11 Thai.

World Championship bronze medallist Sen, ranked ninth in the world, went down 20-22, 9-21 to World No.24 Shesar Hiren Rhustavito in 33 minutes.

The country's other fast-rising shuttler Malvika Bansod also failed to advance to the quarterfinals as she was brushed aside by Thailand's Pornpawee Chochuwong 8-21, 14-21

in a second round women's singles clash that lasted 39 minutes.

It was curtains for the mixed doubles pair of Sumeeth Reddy and Ashwini Ponnappa as well. The duo fought hard but eventually went down 20-22, 21-18, 14-21 to the fifth seed Chinese combine of Ou Xuan Yi and Huang Ya Qiong in a gruelling battle that lasted close to an hour.

Men's pairing of MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila, however, retired while lagging 5-8 in the first game against second seeded Indonesian pair of Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Setiawan.

Villarreal: Villarreal pulled off another surprising Champions League result, this time against sixth-time champion Bayern Munich to boost its hopes of returning to the semifinals for the first time in 16 years. After making it past the group stage and eliminating Juventus in the round of 16, the modest Spanish club took a big step toward reaching the last four by holding on to a 1-0 victory against favorite Bayern in the first leg of the quarterfinals Wednesday.

Arnaud Danjuma's goal early in the first half was enough for Villarreal at the La Cerámica Stadium, with Bayern unable to get past the solid defense of Unai Emery's squad and losing only for the second time in 30 Champions League matches.

Bayern were unbeaten in their last 22 away games in the Champions League, with 17 wins and five draws in a record run that had started after a loss in 2017 to a PSG team coached by Emery.

