

NEW DELHI MONDAY 14 JUNE 2021



Vol. 28 No. 118 | 16 PAGES | ₹5.00

TABLOID | **10**

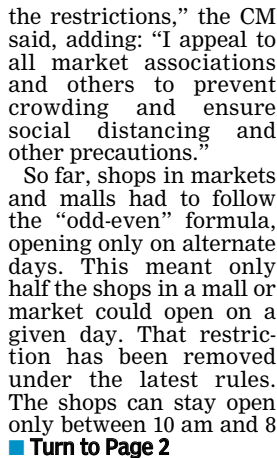
Writer K.V. Aditya is set to make directorial debut with historical drama, *Unheard*



The country's deep divisions were on vivid display as Mr Bennett spoke in Parliament and was repeatedly interrupted and heckled by supporters of Mr Netanyahu.

The driving force behind the coalition is Yair Lapid, a political centrist who will be foreign minister now and become PM in two years, if the government lasts that long. He called off a planned speech to Parliament, instead saying he was ashamed that his 86-year-old mother had to witness the raucous behaviour of his opponents. In a brief speech, he asked for "forgiveness from my mother". — AP

■ Another report on Page 4



New Delhi, June 13: The Congress must bring widespread reforms across all levels of the organisation to show it is no longer in a state of inertia and to present itself as a viable political alternative to the BJP, party veteran Kapil Sibal said on Sunday.

Mr Sibal, who was among the G-23 leaders whose letter to Congress President Sonia Gandhi last year demanding a meaningful overhaul of the party had triggered a storm, hoped the organisational polls, recently postponed in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, will happen sooner than later.

Former union minister acknowledged that at present there is no strong political alternative to the BJP but said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has lost the moral authority to rule and the Congress can present an alternative due to the current mood in the country.

He also noted that while forming committees to review election losses is good, it will have no impact unless remedies suggested are implemented. — *PTI*

A major policy clash has unfolded between two prominent leaders in the West Bengal BJP on how to tackle the threat of defection by its newly elected MLAs after the former national vice-president Mukul Roy, the sitting BJP MLA from Krishnanagar North, returned to the Trinamool Congress.

While Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari has challenged chief minister Mamata Banerjee saying he would definitely seek to enforce the anti-defection law in the state legislature, in a warning to BJP MLAs to hold them back from leaving the party, state BJP chief Dilip Ghosh, on the other hand, lamented "a habit for many to leave the party", but said the party itself would drive out those "who only want to enjoy power".

Replying to questions on Mr Roy's alleged bid to poach at least 10 BJP MLAs and a Lok Sabha MP to the TMC, Mr Adhikari said on Saturday evening, "Instances of CLPs in Congress and CPI(M) in

Knesset okays new govt by 60-59 margin; Yair Lapid to be foreign minister, PM after 2 years

Israel's Parliament okayed a new coalition government Sunday that sent Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu into Opposition after a record 12 years and a crisis which sparked four elections in two years.

Naftali Bennett, head of a small ultranationalist party, was sworn in as PM after a narrow 60-59 Knesset vote. If he wants to keep the job, he has to maintain an unwieldy coalition of parties from the political right, left and centre.

The eight parties, including a small Arab faction that is making history by

trial for corruption, remains the head of the largest party in Parliament and is expected to vigorously oppose the new government. If just one faction bolts, it could lose its majority and would be at risk of collapse, giving him an opening to return to power.

The country's deep divisions were on vivid display as Mr Bennett spoke in Parliament and was repeatedly interrupted and heckled by supporters of Mr Netanyahu.

The driving force behind the coalition is Yair Lapid, a political centrist who will be foreign minister now and become PM in two years, if the government lasts that long. He called off a planned speech to Parliament, instead saying he was ashamed that his 86-year-old mother had to witness the raucous behaviour of his opponents. In a brief speech, he asked for "forgiveness from my mother". — AP

■ Another report on Page 4

SHORT TAKES

Shivraj: Covid almost under control in MP

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Sunday announced that “Coronavirus pandemic is almost under control in MP” and indicated further relaxation on curbs from June 15 in view of ‘vast improvement’ in the situation. He was reviewing the situation with the crisis management committees of all the 52 districts in the state. “MP reported the lowest number of new cases in the country on Sunday. The pandemic is almost under control in the state”, he said. MP reported 274 new cases on Sunday taking the tally of cases to 7,88,183. The state has recorded 18 deaths in the last 24 hours taking the death toll to 8552. The positivity rate in the state on Sunday also dropped to 0.3 percent. Mr Chouhan dropped hints at further relaxations on curbs from June 15. He however said night curfew would remain in force till further orders.

MP: 9 forest officials booked for murder

Bhopal: Forest department officials on Sunday shot dead a 45-year-old man in Amol Pura village under Morena district while carrying an operation against illegal sand mining in the area, police said. Nine forest officials were booked for murder following a complaint lodged by the son of the deceased identified as Mahavir Singh Tomar, police said. The deceased's son Rahul Tomar alleged that his father was shot dead when he tried to restrain the forest officials from opening fire targeting the tractor-trolley laden with illegal sand citing it a residential area. The forest department officials, however said the deceased along with some other villagers tried to snatch weapons of the forest officials while attempting to protect the mining mafia.

Lucknow: Docs and staff accused of rape

Amethi: A woman here has alleged that her 40-year-old mother was beaten up and raped by doctors and medical staff at a Lucknow hospital from where she was discharged a day before her death. Family members of the deceased said she died on the night of June 12 while being taken to another hospital in the state capital. The daughter alleged she approached Union minister Smriti Irani, who was on a visit to Amethi, on Saturday as the police refused to pay any heed to her. Amethi DM Arun Kumar has constituted a team on Irani's instructions to probe the allegations. The woman said her mother was admitted to the Amethi Joint District Hospital, Gauriganj, on June 6 as she was unwell, but her condition deteriorated, and she was referred to the Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences in Lucknow the next day. — PTI

G-7 leaders agree on vaccines, China & 15% global MNCs' tax

■ **Continued from Page 1** authoritarian rivals such as China. “This isn't about imposing our values on the rest of the world,” British Prime Minister Boris Johnson told reporters at the end of the seaside summit on the rugged Cornwall coast. “What we as the G-7 need to do is demonstrate the benefits of democracy and freedom and human rights to the rest of the world.” US President Joe Biden, on his first foreign trip as America's leader, said it was an “extraordinary, collaborative and productive meeting” that showed “America's back in the business of leading the world alongside nations who share our most deeply held values”. Meanwhile, in a virtual

address to the G-7 summit, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Sunday that India was a “natural ally” for the G-7 countries in defending their shared values from a host of threats stemming from authoritarianism, terrorism and violent extremism, disinformation and economic coercion. Speaking at a session on “open societies and open economies”, Mr Modi highlighted the civilisational commitment of India to democracy, freedom of thought and liberty, the external affairs ministry said in New Delhi. The PM underscored the vulnerabilities inherent in open societies and called on tech companies and social media platforms to ensure a safe cyber environment for their users. — AP/PTI

Students going to US can book visa appointments from today

■ **Continued from Page 1** in time for the fall semester. As such, on June 14, 2021, we will open limited July and August student visa appointments at posts across India,” the embassy said. The embassy added that students need not carry the original hard copy of I-20 forms (certificate of eligibility for the non-immigrant student status) given by the institutions. Instead, the electronic I-20

provided by schools is accepted by the embassy. Students need to get it printed and carry it with them while coming for visa. Also, fully funded students do not need to show proof for financial support during interview if it is mentioned in the I-20 form. The students also do not need to give a letter from the university specifying that the classes will be in person. However, parents will not be

allowed to accompany the students to the US to help them settle as tourist (B1/B2) visas are still not being issued. The embassy said that “students would need to travel on their own.” This is because under the presidential proclamation, those seeking to travel to the US on tourist visas are not allowed due to the Covid situation. A majority of Indian parents travel on tourist visas to help

their children settle in a new country. The embassy said parents who already have B1/B2 visa would need a “national interest exception” in order to fly and the embassy will not be issuing any NIEs in such cases right now. “Travellers who already possess a valid student or exchange visitor (M) visa and who will begin their programmes on or after August 1, 2021, may travel to the

United States without further action from the embassy or consulates in India. Direct travel to the US from India with a F or M visa may begin no more than 30 days prior to the start date of a student's classes. We are unable to facilitate travel for F or M visa holders with a programme start date before August 1, 2021, including those who have already been issued a visa.

■ ‘3 MVA partners united in running’ coalition govt in Maha’ Decision yet to be taken on ties for Assembly, LS elections: NCP

Mumbai, June 13: The NCP on Sunday said that all three Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) partners are united in running the coalition government in Maharashtra, but no decision has been taken so far on alliance for the 2024 Assembly and Lok Sabha elections.

NCP spokesperson and Maharashtra minister Nawab Malik made the remark a day after state Congress president Nana Patole said that the Congress will emerge as the single-largest party in the next state polls.

The MVA government in the state that was formed after the 2019 Assembly polls, is led by the Shiv Sena, in which the NCP and the Congress are its partners.

Talking to reporters, Malik said the MVA was formed on a common min-

Sena was treated as slaves in former BJP govt in state: Raut

BHAGWAN PARAB
MUMBAI, JUNE 13

Amidst the talks of the possibility of Shiv Sena and BJP coming together again, senior Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut has alleged that his party was treated as ‘slaves’ during the erstwhile BJP-led government in Maharashtra. He has also made it clear that the chief minister's post will stay with Shiv Sena for the entire five years in the present Maha Vikas Aghadi gov-

ernment. Speaking in Jalgaon in north Maharashtra, Mr Raut made a scathing attack on the BJP saying that the Sena was virtually treated as ‘slaves’ and attempts were made to finish off the party politically when it was in power with the BJP in Maharashtra from 2014 to 2019.

“Attempts were also made to finish off our party by misusing the very power which was enjoyed because of our support,” he added.

imum programme (CMP) and it has taken several decisions in public interest.

The common man is satisfied with the performance of the government, be it farmers’ welfare or

Car swallowed by sinkhole in Mumbai

Mumbai, June 13: A video of a car disappearing into a sinkhole in a few seconds at a Mumbai housing complex — after the cement concrete slab it was parked on caved in — went viral on social media on Sunday.

A crane was used to pull out the car in the night, a civic official said.

The video shows the car's bonnet and front wheels entering the sinkhole first. The rear part of the car follows and soon the entire vehicle disappears in the water.

The other vehicles parked near the car, including one right next to it, were not affected.

Responding to the viral video, the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said the spot where the car sank used to be a well but was partially covered with cement concrete by the housing society.

The incident took place at the Ram Nivas society located at Kama lane in

Ghatkopar West area on Sunday morning, police said, adding no one was injured.

The housing society had covered a well with reinforced concrete cement and residents were using the area to park their cars. A police team reached the spot and brought the car out of the water body. The spot has been cordoned for the safety of residents,” an official said.

Some years ago, the housing society had closed half the portion of the well by carrying out RCC work and used the spot to park the vehicles. However, due to rains, the portion caved in, and the vehicle drowned, he said.

The BMC refused to take responsibility for the incident which followed a spell of heavy rains in the city.

— PTI

Senior Cong leader Indira Hridayesh passes away at 80

Dehradun/New Delhi, June 13: Leader of Opposition in the Uttarakhand Assembly Indira Hridayesh passed away after suffering a cardiac arrest in New Delhi on Sunday. The 80-year-old senior Congress died at the Uttarakhand Sadan in New Delhi where she had gone to attend a party meeting, Uttarakhand Congress vice president Suryakant Dhasmana said quoting

her son Sumit Hridayesh. Hridayesh was a Congress MLA from Haldwani and one of the senior-most Congress leaders from the state.

She had tested positive for Covid in April this year and had undergone a heart surgery after her recovery. — PTI

Mall, market shops to open all days; restaurants at 50%

■ **Continued from Page 1** pm. Standalone shops and colony shops dealing with essential services like groceries and milk booths can remain open beyond 8 pm. There will be no specific restrictions on shops dealing with non-essential goods and services such as liquor vendors.

There will be no curbs on the inter-state movement of people and goods. This means one can freely move between Delhi and places like Noida, Gurgaon, Ghaziabad, Faridabad and other NCR towns.

Certain activities and services like schools, colleges, educational and coaching institutes, politi-

cal, social, cultural, religious and festival gatherings, cinemas, multiplexes, swimming pools, spas, gyms, and public parks and gardens will continue to remain closed, he said. Religious places in the city will also reopen, but no visitors will be allowed.

Delhi began a stringent lockdown from late evening April 19. The Delhi Metro operations came to a halt on May 10 as cases/deaths continued to spiral. Early this month, construction activities and some factories were allowed to reopen, while markets, malls and the Metro reopened partially on June 7. In its latest

Covid management, he claimed.

State Congress chief Nana Patole has said that his party will contest the next polls independently. He aspires to be the chief minister. No one can be stopped from aspiring for any post. All parties have to work to boost the morale of its cadre and strengthen its organisation, Mr Malik added.

The upcoming local bodies polls may be contested by all the three parties together or independently. Two of the three parties can also have an alliance. A decision about it will be taken as per the prevailing situation, he said.

The three parties are working united in the government for welfare of the people and have not decided on how to contest the 2024 elections, he said.

— PTI

MP Congress divided over Diggy's Article 370 remark

Party backs him ‘reluctantly’, brother voices different view

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY
BHOPAL, JUNE 13

Congress veteran Digvijay Singh's purported opposition to the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir has divided his party in Madhya Pradesh.

While a section of the party defended him on the issue, albeit reluctantly, his brother and senior Congress leader Laxman Singh, however, countered him saying that “it is not possible to restore Article 370 in J&K now.”

The media wing chief of Congress in Madhya Pradesh, Narendra Singh Saluja, on Sunday, defended him saying that there was nothing wrong in the suggestion made by the veteran leader to review the abrogation of Article 370 in J&K by taking the views of the local people



Digvijay Singh

should consider reviewing abrogation of Article 370 in J&K if the party returns to power at the Centre. In democracy, people's views are taken on many issues. There is nothing wrong with it. BJP is unnecessarily making it an issue to divert public attention from the Centre's failure to deal with the coronavirus pandemic in the country,” he said.

He, however, hastened to add, “It is Mr Singh's personal view. The issue has

never been discussed at the party forum.”

Congress spokesman K.K. Mishra said the party should discuss the issue.

Meanwhile, Mr Singh sought to counter the BJP on the issue, saying that RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat has also called for improvement of relations between India and Pakistan.

He said RSS has exhorted the Centre to cement ties with Pakistan while describing the neighbouring country as “our brother.”

“Will Mr Bhagwat be sent to Pakistan? Should the National Investigation Agency (NIA) initiate a probe against Mr Bhagwat (for battling for good relations with Pakistan)? Let NIA start an investigation against me and Mr Bhagwat,” Mr Singh quipped.

Infiltration restrained to great extent in J&K: MoS

YUSUF JAMEEL
SRINAGAR, JUNE 13

Union minister of state for home, G. Kishan Reddy on Sunday claimed that post-abrogation of Article 370

not only has the militancy been controlled to a great extent in Jammu and Kashmir but the government has through a concerted effort put in by the security forces also curbed infiltration of terrorists and other undesirable elements from across the border.

He asserted, “We've managed to curb infiltration and militancy and terrorism stand controlled in J&K. Not more than a couple of incidents of violence were reported in India including J&K in the past two years,” he told reporters in Jammu.

He said that it is because of the pandemic that the process of development has slowed down in J&K. “Earlier as many as 36 Union ministers visited J&K as part of the government's effort to boost its economy and development but Covid 19 has played a spoilsport,” he said, adding that due to the pandemic the developmental projects got a hit yet he promised that once the situation eases “we will take J&K to new heights on the development front.”



G. Kishan Reddy



Labourers work to prepare a chariot ahead of the annual Rath Yatra festival in Puri on Sunday.

— PTI

Work on ₹33.22 crore temple by Tirumala trust begins in Jammu

YUSUF JAMEEL
SRINAGAR, JUNE 13

The work on a magnificent temple and allied infrastructures, to be built by Andhra Pradesh-based Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) in Jammu and Kashmir's winter capital Jammu, formally began on Sunday.

J&K lieutenant governor Manoj Sinha, who unveiled the plaque marking the laying of the foundation stone and attended the *bhumi puja* ceremony, said, “It is a historic and proud day for J&K.”

He asserted that besides being a centre of faith and spirituality, the temple “will open up opportunities across sectors in Jammu, giving a major

push to religious and pilgrimage tourism while boosting the economy of the region.”

About 20 months after the Centre stripped J&K of its special status by repealing Articles 370 and 35A of the Constitution and also split it up into two Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh, J&K's administrative council under Mr Sinha had, in April this year, allotted 496 kanals and 17 marlas (62 acres) of land to TTD for building

the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple at Majeen on the peripheries of Jammu city.

The TTD has been allotted this land on lease basis for a period of 40 years.

Reiterating that the magnificent divine temple, on its completion, will be a centre of faith as well as a destination of spirituality, Mr Sinha said that the TTD board will establish a Gurukul and Veda Pathashala within the complex to promote Sanskrit and the ancient culture of Vedic teachings and learning.

“The board has also agreed to set up centres of excellence in the field of healthcare on the lines of its excellence centres in Andhra Pradesh,” he added.

Fresh cases dip to 80K, a 71-day low; 3,303 deaths

■ **Continued from Page 1** restrictions subject to strict adherence to Covid appropriate behaviour.

In Karnataka, chief minister B.S. Yediyurappa said he will instruct the health department to conduct Covid-19 tests on people/migrant labourers who will return to the state after its unlocking.

Meanwhile, Reuters reported that head of the EU drug regulator's Covid-19 task force was quoted as saying that countries should also avoid giving the AstraZeneca vaccine to people over 60 amid fears over rare blood clotting and as more vaccines become available. It said the European Medicines Agency (EMA) considers the AstraZeneca shot safe for all age groups. However, several European Union member states have stopped administering it to people below a certain age, usually ranging from 50 to 65, restricting its use to the older population, due to the rare cases of blood clotting, mainly among young people.

Suwendu, Dilip in Bengal BJP clash over party exodus

■ **Continued from Page 1** minister Ravi Shankar Prasad in detail. The process will start soon.”

Known for his acrimony with Mr Adhikari, Mr Ghosh, Midnapore's MP, however posted on Facebook on Sunday: “It has become a habit for many to leave the party. The Bharatiya Janata Party depends on those very people who raised the party by bleeding and sweating themselves. Sacrifice and austerity have to be made to stay in the Bharatiya Janata Party. Those who only want to enjoy power will not be able to continue in the BJP. It is us who will not keep them.”

Fishing in troubled waters, Bharatiya Janata Party veteran Tathagata Roy meanwhile took a dig at party general sec-

retary Kailash Vijayvargiya, one of the four senior leaders he had earlier blamed for the poll debacle, for his proximity to Mukul Roy at one time. Referring to him as a “stupid cat” in a photo with Mukul Roy, the former Meghalaya governor sarcastically suggested that the Trinamul Congress supreme should also rope him into her party. “A faithful English translation of a tweet from a devout Bharatiya Janata Party supporter. I have added or subtracted nothing... Auntie (Buaji) Mamata, please take this stupid cat into the Trinamul. He may be heartbroken missing his friend! They used to remain closeted together for the whole day,” Mr Roy tweeted.

Govt starts back channel bid to restart talks with farmers

■ **Continued from Page 1** remains unresolved.

The sources said that therefore the home minister could play a critical role in the coming days in breaking the ice between the Centre and the farmers' unions to

bring them to the negotiating table.

Sources said that a few senior officials were in touch with some of the farmers' leaders and talks were progressing well to help find a solution.

SHORT TAKES

Minor girl sexually abused, woman held

New Delhi: A 42-year-old woman was arrested for allegedly sexually assaulting a minor girl in southwest Delhi's Dabri area, police said on Sunday. The 16-year-old victim also alleged that she was threatened by the accused. According to the FIR, the victim's mother and the accused were known to each other. She was sent to the house of accused in order to study and learn something related to parlour. The victim was sexually abused by the accused. The woman also assaulted the minor. The victim was also asked to do the household works. The accused, who runs an NGO, recorded her obscene video and threatened to upload it on social media if she will leave the house, it stated. One day, the victim fell ill and taken to visit a doctor. She somehow managed to contact her mother and informed about the ordeal. Later, police were informed about the incident. A case has been registered and the accused was arrested, police said.

65-yr-old woman murdered in Delhi

New Delhi: A 65-year-old woman was found dead with her throat slit and burns to the left leg in north Delhi's Burari area, police said on Sunday. The woman, Rajwari, was a resident of Kamalpur, Burari, they said. According to police, Parmod (38), who runs a dhaba, reported that he and his wife had gone to Khajuri on Saturday. When they returned to their house around 10 pm, Parmod found his mother, Rajwari, lying dead with her throat slit and burn injuries to her left leg, a senior police officer said. The entry into the house was friendly and it appears that the accused were known to Rajwari, police said. The body was shifted to Sabzi Mandi mortuary and the post-mortem will be conducted on Sunday. A case of murder has been registered and three teams have been formed to nab the accused.

Woman among 3 held for robbery

New Delhi: Three persons, including a woman, were arrested for allegedly robbing a man in south Delhi's Malviya Nagar area, police said on Sunday. The accused have been identified as Rohit, a resident of Sangam Vihar, Chandan Kumar Rai, a resident of Sanjay Colony, Bhati Mines, and Malloda alias Varsha, a resident of Jagdamba Camp, Malviya Nagar, they said. Complainant Rohit Taneja, a resident of Lajpat Nagar, told police that on Saturday around 1 am, when he was going home after having food in Malviya Nagar, the trio robbed him of his mobile phone, documents and cash around ₹8,000 to ₹10,000.

U'khand crisis: BJP worried over feedback of growing discontent

CM Rawat, also an MP, seeking 'safe seats' to contest to enter Assembly

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JUNE 13

For the BJP, retaining power in Uttarakhand is not the only cause of concern for the party top brass after feedback from the ground suggests growing discontentment against the ruling party over various reasons, including Covid management, and the opposition Congress gaining strength.

After opting for a change of guard in the hill state earlier this year, apparently to boost its poll prospects, the BJP leadership is yet to sort out the issue of which "safe" assembly seat chief minister Tirath Singh Rawat,

THE CHIEF MINISTER'S frequent visits to the national capital to meet party leadership have also raised eyebrows within the party's state unit

who is also an MP, should contest from to enter the state assembly. BJP's decision to change its sitting chief minister Trivendra Rawat less than a year ahead of the assembly polls, has also given ammunition to the opposition camp to claim that the decision to replace Trivendra Rawat with Tirath Singh Rawat was an "admission of failure" by the ruling party.

Speculation is rife that the CM could contest from Gangotri constituency, which has been lying vacant after the death of BJP MLA Gopal Rawat. However, winning this seat with a "decent margin" seems to be a challenge for the BJP as the Congress is a strong contender on this seat. Some other BJP MLAs, it was learnt, have also offered to vacate their seat for the CM but the central leadership is vetting a "safe seat" for the CM. The CM needs to get elected to the state assembly by September.

The chief minister's frequent visits to the national capital to meet party leadership have also raised eye-

brows within the party's state unit. Though his visits, sources said, are mainly to discuss the party's preparedness for the assembly polls and state related issues, buzz in the Uttarakhand BJP is that one of the main reasons is to "seek central leadership intervention for finding a safe seat to contest." While the chief minister, it was learnt, wants to contest from "safe seats" either from Srinagar or Gharwal, which falls in his home constituency, both constituencies are currently represented by senior leaders Dhan Singh Rawat and Satpal Maharaj, who have so far refused to vacate for the CM.

Now Gujarat will change, says Kejriwal before visit

Ahmedabad, June 13: Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, whose Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is eyeing to contest the 2022 Gujarat Assembly polls, will be on a one-day visit to the state on Monday, a spokesperson of the party said.

"Now Gujarat will change. Tomorrow I am coming to Gujarat, and will meet all the brothers and sisters of Gujarat," Kejriwal said in a tweet posted in Gujarati on Sunday.

During his visit, Kejriwal is scheduled to inaugurate the party's

Gujarat state office in Ahmedabad. This will be Kejriwal's second visit to Gujarat. He had last visited Surat in February after the party emerged as the main opposition after the civic body elections there in its maiden fight there.

His visit assumes significance as the AAP is eyeing to contest the December 2022 Gujarat Assembly election and aggressively preparing for it.

The AAP is looking to present itself as a formidable alternative to the Congress in Gujarat and challenge the BJP.

— PTI

Covid: Further ease in lockdown from today



People buy clothes at Janpath market in New Delhi on Sunday. Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal announced further ease in lockdown in city from Monday. Under the phased unlock process, reopening of

restaurants with 50 per cent capacity and one weekly market per municipal zone will be allowed. The national capital recorded 255 Covid-19 cases and 23 fatalities, the lowest since April 7, on Sunday.

— PTI

Farmers' issue supreme in UP polls

'Love jihad', 'cow terror' will not work, development issues will be vital: RLD chief

New Delhi, June 13: Asserting that the BJP's alleged "apathy" towards protesting farmers will hurt it in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls, RLD chief Jayant Chaudhary on Sunday said artificial issues such as "love jihad" and "cow terror" will not work as issues of development will win in the elections.

As the focus shifts from the West Bengal polls earlier this year to the high-stakes election battle in Uttar Pradesh in 2022, newly appointed Rashtriya Lok Dal chief



Jayant Chaudhary

Chaudhary asserted that his party will not allow a communally polarised campaign to ruin the Hindi heartland state in the run up to the assembly polls.

Chaudhary, who took over as RLD chief after his father Chaudhary Ajit Singh's demise last month, said his party and the Samajwadi Party have a good rapport and a strong working relationship. He said details need

to be worked out for a formal alliance for the polls.

Asked if a 'Mahagathbandhan' or a grand alliance is needed in UP to take on the BJP and whether the BSP and the Congress would be part of such an alliance, Chaudhary said, for him, issues come first and an understanding of those needs to be built between all alliance partners.

"Who can be accommodated depends on who is honestly open to working together on the common framework," the 42-year-old leader said. On

whether the Congress would play a significant role in the assembly polls despite its poor showing in the panchayat elections, Chaudhary said he would not like to comment on the Congress' plans and chances.

Asked about the speculation over UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath's political future as CM and reports about Cabinet reshuffle in the state, Chaudhary said the BJP is just trying to create an illusion of dialogue to manage the disgruntled elements in the party.

■ 'Rajib Banerjee lost importance in saffron party' TMC MP objects to BJP neta's comeback attempt

RAJIB CHOWDHURI
KOLKATA, JUNE 13

Senior Trinamul Congress MP Kalyan Banerjee on Sunday vehemently objected to BJP leader Rajib Banerjee's veiled attempt to return to chief minister Mamata Banerjee's party following the footsteps of Krishnanagar North MLA Mukul Roy.

Mr Banerjee made his stand clear a day after the former Cabinet minister of the TMC supreme met her party's general secretary Kunal Ghosh at his residence within days of slamming the BJP leadership for attacking the CM with the threat of the President's Rule.



Kalyan Banerjee



Rajib Banerjee

The three-time Serampore MP alleged in the morning: "Rajib spoke against the CM. He also abused the booth level workers. During the Assembly election, he ensured the arrests of TMC workers at night at Domjur in Howrah, where he contested but lost, by complaining to the police through poll observers."

On Saturday when Rajib met Mr Ghosh, he claimed that it was a "courtesy visit" while brushing

aside the speculations about his wish to return to TMC.

Sources however hinted at his desire to make a comeback to the TMC desperately since he lost the polls and importance in the BJP for his explosive comments.

On Sunday evening, Rajib visited state industries minister Partha Chatterjee's residence to offer his condolences to him after the TMC secretary general's mother Shibani Chatterjee passed away at the age of 91. What has prompted Rajib to repeatedly make attempts to return to TMC is a sympathy for him by a section of leaders including Firdah Hakim.

Dust storms damage Jama Masjid structures

New Delhi, June 13: The structures of the historic Jama Masjid in old Delhi have suffered damage in two dust storms within a week's time and thus need "immediate intervention" of heritage experts, the Shahi Imam of the celebrated mosque said on Sunday.

The 17th-century architectural icon was built in the reign of Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan for the main city of Shahjahanabad, which currently falls in the Walled City and is a major tourist attraction in the national capital.

"Over a week ago, the southern minaret of the grand mosque was damaged by a dust storm and rain and a big block of stone had fallen off it. Luckily, no one was injured in the incident. But due to this, other stones around it have also become loose," Shahi Imam Syed Ahmed Bukhari said.

On June 4, a big chunk of the red sandstone tower had fallen off after suffering damage in the massive dust storm and rains that had hit Delhi-NCR.

The fallen piece was about two-metre long, 12-18 inches wide, and about 2.5-inch thick. Other small pieces had also fallen along with it, he said.

— PTI

50 shanties of Rohingya refugees gutted in Delhi

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JUNE 13

More than 50 shanties were gutted in a fire that broke out at a Rohingya refugee camp near Kalindi Kunj Metro station in southeast Delhi, officials said on Sunday.

The incident took place on Saturday and the fire department received information about it around 11.55 pm, a senior fire official said. No one was injured in the fire, the official said.

Five fire tenders were rushed to the spot near Kalindi Kunj Metro station, Madanpur Khadar. The fire was brought under control around 3 am, the official said.

According to police, a PCR call regarding the fire at the Rohingya camp was received at Kalindi



A Rohingya Muslim refugee boy walks over the charred debris of his house at Madanpur Khadar in New Delhi on Sunday.

— PTI

Kunj police station.

Police reached the spot in Kanchan Kunj, Madanpur Khadar. Later, the fire was brought under control, a senior police officer said.

"Fifty-six shanties, housing around 270

Rohingya refugees, were gutted in the fire. The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained and appropriate legal action is being taken," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southeast) R P Meena said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that I, Suneel Bhatia S/o V.K. Bhatia, R/o Flat No. 3396, Pkt-D-3, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi, is the Allottee of Property bearing Flat No. 3396, Pkt-D-3, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi, applied for conversion of the aforesaid property from leasehold to freehold in DDA. The original Allocation Letter, Demand Letter, Possession Letter of the above said property have been lost/misplaced. An FIR to this effect has been lodged in Police Station dt. 11/06/2021.

Any person claiming any right, interest having any objection may write/contact with above named person at above address/phone No. 9871877399 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice and can personally inform or write to Dy. Director (LAB) or Director (LAB) D-Block, 3rd Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi.

Amid tension with Pilot, Rajasthan govt reshuffle likely

New Delhi, June 13: With tensions in the Rajasthan Congress rising and the Sachin Pilot camp becoming edgy, the Congress has stepped up internal deliberations with all sections and a rejig of the state cabinet is likely soon. Sources said discussions are underway for filling up the nine vacancies in the state cabinet to adjust all sections.

Senior Congress leaders, including general secretary in-charge of Congress in Rajasthan Ajay Maken, are holding discussions with leaders of various camps to resolve their grievances.

Maken is learnt to have held discussions with Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and former deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot.

"It is a work in progress. We are talking to all sections and leaders. We hope to take care of the hopes and aspirations of all sections and regions. We are in constant touch with all leaders, including Ashok Gehlot and Sachin Pilot," Maken told PTI.

"We hope to resolve the issue soon," he added.

Pilot has been camping in Delhi for the last two days and he has held discussions with senior party leaders, including Maken.

He has openly criticised the three-member panel that was formed 10 months ago to



Sachin Pilot

resolve differences of party leaders, after he rebelled against Gehlot. Pilot, however, stayed back

people would be adjusted in the state cabinet. Even though many in Pilot's camp have been adjusted in the Rajasthan PCC, most of his confidants are eyeing a ministerial berth in the cabinet.

The Rajasthan Cabinet currently has nine vacancies but it is turning out to be a tight rope walk for the party leadership to adjust all factions as well as sections and regions. There is only one minority face and a lone woman in the Gehlot cabinet and there is a need to maintain this balance by giving more opportunities to other gender and religious minorities. Besides, all regions and castes also need to be taken care of in the cabinet.

Also, the party leadership needs to adjust independent legislators and those of the erstwhile BSP, who merged with the Congress, as the state government is stable only after their support.

The sources said some old-timers who have won four to five times also need to be adjusted.

— PTI

जपिऊ जिन् अरजुन देव गुरु
फिरि संकट जोनि गरभ न आयऊ

Govt. of Haryana

People of Haryana
Pay Heartfelt Tributes to
The Great Embodiment of Spirituality
Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji
on his Martyrdom day
June 14, 2021

Sh. Manohar Lal
Chief Minister, Haryana

Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana
www.pharyana.gov.in @Cmohry @DiprHaryana

SHORT TAKES

BOLSONARO FINED FOR MASKLESS MOTORCYCLE RALLY

Sao Paulo, June 13: Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro was fined \$100 Saturday for violating Covid-19 containment measures in Sao Paulo by failing to wear a mask and provoking huge crowds at a motorcycle rally for supporters.

Thousands of motorcycles took part in the “Accelerate for Christ” rally, led by the far-right president, who wore an open-faced helmet and no mask, in violation of health regulations. Bolsonaro, who has been holding such rallies across Brazil as he gears up to seek re-election next year, defied a prior warning from Sao Paulo Governor Joao Doria, a political rival, who had said the president would be fined if he failed to observe regulations.

CHINA CITY’S DRONES TO KEEP PEOPLE INSIDE

Beijing, June 13: A fleet of 60 drones has been deployed in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou to keep people indoors and remind those going out to wear masks.

China has largely stamped out cases of local Covid-19 transmission, but Guangzhou has seen a flare-up of the more infectious delta variant of the virus, initially discovered in India. Six new cases were reported in Guangzhou over the previous 24 hours, raising the number in the outbreak to more than 100.

The police-operated drones carry cameras and broadcast messages to people venturing outdoors that they and others are best protected by staying inside.

POLICE ARREST 1 OF 2 IN AUSTIN MASS SHOOTING

Austin (US) June 13: Police have arrested one suspect and are searching for another after a mass shooting on a crowded downtown Austin street left 14 people wounded, two of them critically.

The Austin Police Department said in a news release that the US Marshals Lone Star Fugitive Task Force assisted in making the arrest on Saturday but it provided no other details other than to say it is continuing to follow up on leads for the suspect still at large. Interim Police Chief Joseph Chacon said the shooting happened around 1:30 am on a street packed with bars and barricaded off from vehicle traffic. He said investigators believe it began as a dispute.

SHELLING KILLS 18 IN SYRIA’S REBEL-HELD AFRIN

Beirut, June 13: Shelling of the rebel-held city of Afrin in northern Syria killed at least 18 people on Saturday, many of them when a hospital was hit, a war monitor said.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said a doctor, three hospital staff, two women and two children died at Al-Shifaa hospital in the city which is held by Turkish-backed rebels. A rebel commander also died at the hospital, the Observatory said, adding that 23 people were injured.

An AFP correspondent shot footage of white-helmeted aid workers in the hospital courtyard strewn with bodies.

“The shelling targeted several areas of the town and hit the hospital”, Observatory director Rami Abdel Rahmane said.

“Most of the victims died in shelling on the hospital,” the monitoring group said in a statement.

12 KILLED, OVER 100 HURT IN GAS BLAST IN CHINA

Beijing, June 13: At least 12 people were killed and more than 100 others injured after a gas explosion tore through a residential community in central China on Sunday, official media reported. The blast took place at about 6:30 am local time in the Zhangwan district of Shiyan city in Hubei province, trapping a large number of people. The explosion left 12 people dead.

Authorities have rescued nearly 150 people from the area, including 39 with serious injuries, and rushed them to hospitals, the state-run *Xinhua* news agency reported. Images and video footages circulating on social media platform *Weibo* show showed rescue workers working through the wreckage of flattened houses. The exact number of casualties is still being verified as the search and rescue is underway, the report said.

New Israeli govt to be sworn in

Will end Netanyahu’s 12-yr premiership

Jerusalem, June 13: Israel’s parliament is set to vote on Sunday on a new government led by Yamina head Naftali Bennett, ousting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu from power after an uninterrupted 12 years at the helm of affairs.

The prospective government — an unprecedented coalition of ideologically divergent political parties drawn from the Right, the Left and the Centre, along with an Arab party — has a razor-thin majority of one seat. The Knesset (Israeli parliament) is scheduled to meet at 4 PM local time and sans last-minute grand surprises, Bennett, an old-time associate of Netanyahu and leader of the right-wing Yamina party, would take over the mantle from his one time mentor leading a fragile government with a razor-thin majority of 61 lawmakers in a 120 member house. Ahead of the vote in Parliament, heads of the eight factions constituting the new coalition met to confirm the government.

Informed sources said that “they all re-affirmed their commitment and it was all set to go ahead”. The approval by the Knesset would bring to an end 12 years of uninterrupted rule by Netanyahu, 71, who holds the record of

WILL RETURN TO POWER, SAYS BIBI

Jerusalem, June 13: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is vowing to lead his Likud Party back to power. In a speech to parliament, Netanyahu made clear he has no plans on giving up leadership of the Likud Party. He vowed to “continue the great mission of my life, ensuring the security of Israel.” — AP

being the longest-serving Prime Minister in the country’s history.

Having served in the position earlier between 1996 and 1999, Netanyahu last year surpassed the record held by one of the Jewish state’s founding leaders, David Ben-Gurion. The formation of the new government would end the political impasse in the country that saw four elections in less than two years leading to inconclusive results.

But opinion polls suggest that majority of the Israelis do not look too hopeful regarding the longevity of the coalition of eight disparate parties who do not see eye-to-eye on most of the critical issues facing the country.

Bennett, 49, has entered into a power-sharing agreement with Centrist leader Yair Lapid, the head of the Yesh Atid party, under which the latter would take over Premiership in September 2023, serving for two years till the end of the term. Lapid, the leader of the second-largest faction in the Knesset with 17 seats was invited by President Reuven Rivlin to form a coalition after Netanyahu, leading the Likud party with 30 seats, expressed his inability to put together a government.

The unstable coalition that Lapid has managed to put together faces severe challenges and the glue that seems to hold them together is the ‘unity of purpose’ created by the agenda of ousting Netanyahu. It wouldn’t be an exaggeration to say that Netanyahu, seen by many as Israel’s ‘divider in chief’, also in a strange way has proved to be a unifier, bringing in together unthinkable allies to form a government of national unity.

Analysts feel that two factors likely to determine the tenure of the new coalition are the fear of Netanyahu’s return and a political demise of some of the right-wing factions that have gone against the wishes of their voting constituency. — PTT

Nato set to bid symbolic farewell to Afghanistan

Brussels, June 13: US President Joe Biden and his Nato counterparts will bid a symbolic farewell to Afghanistan on Monday in their last summit before America winds up its longest “forever war” and the US military pulls out for good. The meeting is bound to renew questions about whether Nato’s most ambitious operation ever was worth it.

The 18-year effort cost the United States alone \$2.26 trillion, and the price in lives includes 2,442 American troops and 1,144 personnel among US allies, according to figures from Brown University.

Nato does not keep a record of those who die in its operations. Those casualty figures dwarf Afghan losses, which include more than 47,000 civilians, up to 69,000 members of the national armed forces and police, and over 51,000 opposition fighters. The military effort followed the 2001 arrival of a US-led coalition that ousted the Taliban for harbouring al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden.

Few experts argue that it brought long-term stability, meaningful democracy or security. “At this point, you get the impression

AFGHAN I.S. GROUP CLAIMS KABUL ATTACKS

Kabul, June 13: The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for bombing two minivans in a mostly Shiite neighbourhood in the Afghan capital that killed seven people. Among the dead were two employees of Afghanistan’s state-run film company, a colleague said Sunday.

In a statement issued late Saturday, Afghanistan’s IS affiliate said its operatives blew up two minivans carrying “disbeliever Shiites” using sticky bombs. Sticky bombs slapped onto cars trapped in Kabul’s chaotic traffic are the newest weapons terrorising Afghans in the increasingly lawless nation. — AP

that Nato leaders almost want to downplay and leave quietly, rather than making too big a deal of it, and going on to focus on other business,” said Erik Brattberg, director of the Europe Programme at

the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. With the US leading the withdrawal, European allies and Canada want to hear Biden’s thinking about how security will be assured at their embassies, along major transport routes and above all at Kabul’s airport.

Many wonder whether the Afghan government can survive a resurgent Taliban. Some think Kabul’s capitulation is only a matter of time. “We are currently in intense discussions with our member states, the United States, Nato and the United Nations on the absence of essential security conditions for our continued diplomatic presence. It will be difficult to keep it” in place, European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said.

For now, Nato plans to leave civilian advisers to help build up government institutions. It’s unclear who will protect them. The 30-nation alliance is also weighing whether to train Afghan special forces outside the country. As an organisation, Nato will not provide sanctuary for Afghans who worked alongside its forces. — AP

Flash mob demo in Myanmar



Protesters make the three-finger salute as they take part in a flash mob demonstration against the military coup in Yangon on Sunday. — AFP

G-7 leaders agree on vaccines, China and taxing corporations

Carbis Bay, June 13:

Leaders of the Group of Seven wealthy nations staked their claim Sunday to leading the world out of the coronavirus pandemic and crisis, pledging more than 1 billion Coronavirus vaccine doses to poorer nations, vowing to help developing countries grow while fighting climate change and backing a minimum tax on multinational firms.

At the group’s first face-to-face meeting in two years, the leaders dangled promises of support for global health, green energy, infrastructure and education. The leaders wanted to show that international cooperation is back after the upheavals caused by the pandemic and the unpredictability of former US President Donald Trump.

And they wanted to convey that the club of wealthy democracies — Cana-

da, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States — is a better friend to poorer nations than authoritarian rivals such as China. Speaking at the end of the three-day summit in southwest England, US President Joe Biden, who was making his first foreign trip as leader, said it was an “extraordinary, collaborative and productive meeting.” British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, the summit’s host, praised the “fantastic degree of harmony” among the group. Johnson said the G-7 would demonstrate the value of democracy and human rights to the rest of the world and help “the world’s poorest countries to develop themselves in a way that is clean and green and sustainable.”

“It’s not good enough for us to just rest on our laurels and talk about how

BEIJING: DAYS OF ‘SMALL’ NATIONS DICTATING GLOBAL DECISIONS GONE

Beijing, June 13: China on Sunday asserted that the days when global decisions were dictated by a “small group” of countries are long gone, hitting back at the G-7 summit where Beijing was at the centre of severe criticism over the Covid-19 origins, human rights violations, Belt and Road Initiative.

Answering a question on issues covered by the G-7 Summit on pandemic response, economy, trade and global supply chains and US efforts to “seizing”

the opportunity to bond with other Western countries to safeguard the “rules-based international system”, the Chinese embassy in London said there is only one system, the international system, which is led by the UN. “We always believe that countries, big or small, strong or weak, poor or rich, are equals, and that world affairs should be handled through consultation by all countries,” it said.

— PTT

important those values are,” he told reporters after the 3-day meeting on the Cornwall coast. “And this isn’t about imposing our values on the rest of

the world. What we as the G-7 need to do is demonstrate the benefits of democracy and freedom and human rights to the rest of the world.” — AP

A custom-made bicycle is Biden’s G-7 gift for Boris

London, June 13: US President Joe Biden chose a custom-made, hand-built bicycle as his gift for British Prime Minister Boris Johnson for their first in-person meeting ahead of the G-7 Summit in Cornwall this weekend.

The bike is made by a small company in the American city of Philadelphia that was reportedly given just a few days to build a red, white and blue bike that normally takes months to construct.

Johnson is a keen cyclist and is often pictured cycling on the streets of London, with his security detail in pursuit. Biden is also known as a regular cyclist and was revealed

to be a fan of indoor cycling with Peloton. The bike gifted by Biden was made by Bilenky Cycle Works, a business with a staff of four who usually take up to 18 months to make a machine. The owner, Stephen Bilenky, was contacted by the US State Department on May 23 about designing the bike and a matching helmet, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* reported. It says the budget was just \$1,500, a third of the minimum price the firm charges.

Bilenky told the newspaper that he had accepted the order to raise the firm’s profile and that “controlled chaos” followed. “It is a very modern ver-

sion of an upright British roadster with a custom paint scheme with the Union Jack flag and a matching helmet,” he was quoted as saying.

Johnson’s gift for the US President was a framed picture of a mural showing the American anti-slavery campaigner Frederick Douglass. The image of the former slave, who became a leading figure in the 19th century slavery abolitionist movement, is part of Edinburgh’s mural trail. US First Lady Jill Biden was given a first edition of *The Apple Tree* by Daphne du Maurier, the English author who lived in Cornwall. — PTT

BIDENS ATTEND SUNDAY SERVICE, AMAZE LOCALS

Falmouth (England), June 13: Churchgoers in a seaside resort in England say they have been left “gobsmacked” when US President Joe Biden and the first lady Jill Biden dropped in for a Sunday service.

The Bidens are in Cornwall, southwest England, to attend a Group of Seven wealthy democracies summit.

On Sunday morning, ahead of the summit’s conclusion, they were seen attending mass at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in St. Ives.

“I think gobsmacked is probably a very true word,” said Annie Fitzpatrick, 58. — AP

Man jumps into lake for 365th straight day

Chicago, June 13: A Chicago bus driver looking for a way to relieve stress during the Coronavirus pandemic jumped into Lake Michigan for a 365th straight day on Saturday.

Dan O’Conor said he started jumping into the lake at Montrose Harbour on the city’s North Side last year to relieve stress. “It was during the pan-

dem, it was during the protest, it was during an election year. ... So it was somewhere where I could come down here and block all that noise out and kind of be totally present with me in the lake, and find some moments of Zen,” said the father of three.

He continued jumping into the lake through the fall before the hard part:

● **SATURDAY WAS special because it was the culmination of doing it for a full year.**

Hacking a hole in the ice on the frozen lake that was big enough for him to jump through during the winter. He said when he got home after one such jump, he found about 20

scrapes and cuts on his body.

He was encouraged by the response he got for his undertaking.

“People started asking me what this was benefiting and how they could support and when I say people, I’m talking strangers online, you know. When I started posting the videos on Twitter and

Instagram ... I got more wind in my sails there because people started commenting like, ‘This makes my day, it’s nice to see this,’” he said.

Saturday was special because it was the culmination of doing it for a full year. “I just wanted to celebrate just that drive to dive for 365,” O’Conor said. — AP

GORILLA | TACTICS

Colleague fired without warning after coming late for shift

Berlin delivery riders take on \$1bn startup

Berlin, June 13: Dozens of workers gathered outside of one of Berlin’s most-celebrated start-ups, the grocery delivery company Gorillas, to protest the firing hours earlier of a colleague. “We want Santiago back!” the young riders chanted last week, threatening to blockade one of the company’s inner-city warehouses with their bikes unless he was reinstated.

The wildcat strike on a balmy June evening was unusual even by Germ-

any’s strong tradition of labour rights, highlighting growing tensions in the capital’s freewheeling start-up scene.

“We came here to show our solidarity, to support our friend,” said Zeynep, a Gorillas rider who declined to give her last name for fear of facing repercussions from the company. “We want this decision to be reversed as soon as possible.” The riders said their colleague had been fired without warning after turning up late for his shift.

In a statement, the company said he his contract was terminated for “serious misconduct” but declined to provide details, citing confidentiality. Founded just last year, Gorillas has benefited from surging demand for quick grocery deliveries during the pandemic. In March, the company raised about \$290 million from investors, becoming Germany’s fastest “unicorn” — a start-up with a total valuation of \$1 billion or more.

Gorillas now operates in

dozens of cities across Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands and Britain, and has already set its sights on New York, where it faces US incumbents such as GoPuff. But strikes like those in Berlin show trouble is brewing in its home market. The rowdy but peaceful protest late Wednesday drew support from employees of rival delivery services, some of whom downed their colourful courier bags to join the picket. Eventually Gorillas agreed to close the depot for

the night, drawing cheers from the protesters.

The next day, riders blocked another warehouse, making clear their gripes go beyond the firing of a single colleague. “In the last six months, that I’ve been here I’ve noticed so many ways that the company is doing things in an unjustified way,” said rider Huseyin Camalan.

“We’re here to stand against that. It’s part of a larger thing.” Camalan said many riders suffer from back pain. — AP

Proof in Mexico serial killer’s home suggests 17 victims

Mexico City, June 13: Investigators digging under the house of a suspected serial killer on the outskirts of Mexico City have said they have found 3,787 bone fragments so far, apparently belonging to 17 different victims.

Prosecutors in the State of Mexico, which borders Mexico City, suggested the grisly finds may not end there. In excavations carried out since May 17, authorities have dug up the floors of the house where the suspect lived. They now plan to extend the search to the soil beneath several other rooms he rented out on the same property. ID cards and other possessions from people who disappeared years ago were found at the junk-filled home, suggesting the trail of killings may go back years.

The number of bone fragments found underneath concrete floors at the suspect’s home would imply the corpses may have

been hacked into tiny pieces. That could make sense. The suspect, identified by prosecutors only as “Andrés”, was formerly a butcher and in fact sectioned and filleted his last victim. “The bones fragments are being subjected to lateralisation studies, which include carefully cleaning each one, identifying what part of the body they are and then placing them in their anatomical position, providing a method for determining the approximate number of victims,” the office said in a statement.

“This analysis indicates that, up to now, the bone fragments found may possibly be those of 17 people,” the statement said. Authorities have not released the full name of the 72-year-old suspect under Mexican laws protecting a suspect’s identity. He has been ordered to stand trial in the killing of his last victim, a 34-year-old woman. — AP

THE ASIAN AGE

14 JUNE 2021

Test ahead for BJP in UP: Will it blink or tame Yogi?

Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath was in the national capital last week to discuss political, governance and administrative issues with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union health minister Amit Shah and BJP president J.P. Nadda, to tighten loopholes and raise the BJP's prospects in the Assembly election due early, 2022. Earlier, complaints were being voiced by BJP leaders in UP, and there were even murmurs that the PM and the CM might not be on the same page.

In this backdrop senior BJP and RSS leaders visited Lucknow to take stock and held confabulations in the national capital afterward. There was fevered speculation that the CM may have to be changed. Given all the excitement, the CM's visit to New Delhi was followed closely, not least because he had very lengthy talks with Mr Modi, Mr Shah and Mr Nadda.

It would have become clear to all concerned that the UP CM is not a BJP leader in the normal sense and the usual rules of party discipline do not apply to him. He is the head of a centuries old religious establishment. Politically he

Adityanath goofed up on pandemic management big time. The BJP naturally feared he might lose the party the state polls, if allowed to run unchecked.

when he was the Gujarat CM. He goofed up on pandemic management big time. The BJP naturally feared he might lose the party the state polls, if allowed to run unchecked.

But can he be checked? If he were to break away, it is not unlikely that he can cut into a section of the saffron party's vote bank that is emphatically communal. The BJP can ill afford this specially when there is said to be considerable disenchantment, flagged by Covid mishandling.

In light of this it is possible that the ideas produced in the CM's consultations in New Delhi will lead to organisational changes in the state BJP and in the council of ministers in the state. However, any comment on these will be premature since the Yogi is his own man and not quite subject to BJP discipline. Changes that may follow in the wake of the CM's meetings in the national capital will naturally be watched by all — not just the BJP. The Opposition parties too will wait to see if there emerges a think that they can exploit. Evidently, the situation is not as conducive for the BJP as it was before the pandemic.

With all preparations now moving toward the election, it will be interesting to see if the CM has a significant hand in the selection of the BJP's candidates for the upcoming state poll. That may provide a clue to the state of the power balance between the CM and the traditional BJP power structure.

GST cut is welcome relief

The GST Council's decision to reduce tax on goods and services used for the treatment of Covid-19 disease brings a welcome relief to people fighting one of the most infectious diseases of recent times.

The Council, which comprises state and Union finance ministers, has also decided to levy a five per cent tax on any drug that the health ministry recommends for the treatment of coronavirus infection. The reduction in the tax rate, however, would be applicable only till September.

The tax on vaccines, however, would continue to be five per cent. Though several state governments had demanded exempting vaccines from GST, the Council went with the opinion of the central government which opposed any such move. The state governments, however, did not insist on its demand after the Centre agreed to buy 75 per cent of the vaccines for public immunisation.

The focus on healthcare should continue even after the Covid pandemic. It is high time that the Central and state governments take lessons from the pandemic and take steps to improve public health infrastructure which is woefully inadequate. Apart from building more hospitals and training more healthcare professionals, the government should focus on preventative healthcare. It is believed that preventative healthcare could add billions of dollars to the economy by way of saving the cost of hospitalisation and by enhancing people's productivity. Preventative healthcare could be promoted by reducing the cost of diagnosis by encouraging local manufacturing of medical equipment. Though the Narendra Modi government has already announced incentives for boosting the manufacturing of medical equipment, it should be pursued with renewed vigour.

Another step that would greatly help in the delivery of healthcare is the standardisation of medical records and the national storage of health records, which would allow people to avail medical care anywhere in India as records could be accessed by a click of the mouse, obviously after due authorisation of the patient.

THE ASIAN AGE

T. VENKATRAM REDDY
Editor in Chief

Printer & Publisher: K. SUDHAKAR
THE ASIAN AGE office is located at:
New Delhi: Jawaharlal Nehru National Youth Centre, 219 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi-110002. Phone: (011) 23211124.
Published and Printed on behalf of and for
Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited, Jawaharlal Nehru National Youth Centre, 219 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi 110 002 at BFL Infotech Ltd., C-9, Sector-III, Noida -201301.
London: Quickmarsh Ltd, 8th Floor, Block 2, Elizabeth House, 39 York Road, London, SE1 7NQ.
RNI Registration number: 57290/94

Subhani



India's Great Helmsman: Salute to Narasimha Rao



Sanjaya Baru

Sanjayovacha

It was interesting that the day after Congressman Jitin Prasada joined the BJP, the political future of Rajasthan's Sachin Pilot has become the subject of renewed media speculation. The two have one political antecedent in common.

Both their fathers were regarded as being close to Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao. The Congress Party apparatus, the late Devendra Nath Dwivedi, would often lament that many Congressmen, including himself, had to pay a political price for their loyalty to the late Prime Minister. Perhaps the Prasadas and the Pilots continue to pay that price.

Those who imagine that the decline of the Congress Party began in 2014, attributing this to Narendra Modi's campaign for a "Congress mukt Bharat", are unaware of the roots of the party's decline. It began the day the party ceased to be a party, as Narasimha Rao famously put it in his book *The Insider*, and became a "proprietorship". When I suggested to late President Pranab Mukherjee that a book on the decline of the Congress Party was waiting to be written, he asked me when I thought the decline had begun. I said to him that the turning point was the 1989 election. Mukherjee sat back in his chair, thought for a while and said: "The analysis should begin from 1969."

While Manmohan Singh was the head of a coalition called the United Progressive Alliance that was in office thanks first to the Communists and then to the Lohia socialists, it was Narasimha Rao's tenure that marks the party's last hurrah.

The way in which Narasimha Rao stabilised his party and government at a time when it was shattered by two successive assassinations of its top leaders, Indira and Rajiv Gandhi, was a stellar example of political leadership on a national and historic scale.

In remembering P.V. Narasimha Rao this month, when the nation commemorates his birth centenary, many will recall his leadership during a period of economic crisis.

Narasimha Rao lent his prime ministerial imprimatur to the sweeping industrial and trade policy reforms that set India on a new growth path. It is useful to recall the role of the political leadership in economic policy change and management at a time when its absence is being acutely felt.

A second set of policy initiatives that many will credit Narasimha Rao with, as they recall his leadership, will be the shifts in India's foreign and strategic policy. He steered the country through the turbulent years of the end of the Cold War, the implosion of the Soviet Union, at that time India's closest ally, and the changes in the global balance of power. Prime Minister Rao authorised the testing of nuclear weapons that his successor, Atal Behari Vajpayee, finally sanctioned and declared India a nuclear weapons power. Narasimha Rao also launched the "Look East Policy", making India reconnect to the Rising Asia to her east. India came close to the nations of Southeast Asia and East Asia, including South Korea and Japan.

Narasimha Rao also took important initiatives to improve India's ties with both China and

the United States. While these two aspects — economic and foreign policy — of Prime Minister Rao's leadership will be much commented upon, few are willing to give him any credit for his leadership of the Congress Party. His critics point to the aborted attempt at internal democracy at the Tirupati session of the All-India Congress Committee in April 1992, where organisational elections were held for the first time in two decades, and to the political fallout of the handling of the Babri Masjid demolition as evidence of failed political leadership. The Congress also yielded space to the BJP during Narasimha Rao's tenure, enabling the BJP to make its first attempt at forming a government in 1996.

While some of this criticism is justified, the political importance of Narasimha Rao lies in his demonstrating to the Congress Party that someone from outside the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty can in fact run the party and the government quite successfully. He was not only the first Congress leader after the Nehru-Gandhis to remain in office for a full term but was also the first South Indian Prime Minister. The political significance of this cannot be underestimated, as it continues to be.

The loyalists of the Nehru-Gandhi family continue to chant the mantra that without the family at the helm, the party would disintegrate. Of course, at one time it also used to be said that without a Nehru-Gandhi at the helm the country would disintegrate. Narasimha Rao proved the loyalists wrong and earned their

If Narendra Modi promised more and has delivered less, P.V. Narasimha Rao promised much less and delivered much more

enduring dislike. Narasimha Rao's success in New Delhi emboldened several Congress leaders at the state level to strike out on their own. From G.K. Moopanar to Sharad Pawar to Mamata Banerjee, many Congress leaders have demonstrated that the party did not need a Nehru-Gandhi to secure electoral success at the state level. It is now clear that the Nehru-Gandhis cannot deliver power even at the national level.

Narasimha Rao's political legacy as Prime Minister deserves a more objective analysis than is so far available. Interestingly, the growing disappointment across the country with the assertive and domineering political leadership of Narendra Modi has sparked off renewed interest in the quiet and low-brow leadership of a man who in fact altered India's destiny. If Narendra Modi promised more and has delivered less, P.V. Narasimha Rao promised much less and delivered much more.

Grappling economic and strategic challenges in a period of political uncertainty and, at the same time, calming communal tensions aroused by the BJP's aggressive Hindutva project, Narasimha Rao pushed India on to a new trajectory of growth. No one viewed India as an "emerging economy" till 1990. By the end of the 1990s the world began to view India not only as a country catching up with the "Asian tigers", but also as a "rising power". Three consensual leaders — Narasimha Rao, Atal Behari Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh — set India on a new path. For the first time in three decades the world is now wondering whether India would return to that rising path or return to its Third World status.

Sanjaya Baru is the author of 1991: How P.V. Narasimha Rao Made History (2016)

LETTERS

BAD GOVERNORSHIP

This refers to the article "Curb your enthusiasm, someone tell Dhankhar" (June 13). If some of the governors during the Congress regime were bad, those under the present regime are far worse. Instead of doing the work they have been mandated to do, they act like political agents of the party in power at the Centre. Governors of West Bengal and Maharashtra are prime examples of what the governors should not be. The gubernatorial post has been used to placate disgruntled elements or bestowed as a favour. This needs to end.

Anthony Henriques
Mumbai

NEW POLITICS

THERE IS NO point raising eyebrows over the recent moves made by Jitin Prasada or Mukul Roy. Since ideology is now a thing of the past and, as recent events have proved, politicians are prone to shift party allegiances once, twice or several times, with the sole purpose of grabbing power. Sometimes we even lose track of the parties each of them belong to. Has the party system in politics become irrelevant? Is it time for a new politics?

Bhaskar Roy
New Delhi

JANA'S VICTORY

WORLD NO. 33, Barbora Krejčíková scripted history by becoming the first Czech woman in 40 years to conquer Roland Garros. In a match of fluctuating fortunes, Barbora outlasted Russian Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova in three sets to claim her maiden singles Grand Slam. What's more, she went on to annex the doubles title, becoming the seventh woman to achieve the single-doubles feat in the Open era, joining Billie Jean King (1972), Margaret Court (1973), Chris Evert (1974-75), Virginia Ruzici (1978), Martina Navratilova (1982, 1984) and Mary Pierce (2000). The Czech fittingly dedicated her win to her mentor, the former Wimbledon champion Jana Novotná who succumbed to cancer in 2017 at 49.

N.J. Ravi Chander
Bengaluru

₹500 for the best letter of the week goes to R. Narayanan (June 7). Email: asianage.letters@gmail.com.

A.G. Noorani



The fault in our federalism: Parties in India have a unitary structure

One of the main architects of India's constitution, Dr B.R. Ambedkar was always at pains to assert that the Constitution over which he had toiled was essentially federal in nature. Moving that the Draft Constitution be taken into consideration, on November 4, 1948, he said: "The Draft Constitution is a federal constitution inasmuch as it establishes what may be called a dual polity. This dual polity under the proposed Constitution will consist of the Union at the centre and the states at the periphery each endowed with sovereign powers to be exercised in the field assigned to them respectively by the Constitution."

These dicta are advisedly quoted at length to demonstrate how a Constitution can be deformed and perverted despite the intentions of its framers. Some perversions began early when Jawaharlal Nehru was Prime Minister. Dr Ambedkar was almost in tears a few years later when he told the Rajya Sabha that he was a hack and

disowned the Constitution.

In this he was being utterly unfair to himself and, indeed, to the text of the Constitution. A British scholar on constitutional law opined early enough that India's was a unitary Constitution with federal features rather than a federal Constitution with unitary features.

Right now, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, assaults on the few federal features have increased. Truth to tell, the Hindutva parties, the Jan Sangh and its successor, the BJP, were never happy with federalism. For at the core of the concept of federalism is sharing of power.

Debate in India reckons with the Union's amassment of power but not with the refreshingly new insights into the concept of "cooperative federalism". This implies that all the three tiers of the country's government — Union, provincial or state and municipal — cooperate in the national undertaking; each sticking to its own sphere delineated in the Constitution. States which resent central domi-

nance cheerfully tread on the domain of the municipalities and local boards, the law regardless. As Jyoti Basu, chief minister of West Bengal, discovered, memoranda demanding greater powers for states are one thing. But it is the Union which controls the flows of funds to the states.

The concept of cooperative federalism implies obligation by all to cooperate in the nation-building exercise. As explained previously, "Rather than pitting state's rights against central power, the trend in the US, Canada, Australia and Europe has been towards sharing and cooperation in services and planning. While the federal governments without a doubt have increased their power at the expense of the state level, the state governments have also gained new functions." And "states and local agencies, in particular, have developed ways of participating in the planning and administration of many of the federal activities which at first glance appear to intervene so drastically in their

internal affairs".

In Australia, for instance, since 1982, states are to be consulted in advance before the Commonwealth of Australia concludes a treaty with a foreign government which impinges on their interests, although under the Constitution foreign affairs is exclusively a Union subject.

In Canada, the provinces successfully united to secure greater powers without amending the Constitution. It is politics which shapes the working of a Constitution. The All-India Services are another tool of central control. Deputation of an officer belonging to this service is controlled by the Centre. Recently, the Modi government sought to punish the chief secretary of West Bengal for being late, by five minutes for a meeting with Prime Minister Modi. Kashmir has bitterly complained of central control over the so-called All-India Services. They include the Indian Police Service also.

It is, however, in the intellectual realm that the backwardness is

more harmful. There exists an international body charged with the study of federalism. The progress which its journals record are unknown in India. We need to think anew. A federal Constitution cannot be worked by political parties organised as unitary bodies.

All the political parties are run by their party bosses at the very centre. They award tickets for election to party candidates whom they select. The party members have no voice in the selection. It is the boss who will decide who will be the chief minister and even the composition of the cabinet. In short, a so-called democratic constitution is run by outrageously undemocratic political parties. This is the direct opposite of the situation in Britain, Germany, the United States and other democratic countries. This has an impact on the working of the Constitution, especially on the functioning of the governor and the President.

By arrangement with Dawn

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	52474.76	0.33
Nifty 50	15799.40	0.39
S&P 500*	4,247.44	0.19
Dollar (₹)	73.06	0.00
Pound Sterling (₹)	103.38	-0.36
Euro (₹)	88.81	0.07
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	48,530,441	0.90
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	72.91	0.54
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.006	0.00
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.464	0.005

* As of 8:30 PM IST

FPIs invest ₹15,520 cr in equities in June

Foreign portfolio investors pumped in a net Rs 13,424 crore so far in June as risk-on sentiment improved with declining Covid-19 cases. Depositories data showed FPIs invested Rs 15,520 crore in equities during June 1-11. At the same time, they withdrew Rs 2,096 crore from the debt segment, taking the total net inflow to Rs 13,424 crore. This comes after a net withdrawal of Rs 2,666 crore in May and Rs 9,435 crore in April.

Trading in DHFL shares suspended from today



BSE and NSE will suspend trading in the shares of DHFL from Monday, June 14. The move, aimed at avoiding "market complications", comes against the backdrop of the NCLT approving Piramal Group's resolution plan for DHFL. The resolution plan provides for delisting the DHFL shares. DHFL on June 9 said no value was attributable to the equity shares as per the liquidation value of the company estimated by the valuers.

CG Power lines up ₹135 cr capex in current year

CG Power and Industrial Solutions, acquired last year by Tube Investments of India of Murugappa Group last year, has chalked out capital expenditure plans of Rs 135 crore during the current financial year. The capex will be spent in balancing, debottlenecking and modernising facilities at the plants to improve production and productivity", CG Power and Industrial Solutions said in a statement.

Nitco to launch new range of products in US

Mumbai-based tile and natural stone surface designer Nitco will participate in the US exhibition "Coverings 21" scheduled from July 7 to July 9 in Orlando, Florida. Nitco's export business is spread across more than 40 countries. "Nitco will launch its new range of wall tiles and mosaics for the first time in the US," the firm said. "There is immense opportunity for Nitco to expand its presence in USA & Latin American markets", it said.

Printed & Published by K. Sudhakar on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited. Printed at BFL Infotech Ltd, C-9 Sector 3, Noida-201301. Published at 219, N D Tiwari Bhawan, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi-110002. Editor: T.Venkatram Reddy, RNI Registration number 30074/09, Air surcharge Re 1. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission of The Editor, Financial Chronicle ® is prohibited.

■ Paytm, Aadhar Housing, Policy Bazaar eye mega IPOs Financial services firms line up ₹55,000-cr float

Mumbai, June 13: With payments major Paytm's board reportedly approving a bumper share sale plan running north of Rs 22,000 crore, the IPO market is set for a big days, as over a dozen financial services players, including fintechs, are set to mop up over Rs 55,000 crore this fiscal from the market, according to investment bankers.

With more than a dozen insurance, asset management, commercial banking, non-banks, microfinance, housing finance and payment bank players already filing draft documents with the market regulator Sebi for public offerings, the financial services sector is set to dominate the primary issues or initial public offerings (IPOs) over the coming months.

Some of those who have already filed the draft red herring prospectus (DRHPs) with the Sebi include Aadhar Housing Finance (Rs 7,500 crore), Policy Bazaar (Rs 4,000 crore), Aptus Housing Finance (Rs 3,000 crore), Star Health Insurance (Rs 2,000 crore), Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC (Rs 1,500-2,000 crore) Arohan Financial Services (Rs 1,800 crore), Fusion Microfinance (Rs 1,700 crore), Fincare Small Finance Bank (Rs 1,330 crore), Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (Rs 1,000-1,300 crore), Medi Assist (Rs 840 crore) and Jana Small Finance Bank (Rs 700 crore). The board of the biggest payments bank Paytm has reportedly cleared a more



RAMDEV'S RUCHI SOYA FILES FPO PAPERS TO RAISE ₹4,300 CRORE

New Delhi, June 13: Edible oil firm Ruchi Soya, which is owned by Baba Ramdev-led Patanjali Ayurveda, has filed draft document with the Sebi to launch a follow-on public offer (FPO) for raising up to Rs 4,300 crore.

The FPO is being launched to meet the Sebi norm of minimum public shareholding of 25 per cent in a listed entity.

Ruchi Soya filed the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with the market regulator on Saturday, sources said.

They said that the promoters have to dilute a minimum 9 per cent stake in this round of the FPO. The FPO is likely to hit the capital market next month after getting Sebi approval. Promoters group held 98.90 per cent stake in the company.

Ruchi Soya closed at Rs 1,242.35 apiece on the BSE on Friday. — PTI

tus (DRHP) with the market regulator on Saturday, sources said.

They said that the promoters have to dilute a minimum 9 per cent stake in this round of the FPO. The FPO is likely to hit the capital market next month after getting Sebi approval. Promoters group held 98.90 per cent stake in the company.

Ruchi Soya closed at Rs 1,242.35 apiece on the BSE on Friday. — PTI

Investment bankers and analysts consider the IPO boom to be reflective of the ongoing bull run and advice retail investors to be cautious while parking their money in new firms.

V. K. Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist at Geojit Financial Services in Kochi, said the performance of the IPO market usually has a strong correlation to the performance of the secondary market. "If the stock market is bull-

ish, it attracts a large number of investors into IPOs.

Particularly, new investors lured by high potential profits, get attracted to new offers and the IPO market has always done well during market booms, Vijayakumar said.

Rupen Rajguru, head of equity investments and strategy at global wealth management firm Julius Baer in Mumbai, concurs and cautions retail investors to study the valuations carefully before investing as the market is a bit over-heated now.

"The current IPO market buoyancy is expected to continue into the next few quarters. IPOs are in fact playing on the financialisation of savings theme, which is a big structural shift in the country," Rajguru said.

Apart from Paytm, Policy Bazaar is looking to float a Rs 4,000-crore offering, industry sources said.

Two small finance banks — Jana SFB and Fincare SFB— have filed their draft papers with the Sebi.

Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC is looking to go public with Rs 1,500-2,000 crore offering. From the insurance sector, there are two IPOs: Westbridge Capital and Rakesh Jhunjhunwala-backed Star Health & Allied Insurance, and the largest health benefits administrator Bengaluru-based Medi Assist TPA.

Microfinance players Arohan Financial Services, Fusion Microfinance and digital debt platform Northern Arc are also eyeing the IPO market. — PTI

G-7 drops 2030 target to shift to green cars

JOSH WINGROVE & ALBERTO NARDELLI JUNE 13

The Group of Seven nations backed away from plans to set a target for making sure most new cars sold are greener vehicles, instead pledging only speed up efforts to move away from combustion engines.

In the final communique Sunday, the bloc include an autos section that was far more modest than earlier versions being discussed. It pledged to do more to electrify the transport sector but didn't set firm target dates.

"We recognize that this will require dramatically increasing the pace of the global decarbonization of the road transport sector throughout the 2020s, and beyond," the leaders wrote.

"We commit to accelerate the transition away from new sales of diesel and petrol cars to promote the uptake of zero emission vehicles."

The language is an apparent compromise between the nations, several of whom are major automakers. Earlier drafts of the communique suggested that the G-7 "strive" to ensure that the majority of all new passenger car sales are not petrol or diesel-powered "by 2030 or sooner." — Bloomberg



MFs need fully independent board of trustees: Quantum

New Delhi, June 13:

There is a need for a fully independent board of trustees that will ensure that markets regulator Sebi's rules are complied with and the interests of the small investors are protected, said Quantum AMC founder Ajit Dayal. He said it should act as another check and balance that will further strengthen the mutual fund industry.

This could be a significant step after Franklin Templeton AMC has been found guilty of violating regulatory norms in the winding up of six debt schemes.

In a telephonic conversation with PTI, Dayal said that if one person of an asset management company (AMC) is sitting on the board of trustees then we are compromising the interest of investors. "The presence of that one member will make the board of trustees less independent."

"If you want to ensure that investors are well-looked after then you should have 100 per cent independent trustees," he said.

He further said the board of trustees is the most underutilised body.

In his opinion, Sebi should make a regulation that only independent trustees should be on the trustees board, not anyone from AMC, or anyone linked to the management.

"I think this is an oversight from Sebi that they have not put this rule. This should have been



done from 1993 but they haven't done it so far," he added.

The trustees job is to ensure that the funds are actually managed in the interests of the shareholders.

Quantum MF is probably the only fund house where the board of trustees is totally independent.

When asked whether Franklin Templeton-like episode could have been avoided if such a measure was in place, Dayal said "it is difficult to say whether we could have avoided such a situation but in theory, yes."

"In theory, yes, because if the trustees have the right information, if the trustees keep on comparing the information they have with what is stated in the prospectus or offer document then possibly if there is a mismatch, they can immediately correct it," he said.

Dayal said a lot of that also depends on the way the trustees take their job. He said they should take their job seriously as representative of investors, not as friends of the AMCs. — PTI

Thinking up creative ways to fight inflation

TRACY ALLOWAY JUNE 13

As the cost of everything now from steel to sugar surges, it's worth pausing to consider some more unusual ways to bring down prices. In China, for instance, Bloomberg reports that the Department of Price has been charged with working out the finer details of the country's recently announced crackdown on rising commodities costs. The effort to bring down prices includes higher transaction fees for commodity trades, new tax rules, encouraging producers to sell down inventories, and much more.

Last month, for instance, the Tangshan steel hub banned steelmakers from spreading price-hike information, while Shanghai has urged steel mills not to raise prices if production costs haven't changed.

And while China's renewed interest in price controls does raise some questions about its continued commitment to freer markets, it's certainly not the only country to have experimented with more creative types of inflation

When egg prices rose in the spring of 1966 US President Johnson had the Surgeon General issue alerts as to the hazards of cholesterol in eggs... A surprising number of people still think eggs are unhealthy

targeting. In fact, one of my all-time favourite financial anecdotes comes courtesy of Robert Samuelson's *The Great Inflation and its Aftermath*, which describes Lyndon B. Johnson's own struggles to bring down inflation in the 1960s. As recounted by one of Johnson's former aides:

"Shoe prices went up, so [President Lyndon B Johnson] slapped export controls on hides to increase the supply of leather. Reports that colour television sets would sell at high prices came across the wire. Johnson told me to ask

RCA's David Sarnoff [RCA was then a major TV manufacturer] to hold them down. Domestic lamb prices rose. LBJ directed [defence secretary Robert] McNamara to buy cheaper lamb from New Zealand for the troops in Vietnam. The president told CEA [Council of Economic Advisers] and me to move on household appliances, paper cartons, newsprint, men's underwear, women's hosiery, glass containers, cellulose, [and] air conditioners ...

When egg prices rose in the spring of 1966 and agriculture secretary Orville Freeman told him that not much could be done, Johnson had the Surgeon General issue alerts as to the hazards of cholesterol in eggs."

Unfortunately, as Samuelson put it, "all this was for naught" and the president's customised inflation-fighting was too small to offset the overwhelming inflationary impulse from the economic boom of the time. A surprising number of people still think eggs are unhealthy though.

— Bloomberg

Income inequalities point to 'uneven' recovery: Subbarao

BIJAY KUMAR SINGH NEW DELHI, JUNE 13:

Former RBI governor D. Subbarao has expressed concerns over "extreme unevenness" in economic recovery and "sharpening inequalities" between upper income segments and lower income households in the country, cautioning that the trend will hit growth prospects, going forward.

He said liquidity in the domestic market and foreign fund inflows are leading to soaring prices of stocks and other assets despite disruptions due to the Covid pandemic.

The earlier expectations of a sharp economic recovery this year have been dashed by the new pandemic wave, he said.

"The economy contracted last year, for the first time in four decades, by as much as 7.3 per cent. That was less deep than we had first feared but still deep enough to have caused distress to millions of families in the informal sector. There was expectation of a sharp recovery this year

but those expectations are now tempered by the impact of the second wave," Subbarao told PTI.

The RBI too reduced its growth forecast for the current fiscal by one percentage point, from 10.5 per cent to 9.5 per cent, he said adding that even 9.5 per cent growth might seem impressive but note that this is coming on a very low base of last year. "Even if we clock this growth rate, the output during this fiscal 2021/22 will still be less than the output two years ago."

Subbarao said that while the majority of people have lost jobs and saw reduction in their income, the wealth of some rich individuals have increased during the pandemic period. "The positive wealth effect of the upper income segments juxtaposed with the negative income effects of the lower income households tells a story of a very uneven recovery and sharpening inequalities. This is morally wrong and politically corrosive," he said.

— PTI

AMAZON RAISES MINIMUM PAY IN GERMANY TO 12 EUROS/HOUR



June 13: Amazon will guarantee an entry-level wage at its German warehouses of 12 euros (\$15 or Rs 1,100) an hour, the company said on Friday in the face of a long-running battle with a top labour union.

Germany is Amazon's biggest market after the United States, and the Verdi union has been organising strikes at Amazon since 2013 to protest low pay and poor conditions.

The pay increase is effective from July.

Amazon's wages exceed Germany's current minimum wage of 9.50 euros per hour. But workers have regularly gone on strike, such as last year to coincide with the \$1.6 trillion company's global "Prime Day" promotion event. They were disgruntled that a coronavirus bonus had been scrapped.

A Verdi official said that the increase was the least that the company could do after "earning a pretty penny in recent months" and that pay still fell short of its demands for many employees.

Amazon—which saw net profit rise to \$8.1 billion in the first quarter, more than tripling from \$2.5 billion the year earlier—has faced similar criticism over conditions and pay throughout the globe.

A spokesperson for Amazon in Germany said all employees would be getting a raise, and Amazon said in a statement that further increases were scheduled for the future.

— Reuters

UNSEEN | COST

A Shanghai-Rotterdam cargo costs \$10,522, or 547% of 5-year seasonal average

Out-of-control shipping costs fire up prices

ALEX LONGLEY, CATHERINE BOSLEY & DEIRDRE HIPWELL JUNE 13

The skyrocketing price of shipping goods across the globe may hit your pocket sooner than you think—from that cup of coffee you get each morning to the toys you were thinking of buying your kids.

Transporting a 40-foot steel container of cargo by sea from Shanghai to Rotterdam now costs a record \$10,522, a whopping 547 per cent higher than the seasonal average over the last five years, according to Drewry Shipping.

With upwards of 80 per cent of all goods trade transported by sea, freight-cost surges are threatening to boost the price of everything from toys, furniture and car parts to coffee, sugar and anchovies, compounding concerns in global markets already bracing for accelerating inflation.

"In 40 years in toy retailing I have never known such challenging conditions from the point of view of pricing," Gary Grant, the founder and executive chairman of the UK toy shop The Entertainer, said in an interview. He has had to



stop importing giant teddy bears from China because their retail price would have had to double to add in higher freight costs. "Will this have an impact on retail prices? My answer has to be yes."

A confluence of factors—soaring demand,

a shortage of containers, saturated ports and too few ships and dock workers—have contributed to the squeeze on transportation capacity on every freight path. Recent Covid outbreaks in Asian export hubs like China have made matters worse. The

pain is most acutely felt on longer-distance routes, making shipping from Shanghai to Rotterdam 67 per cent more expensive than to the US West Coast, for instance.

Often dismissed as having an insignificant impact on inflation because they were a tiny part of the overall expense, rising shipping costs are now forcing some economists to pay them a bit more attention. Although still seen as a relatively minor input, HSBC Holdings Plc estimates that a 205 per cent increase in container shipping costs over the past

year could raise euro-area producer prices by as much as 2 per cent.

At the retail level, vendors are faced with three choices: halt trade, raise prices or absorb the cost to pass it on later, all of which would effectively mean more expensive goods, said Jordi Espin, strategic relations manager at the European Shippers' Council, a Brussels-based trade group that represents about 100,000 retailers, wholesalers and manufacturers. "These costs are already being passed to consumers," he said.

—Bloomberg

OUR CRITIC'S RATING

Outstanding ★★★★★

Great ★★★★★

Good ★★★

Okay ★★

Poor ★

Truly Terrible TT

Mare of Easttown glows because of Winslet

It's good, not great

Mare of Easttown

CAST: Kate Winslet, Julianne Nicholson, Jean Smart, Guy Pearce**DIRECTOR:** Craig Zobel**RATING:** ★★★★★

Streaming on Disney Hotstar

SUPARNA SHARMA

Kate Winslet can only be described in adjectives and it's not hyperbole.

Winslet, 45, has the kind of classic, resplendent beauty that we often encounter in world-famous paintings guarded by stanchions and velvet rope. A Rembrandt woman in a Monet setting. The sort of perfection that's assured, calm but with a story to tell.

Ms Winslet is also talented and prolific. She has acted in about 40+ feature films and several serials, including the 2011 *Mildred Pierce* and now, *Mare of Easttown*. In both she plays the title role.

Mare of Easttown is a gently cruising seven-part series about dogged detectives in pursuit of the truth.

Mare Sheehan (Kate Winslet), born, brought up, married and divorced in Easttown, is like the town's representative detective in the present. She takes crimes in her town seriously and personally. When she drives around neighbourhoods, she watched over the houses and its people. Her presence is reassuring.

The slow-burn series set in a suburb of Philadelphia, US, creates a warm bond with this town, its people and their problems. Mare and her mother, Helen (Jean Smart), ground the show and carry most of the burden to make the town feel lived-in, with a past and a present. Their kitchen-living room, with a couch, a small table next to a fridge with beer and food, chatter about what's happening in town, feels like the nucleus of the world. We want to stay there, because it's fun, warm and sustaining.

Since the series dropped, Kate Winslet has been praised for playing a middle-aged woman with a grandchild and a sexual appetite. She has also been lauded for telling the director "don't you dare" when he suggested airbrushing her "bulgy bit of belly" that was showing in a sex scene.

There is much to celebrate about a stunning A-list actress surrendering to a character that is flawed, makes mistakes, is haunted by their conse-



quences and wants to get lost in Costco T-shirts and oversized check shirts.

For an actress known for her luminous beauty, that takes daring. But also cunning.

There is very little that sets *Mare of Easttown* apart from other murder mystery series that get top billing on most OTT platforms.

Mare of Easttown is nothing more than a boilerplate detective series. Like most, its story too swirls around raped, missing and dead girls.

Some of the earlier series, in fact, like *Bridge*, *The Killing*,

Marcella, *Happy Valley*, *Top of the Lake*, *The Fall* — all with women detective protagonists — had better plotting and many of them cared a bit more about their victims.

Mare of Easttown's plot is usual — one crime is followed by a few more crimes, of which at least one suggests a pattern while the others are intriguingly different. Together they cast suspicion on a wide variety of people — those who do suspicious things, have a doggy past, seem to have a motive, and others who seem incapable of committing the crime and have an alibi.

As the detective, while fighting

her own demons and struggling with some personal crisis, goes about investigating clues, alibis and motives, a lot of unraveling takes place in various homes and relationships.

Many men and women in the past have risen similarly over heaps of dead, battered, wronged women. That's why it is a bit precious to celebrate Kate Winslet or *Mare of Easttown* as a feminist leap. Especially because the series is totally uninterested in the crimes, and even less so in the victims of these crimes. Its concerns and interests lie with families, units

and not the single women who are dead or had gone missing.

After the most dramatic and heart-pounding Episode 5 about two missing girls, Episode 6 simply moves on.

The show briefly visits one girl whose mother's moral presence was like a dark shadow stalking Mare for a year. But it has no time for the other girl, who was a prostitute and an addict.

Mare of Easttown doesn't bother to tell us what these women went through, who was the guy who took them.

There was another girl — a single mother with no money and an uncaring father. She got pushed around, beaten, humiliated, and then turned up dead.

A family conspired against her.

But the series has little time for her. Its sympathies lie with the families, the fathers and mothers who stand up to protect their own, even when they commit or cover up crimes. Tears are not shed for dead girls, but for protective mothers. Their suffering, and not actions, is foregrounded, repeatedly.

Even the town's priest who has a disturbing past gets redemption through suffering and to be the healer of the town.

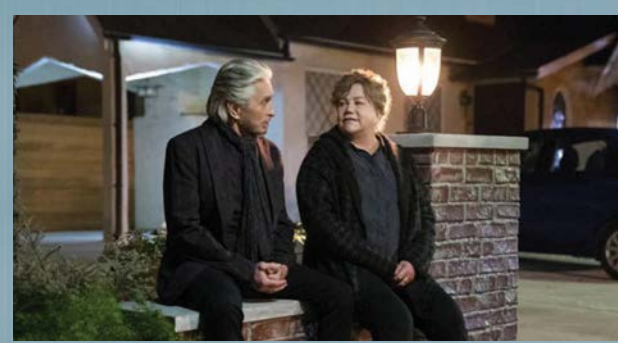
These flawed characters, this skewed moral core and forgiveness is part of the show's appeal. But it is no leap in any direction.

Winslet is very talented and her silent, almost stoic exterior is like an invitation to have a conversation with her troubled inner cosmos, and that is a major part of what makes *Mare of Easttown* worthy of binge-watching.

Also, her beauty. Despite her ugly hair bleach, Kate Winslet is always gorgeous. Even the small bump on her upper lip, her limp pony tail add to her middle-aged sex appeal. The camera is riveted by her beauty that is made more appealing because it's framed in grunge.

There is no contest for the most daring, unflattering role for the world's top female filmstars. No prizes are given out to actresses when they refuse to be airbrushed to perfection. But if they were, Nicole Kidman would win hands down with her makeover as the deadbeat, withering detective Erin Bell in that supremely idiotic 2018 film, *Destroyer*. And for letting all her warts and more show, Jennifer Aniston would also be in the running as a woman in constant pain in the 2014 movie, *Cake*.

Again, I am not creating a contest here. Just context.



Fun, foul-mouthed reunion for Turner, Douglas on Kominsky

AMANDA LEE MYERS

LOS ANGELES Nearly four decades ago, *Romancing the Stone* introduced audiences to the crackling chemistry between Michael Douglas and Kathleen Turner.

Now at 76 and 66 years old, Douglas and Turner are back on screen together in the third and final season of Netflix's "The Kominsky Method." Despite the many years that have passed since their third and last film together, their reunion was seamless.

"Like riding a bicycle," Douglas said over a video call earlier this week. "We'd look at each other, and there's a lot of memories coming back."

The Los Angeles-set *Kominsky Method* doesn't place the pair in the same exotic locations as 1984's *Romancing the Stone* or its sequel *Jewel of the Nile*. But it does include the type of caustic barbs from their last film together, 1989's *The War of the Roses*.

It was with that in mind that Douglas thought to invite Turner to join *The Kominsky Method* in its second season to play his character's sharp-tongued ex-wife, who's introduced during a phone call. The idea came to Douglas immediately when creator/writer Chuck Lorre mentioned introducing an ex-wife to the show.

"I just smiled and I said, *This is 'The War of the Roses'* revisited 30 years later," Douglas said. "We've already got our back stories and we're all set."

As in the film, Turner often uses R-rated terms when speaking to Douglas' character, which never fails to delight her in real life.

"(There are) two

times at least when

she gets to go, 'No,

I'm f—— with

you, a——!'"

Turner recalled,

laughing. "It was

just such fun. And

he takes it very well,

I have to say."

Seeing the two of

them act together

again was

"thrilling," said Sarah Baker, who plays Douglas' daughter

in the show.

"I like to think of myself as the *Romancing the Stone* baby," she joked. "The chemistry is just there, that timing, the rapport between them. It's the kind of thing, it's very difficult to fake, so when you have that just inherently between you, we just got to sit back and watch and had a front-row seat, which was amazing."

Paul Reiser, who plays Baker's fiance, said he was struck by the uniqueness of Douglas' and Turner's relationship.

"There aren't that many pairings of actors ... There aren't that many that you've seen repeatedly," he said.

"You've got De Niro and Pesci. Walter Matthau and Jack Lemmon. ... You subconsciously have this history that the minute you see them, it almost breaks the frame in a good way. It makes what you're watching seem a piece of what you've been watching for years. It's a real treat to have that."

Turner's presence — along with an expanded role for Reiser and smaller parts for Oscar winners Morgan Freeman and Allison Janney — helps make up for the third season's absence of Alan Arkin, who left the show after its second season. His banter with and needling of Douglas was pitch perfect and earned both men Emmy nominations.

"He was such an instrumental part of our success," Douglas said. "It was a little bit of a risk ... but I felt strong enough for the other characters."

The Kominsky Method

CAST: Michael Douglas, Alan Arkin, Sarah Baker, Nancy Travis and Kathleen Turner**DIRECTOR:** Chuck Lorre

Streaming on Netflix

Lines on the ground and the lives their impact

Relief.

Director Samarth Mahajan says borders and the narrative around them is "unidimensional and hyper-masculine." It's all about the Army, terrorists, the enemy, the other.

He and his team wanted to find other dimensions — other stories about how borders impact common people, their lives.

Borderlands introduces us to six people — five women and one man — whose lives are shaped by India's borders with Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh.

In Birgunj, Nepal, we meet Kavita who works with an NGO engaged in anti-trafficking work. She's often out on the busy road of the open India-Nepal border monitoring traffic, stopping bikes and autorickshaws carrying young girls. She smiles while asking them where they are going, why, and with whom. She asks for IDs, where they will stay. Relationship with the adults accompanying the girls. When the details are sketchy, she calls up the girl's parents to confirm details. And when she is not satisfied, she calls the cops.

Self-confident and with an infectious smile, Kavita talks about how her family is always worried about her because of the work she does.

It's from Kavita that *Borderlands* moves to Noor, the one who slipped through the cracks. The one who made me pause.

"There is cross-border violence, and violence between countries. But there is also violence that happens on people because of these constructs of borders, nation-states... Nepal is



a peaceful border, but there is violence of another kind. Not through guns and tanks... The trafficking thread, with the Bengal story, is about confinement and rehabilitation," Samarth says.

Borderlands begins its journey on the India-Pakistan border with young Deepa. She, along with her family, is staying in a Jodhpur camp for Hindus from Pakistan and is studying to be a nurse. She is proud of her knowledge, skill and asks the director and his assistant to participate in a little play-act to show them how good she is at diagnosing and counselling patients. She is hilariously bad.

Deepa smiles a lot when she talks about her work, the life she had in Pakistan, what she wore. The present makes her wilt. She says she doesn't feel like dressing up these days. She misses her home. She's upset that all her life she studied

Sindi, Urdu and now has to learn Hindi.

Cooking in the open, outside her mud and thatch hut, Deepa gazes at the distant horizon, perhaps looking for the home she left, perhaps hoping to settle in.

"We like fixed identities... Pakistani-Hindus is an identity. But how do they actually live? We were looking for an emotional, softer connection... to look beyond the fixed identities," says Samarth.

Dehaul, in Nagaon, West Bengal, is much older than Deepa.

She came to India as a young bride from Bangladesh to be with her husband. The house she lives in now, with her children and husband, is just a few feet from the fence beyond which her parents and siblings live. She has not held or touched some of her brothers and sisters who were born after she came to India.

Every year, at the India-Bangladesh border, the two governments organise "Milan Bazaar". There is no walking across. But people on both sides of the fences, secured by barbed wire, are allowed to congregate and talk, many voices leaping simultaneously across the strip of no man's land that separates them.

As salutations, enquiries about health, wedding plans are shouted, small plastic packets dangling precariously on one end of a long bamboo stick rise from one side to drop oranges and colourful dresses for little nieces across the border.

This annual mela, complete with fruit sellers, men selling footwear, clothes, bags, toys, is the mingy, smug generosity of harsh nation-states.

Samarth, an engineer from IIT Kharagpur, grew up in Dinanagar, a town in Punjab close to the border with Pakistan. He takes us home, to

meet his mother, Rekha, who wanted to but wasn't allowed to be a school teacher. On most days, she says, she sits alone at home waiting for her kids to pick up her phone, answer her texts. She talks about loneliness, of living with the fear of terrorists, bombing and attacks. Of feeling reassured when her son's WhatsApp shows that he is "online".

We accompany Rekha on her first visit to the Wagah border and see the joy she felt when she and other women are invited to dance to nationalistic songs and wave the Tricolour.

Back home, she tells Samarth, what is the need for this very masculine show of strength, of commandos carrying automatic weapons and stomping their boots. "There is no need to do this everyday. Maybe once a week," she says.

Samarth says the seed for *Borderlands* was planted when he was shooting his first film, *Unreserved*. The film, which won the national award for "on location sound" in 2018, is a set of conversations with people travelling unreserved in train's general compartments across India.

He recalls a particular conversation with a Kashmiri. "He said his brother is in the Army and yet he supports Pakistan. But added that if his village gets electricity, if he gets a job, he may start supporting India," Samarth recalls.

Shifting identities.

That, says Samarth, stayed with him and set him off on the ambitious *Borderlands* project in October 2018 which required "bahut paisa, research, travel".

Borderlands is a co-production

between All Things Small and Camera And Shorts, apart from being partly crowdfunded by 557 backers and to zero-in on its main characters Samarth and the team read academic papers, met journalists, sarpanches and shot four-five people in each place. The shooting wrapped up in March 2020 and on the editing table six people made the final cut.

"Stronger characters turned out to be women," says Samarth.

In Imphal we meet Surjakanta who makes films about Manipuri revolutionaries who fought for an independent nation.

Samarth says, "Manipur is what became a symbol of conflict in the subcontinent. But in the mainland, we don't like to talk of Manipur and Nagaland in the same breath as Kashmir. We forget that there is a history of..."

This segment, however, is the film's weakest. After introducing us to Surjakanta's love for both — cinema and his land — it meanders and goes nowhere.

Hope, says Samarth, was an important thing they were keen to express through the people and stories they picked.

Deepa hopes to become a practicing nurse soon. Kavita hopes that everyday, as she watches over the border, she is saving girls.

Noor found her soulmate at the shelter home and hopes to reunite with the girl she loves, across the border.

Dhauli hopes that one day she'll be able to go back home.

Hope, yes. And a long wait.

The New York Indian Film Festival runs online till June 20. Passes are available to watch films.

Borderlands (Documentary)

DIRECTOR: Samarth Mahajan**RATING:** ★★★★★

Streaming online, at the New York Indian Film Festival (NYIFF)

SUPARNA SHARMA

The first time I watched director Samarth Mahajan's *Borderlands*, I was barely 20 minutes into it when I had to press pause.

At a shelter home for girls in Kolkata, Noor from Bangladesh, in a colourful T-shirt pulled over a blue, ankle-length cotton skirt, was sitting on a chair with her back to the camera. Her hair was gathered above her neck in a carefree bun held by a blue clutcher.

With her left leg shaking continuously, Noor said she used to cut herself because she was angry.

We see marks on her left forearm. Short, sharp cuts that had healed but stung. They held memories of the days when she was beaten by the man who had bought her, when she realised that his promise to set her free in six months was just another lie. When she thought of her Maasi who had sold her.

Noor said that she would rub chilli into her cuts and then secure it with a bandage. It would burn a lot.

And then she would open the wound and let water run over it.

SHORT TAKES

Mankad inducted into Hall of Fame

Dubai: The ICC on Sunday inducted 10 icons of the game, including India's Vinoo Mankad, into its illustrious Hall of Fame with two players each from five eras, dating back to cricket's early days, making it to the list. The inductees are Aubrey Faulkner of South Africa and Monty Noble of Australia (pre-1918), Sir Learie Constantine of West Indies and Stan McCabe of Australia (1918-1945), Ted Dexter of England and Vinoo Mankad of India (1946-1970). Desmond Haynes of the West Indies and Bob Willis of England were inducted from the ODI era (1971-1995) while Andy Flower of Zimbabwe and Kumar Sangakkara were from the modern era. — PTI

India up for WTC challenge: Pujara

Southampton: Batsman Cheteshwar Pujara says New Zealand will have the advantage going into the WTC final after playing a Test series against England but India will utilise the available time to prepare well for the title clash, starting here on June 18. "They will obviously have advantage having played two Test matches before the final but when it comes to final we will give our best and we know that our team has the potential to do well and win the championship," Pujara told *bcci.tv*. "So we are not worried about that, we will try and focus on these 10 to 12 days which we have for preparation." — PTI

Milkha's wife dies of Covid-19

Chandigarh: Former Indian women volleyball team captain Nirmal Kaur, who is the wife of sprint legend Milkha Singh, died at a Mohali hospital due to complications related to Covid-19 infection she had contracted last month. She was 85 and is survived by her husband, one son and three daughters. "A back bone of the Milkha Family, she was 85 years old. It is tragic that the Flying Sikh Milkha Singh ji could not attend the cremation which was conducted this evening itself as he is still in the ICU (of PGIMER in Chandigarh) himself," a statement from the family spokesperson said. — PTI

Faf recovering after concussion

Abu Dhabi: Much to the cricket community's relief, South African star Faf du Plessis on Sunday said he was back from the hospital and "recovering", after suffering a concussion during his team Quetta Gladiators' PSL match against Peshawar Zalmi here. In trying to save a boundary, Du Plessis collided with teammate Mohammad Hasnain during their Pakistan Super League match on Saturday night. Following the freak accident, the former South Africa captain lay prone on the ground for a few minutes while the team physio attended to him. — AFP

Rabada helps SA clinch innings win

Saint Lucia: Kagiso Rabada completed a five-wicket haul as South Africa formalised their demolition of the West Indies by an innings and 63 runs just before the lunch interval on the third day of the first Test on Saturday. Having taken just one wicket — AFP

Live on TV

EURO

Group Stage: Scotland vs Czech Republic from 6.30 pm; Poland vs Slovakia from 9.30 pm; Spain vs Sweden from 12.30 am (Tuesday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

COPA AMERICA

Group Stage: Argentina vs Chile from 2.30 am (Tuesday) on Sony Ten 1, 2; Paraguay vs Bolivia from 5.30 am (Tuesday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

Published by K. Sudhakar for and on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited at Jawaharlal Nehru National Youth Centre, 219 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi 110 002. And Printed by him at BFL Infotech Limited, C-9, Sector - III, Noida - 201301.
Editor - T. Venkatram Reddy, RNI Registration number 57290/94, Price in Nepal - Nep.Rs. 20.00 per copy.

Sterling start

Raheem's clinical strike fires England to a 1-0 win over Croatia

England	1
(Raheem Sterling 57)	
Croatia	0

London, June 13: Raheem Sterling ignited England's Euro 2020 campaign as the Manchester City forward's clinical finish sealed a 1-0 win against Croatia in their Group D opener on Sunday. Gareth Southgate's side were struggling to break down Croatia until Sterling struck in the second half at sun-baked Wembley.

The 26-year-old's first goal at a major tournament — in his 13th game — was the perfect riposte to critics who questioned Southgate's decision to select him instead of Jack Grealish.

Sterling has endured a chequered relationship with England fans after being hounded following his tame performances at Euro 2016.

He also struggled to hold down a place with Premier League champions City this term, culminating in his lacklustre display in their Champions League final defeat against Chelsea.

But, days after he was given an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for his anti-racism campaigning, Sterling enjoyed a perfectly-timed moment of redemption. In a rematch of the 2018 World Cup semi-final won by Croatia, England were hampered by a lack of cutting edge until Sterling came to the rescue. England host neighbours Scotland in their second Group 'D' match on Friday before taking on the Czech Republic. — AFP



England's Raheem Sterling celebrates after scoring a goal against Croatia in the Euro match at Wembley on Sunday. — AP

Finland	1
(Joel Pohjanpalo 60)	
Denmark	0

JOEL HEADER HELPS FINLAND SECURE 1ST WIN

Copenhagen, June 13: Finland beat Denmark 1-0 in their opening match of Euro 2020 which was overshadowed by Christian Eriksen collapsing and having to be revived on the field by medics.

Joel Pohjanpalo scored the only goal on the hour mark of a Group 'B' match which was stopped for nearly two hours after Danish playmaker Eriksen slumped to the turf towards the end of the first half.

Chants of "Christian" and "Eriksen" from both sets of supporters rang around the stadium as news of his status began to filter through to supporters.

The two teams played out an uneventful final few minutes of the first half after both sets of players returned to the pitch with several Danish players in tears. After a short break of five minutes the second half of the match continued with Denmark pressing Finland back but failing to find a way past the opposition defence and Finnish 'keeper Lukas Hradecky.

Pohjanpalo stunned the crowd into silence when he headed home Jere Uronen's cross, capitalising on Finland's one true chance of the game. — AFP



Denmark's Christian Eriksen (centre) is evacuated after collapsing on the pitch during the Euro match at the Parken Stadium in Copenhagen on Saturday. — AFP

We got Eriksen back: Team Doc

Milan, June 13: Denmark's team doctor said on Sunday that Christian Eriksen's heart stopped and that "he was gone" before being resuscitated with a defibrillator at the Euro Championship.

Eriksen collapsed during Denmark's opening Euro 2020 group game against Finland on Saturday and was given lengthy medical treatment before regaining consciousness.

"He was gone. And we did cardiac resuscitation. And it was cardiac arrest," said team doctor Morten Boesen, who led the work in giving Eriksen treatment on the field. "How close were we? I don't know. We got him back after one defib. That's quite fast."

Boesen said it was still unclear what caused the midfielder's collapse. "I'm not cardiologist, so the details about why it happened and further, I will leave to the experts," he said.

HE HAD NO HEALTH ISSUES: INTER DOCTOR

Eriksen showed no hint of any underlying health condition, Inter Milan's team doctor said on Sunday.

"We had a bad time, not just me, but the whole family of our club," Piero Volpi told *Gazzetta Dello Sport*.

"In the next few days he will be subjected to in-depth examinations.

"The important thing is that he is well, but there had never been any episode that even remotely hinted at a problem when he was at Tottenham nor at Inter. In Italy there are very strict controls."



Denmark's goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel (right) and defender Simon Kjær (centre) comfort Sabrina Kvist Jensen, partner of Christian Eriksen. — AFP

CHRISTIAN HOPES TO BE BACK SOON

Inter CEO Giuseppe Marotta said that Eriksen had sent a message on the team chat reassuring them: "I'm fine, I hope to be back soon."

"Those harsh images foreshadowed dramatic things, but luckily it wasn't so thanks to the doctors," said Marotta.

"He never had Covid and he has never been vaccinated, we don't want to be intrusive because it's right for the player to be calm."

LUKAKU DEDICATES GOALS TO ERIKSEN

Belgium striker Romelu Lukaku said he shed tears for Christian Eriksen before dedicating his two-goal haul in Saturday's 3-0 win over Russia at Euro 2020 to his stricken Inter Milan team-mate.

"I am really happy with the win, but it was hard for me to play because my thoughts were with him," said Lukaku. — Agencies

Swedish challenge for Spain

Madrid, June 13: After a week without training and three years of upheaval, Spain head into their Euro 2020 opener against Sweden on Monday determined to leave the past behind but unsure about what comes next.

Luis Enrique was appointed to ring the changes in the aftermath of the 2018 World Cup, when going out on penalties to Russia had made it three consecutive failures to reach the quarter-finals of a major tournament.

At La Cartuja in Seville on Monday, only Jordi

Alba will remain from the Euro success nine years ago, with Sergio Ramos cut and Sergio Busquets self-isolating after testing positive for Covid last weekend.

And yet while the names bear almost no resemblance to what went before, Spain's fresh mix of promising youngsters and high-end performers arrive without any real sense of what now fills the void.

BAD BLOOD BETWEEN CZECH & SCOTLAND

Scotland's first match at a major tournament for 23 years is laced with acrimony for the Czech Republic, who travel to Hampden on Monday having been forced into a last-minute change of training camp and without suspended defender Ondrej Kudela.

Kudela was hit with a 10-match ban for racially abusing Rangers midfielder Glen Kamara when Slavia Prague visited Scotland in the Europa League last 16 in March.

The widespread condemnation of Kudela in Britain has not been reflected in his homeland, where Slavia and many of his club and international teammates have stood

by the 34-year-old and claimed there was a lack of evidence against him.

LEWANDOWSKI OUT TO IMPROVE RECORD

Robert Lewandowski's standing as one of the greatest ever strikers at club level is surely undisputed after a record-breaking season with Bayern Munich.

With 66 goals in 119 games for Poland, his status in the international game is well-established, too. Except, maybe, in one respect. Lewandowski has yet to turn it on at a major tournament. — Agencies

DJOKER IS KING

Djokovic rallies to beat Tsitsipas in French final, wins his 19th major

Paris, June 13: Novak Djokovic claimed a 19th Grand Slam title and became the first man in 52 years to win all four majors twice when he came from two sets down to beat Stefanos Tsitsipas in a gripping French Open final on Sunday.

The world number one triumphed 6-7 (6/8), 2-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 over the Greek 22-year-old who was playing in his first Slam final.

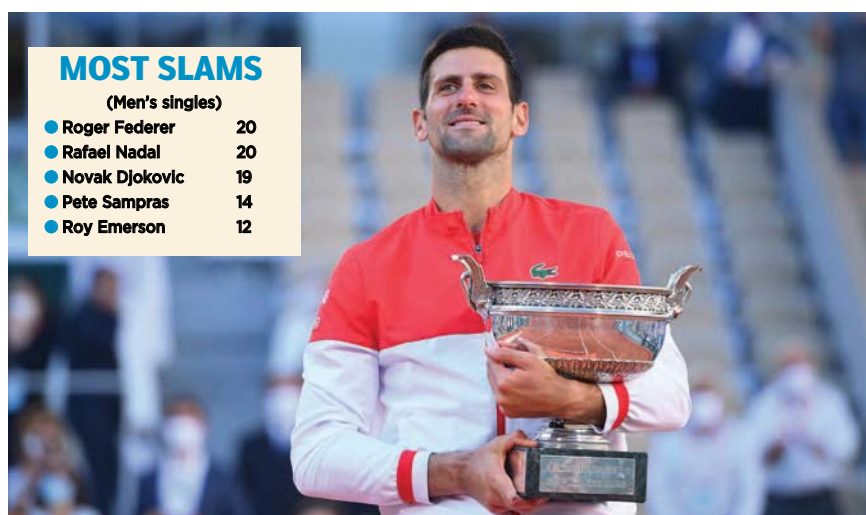
Djokovic is now just one major away from equalling the all-time record of 20, jointly held by Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

It was a second French Open crown for Djokovic after his 2016 victory and adds to his nine Australian Opens, five Wimbledon titles and three at the US Open.

The 34-year-old is the first man since Rod Laver in 1969 to win all four Slams on multiple occasions and just the third in history.

He is also the first man ever to win a Slam title by twice coming back from two sets down in same the tournament.

Djokovic now has 84 career titles in total while Sunday's win pushed him



Serbia's Novak Djokovic holds the French Open trophy after defeating Stefanos Tsitsipas in the final on Sunday. — Roland Garros

to the brink of \$150 million in prize money. "It was an electric atmosphere," said Djokovic after the four-hour 11-minute final. "It's a dream. It's difficult to win the title against a great player. It was a difficult three days physically and mentally." Djokovic had also spent more than four hours on court on Friday to knock out defending champion Rafael Nadal.

Tsitsipas survived a nervy opening service game, having to save two break points.

Djokovic, by contrast, didn't concede a point in his first three service games. But suddenly he faced a set point in the 10th game courtesy of an ugly shank but saved it after a 26-shot rally.

Fired up by a time violation, Djokovic broke for the first time for a 6-5 lead but was unable to serve

the opener as a series of razor-sharp returns put Tsitsipas back on level terms.

In a dramatic tiebreaker, Tsitsipas saw a 4/0 and 5/2 lead disappear.

He had to save a set point before claiming the opener after 70 minutes when Djokovic fired a forehand wide.

Dropping the opening set at this year's Roland Garros was familiar territory for Djokovic.

He had to recover from two sets down to beat Lorenzo Musetti in the last 16 and lost the opener against Nadal on Friday.

Tsitsipas, 12 years the world number one's junior, broke again in the first game of the second set as the 2016 champion looked increasingly weary in the 30-degree afternoon heat. The Greek edged ahead 5-2 and pocketed the second set with his eighth ace of the contest.

But the top seed wasn't finished, breaking in the fourth game of the third set to cut the deficit.

BARBORA COMPLETES GRAND DOUBLE

French Open champion Barbora Krejickova completed a rare sweep of titles at Roland Garros as she won a third women's doubles major trophy with fellow Czech teammate Katerina Siniakova on Sunday. Less than 24 hours after she claimed her maiden singles slam title, Krejickova became the first woman since Mary Pierce in 2000 to lift both trophies at the clay-court major. Only seven women have completed the titles sweep at Roland Garros. — Agencies



New Zealand's Tom Latham (centre) holds the trophy as his teammates celebrate winning the Test series against England in Birmingham on Sunday. — AFP

Kiwis seal rare away series win

Birmingham (UK), June 13: New Zealand overpowered England by eight wickets in the second Test at Edgbaston on Sunday as they sealed a 1-0 series win with more than a day to spare.

Set a target of just 38 after England tailender Olly Stone was out to the very first ball of the fourth day, the Blackcaps finished on 41-2.

Tom Latham, captaining the team in place of the injured Kane Williamson, hit the winning boundary to be 23 not out after the first Test of a two-match series at Lord's last week ended in a draw.

Victory gave New Zealand just a third win in 18 Test series in England, and a first this century after their 1986 and 1999 tri-

umphs. And it means they will head into next week's inaugural World Test Championship final against India at Southampton in confident mood.

"It's great to get an extra day of rest before India but we'll celebrate as well — we've not won here since 1999 so it's important to celebrate those achievements," said Latham at the presentation ceremony.

By contrast, this was England's first series loss at home since a 2014 defeat by Sri Lanka. — AFP

BRIEF SCORES

England 303 & 122 (Wood 29; Wagner 3/18, Henry 3/36) lost to New Zealand 388 & 41/2 (Latham 23 (not out)) by eight wickets.