



Confer Bharat Ratna on
S.P. Balasubrahmanyam,
A.P. CM Jagan urges Modi
page 8



U.S. President Trump
paid just \$750 in federal
income tax in 2016
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Upbeat Delhi Capitals
takes on struggling
Sunrisers
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Thiem eases past Cilic,
Serena and Kvitova
progress at French Open
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NEARBY



Babri Masjid demolition case verdict tomorrow
LUCKNOW
A special CBI court here will pronounce judgment in the Babri Masjid demolition case on Wednesday, almost 28 years after *karsevaks* demolished the Mughal-era mosque in Ayodhya on December 6, 1992.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 9

Assam's only woman CM passes away

GUWAHATI
Syeda Anwara Taimur, Assam's only woman Chief Minister, passed away in Australia on Monday. She was 84 and staying with her son there for four years. A four-time Congress MLA who won her first election in 1972, Taimur became the CM for around six months during the peak of anti-foreigners' agitation in Assam.

NORTH & EAST ▶ PAGE 5

Delhi sees 1,984 fresh virus cases as testing dips

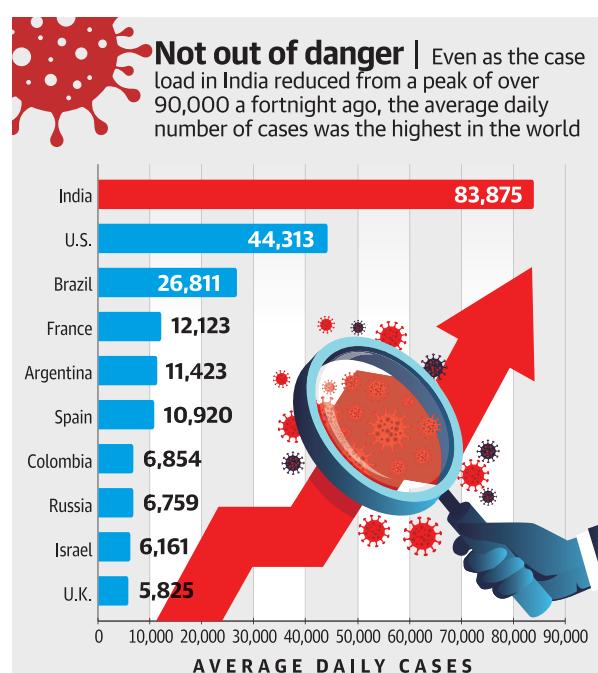
NEW DELHI
As many as 1,984 new COVID-19 cases were reported in the Capital in the past 24 hours, taking the total to 2,73,098, said a health bulletin released by the Delhi government. The number of tests has dropped from about 60,000 to 36,302, according to Monday's bulletin.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

COVID vaccine likely in early 2021: Vardhan

ICMR launches vaccine portal with details on trials

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI



Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan on Monday said the first vaccine for COVID-19 is likely to be available in the first quarter of 2021.

"Research to develop a vaccine is being done expeditiously. There are at least three viable such vaccine candidates that are in the phase of clinical trials right now in the country. We're hopeful that within the first quarter of 2021 it will be available," Dr. Vardhan was quoted as saying by the news agency ANI.

The Minister was speaking at the launch of a dedicated online vaccine portal by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) that details research studies, COVID-19 vaccine development in India as well as abroad and a history of vaccine development in India.

Commenting on the launch of the portal, Dr. Vardhan said, "ICMR has always been at the forefront of health research in the country and is now leading the country in tackling the unprecedented pandemic through scientific rigour and innovation. To disseminate the vaccine-related information, the exclusive portal will be helpful in creating awareness among the masses. I hope all query of common

people on the vaccine development process would be addressed through this portal."

The three leading COVID-19 vaccine candidates in India – Covishield, Covaxin and ZyCoV-D – are mentioned in the portal with information on the underlying technology used to make them, the trials that have so far been completed and current progress on the trials.

A section on international vaccine candidates being researched leads to a link on the World Health Organisation

website. There are links to the research publications which inform on how vaccine trials in India are conducted and what the studies so far show.

The portal also has information on vaccines for the Human Papilloma Virus, Shigella, hepatitis, cholera and typhoid. A section on the use of BCG – a vaccine for childhood tuberculosis – for COVID-19, links to an opinion paper on the *Indian Journal of Medical Research*, the ICMR's in-house medical journal.

REUTERS

Rage on Rajpath



Charred remains of a tractor that was set on fire near India Gate during a protest against the new farm laws, on Monday. Delhi police arrested five members of Indian Youth Congress for setting the vehicle on fire in high-security zone. ▶ PTI (REPORT ON PAGE 9)

Stage set for NSD's first play since lockdown

COVID test for actors, larger stage, masks for audience among precautionary steps

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

With a larger-than-usual stage, spaced-out seating for a masked audience and actors armed with negative COVID-19 test results, the National School of Drama is preparing for its first production since the pandemic shut down all public spaces in March.

Three shows of 'Pehla Satyagrahi', a play about the life of Mahatma Gandhi written by Ravindra Tripathy, have been planned this week in commemoration of Gandhi's birth anniversary. NSD director-in-charge and the director of the play, Suresh Sharma, said on Monday. The shows, one each on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, will be at 6.30 p.m. in an



Workers preparing the stage at National School of Drama for the play that will start on October 2. ▶ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

open-air auditorium at the NSD's Bhagwan Das Road premises.

Only 100 tickets

Mr. Sharma said the shows this week would be the first since March 16. He said all actors were tested for CO-

VID-19 and only those who tested negative were allowed to participate. Following the government's Unlock 4 guidelines, Mr. Sharma said only 100 tickets would be sold for each show.

"The stage will be sanitised regularly and distance

will be maintained. We have increased the size of the stage. The sitting gallery will be made in such a way as to maintain distance between seats," Mr. Sharma said.

All audience members will have to wear face masks and buy their tickets online, starting Tuesday. He added that if all goes well, the NSD would organise performances every other weekend.

Mr. Sharma said since there has been no performance for over six months, he expects the response to be positive.

Following orders of the Culture Ministry, classes at NSD were suspended on March 13 and online classes as well as webinars for the general public were organised during the lockdown," said a police officer.

AIADMK rift over CM face widens

Palaniswami,
Panneerselvam
spar at party meet

T. RAMAKRISHNAN
CHENNAI



In the lead: Tamil Nadu CM Edappadi K. Palaniswami arriving for the AIADMK meeting in Chennai on Monday. ▶ R. RAGU

The much-awaited meeting of the ruling All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam's (AIADMK) executive committee on Monday witnessed dramatic moments with Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and party co-coordinator Edappadi K. Palaniswami and Deputy Chief Minister and party coordinator O. Panneerselvam engaging in a wordy exchange.

The sharp verbal duel came over differences on who should be the party's

over four hours at the party headquarters in Chennai, ended without a decision on the crucial issue. "We will

announce our [Chief Minister] candidate on October 7," K.P. Munusamy, deputy coordinator of the party, told *The Hindu* after the meeting.

Exactly 10 days ago, senior functionaries of the party had met for over an hour and held an intense discussion on the subject.

According to several members of the executive committee, the deliberations at the meeting gave the impression that Mr. Palaniswami was "way ahead" of Mr. Panneerselvam, and his nomination as the Chief Minister candidate looked a mere formality.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Will fight new farm Acts legally, says Punjab CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH



Capt. Amarinder Singh at a dharna on Monday. ▶ PTI

dertaken simultaneously to force the Union government to rethink its decision."

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KARNATAKA BANDH ▶ PAGE 8
BRING COUNTER LAWS,
SONIA TELLS STATES ▶ PAGE 9

NIA court sentences IS recruit to life term

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHE



Subhani Haja Moideen at an NIA court in Kochi. ▶ PTI

banned terrorist organisation, awarded life imprisonment and also slapped a fine of ₹2.1 lakh on him.

Special judge of the National Investigation Agency court P. Krishnakumar pronounced the punishment. The court had convicted Moideen on Friday but postponed the awarding of punishment after offering him a chance to comment on the findings of the court.

The court, which found Moideen guilty of joining the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

UPSC reluctant to postpone civil services exams due on October 4

Further deferment may nullify objective of holding them'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on Monday expressed its reluctance to postpone the civil services exams due on October 4.

Appearing before a Bench led by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar, advocate Naresh Kaushik, for the UPSC, said it would not be possible to defer the exams as they had earlier been postponed due to the

pandemic. He said any further deferment may nullify the objective of holding the exams".

The Bench asked the UPSC to file an affidavit by September 29. It agreed to hear the case again on Wednesday.

The petition, filed by some aspirants, had said the conduct of the exams in the midst of a public health crisis was a violation of their fundamental right to life.

DETAILS ON PAGE 5

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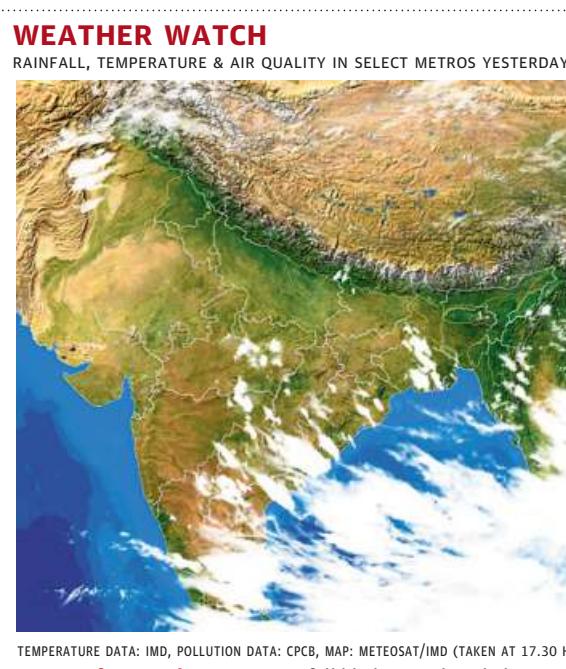
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Haryana Congress asks President to repeal Acts

'BJP passed farm laws treacherously, violating all norms'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Congress leaders on Monday submitted memorandum for the President to the Haryana Governor, condemning Centre's agriculture sector Acts and demanding that President Ram Nath Kovind take steps to repeal all the three Acts.

The delegation included Vivek Bansal, in-charge of party affairs in Haryana, State party chief Kumari Selja and Leader of the Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda among other leaders. Mr. Bansal said the Congress will continue its protest against the Acts.

"The President should use his office to undo the three black Acts which are endangering the existence of the farmers, labour and 'arhi-



Haryana Congress chief Kumari Selja •

norms, and is forcing them on the people of the country. We will start a signature campaign beginning October 2 and hold *Kisan Sammelans* (farmer meets) across the State against these Acts," he said.

MSP the dire need'

Ms. Selja said the Minimum Support Price is the dire need to save the farmers, labour and commission agents, but the BJP government was deliberately going to restrict the role of the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC).

Earlier, at a party meeting, Mr. Bansal asked the party cadre to stand as one team to lodge a strong protest against the three Acts.

"The Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) passed these black Acts treacherously, while violating all the Constitutional

rights' (commission agents)," Mr. Bansal said.

"In Bihar, the abolition of the APMC had resulted in disastrous situation as farmers have been reduced to labours and most of them are going to other States to work as farm-hands," she said

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"The Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) passed these black Acts treacherously, while violating all the Constitutional

Sacrifices made by farmers have gone waste, say Congress MPs

The Government of India has signed their death warrant'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Rajya Sabha MPs from the Congress, Partap Singh Bajwa and Shamsher Singh Dullo, on Monday said several sacrifices made by farmers of Punjab and Haryana had gone for naught now that the agriculture sector Bills had been signed into law.

"By notifying the anti-farmer laws on September 27, the Government of India has committed a grave mistake. The people of Punjab have been the sword arm of India and always been on the forefront of protecting the security of the nation. When the territorial sove-

reignty of the nation was under threat, the people from Punjab rose to the occasion and fought bravely on the front-lines," they said in a statement.

The MPs added that in the 1950s when food security was under threat, and the Government of India pushed for the Green Revolution, the farmers of Punjab and Haryana led the battle to ensure that India would become a food-surplus nation. Punjab and Haryana became the food bowl of the nation.

These sacrifices made by

the farmers of Punjab and Haryana had gone for naught now that these Bills

had been signed into law.

"The Government of India has signed the death warrant of the farmers. Our farmers who fought the British for Independence, will never be free again," the MPs added.

We must unite'

"We believe it is important to reiterate our support for our farmers who have been braving the heat and coming out to protest despite the COVID-19 pandemic. The spirit of Bhagat Singh lives on in Punjab and we must unite to ensure that these Acts are repealed at the earliest," they said.

Air Quality Code: □ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease.

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 200 indicating moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 17

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Minister of State for Tribal Area Development Arjun Singh Bamaniya and other representatives of the State government. Several incidents of stone-pelting and clashes were earlier reported in both Dungarpur and Udaipur districts.

Vehicles torched

The highway, connecting Udaipur with Ahmedabad, was cleared with the removal of stones, boulders and torched vehicles between Bichhwada and Kherwada towns.

The protesters also ended their dharna at Kakri-Dungri hills, situated adjacent to the highway, after a meeting with

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Assam's only woman CM passes away

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Syeda Anwara Taimur, Assam's only woman Chief Minister, passed away in Australia on Monday. She was 84 and staying with her son there for four years.

A four-time Congress MLA who won her first election in 1972, Ms. Taimur became the Chief Minister for a little more than six months during the peak of the anti-foreigners' agitation in Assam. Her reign ended on June 30, 1981.

Ms Taimur represented the Congress in the Rajya Sabha twice before joining the All India United Democratic Front in 2011. She had made headlines in 2018 when her name did not appear in the updated National Register of Citizens. She had later said members of her family might not have applied to get her name included in the list.

IPS officer transferred after clip shows him beating wife

It is a personal matter, he claims

SIDHARTH YADAV
BHOPAL

The M.P. government on Monday transferred and deputed Public Prosecution Director and senior police officer Purushottam Sharma of duties after a video of him reportedly beating his wife went viral on social media.

Taking *suo motu* cognisance of the reported incident, State Commission for Women chairperson Shobha Oza appealed to the government to take strict action, including registration of a case, against him.

"If those tasked with ensuring the maintenance of law and order violate it themselves..., the government need not require a complaint to act," she said.

A 1986 batch IPS officer, Mr. Sharma said it was his personal matter involving "familial social disorder". "There is no place for a fight

in a family. Why will I do it? We will resolve it within the confines of our home. The media shouldn't highlight the issue unnecessarily."

Another video reportedly recorded by his wife shows her visiting an apartment, where she finds Mr. Sharma and a woman, suspecting him of having an extramarital affair.

"If my wife herself is trying to defame me, then I will protect the dignity of my family," he told reporters later.

After the incident, his son, an Income Tax Deputy Commissioner, reportedly filed a complaint with Home Minister Narottam Mishra against him. "If there is a complaint, it will be acted upon," Mr. Mishra told reporters, asked if *suo motu* action would be taken.

Bhopal Addl. DGP Upendra Jain said the police were yet to receive a complaint.

Situation returns to normal after days of violence in Dungarpur

Traffic resumes on highway after tribal youth end protest

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

The situation limped back to normal in Rajasthan's Dungarpur district on Monday, as the movement of vehicular traffic on National Highway-8 resumed after four days of blockade, when unruly tribal youth laid siege to the road, torched a large number of vehicles and vandalised some shops.

The youth were agitating for recruitment of Scheduled Tribe candidates to the vacant posts of teachers.

The protesters also ended their dharna at Kakri-Dungri hills, situated adjacent to the highway, after a meeting with

Minister of State for Tribal Area Development Arjun Singh Bamaniya and other representatives of the State government. Several incidents of stone-pelting and clashes were earlier reported in both Dungarpur and Udaipur districts.

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Brupendra Singh said in a statement here that two persons had died and two others were injured in police firing for controlling the violence. "Additional police force and Rapid Action Force have been deployed in Dungarpur since Sunday night," Mr. Singh said. A total of 24 cases have been registered in connection with the violence.

Incidents of stone-pelting also took place in Rishabhdeo and Jhadol areas of Udaipur district. The prohibitory orders will remain in force and mobile internet services suspended as a precautionary measure in some of the affected areas.

3.18 lakh people hit by fresh Assam floods

Deluge, landslide-related death toll at 145; 389 villages inundated in 13 districts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

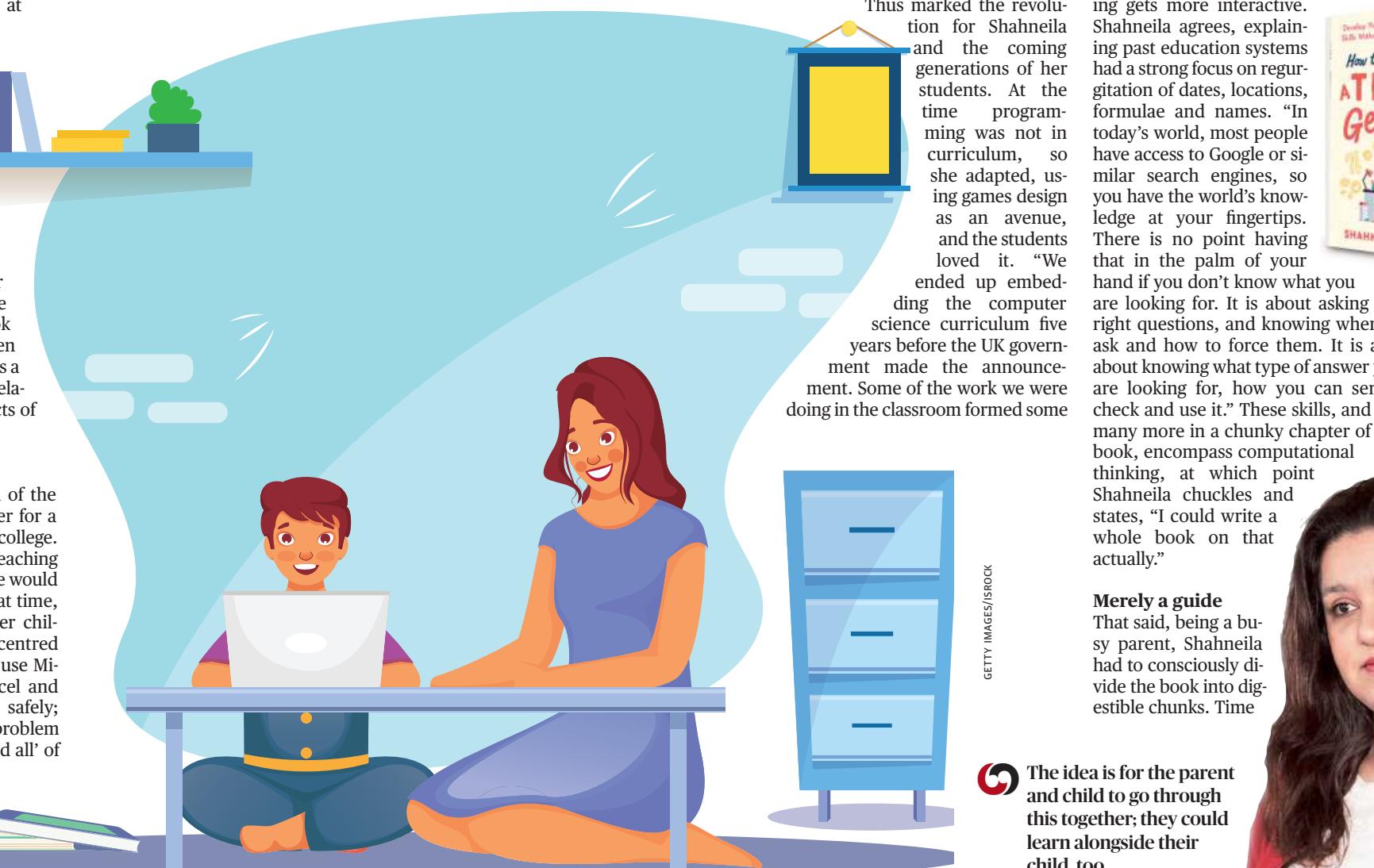
DIVYA KALA BHAVANI

Machine architecture, the fetch-execute cycle, binary conversions, error-checking in encryption: how do you teach these heavy topics, typically featured in A-level or intermediate levels of schooling, to an 11- or 12-year-old? *How To Raise A Tech Genius: Develop Your Child's Computing Skills Without Spending Any Money* (Hachette India) by Shahneila Saeed breaks this down for parents, students and teachers alike.

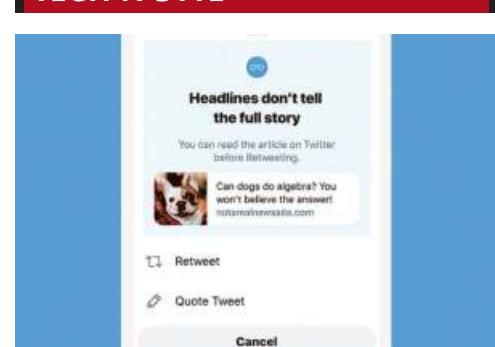
There are hundreds of books and films out in the world about how today's and the future's netizens should navigate social media. *How To Raise A Tech Genius* is about responsible rather than safe use. Shahneila, an educator of computing science, says, over a video call, "It is also about being able to prevent negative things from happening as well as how to respond should they happen. The book looks at humanitarian learning and ethics and things such as copyright."

A skim through proves the book is neither textbook nor a self-help guide, but rather something entirely different. The London-based Shahneila, a mother of twin nine-year-old girls and also the Head of Education and Programme Director of Digital Schoolhouse at Ukie Logo, says she hopes the book bridges communication between parent and child, and engenders a healthier and more informed relationship with the deeper aspects of technology.

Progressive teaching
Shahneila toyed with the idea of the book years ago as an IT teacher for a large secondary and sixth form college. She admits that she was bored teaching and knew that the young people would be as bored of learning. "At that time, the curriculum for the younger children (11 to 13-year-olds) was centred around teaching them how to use Microsoft Word or Microsoft Excel and how to navigate the Internet safely; those are useful skills but the problem was that was the 'be all and end all' of what we taught. I then started to explore what we were going to do: teach them animation, podcasting? Every time I

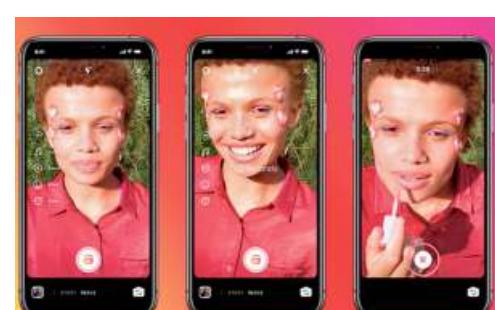


TECH-A-BYTE



Think before you RT

Twitter announced that its 'retweet prompts,' which are designed to encourage a user to read an article before they retweet it, will be available to everyone globally, soon. The microblogging platform prompts a user, when they retweet an article that they have not opened on Twitter. "People open articles 40% more often after seeing the prompt," Twitter wrote about the feature, it started testing in June. This week, Twitter also said it will investigate racial bias in its photo algorithm.



Now, Reel it for 30 seconds

Up till now, creators using Reels were limited to 15 seconds of game. But recently, Instagram announced that its users can now create a Reels video up to 30 seconds long. They can also use the extended timer of 10 seconds when recording videos. Reels, a strategic alternative to TikTok which is banned in India, will continue to offer background music, visual filters and transitions for creators using the facility. Users can trim and delete any clip, simplifying the editing process. The Facebook-owned platform also made waves when it made Reels its own tab in the mobile app, ultimately converting the Explore tab to an icon in the top right of the Home screen.

Google Maps adds 'COVID layer'
Google Maps has introduced a new tool, 'COVID layer', which shows information about COVID-19 cases in a particular area. People can access the tool from the layer button on the top right-hand corner in the Maps interface. This feature has not yet rolled out for everyone; so be sure your app is up to date. It also shows if the cases are trending up or down, and colour coding helps distinguish the density of new cases in an area. Google has also developed an open source data repository for researchers to study the impact of COVID-19.

Compiled by Ishan Patra

CM YK

Rewire your thinking

UK-based educator and author Shahneila Saeed's new book *How To Raise a Tech Genius* details the deeper technology we should learn and teach coming generations, and why we should not be intimidated



Empowered education Shahneila Saeed with her family; the cover of her book
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

for *How To Raise A Tech Genius* had to be slotted into an already hectic schedule. "The idea is for the parent and child to go through this together." Shahneila did not want the book to be an instructional guide in black and white. "It should allow room for critical thinking and decision-making from the readers. Every parent knows their child best. I can give you an activity but I have deliberately not said 'this is how you explain the topic for the child'. Sometimes children will learn a lot but they do not realise they are learning it. We need to ask the right questions to bring that knowledge to the fore."

Shahneila, who understands that jargon-heavy subjects may be intimidating for parents, advises, "Play a game. Take the first chapter of algorithmic thinking and pick an activity. By the end of it, you will be laughing and it will spark a discussion. Yes, parents, there is a lot on our plates and we aren't going to be the next Bill Gates. This is about understanding the world better and opening up a dialogue. If you don't know something, ask your child and they will explain it to you, which also helps them articulate a subject. As parents, we feel we need to be the fountain of all knowledge and teachers feel the same, we are setting ourselves an impossible expectation."

Putting *How To Raise A Tech Genius* together has impacted Shahneila greatly. Her approach to teaching and communication has evolved with the growing curricula. Having experienced support early on from her fellow educators while researching the book, she is thrilled the book has reached international families and education systems in the current climate of online classrooms.

How To Raise A Tech Genius: Develop Your Child's Computing Skills Without Spending Any Money by Shahneila Saeed (Hachette India) is available across major online and offline book sellers for ₹604

took a meaty topic and delivered it to them in a digestible way with playful mechanics, they relished it. I realised we had to bring computing into the younger years and we needed to do it differently."

Thus marked the revolution for Shahneila and the coming generations of her students. At the time programming was not in curriculum, so she adapted, using games design as an avenue, and the students loved it. "We ended up embedding the computer science curriculum five years before the UK government made the announcement. Some of the work we were doing in the classroom formed some



GETTY IMAGES/ROCK

of the evidence for those conversations between the grass-root organisations and the government."

The popularisation of gamified learning has seen prominence during the COV-19 pandemic as e-learning gets more interactive.

Shahneila agrees, explaining past education systems had a strong focus on regurgitation of dates, locations, formulae and names. "In today's world, most people have access to Google or similar search engines, so you have the world's knowledge at your fingertips. There is no point having that in the palm of your hand if you don't know what you are looking for. It is about asking the right questions, and knowing when to ask and how to force them. It is also about knowing what type of answer you are looking for, how you can sense-check and use it." These skills, and the many more in a chunky chapter of the book, encompass computational thinking, at which point Shahneila chuckles and states, "I could write a whole book on that actually."

Merely a guide

That said, being a busy parent, Shahneila had to consciously divide the book into digestible chunks. Time

The idea is for the parent and child to go through this together; they could learn alongside their child, too



GAMESPOT

JULIAN ALMEIDA

While most open-world video games, which came out of the woodwork in the early 2000s, faded into obscurity, Mafia was one of those titles that reached the popularity of Rockstar's bestseller. It was an ambitious game by a Czech company called Illusion Softworks – now 2K Czech – that combined the open world of GTA and the intricacy of an American crime saga. Though the original has not aged well, the folks at California-based studio Hangar 13 (owned by 2K Games) have gone the extra mile by redoing the entire game from the ground up. Mafia: Definitive Edition released on September 25 with a fresh voice.

Tommy's tale

Welcome to 1930s Lost Haven, a city modelled on Chicago during the final years of the Prohibition and the Great Depression. The alcohol ban gave rise to a lot of famous American crime bosses such as Al Capone. Mafia: Definitive Edition is set in a time which has been great for our protagonist Tommy Angelo, so far. Except, when we meet him, he



A gangster's paradise

One of the best open-world crime sagas, Mafia: Definitive Edition ushers a classic from 2002 into the realms of games today

is suffering from lead poisoning, and in a clandestine meeting with a police detective, he recounts his story. We get to play this story

through a complex web of deception, and revenge between the crime families Salieri and Morello, as Tommy grows from a lowly grunt to a Made man.

Impressive immersion

Those who have played the classic Mafia will recount the game's cinematography, swooping and diving over Lost Haven. For the Definitive Edition, this is more impressive, with the intro completely redone, bringing the city to life ultimately setting the stage for the video game

equivalent of *The Godfather*. The story is largely the same with a lot more added to most missions to further immerse players into the 1930s gangster era. Look forward to missions that propel you across the map as the story takes you through almost a decade of Tommy's life with the Salieri family. Those familiar with the original game's story will be re-tracing most steps here – except it has got an all new voice-cast for a script rewritten for the overhaul.

The open-world structure

merely serves as a sandbox for its linear story missions. You can drop off the main story into Free Ride Mode and explore the city, to earn more cash doing side missions. The linear structure is still the same as the original, and it would have been great if Hangar 13 reworked things a bit more, similar to how today's open-world games handle missions, complete

MAFIA: DEFINITIVE EDITION

DEVELOPER: Hangar 13

PUBLISHER: 2K Games

PRICE: ₹2,999 on Playstation 4, Xbox One and PC

with side quests built in with opportunities to write in new content to bring you further into the world.

Nonetheless, those 20-plus missions will keep you on the edge of the seat as they pull you in towards a satisfying conclusion. Though, expect quite a few bugs along the way.

The writer is a tech and gaming enthusiast who hopes to one day finish his sci-fi novel

SHOWCASE 11

Chaos in Chicago Screenshots from the video game ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Bring on the music, Master

Started by a group of young dancers in Angola, the 'Jerusalema' dance challenge is uniting the world in times of crisis

S B VIJAYA MARY

Jerusalema Ikhaya Lami / Ngilondololoze / Uhambe Nami / zungangishiyi Lami (Guard me, walk with me, do not leave me here)

If there is one thing that the pandemic-hit world needs, it's this song, 'Jerusalema'. The composition is by 24-year-old Master KG, a South Africa-based DJ and producer. Sung by Nomcebo Zikode, the Zulu number has been unofficially labelled an 'African Anthem' and is now a global hit. The official music video was released at the end of 2019 on YouTube, and caught the fancy of people at the beginning of 2020 and is now making waves beyond South Africa with views crossing 158 million at the time of going to press.

High ground

The Gospel-influenced House fusion got elevated further when a dance challenge under the hashtag *JerusalemaDanceChallenge* was started by a group of young Angolans in February this year. The world erupted in a dance to the challenge and what followed was an unprecedented frenzy with healthcare staff in hospitals, prison officials, monks and nuns, Latino dancers, fire safety workers, lawyers, cops, school students across Africa, the US, the UK, Europe, Russia and Australia participating in the challenge.

The challenge got its endorsement when South Africa President Cyril Ramaphosa while addressing the nation ahead of Heritage Day, urged his countrymen to live up to the spirit of



Rhythm divine (Left) Keren Green from her tutorial video; dancers of 'Fenomenos do Samba' from Angola; (bottom) Nomcebo Zikode and Master KG from the official video of 'Jerusalema' • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



the 'Jerusalema' challenge.

It all started with the dance group 'Fenomenos do Samba' in Angola releasing a video of their members dancing to 'Jerusalema', to celebrate their fifth anniversary in February this year. Their candid air while holding plates of food and dancing flawlessly in a modest neighbourhood struck a chord. The foot-tapping rhythm and the enticing yet simple steps became irresistible for dancers. Speaking to us from Luanda, Angola, dancer-choreographer Adilson Maiza from Fenomenos do Samba says, "We made the video as a joke and didn't expect this worldwide success or the video to go viral." Explaining the reason for holding the plates that's become the signature of the dance, Adilson says, "We wanted to convey that we should be happy even with the little that life offers us, despite the difficulties we face every day. The impor-

tant thing is to have health and be happy even with little food to eat and little water to drink."

Dance for all

The dance, usually performed at weddings in South Africa has been tried and perfected by dance lovers across the globe. For those with two left feet, there are tutorials. Melbourne-based Zumba and fitness expert Keren Green is one among many who put up their tutorial videos of the dance on YouTube. Her video hit more than two million views in no time. "My father is from South Africa and my mother, from Israel, so I was interested in traditional African dance. I realised this might be of interest to people and an opportunity for me to help people learn the steps correctly." A single mother of two children, Keren is wistful that she could not monetise her views on YouTube as the song she adds.

used is copyrighted. "But there's so much positive feedback and responses from people, it's beautiful and touching. And to reach people all across the world is humbling," she adds.

Excited about their dance challenge crossing international boundaries, Adilson says, "Angola is rich culturally and dance is part of our business but we cannot make it our career yet, I hope this can improve one day."

Master KG had acknowledged this group's role in taking 'Jerusalema' to the peak of its popularity. Did he get in touch with them? "Yes, he follows our group on Instagram and talks to us," says Adilson.

Adilson couldn't have expressed it better when he says, "Dancing is our passion. We have a dance step for every emotion – be it sorrow or joy, we express it through the art of dance."

‘I have had the chance to watch Sappho grow’

Kalki Koechlin, who gave birth in February, is presently writing a journal on parenting

APARNA NARRAIN

For actor Kalki Koechlin, who became a mother to baby Sappho in February this year, just one month before lockdown, the last few months have caused mixed feelings.

"It has been a difficult time, not knowing what is going to happen and when work will start. But it has also been a blessing having Sappho in my life. I have had the chance to watch her grow and be around for all her milestones, whether it was her first sounds or her first food. I am grateful for having had this time, that she was here during

this lockdown to keep me company."

While many people have resumed work, Kalki says she has not yet gone back to shooting. However, last Saturday, she held a workshop for children as part of Uable's online Creativity Festival.

"I have not gone back to work because I have a baby and it is not safe to take a baby to set. There is a lot more protocol (to be followed now): fewer people on set, everyone wearing masks and PPE kits and being tested before shooting. It is one thing to be careful in terms of hygiene. Mental care is also important. People are having to plan in advance so they do not waste time on set.

That is a wonderful thing to see."

On whether she sees more films releasing on OTT platforms and more actors moving to streaming, Kalki, who has acted in shows such as *Sacred Games* and *Made in Heaven*, says: "I would say that is the logical conclusion. The OTT platforms are demanding more content as people are watching a lot more because they are home more. I think actors are going to have to take their careers in that direction. But I have not given up on cinemas; I do hope that eventually they will open as well as stage theatres. There is a lot for us to learn from this lockdown: the idea of doing

things in a different way, even filming and shooting in a much more careful way and more planning."

While Kalki has written plays, she says, "I don't feel like I'm qualified enough to write scripts; I hope I get into it at some point. I'm good at writing short stories and hopefully it will develop at some point. I am actually writing something else at the moment, a jour-

A time to experiment
Kalki recently held a workshop for children • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



nal on parenting because it has been such an experience. So, let us see where this writing journey goes."

She stresses on the need for women scriptwriters. "It is important as only when women start telling their own stories will there be a balance in the storytelling and less of the male gaze. If you are writing about women, it is logical that you have women in the workshop. If you are writing about disability, you would have differently-abled people contributing to the script. I think it is necessary that whatever the subject of the film is, people who are involved in that subject write about it."

POOCH CAFE



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



PEANUTS



TIGER



CALVIN AND HOBBES



HOMING IN

Music can be meditative. But we aren't just satisfied experiencing a few notes, we want to know the stories related to the music — about the composer, composition and the industry it is from. This list of **Podcasts** is for the music geeks among us

PRAVEEN SUDEVAN



Broken Record
This podcast involves some well-known names — American record producer, Rick Rubin; *The New York Times* best-selling author, Malcolm Gladwell; Journalist, Bruce Headlam.

Rick gets some of the big names in the industry to share rarely heard stories, their creative processes and sometimes even play a tune from their unreleased projects. In the latest episode, Buffy Sainte-Marie talks about when she was blacklisted by the US government for singing protest songs about the Vietnam war.

Episode length: 40 to 90 minutes

Available on: Spotify, Apple Podcasts and more



Popcast
The New York Times' Popcast discusses topics that can be categorised under 'popular music'. Host Jon Caramanica often talks about hip-hop. But you can also find discussions on modern jazz, Lana Del Ray and *A Star is Born*. The podcast features analyses of the latest trends, reviews, guest interviews and more.

Episode length: 40 to 90 minutes

Available on: Spotify, Apple Podcasts and more



Maed In India

No, there is no typo in the title, it is just a quirk in the name. It is one of the few podcasts that showcases the best of Indian independent music. The podcast is genre-agnostic, covering hip hop, blues, soul to folk, punk, rock and more.

Episode length: 40 to 60 minutes

Available on: Spotify, Apple Podcasts and more

We would love to know how you are keeping busy at home. Tell us what you are listening to at metro@thehindu.co.in

Trump's tax returns show chronic losses

In his first year in the White House, the Republican President paid \$750 in federal income taxes

RUSS BUETTNER
SUSANNE CRAIG

President Donald Trump paid \$750 in federal income taxes the year he won the presidency. In his first year in the White House, he paid another \$750.

He had paid no income taxes at all in 10 of the previous 15 years – largely because he reported losing much more money than he made.

As the President wages a re-election campaign that polls say he is in danger of losing, his finances are under stress, beset by losses and hundreds of millions of dollars in debt coming due that he has personally guaranteed. Also hanging over him is a decade-long audit battle with the Internal Revenue Service over the legitimacy of a \$72.9 million tax refund that he claimed, and received, after declaring huge losses. An adverse ruling could cost him more than \$100 million.

The tax returns that Mr. Trump has long fought to



Tangled taxes: U.S. President Donald Trump speaking to reporters at the White House on Monday. ■ AFP

keep private tell a story fundamentally different from the one he has sold to the American public. His reports to the IRS portray a businessman who takes in hundreds of millions of dollars a year yet racks up chronic losses that he aggressively employs to avoid paying taxes. Now, with his financial challenges mounting, the records show that he depends more and more on making money from businesses that put him in potential and often direct conflict of interest with his job as President.

Two decades' data

The New York Times has obtained tax-return data extending over more than two decades for Mr. Trump and the hundreds of companies that make up his business organisation, including detailed information from his first two years in office. It does not include his personal returns for 2018 or 2019. This article offers an overview of The Times' findings; additional articles will be published in the coming weeks.

In Mr. Trump's nearly four years in office, journalists, prosecutors, opposition politicians and conspiracists have, with limited success, sought to excavate the enigmas of his finances. By their very nature, the filings will leave many questions unanswered, many questioners unfulfilled. They comprise information that Mr. Trump has disclosed to the IRS, not the findings of an independent financial examination.

They report that Mr. Trump owns hundreds of millions of dollars in valuable assets, but they do not reveal his true wealth. Nor do they reveal any previously unreported connections to Russia. In response to a letter summarising the findings, Alan Garten, a lawyer for the Trump Organisation, said that "most, if not all, of the facts appear to be inaccurate" and requested the documents on which they were based. After The Times de-

clined to provide the records, in order to protect its sources, Mr. Garten took direct issue only with the amount of taxes Mr. Trump had paid.

Personal taxes

"Over the past decade, President Trump has paid tens of millions of dollars in personal taxes to the federal government, including paying millions in personal taxes since announcing his candidacy in 2015," Mr. Garten said in a statement.

With the term "personal taxes," however, Mr. Garten appears to be conflating income taxes with other federal taxes Mr. Trump has paid

– Social Security, Medicare and taxes for his household employees. Mr. Garten also asserted that some of what the President owed was "paid with tax credits," a misleading characterisation of credits, which reduce a business owner's income-tax bill as a reward for various activities, like historic preservation. ■ NY TIMES

Armenia-Azerbaijan clashes enter second day, toll rises

Global leaders call for ceasefire to prevent full-scale conflict

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
YEREVAN/BAKU

Fierce fighting raged between Azerbaijani and Armenian forces on Monday, sparking bellicose rhetoric from regional power Turkey despite international pleas for a halt in fighting between the longtime enemies.

Armenia and Azerbaijan have been locked in a territorial dispute over the ethnic Armenian region of Nagorno-Karabakh for decades, with deadly fighting flaring up earlier this year and in 2016.

The region declared its independence from Azerbaijan after a war in the early 1990s that claimed 30,000 lives but is not recognised by any country – including Armenia – and is still considered part of Azerbaijan by the international community.

Fighting between Muslim Azerbaijan and majority-Christian Armenia could embroil regional players such



Azerbaijan's soldiers firing from a mortar near Nagorno-Karabakh. ■ AP

but Armenian separatist officials released footage showing burnt-out armoured vehicles and the bloodied and charred remains of soldiers in camouflage it said were Azerbaijani troops.

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev on Monday ordered partial military mobilisation.

With each side blaming the other for the latest fighting, world leaders have urged calm as fears rise of a full-scale conflict.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said Russia was monitoring the situation closely and that the priority was to "stop the hostilities, not to deal with who is right and who is wrong."

But Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan demanded Armenia end its "occupation" of Karabakh.

In addition to the EU and Russia, France, Germany, Italy and the United States have urged a ceasefire.

ELSEWHERE



Turkey indicted six Saudis over Khashoggi murder

ISTANBUL

Turkish prosecutors have indicted six Saudi nationals suspected of involvement in the 2018 murder of dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi, local media reported on Monday. Istanbul prosecutors are seeking life imprisonment for two of the suspects and up to five years in jail for the remaining four, the official Anadolu news agency reported. ■ AFP

TikTok gets reprieve in U.S. as judge halts download ban

Its request to suspend full ban from Nov. 12 gets rejected

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

A U.S. federal judge on Sunday halted a politically charged ban ordered by the Donald Trump administration on downloads of the popular video app TikTok, before it was set to take effect.

District Judge Carl Nichols issued a temporary injunction at the request of TikTok, which the White House has

called a national security threat alleging that its Chinese parent firm is tied to the Beijing government.

The opinion was sealed, so no reason for the decision was released in a one-page order by the court in Washington.

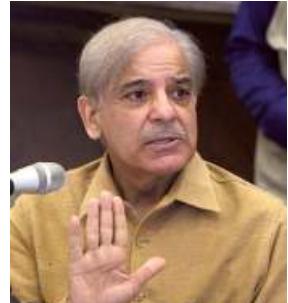
The Trump administration order sought to ban new downloads of the app from midnight but would allow use of TikTok until November 12, when all usage would be blocked. The judge denied TikTok's request to suspend the November 12 ban.

Judge Nichols heard arguments on the free-speech and national security implications of the ban on the Chinese-owned app.

TikTok lawyer John Hall said a ban would be "punitive" and close off a public forum used by tens of millions of Americans.

Shehzad Sharif arrested ahead of protest launch

He was to lead efforts against govt.



Shehzad Sharif

ly residing in Britain after being released from prison earlier this year for medical treatment.

The arrest comes as Opposition parties have reignited efforts to remove Mr. Khan from office, vowing earlier this month to launch a protest movement in the coming weeks demanding the government's resignation.

Pak. SC accepts appeal by Daniel Pearl's family

It seeks to keep the accused on death row

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Supreme Court on Monday accepted an appeal by the family of slain American journalist Daniel Pearl seeking to keep a British-born Pakistani man on death row over the beheading of the *Wall Street Journal* reporter.

The court delayed until next week hearing the appeal over the lower-court acquittal of Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, who had been on death row since his conviction in 2002 over Pearl's killing.

Sheikh had been convicted of helping lure Pearl to a meeting in the southern Pakistani port city of Karachi, in which he was kidnapped. Pearl had been investigating the link between Pakistani militants and Richard C.

Reid, dubbed the "Shoe Bomber" after trying to blow up a flight from Paris to Miami with explosives hidden in his shoes.

The lower court's April ruling acquitted Sheikh and three other accomplices, who had been sentenced to life in jail for their role in the plot. The lower court found Sheikh guilty on a single lesser charge of abduction, which he is also appealing.

The acquittal stunned the U.S. government and Pearl's family. "We felt like (it was) a thunderstorm that is about to reopen our pains of 2002," Pearl's father Judea Pearl told in an email Monday.

Pakistan's judicial system caved to either inside or outside pressure to send a message of impunity to extremist elements worldwide." The acquittal stunned the U.S. government and Pearl's family. "We felt like (it was) a thunderstorm that is about to reopen our pains of 2002," Pearl's father Judea Pearl told in an email Monday.

Tamil parties hold hartal in north and east Sri Lanka

Protests called against the 'undemocratic actions' of govt.

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Following a call from Tamil political parties and civil society groups for a hartal, Sri Lanka's Tamil-majority north and east shut down on Monday to protest against the Rajapaksa administration's "undemocratic actions" and attempts to "stifle dissent".

The development comes days after a magistrate court barred a memorial event to remember Thileepan, a political leader with the LTTE who fasted unto death in 1987, while urging the Indian government to keep its promise to the Tamils.

Protesting against the court order, Tamil leaders across political parties and activists observed a fast on

Saturday, calling for a hartal to assert their right to remember Thileepan and to resist the order banning the memorial event.

Local Tamil media reported that Monday's hartal witnessed a near-total shutdown in the island's Northern and Eastern Provinces, where many schools and shops remained closed all day.

Thileepan's resistance [from September 15 to 26, 1987] centred on five main demands, including the release of Tamils detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, Sinhala "colonisation" and withdrawal of Sri Lankan troops from schools.

In a speech in front of Jaffna Fort, shortly before com-

Beijing law to shield medical whistleblowers

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BEIJING

Beijing's city government will protect "non-malicious" medical whistleblowers under a new law, passed months after a Chinese doctor was punished for sounding the alarm at the very beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

China's leaders suffered a rare wave of public outrage after ophthalmologist Li Wenliang died of the disease in Wuhan, where the coronavirus first emerged. He had attempted to warn authorities about the infection but was instead reprimanded.

The new Beijing law, which came into effect from Friday, states that anyone whose tip-offs are verified would be rewarded, and suffer no penalties.

ter will just have to turn in an affidavit confirming they filled out the original ballot.

'Backroom deal'

North Carolina is one of eight states with witness and/or notary public requirements for absentee ballots, according to the Brennan Center for Justice. North Carolina General Assembly leaders announced late Saturday they had also filed a similar lawsuit in federal court against board members. They asked a judge to block enforcement of the board's absentee ballot alterations, which they contend would wrest away from the legislature its constitutional job to set the rules for federal elections.

The national Republicans' federal lawsuit claims the state elections board made a partisan "backroom deal" that undermines state lawmakers' "carefully-considered, balanced structure of election laws." The suit claims the board's guidance usurps a law that says a ballot may only be accepted if it has a witness signature on it.

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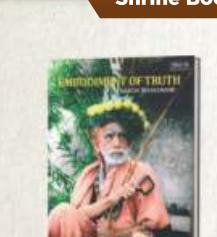
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