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THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | TUESDAY | 13 JULY 2021

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Max: 29.2°C
Min: 23.3°C
RH: 81%
Rainfall: 19mm

Forecast: Cloudy sky.
Moderate to intense rain.
Max/Min temp. 28/23°C

ASTROGUIDE

Plava: Uttarayana
Tithi: Ashada Shuddha Dwitiya till 8.17 am
Star: Ashlesha till 3.12 am (Tuesday)

Varjyanam: 3.36 pm to 5.15 pm
Durmuhurtam: 12.47 pm to 1.39 pm; 3.23 pm to 4.14 pm
Rahukalam: 7.30 am to 9 am

HJRI CALENDAR
Zilhaj 2,1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajar: 4.39 am
Zohar: 12.31 pm

Asar: 4.56 pm
Maghrub: 7.00 pm

Isha: 8.16 pm

SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.49 AM

SUNSET TODAY 6.54 PM

MOONSET 9.39 PM

MOONRISE 8.33 AM

COUNTER POINT



It's unfair... we have the same number of cases but you were made Cabinet minister and I am only a minister of state!

SHORT TAKES

NEET to be held on Sept. 12

New Delhi: Medical entrance exam NEET, which was scheduled for August 1, will now be conducted on September 12, Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan announced on Monday. "The NEET-UG will be held on 12th September across the country following Covid protocols. The application process will begin from 5 pm tomorrow through the NTA website," the minister said.

Dominica court lets Mehul leave

New Delhi: In a major setback to India, the Dominica High Court has granted bail to diamantaire Mehul Choksi, allowing him to travel to Antigua for treatment of his neurological condition, local media said. The court granted a consent order by Choksi's legal team and the state's lawyer, permitting him to go to Antigua, where he has been staying as a citizen since 2018 after he left India. Report on Pg 10

Rath yatra amid curfew in Puri



Priests and temple employees are seen pulling three giant chariots during the Rath Yatra in Puri on Monday. The yatra was conducted on Monday after slapping a curfew in the coastal town of Odisha. This was for the second time in the history of the 12th-century shrine that the festival was held without the general public. The administration had allowed only priests, police and employees to participate in the festival. ■ Report on Page 7 — PTI

After audio clip goes viral, Kaushik Reddy quits Cong.

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 12

TSD PRESIDENT RAMANA QUILTS, JOINS PINK PARTY

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 12

Telangana Telugu Desam Party (TDP) president L. Ramana joined the TRS by taking party membership from its working president K.T. Rama Rao at Telangana Bhavan on Monday. He will join the TRS again on July 16 along with his followers.

Full report on Page 4

(brother).

Kaushik Reddy: Namaste, Vijender, how are you?

Vijender: Fine, Anna

Vijender: There are around 50 to 80 members, which includes everyone (indicating both TRS supporters and Etala's supporters).

Page 2: Kaushik Reddy to reveal his decision soon

RS, LS TO HAVE SIMULTANEOUS SESSIONS: BIRLA

New Delhi, July 12: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Monday said all Covid-related protocols will be followed during the monsoon session of Parliament, which is scheduled to begin from July 19.

He said those who have not been vaccinated against the coronavirus will be requested to undergo an RT-PCR test before entering the Parliament premises.

Addressing a press conference in the Parliament complex, Birla said both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha will sit simultaneously in the monsoon session, which will start from 11 am.

He further said due to the restrictions to be put in place in view of Covid, visitors will not be allowed during the monsoon session. — PTI

No local tech for submarines

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JULY 12

The Indian Navy's ₹50,000-crore project to construct submarines is unlikely to use a key air propulsion system that was developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

The Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system enhances the underwater endurance of the conventional submarine manifold. It also allows the submarine to remain

underwater for longer periods and operate without the need for atmospheric oxygen.

Last month, the Defence Acquisition Council had approved the domestically-built six new-generation stealth submarines in collaboration with foreign players under Project P75 (I). Now the Indian Navy will soon come out with a tender for the project.

According to reports, the Indian Navy wants Defence Research Development Organisation

(DRDO) to prove the AIP on a platform before it was allowed to be put on the Scorpene-class submarines when they start coming for their scheduled refits.

Only currently operational AIP systems which would be available with foreign original equipment manufacturers are expected to be used in the made-in-India submarines.

The DRDO wanted its under-development AIP on the P-75 (I) but it has reportedly not yet been

included in the tender. In March, DRDO had demonstrated that it has the capability to develop AIP System.

"DRDO has achieved an important milestone in the development of AIP System by proving the land-based prototype," it had said in a release.

The system is being developed by DRDO's Naval Materials Research Laboratory. DRDO had said the technology had now reached the stage of maturity for fitment into target vessels.

restore free lunches for thousands of poor children amid the pandemic. "We have been a beacon of light in bringing people together, in people being able to relate to the national team, and the national team stands for everybody and so that togetherness has to continue," Southgate said.

The abuse was widely condemned, with Prince William, the president of the English Football Association, saying he was "sickened" by the racism aimed at the England players.

"It is totally unacceptable that players have to endure this abhorrent behaviour," he wrote on Twitter. "It must stop now and all those involved should be held accountable."

Although British PM Boris Johnson said "those responsible for this appalling abuse should be ashamed of themselves," he has faced criticism for emboldening those boozing the England team for taking a knee before their matches to protest against racial injustice. — AP

social conscience.

Rashford, for one, has been at the forefront of a campaign against child poverty, which convinced the British government to

loring a 1-1 draw. A mural of Rashford on the wall of a cafe in Manchester was also defaced with graffiti in the wake of the match.

The racist abuse, which was condemned as "unforgivable" by England coach Gareth Southgate, has led to calls for social media companies, such as Facebook and Twitter, to do more in hunting down the perpetrators of the abuse.

All three players targeted are part of a young England squad that has been widely praised for its diversity and

BUKAYO SAKA, at 19 one of the youngest players on the England squad, missed the penalty that gave the title to Italy and denied England its first international trophy since the 1966 World Cup.

social conscience. Rashford, for one, has been at the forefront of a campaign against child poverty, which convinced the British government to

TS to okay filling up of 50,000 jobs

Most jobs likely in police and education depts

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 12

● THE GOVERNMENT is planning to issue notifications from August in a phased manner to ensure all candidates get an opportunity to appear for recruitment exams without clash in other exam dates.

● THE PREVIOUS recruitment drive came to a halt for over three years, after the government devised a new zonal system for recruitments to ensure 95 per cent reservations for locals in employment and education opportunities.

The creation of new districts, zones and multizones and the creation of a new zonal system based on them, besides securing Centre's approval took three years.

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao issued direc-

ments identified vacancies and prepared a report.

Accordingly, officials identified 50,000 vacancies, out of which a majority were found in police and education departments, and submitted a report.

After the Cabinet approval on Tuesday, the indent is expected to be sent to recruitment agencies such as the TS Public Service Commission, the TS Police Recruitment Board, the TS Residential Educational Institutions Recruitment Board, among others to enable them to issue job notifications, conduct exams and release the finalised selection lists.

The government is planning to issue notifications from August in a phased manner to ensure that all candidates get an opportunity to appear for recruitment exams with no clash in exam dates or other milestones of the recruitment process.

SC okays 420 case on Jayabheri

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 12

The Supreme Court has declined the plea of Telugu Desam MP and actor Maganti Murali Mohan, promoter of Jayabheri Group, and his relative Ram Mohan Maganti, to set aside the orders of erstwhile Hyderabad High Court against them in relation to sale of apartments in the Jayabheri Silicon Valley. The HC had directed

tion to sale of apartments in the Jayabheri Silicon Valley.

Page 2: Jayabheri violated HUDA norms: Petitioners

Murali Mohan

Kayam Tablet - The Fire extinguisher your stomach needs !

How often do you find yourself feeling uneasy and restless? It is a fact that modern life is making people constipated. Constipation is not just a rare problem but a lifestyle disorder caused by irregular and unhealthy diet, and sedentary lifestyle. A constant state of constipation leads to other recurring problems like gas, acidity, bloated stomach, indigestion, headache etc. Don't let constipation take charge of your life! Change the uneasy feeling that holds you back from enjoying life to the fullest with Kayam Tablet by Sheeth Brothers.

It is totally unacceptable that players have to endure this abhorrent behaviour," he wrote on Twitter. "It must stop now and all those involved should be held accountable."

Although British PM Boris Johnson said "those responsible for this appalling abuse should be ashamed of themselves," he has faced criticism for emboldening those boozing the England team for taking a knee before their matches to protest against racial injustice. — AP

It is a fact that modern life is making people constipated. Constipation is not just a rare problem but a lifestyle disorder caused by irregular and unhealthy diet, and sedentary lifestyle. A constant state of constipation leads to other recurring problems like gas, acidity, bloated stomach, indigestion, headache etc. Don't let constipation take charge of your life! Change the uneasy feeling that holds you back from enjoying life to the fullest with Kayam Tablet by Sheeth Brothers.

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J. JOHN Arvind Masilamoni S/O J.B.Masilamoni, R/o 12-13-483/32, Flat 202, Nagarjunanagar, Tarnaka, Lost my passport, 9294057956, while travelling in Tarnaka. If any one found, please inform 9966432508. (S/2122/C00700)

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SHORT TAKES



Amit Jhingran

**AMIT JHINGRAN
MADE CGM OF
SBI HYDERABAD**DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 12

Amit Jhingran assumed charge as Chief General Manager, State Bank of India (SBI), Hyderabad circle, on Monday.

Jhingran had joined SBI as a probationary officer in 1991 in the Lucknow circle and has experience in all facets of commercial banking such as retail credit, deposit mobilisation, international banking operations and branch management. Prior to his posting as Chief General Manager, Jhingran was Chief Executive Officer, SBI Chicago, and had steered the international banking operations.

Jhingran took charge from O.P. Mishra, who has been elevated as deputy managing director and posted at corporate centre in Mumbai.

**WORRY OVER
CELL TOWERS
ON OLD BLDG.**DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 12

Residents of SBO Colony in Sainikpuri are upset over the presence of a cellphone tower on a 30-year-old structure. They said that despite their repeated complaints to the GMC, no action has been taken.

Apart from the strength of the structure at the base of the cellphone tower, locals are also fearful of the electromagnetic radiation.

Dr M. Suresh Babu, a colony resident, said, "An increasing number of old, dilapidated buildings are allowing telecom companies to install cellphone towers. GHMC officials seem to be easily swayed by the high rents the telecom firms pay for the towers. We are protesting the installation of a cell tower on a 30-year-old and dilapidated building."

A complaint in this regard has been filed in the GHMC circle office on Monday.

**MAN HELD FOR
PRACTISING
BLACK MAGIC**DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 12

A man who tried to separate his newly-wed ex-lover and her husband by using black magic was arrested by the Nalgonda police on Monday.

The accused, K. Murali, 30, of Nalgonda, used to put material purportedly used in black magic in front of the newly married couple's residence, hoping that the family members would send the bride back to her house.

Police said Murali met the woman through a wrong number call, and started chatting with her. After some time, he proposed to her but she turned him down. "She got married recently. After learning of this, Murali tried to separate them," said Nalgonda DSP Venkateshwar Reddy.

He watched various videos of black magic in YouTube and, on June 16, placed bones, bangles, tufts of hair and lemons in front of her in-laws house in Gundlapalli village in Nalgonda district. This created panic among the occupants of the house and the villagers.

He repeated this late on July 6. Subsequently, the family lodged a police complaint. Based on a tip-off, the Nalgonda Rural police arrested Murali on Monday.

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Survey finds 1 crore people hit by long Covid symptoms

After recovery, patients complain of fatigue, body pain and gastric issues

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 12

An estimated one crore people in India are suffering from post-Covid or long Covid symptoms, according to a random online survey carried out by the Asian Institute of Gastroenterology (AIG).

The survey conducted among 5,000 people and 2,038 infected patients revealed that they had to visit hospitals again for post-Covid symptoms. There are 41.8 percent patients who complained of persistent symptoms like fatigue (64.15 percent), body pain (31 percent) and gastrointestinal symptoms (25 percent). It was found that fatigue, weakness and sleepless-

ness were reported not only in serious cases but also in mild cases. According to the data collected, 51 percent of them who had mild disease had also developed post-Covid syndrome or long Covid.

The most common complaints noted were breathlessness while talking and walking and oxygen saturation levels were low, requiring to keep oxygen cylinders at home. These patients developed lung fibrosis and the initial symptoms were often missed by them and also the treating physicians.

Dr D. Nageshwar Reddy, chairman of Asian Institute of Gastroenterology Hospitals says, "The post-

Covid syndrome or long Covid cases were initially missed as people were confused. There was also confusion among general physicians where these cases were first presented. After treating post-Covid patients, we have formed a multi-speciality team and started a clinic especially for Covid care. There will be a multi-disciplinary team of doctors who will be treating these patients."

In the cases handled at the AIG, it has been noted that there are people coming back with blockages in the arteries, inflammation of heart, and reports of heart attacks after four weeks. There are young patients in the age group of 30 to 45 years who are report-

ing to hospitals with heart problems.

There are also problems noted in the neurological system where there is loss of neurons leading to memory loss, stroke and psychiatric problems.

In the gastro-intestinal tract, it has been noted that there are problems in the gut microbe where the bacteroides are coming down and that needs to be replaced.

The reasons for these problems are yet to be understood. The study by the AIG showed that there was usage of steroids in 74 percent of hospitalised patients and 34 percent required oxygen. Dr Reddy says, "There is a correlation between irrational use of

steroids and post-Covid complications. Those who have been treated with steroids have a higher chance of post-Covid syndrome. We need to check on the use of steroids and which category of patients will require it. Since it is a new disease and there is emerging data, there will be constant changes."

The post-Covid syndrome is expected to be in more people as the data is from recovered three crore infected people, according to the government. But there are many who have not reported Covid cases coming to hospitals which means that it is going to be another case of an iceberg phenomenon.



Man held for duping passengers on train

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 12

took them for lunch.

"The accused travelled with the victims till Khammam which is five hours from the city and got down. The victims later realised that he had stolen six tolas of gold and ₹18,000 cash from their bag," said the police.

"The accused, who is the son of a retired railway employee, has a clear knowledge of the working of railways and the hierarchy among officials.

His latest victims were Sravani from Kukatpally and her mother, who were booked to travel from Secunderabad to Rajahmundry. Though they had booked tickets for the 8 pm train, they reached the station early in the morning as they were under the impression that the train time was at 8 am. After realising their mistake, they decided to wait in the waiting hall till evening, said a police officer.

The accused impersonated a locomotive pilot and spent almost 12 hours with them and gained their confidence and even

cheated other two victims from Bhubaneswar in Odisha and Bilaspur district in Chhattisgarh under the guise of providing them tickets and a Railway Protection Force (RPF) job respectively. In one of the cases, the accused even handed over the dress of an RPF constable to the victim.

3 children saved from burning car



The car, which caught fire on the PVNR Expressway, was completely destroyed.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 12

and brought the children out," police said.

Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, Ravi said, "I am happy that I was in that place at the right time and could save four precious lives. As I am a car driver, used my expertise to open the locked door."

He recalled that by the time he reached the car, its interior was engulfed in smoke and the children were finding it difficult to breath. "When I brought them out, they were in a state of shock for quite some time," Ravi said.

Governor Tamilsai Soundararajan was travelling on the expressway and alerted the police. A fire tender from a nearby fire station rushed to the spot and doused the flames.

The police appreciated Ravi for his prompt action that helped in saving lives of the family. Rajendranagar assistant commissioner of police K. Sanjay Kumar visited the spot and appreciated Ravi.

90% cases in private hospitals affected by Covid delta variant

DC CORRESPONDENT
Hyderabad, July 12

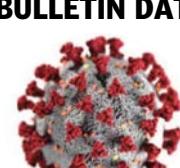
Ninety per cent of Covid-19 cases in private hospitals in Hyderabad were found to be of the Delta variant during genome sequencing. This shows that the Delta variant was prevalent in the second wave.

With the cases declining, experts say that there is immunity against this variant in the general population due to which the transmission is less right now.

With more than 1 lakh tests daily and low positivity rate, the occurrence of the Delta variant is less.

But there can be emergence of other variants, which are already existing and sequenced.

Dr Mohan Gupta, senior IMA member, said, "We are seeing more cases one day and fewer cases for

DAILY COVID BULLETIN DATA**Update: Cases | Deaths**

Fresh cases	696
Deaths	6
Tests done	1,05,797
Active cases	10,148
Total cases	6,32,379
Total deaths	3,735

Fewest New Cases

Komaram Bheem Asifabad	1
Adilabad, Kamareddy	2
Narayanpet, Sangareddy	3
Jogulamba Gadwal, Medak, Nagarkurnool, Nirmal,	
Vikarabad	4
Jangaon, Wanaparthy, Nirmal, Nizamabad,	
Karimnagar	6

Most New Cases

Khammam	82
GHMC	68
Nalgonda	49
Peddapalli	48
Warangal Rural	45

the next four days. This cycle will continue as there are different variants around. If the variants are less virulent, these cycles are noted."

This pattern is dominant in Telangana state

since last fortnight, and observers say the only way forward is to follow Covid appropriate behaviour and vaccination. The total number of cases went up with increased testing.

It said heavy to very heavy rain was very likely to occur at isolated places in Adilabad, Nirmal, Nizamabad,

More heavy rains likely in TS: IMD

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 12

Rains lashed several parts of the state on Monday, with Peddur in Rajanna Sircilla district recording a table-topping 129.5 mm of rainfall.

The city witnessed widespread rainfall, and Marredpally received 22.8 mm till 9 pm.

The IMD has issued a heavy rainfall for several parts of the state. "Thunderstorm accompanied by lightning and gusty winds (30-40 kmph) very likely to occur at isolated places," according to the IMD forecast report.

It said heavy to very heavy rain was very likely to occur at isolated places in Adilabad, Nirmal, Nizamabad,

which is about 14 districts, including Hyderabad, Karimnagar, Peddapalli, and Mahabubabad districts, the prediction was heavy rain at isolated places.

From June 1 to July 11, the state has received 238 mm rainfall, which is 43 per cent in excess compared to the long-term average.

This is way about recent records. Eleven districts have recorded 'large excess', while 14 districts, including Hyderabad, have witnessed 'excess' precipitation in this period.

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SHORT TAKES
ELECTRICITY DEPT.
REVIEWS WORK
IN 8,000 VILLAGES

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 12

The state electricity department reviewed the works in 8,539 villages and 84 urban local bodies during the recent Palle Pragathi and Pattanna Pragathi programmes, the TS Southern Power Distribution Company Limited said. The expenditure for the 10-day programme that concluded on Saturday was ₹100 crore.

Various works like erection of intermediate poles, replacement of bent, rusted, damaged poles, along with replacement of damaged stay wire, restraining of loose and hanging conductors, arrangements of separate line for street lights, replacement of damaged or stuck up street light meters and arrangement of separate meters for street lights were taken up.

**BANDI CHALKS
OUT PLANS FOR
SUCCESS OF YATRA**

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 12

BJP state unit president Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Monday held a meeting with party general secretaries at the state office at Nampally. The leaders discussed the route map of the proposed padayatra and appointment of committees and in-charges constituency-wise for the success of the yatra.

Sanjay Kumar took feedback from the general secretaries about his announcement of the padayatra and appealed to the leaders to give suggestions for the success of the padayatra.

He urged the leaders to visit districts and constituencies, make arrangements for public meetings and plan an agenda to raise people's issues.

Sanjay also urged the leaders to appoint a social media committee for the entire first phase of padayatra and media committees to coordinate with leaders. He suggested that the leaders should work with dedicated manners for the grand success of the yatra. He informed the district presidents and coordinators to work with a friendly manner and inspire the cadre to involve in the yatra.

**RAMANA JOINS
TRS, PLANS FOR
HUZURABAD WIN**

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 12

Telangana Telugu Desam Party (TDP) president L. Ramana joined the Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) by taking party membership from its working president K.T. Rama Rao at Telangana Bhavan on Monday. He will formally join the TRS again on July 16 along with his followers in the presence of TRS president and Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao.

Soon after taking TRS membership, Ramana attended the party's 'Huzurabad bypoll strategy' meeting held at the Ministers' Quarters.

The meeting was attended by ministers Errabelli Dayakar Rao, Koppula Eshwar and Gangula Kamalakar, Rajya Sabha member Badugula Lingaiah Yadav, MLAs K. Vidya Sagar Rao, M. Sanjay Kumar besides a host of local leaders from Huzurabad constituency.

As Dalits and Backward Castes comprise a majority in Huzurabad, the meeting discussed at length on the strategy to be adopted to win over these sections. As Ramana is a BC leader from Padmashali community, the party has entrusted the responsibility of garnering BCs support to the TRS in the Huzurabad bypoll to him.

Ramana submitted resignation to the TDP on July 9 and decided to join the TRS.

Come home to TRS in TS: KTR

Says only his party will go extra mile for TS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 12

Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) working president and IT minister K.T. Rama Rao said only a 'home party' like the TRS could go to any extent to protect the interests of Telangana.

"Only the TRS is the home party of Telangana. Others are outside parties. Be it Krishna water or any other issue, only the TRS can go to any extent to protect the interests of Telangana. Others

Addressing a meeting at Telangana Bhavan on Monday after four Congress corporators from the Jahnagar Municipal Corporation and two Congress councillors from the Ghatkesar municipality joined the TRS, the move facilitated by labour minister Ch. Malla Reddy, Rama Rao said that for the TRS the only cause and interest was Telangana and

it had no political interests in any other state. He said hence the party would not fear fighting against anyone who harmed the interests of Telangana.

Rama Rao said

"Opposition parties have no work or purpose in Telangana except abusing Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao day in and day out. But Telangana people are always extending their solid support to Chandrashekhar Rao. This was proved in all elections every time

Rama Rao praised Malla Reddy for achieving victory for the TRS in all the 10 municipalities and municipal corporations in his Medchal constituency in 2019 municipal polls and vowed to fulfil all promises that were made to people during the elections. He said the government would sanction more funds for the development of municipal corporations and municipalities in Medchal soon.



TPCC president Anumala Revanth Reddy waving to the crowd during the rally to protest hike in the prices of diesel, petrol, LPG and also essential commodities in the Nirmal town on Monday.

Modi, KCR robbing us with fuel taxes: Revanth

Cong. protests on bullock cart, cycle

DC CORRESPONDENT
ADILABAD, JULY 12

Even though elections to the Assembly are more than two years away, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee president Anumala Revanth Reddy on Monday predicted that the Congress candidate Aleti Maheshwar Reddy would win Nirmal seat with a high majority by defeating Minister Allola Indrakaran Reddy in the next elections.

Terming Prime Minister Modi and Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao as 'thieves who are exploiting people with high taxes on petrol, diesel and essential commodities,' he said he was launching his fight from Nirmal which was located in the east side and considered as auspicious for beginning work and will end up at Alampur in south and win the fight by the time of reaching there and establish Soniyamma Rajyam in the Telangana.

After garlanding B.R. Ambedkar's statue, Revanth Reddy said they would raise the Congress flag at Golkonda soon where CM raised the TRS flag.

"My fight against the ruling TRS would be like a sunrise in the east and defeat the anti-people forces. We are inspired by Balladeer Gaddar's popular song 'Podusth-

the protests, former PCC president Ponnala Lakshmaiah said people were suffering a lot due to rising fuel prices. Narendra Modi had come to power by assuring to control the essential commodities prices within 100 days, but his government indiscriminately increased the fuel prices, he said.

Lakshmaiah came down heavily on the TRS government, which is backing the NDA government at Centre and held it equally responsible for hiking fuel prices. Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao directed the police to arrest the Congress leaders across the state while conducting democratic and peaceful protests, he alleged.

"If the Congress government would have arrested the TRS leaders in united Andhra Pradesh, would they have continued protests for separate statehood?" he pointed out.

Lakshmaiah said Chandrasekhar Rao would spend his future life in Cherlapally jail for high level irregularities. Congress leaders and activists in huge numbers participated in the protests at Dharna Chowk on Monday.

The police had taken Congress senior leaders into custody and shifted them to Chikkadapally police station. Speaking during

unna Poddumeeda Nadustunna Kalama,

Poru Telangana," said Revanth Reddy.



Ponnala Lakshmaiah

fuel and LPG," Lakshmaiah said.

He expressed anger at TRS government oppre-

ssing voices of dissent using the police. "No one is allowed to take any protests or rallies against the state government. Police are making house arrests of opposition leaders. KCR should tell whether he could stage protests or rallies for Telangana had the Congress government then adopted the same policy," Lakshmaiah asked. He said the tax on petrol per litre was ₹9.48 in 2014 which had been increased by the BJP government to ₹32.98. The tax on diesel was increased from ₹3.46 to ₹31.80.

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 12

Former TPCC president Ponnala Lakshmaiah said that around 53.35 crore people have been adversely affected across the country due to the steep hike in prices of petrol, diesel and domestic cylinders by the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre.

Lakshmaiah on Monday took part in a protest rally organised here by the Congress against the fuel price hikes. He was briefly taken into custody and shifted to the Chikkadapally police station.

Lakshmaiah said the burden had fallen on 26.05 crore two-wheeler owners, 26.30 crore LPG users, housewives and one crore farmers. He alleged that K. Chandrashekhar Rao is equally responsible as he was supporting all the decisions taken by Modi government.

"The arrest of Congress leaders and cadre clearly proves that KCR is supporting price rise and also Modi's policies. KCR supported Modi on demonetisation and GST earlier. Now he is supporting the frequent rise in prices of



Fuel prices affecting people: Ponnala

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IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Our Dearest Matron
Mrs. SALEHA BEGUM
DOD: 12th July 2021

You were our precious MOTHER all through our growing up years. Your loving care is etched in the heart of every BOARDER.
In Grief:
HPS Begumpet Boarders Association (Regn. # 624/2020)
www.hpsbba.org

(CA-3660)

IN MEMORIAM



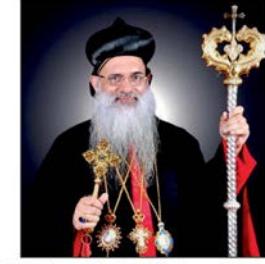
**Dr. KADIYALA
VISHWANATHA RAO**
D.O.B. 12.07.1924 D.O.E. 13.07.2000
"Respectfully remembering you and your illustrious life"
— All Family Members

RESPECTFUL HOMAGE



His Holiness Baselios Marthoma Paulose II
Catholics of the East & Malankara Metropolitan, Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church
Inserted by —
PK. KURIAN & Family
Council Member Bangalore Diocese

RESPECTFUL HOMAGE



Boorugu Mahabaleshwar Rao
D.O.B. 19.08.1943 D.O.D. 12.07.2021
Our deepest condolences and you will be missed dearly.

SHARDHANJALI



**Shri BOORUGU
MAHABALESHWAR RAO**
DOB: 19.08.1943 DOD: 12.07.2021
"Your memories are always in our hearts forever"
INSERTED BY:
Chidura Narasimha Rao,
Chidura Saraswathi,
Chidura Dhruva, Chidura Avantika.

OBITUARY



18th Anniversary
"The Righteous will be in everlasting remembrance" Psalms 112:6
In Loving Memory of Mr. A. MICHAEL
DOD: 13th July 2003

"Even today we miss your smile, your humor, your Advice, your Concern, We miss you very much"

Mass at 6 pm at "Our Lady of Good Health Church, Khairatabad."

By Family Members

Inserted by —

THOMAS JOHN & Family

Sabha Managing Committee Member

REMEMBRANCE



Mrs. P. VASUNDHARA VINAY

Your memories are always remembered in our hearts forever

Inserted By:

Husband: P. Vinay Kumar

Son: P. Abhijay Nathan

& All Family Members

Ph: 9959061397 / 8074999706

OBITUARY



Boorugu Mahabaleshwar Rao
DOD: 12-07-2021
We would like to inform you Sad Demise of Boorugu Mahabaleshwar Rao

Inserted by: Boorugu Family

RESPECTFUL HOMAGE



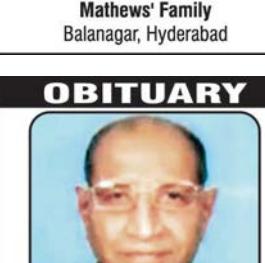
His Holiness Baselios Marthoma Paulose II
Catholics of the East & Malankara Metropolitan, Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church

Inserted by —

JOHN P GEORGE & Family

Old Alwal, Secunderabad

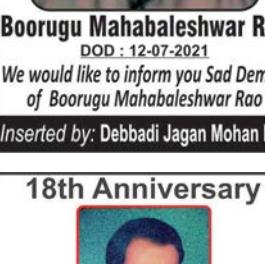
REMEMBRANCE



Mathews' Family

Balanagar, Hyderabad

RESPECTFUL HOMAGE



Boorugu Mahabaleshwar Rao

DOD: 12-07-2021

We would like to inform you Sad Demise of Boorugu Mahabaleshwar Rao

Inserted by: Debbadi Jagann Mohan Rao

RESPECTFUL HOMAGE



SMT. NARSUBAI SIRIGIRI

W/o Late Narsing Sa Sirigiri

Expired On : 13-07-2007

"Days are Passing into Years,

We Remember you in Silent Tears."

Inserted By: Sirigiri Family

Bownepally, Hyderabad

IN BRIEF

GHMC slaps fine on restaurant

Hyderabad: The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) on Monday penalised the Shah Ghouse restaurant in Serilingampally circle for not maintaining hygiene and for not following Covid-19 protocols. GHMC officials said that the eatery was penalised ₹10,000 for not maintaining hygiene in and around the premises, not getting the staff vaccinated against Covid-19 and not following the Covid19 guidelines.

LAND FOR INFRA AT GREENFIELD AIRPORT IN AP

DC CORRESPONDENT
NELLORE, JULY 12

Additional land is being acquired on a war-footing as part of a bid to develop airport-linked industries and cargo handling facilities at the proposed greenfield airport at Dadgarthi near Nellore.

A reason for extending the scope of the proposed airport is the fast pace of development at industrial parks and the special economic zones in the district. Nellore is the lead district in terms of investment and income generated both in agriculture and allied sectors as also the manufacturing industry sector.

Nellore is industrially well-connected to South-East Asia through the Krishnapatnam Port, which is India's largest private port. The Ramayapatnam port is another planned port coming up in neighbouring Prakasam district.

Nellore city also serves as an important industrial node along the Visa-khapatnam — Chennai and the Chennai — Bangalore industrial corridors. The proposed airport site is located about 30 km north of Nellore. The site is situated on the west side of the Gun-tur-Chennai Highway (NH-16) and 26 km away from Krishnapatnam port and 50 km from Ramayapatnam port.

COVID THIRD WAVE SET IN ON JULY 4: EXPERT

Hyderabad, July 12: A senior physicist, who was pro-vice chancellor of the University of Hyderabad and has thoroughly analysed the Covid-19 pattern in India, said on Monday that the third wave appeared to have set in on July 4.

Dr Vipin Srivastava, who has developed a method to observe the pattern of the number of cases and deaths for the past 463 days, said that July 4 appeared to be similar to the first week of February this year when the second wave was said to have set in. According to his analysis, whenever there is a crossover from an increasing trend to a decreasing trend in daily deaths or vice versa, the Daily Death Load (DDL) fluctuates "wildly".

"We had such wild fluctuations in DDL starting at the end of the first week of February though the daily deaths were on the order of 100 or even less and we were rejoicing that the pandemic was over! But what was in store was so devastating. A similar behaviour is beginning to show since July 4," he said. With 37,154 new Coronavirus infections, India's total tally of Covid-19 cases rose to 3,08,74,376, while the total recoveries crossed three crore. —PTI

GREEN DRIVE**SHGs arrange seed balls to form the largest English sentence**

DC CORRESPONDENT
MAHBUBNAGAR, JULY 12

Palamur Zilla Mahila Samakhya (PZMS), a federation of women self-help groups (SHGs), has made its way into the Guinness Book of World Records at Mahabubnagar by arranging seed balls into the largest English sentence in this category on Monday.

The Guinness record sentence reads: "Two crore seed balls made and planted by SHG Women transform Mahabubnagar into Hetero Green".

They set another record of preparing 2.08 crore seed balls, which will be used to grow plant species in wild areas, hill slopes, and forest lands.

Deeni madrasas set to start modern subjects

To teach math, science, social studies alongside English

ATHER MOIN I DC
HYDERABAD, JULY 12

Mild winds of change are blowing across a group of Deeni Madrasas. They would introduce modern subjects for classes in ways as to redefine the theological syllabi.

Of the more than 4,000 Deeni Madrasas in Telangana state, about 100 are major institutions where theological courses are offered. About 10,000 students are attending different theological courses such as Aalmiyat, Fazilat, Moulviyat, Tajweed, Nazira, and Hifz-e-Quran in these institutions. Some theologians initi-

ated the process to ensure that the students get exposed to lessons in mathematics, science and social studies alongside English and regional languages, apart from religious studies.

They formed a group to see how this can be implemented without affecting the students' religious studies. The group suggested a cut in chapters in the

usual Deeni courses, so that space can be created for introduction of modern subjects. Else, it would be a heavy burden on students.

The scholars recently presented a blueprint on this at a meeting of the Ulema. It was resolved there to prepare a revised syllabus for Deeni Madrasas.

The group held meetings with educationists and heads of modern education institutes to evolve the new syllabus.

The work in this direction is progressing. General secretary of Jamiat Ulama Hind, Telangana, Maulana Mahmood Zubair Qasmi, said, "We have prepared

the new contents with the help of educationists and subject experts and presented these at a meeting on Saturday. It was decided to entrust the responsibility of finalizing the new syllabus to Majlis e Ilmia, a body of Ulema under the patronage of Moulana Abdur Raheem Ba-Nayeeem.

He said the new syllabus could be introduced in Deeni Madrasas from the current academic year.

"We are planning to register madrasas student in the National Institute of Open Schools and Telangana Open Schools," he further said.

MANUU EXTENDS LAST DATE FOR ENTRANCE TEST

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 12

The last date for online submission of application forms for entrance-based regular courses at the Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) has been extended to July 17.

According to Prof. M. Vanaja, director, Directorate of Admissions, considering the pandemic situation and the representations received from stakeholders from all over the country the date has been extended. Entrance tests will be held as scheduled from July 29 to 31.

Admissions are available for all PhD, BTech (Computer Science), MTech (Computer Science), MCA, MBA, MEd, BEd, DEd and polytechnic diplomas (Civil Engineering, Computer Science Engineering, Electronics & Communication Engineering, Information Technology Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical & Electronics Engineering).

● **DUE TO** the pandemic and the representations received from stakeholders from all over the country the date has been extended.

Festival time

The Balkampet temple in Hyderabad has been decked up on Monday for the Bonalu festivities. — DEEPAK DESHPANDE

AP to move SC against TS over water dispute

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, JULY 12

Andhra Pradesh would file a petition in the Supreme Court on the "violation" of rules by Telangana government in drawing water "illegally" from River Krishna "without following KRMB directions".

According to reliable information, the AP government has prepared a petition on Telangana irregularities vis-a-vis sharing of Krishna water and violation of KRMB norms and would file the petition at the apex court in a day or two. The AP government would plead that the projects on interstate rivers and associated power plants should be recognized as national projects.

According to officials, construction of new irrigation projects without any permission and using excess water by violating the water

sharing agreement has turned into a big problem for AP. Hence the state government is seeking a permanent resolution in the Supreme Court.

The government said the Constitution of India gave responsibility of resolving water disputes to the Union Government. Hence, all projects on interstate rivers and associated power plants should be in the control of the central government.

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Plea to set up social work council

**SANJAY SAMUEL
PAUL I DC**
HYDERABAD, JULY 12

work in rural and urban areas through agencies or organisations.

India is the second in the world in terms of having the largest of over 526 social work educational institutions, such as a social work council, to give the lead to such initiatives in the state and across the country has been stressed by the professionals in the field.

Over the years, qualified social workers are addressing the problems of poverty, violence, conflicts of the marginalized and issues of child rights as also of women. They

at the state, regional, national and international levels, these professionals say.

Most of these qualified social workers have completed their Masters in Social work. They now urge the government to form a Council so that their work gets recognition. Aparna Addala, consultant, Department of Health and Family welfare, said, "Various organisations are doing suboptimal utilizations of their services. Hence our plea for the council."

Anita Rego, founder Director Pearls 4 Development organisation that works in social development consulting, said, "Social workers in Telangana are advocating the establishment of a national council for social work education in India."

"This council can help enhance quality in social work education, result in the creation of national registers of accredited social work education institutions and programmes, and raise the status of the profession. The request to establish NCSWE is also in tune with the recently enacted National Educational Policy of 2020," she said.

Over five lakh professional social workers are estimated to be currently working with civil society organisations, government, corporate sector and hospital and health sectors as well as with the other welfare and developmental agencies

at the state, regional, national and international levels, these professionals say.

Most of these qualified social workers have completed their Masters in Social work. They now urge the government to form a Council so that their work gets recognition. Aparna Addala, consultant, Department of Health and Family welfare, said, "Various organisations are doing suboptimal utilizations of their services. Hence our plea for the council."

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FIVE ARRESTED IN GOLD LOAN FRAUD CASE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 12

The Central Crime Station police of the Hyderabad detective department on Monday arrested five persons who were involved in a gold loan fraud of ₹30 lakh, from Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

The accused were identified as Aditya Narayan Mohapatra, Laxmidhar Murmu, Pramod Nayak, Soumika Ranjan Patnaik and Debasish Ojha.

The arrests were made following a complaint on June 24 from the head of the Himayatnagar branch of Manappuram Finance Limited, Hyderabad.

The official said that unidentified persons called the branch mobile number, impersonated head office personnel and took the credentials of two employees.

"Using the credentials of the employees, the culprits approved a gold loan in the name of a doorstep gold loan scheme and transferred the amount of ₹30 lakh into their bank accounts without any gold ornaments pledged, and cheated the company," said the police.

● **THE ARRESTS** were made following a complaint on June 24 from the head of the Himayatnagar branch of Manappuram Finance Limited, Hyderabad.

● **THE OFFICIAL** said that unidentified persons called the branch mobile number, impersonated head office personnel and took the credentials of the two employees.

TS cuts power generation from Srisailam plant

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, JULY 12

the TS government reduced power generation.

With no rainfall in the Krishna catchment areas located in Maharashtra and Karnataka, there is no inflow of water into the Srisailam reservoir. Rainfall received in parts of Telangana are helping the state fill up its reservoirs. It will release water downstream into Srisailam only after its reservoirs are filled to the capacity. Rainfall in Kurnool district is having no major impact for inflow of water into the reservoir at present.

The Srisailam power plant has five 150 MW units, all of which were put into operation to generate about 750 MW per day. The water level in the dam fell to 808.89 feet (full reservoir level 885 ft), and storage went down to 33.64 thousand million cubic feet, or 15.59 per cent of the gross capacity of 215.81 tmc ft. AP water resources authorities maintain that as the minimum drawdown level of water is fixed at 805 ft for Telangana state. As the water level is fast depleting, the dam

is operating only one unit out of five and generating nearly 130-140 mw of power at present and this exercise will continue just for a few days until water level dips to 805 ft at the dam

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT TENDER NOTICE
Date : 12.07.2021
1 NIT No: 72/TU/IDC/NIT-II/Suryapet/CMCU/2021-22 (recall)
2 No. of Works: 01 Work Providing Central median with Greenery, Central Lighting, Foot paths, side Drains and Laying of BT Road .
3 Total Value of works: ₹ 1183.3 Lakhs.
4 Download of tender document and Submission of Bid Document: 13.07.2021 @ 10:30 AM to 29.07.2021 @ 04:30 PM
5 Technical Bid opening date: 29.07.2021 @ 04:31 PM
Tender Documents will be available in e-Procurement Market place in between 13.07.2021 10:30 AM to 20.07.2021 @ 04:30 PM. Validity of the tender will be 120 days from the last date of submission and tender details can be seen by login into tender.telangana.gov.in.
Sd/-Supervising Engineer (PH),
R.O. No.: 368-DP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2021-22, Date: 12-07-2021

STATE BOARD OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION & TRAINING, TELANGANA : HYDERABAD
Tender No.: SBTEL-POE1/3/2020-POE1, Dated: 12.07.2021
Tender Notification (E-Procurement)
State Board of Technical Education and Training, Telangana desires to engage for the work of "On Screen Digital Evaluation System". Prospective agencies willing to participate in this tender may visit e-procurement portal https://tender.telangana.gov.in
Date of commencement of Downloading: 14-07-2021, 10:00 AM. Last date to Submit bids on e-procurement portal: 27-07-2021, 3:00 PM
Sd/-
DIPR.R.O. No.: 368-DP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2021-22
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MEDICAL DIRECTOR , NEW DELHI

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Online Bids" (Under Single Bid System) from Prospective vendors / firms (firms registered vendors on CPPP (Defence Procurement Portal) using their personal digital signature can only participate) are invited by the Directorate of Personnel Officer-3, for and on behalf of the President of India for Maintenance of IAF Publicity Hoardings mentioned in this RFP. Details of the Procurement under progress are as follows:-

Description and specification	Maintenance of IAF Publicity Hoardings RFP No. Air HQ/2251/1/PO-3 (
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DECCAN Chronicle

13 JULY 2021

Make space accessible to all as a new age dawns

The safe conduct of a flight for space tourists, including Virgin Galactic boss Richard Branson, to the edge of space and back is another triumph of the spirit of human endeavour. This opens up an opportunity for ordinary people who are not trained astronauts to be able to handle microgravity, high G forces and Mach 3 speeds in the sky. They can travel in a capsule while detached from the mother aeroplane to be fired by a hybrid rocket engine to 86 km above the earth in order just to gaze at our home planet and its curvature and then glide back to the ground.

Man has always been fascinated by heights, be it Mount Everest or flying at altitude and much like Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay, who were the first to climb to the roof of the world. Virgin's septuagenarian Branson will be best remembered for beating the world's richest man Jeff Bezos by nine days to go to space first. After spaceship *VSS Unity*'s flight we may be a baby step closer to man's ultimate dream of colonising the moon or even Mars someday if only because Planet Earth might become too hazardous to reside in considering how its resources are being depleted and inviting climate change catastrophe.

It is possible to be cynical about rich patrons paying up to ₹1.82 crore for a ticket for about three minutes of weightlessness before floating back to their seats near the threshold of space. It can be argued that a few million people on the ground are starving while the rich enjoy space in joyrides. The human race cannot be considered a form of life intelligent enough to explore the limits of wondrous possibilities without science and engineering being harnessed with such precision to satisfy man's unquenchable curiosity and test the limits of ingenuity.

The perils of technology going wrong cannot, however, be discounted as Virgin's own experience portrayed when it lost a flight with the plane breaking apart during a test flight with disastrous consequences in 2014, leaving at least one co-pilot dead. *The Unity*'s "feathering" twin tails have been designed to swing upwards at 60 degrees to create drag and make the capsule drift down to Earth. Branson joked that like James Bond he had a "licence to thrill", which might be true considering the adventurous life he has led. It is in advancing this dawn of space tourism that he has contributed most to the human race.

Aeronautical engineer and researcher Sirisha Bandla, with roots in Andhra's Guntur, was on the pioneering flight on merits whereas 600 budding space tourists have been queuing up with tickets for seven years for the space experience. There is more to come from the world's tech billionaires of the new economy as Bezos' Blue Origin intends sending space tourists beyond the Karman line, which is said to lie 100 km above Earth and Elon Musk's SpaceX which will keep tourists in space for days but at ticket prices running into millions of dollars. Bezos and Musk's flights will be based on space capsules being lifted by rockets unlike Virgin's reusable space plane.

Tennis greatness personified

Chasing Grand Slam tennis titles is his calling in life. The Serbian star Novak Djokovic is already being spoken of as the greatest in tennis history, the world's best ever hard court player with an enviable Wimbledon record of six golden trophies on grass and a couple of French Opens. With 20 Grand Slam titles, he is abreast of his contemporary greats Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal, whose vocarates rate them as supreme all-time greats. At 34, age favours Djokovic, and he is feeding his insatiable hunger in his golden year of 2021 when a US Open triumph and a calendar slam can put him on an even higher pedestal than yesterday's greats Don Budge and Rod Laver.

A curious aspect of Djokovic's all-court game is he can suffer extreme anxiety as the weight of history seems to sit on his shoulders. He lost the opening set to a rising grass court star in the Italian Matteo Berrettini, who was adopted by the Wimbledon crowd with a strong anti-Djokovic bias. But the Serb, who as a kid was whisked away to Germany when bombs were falling round their home, is not the one to try and win popularity contests. His extraordinary skills come wrapped in a unique understanding that his best game will come together when he needs most it. Returning Berrettini's 240 kmph serves is itself a challenge but Djokovic broke his serve six times to show who is the champion.

The absence of Naomi Osaka had thrown open the distaff side of the draw. Emerging champion with a powerful game backed by craftiness and a spirit of competition to match was the Australian Ashleigh Barty, who as a woman of indigenous heritage from the Ngaragai tribe, wins one for diversity. To make it even more memorable, Barty wore a replica of Evonne Goolagong's dress from the 1980 final. The two native Aussies are not just title winners in a sport dominated by whites. There were slices of history too in young Samir Banerjee of USA, born to Indian parents, winning the boys title in just his second attempt at a major tournament and Marija Cicak becoming the first woman in 144 years to officiate in a men's singles final.

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Aakar Patel

The weak case that kept Stan Swamy in jail, where he died

Stan Swamy, who died around a week ago after being denied bail in the Bhima Koregaon case, was a Tamil priest who spent decades working with adivasis in Jharkhand. Before that he was director of the Indian Social Institute in Bengaluru. Why was he in jail for an event in Pune? The Bhima Koregaon case is five separate and unrelated things. The first was an event called Elgar (or Yalgar, meaning battle cry) Parishad on December 31, 2017 in Pune. The speakers there included former high court judge B.G. Kolse-Patil and P.B. Sawant, a former Supreme Court judge, Jignesh Mewani, Independent MLA from Gujarat, and JNU activist Umar Khalid also spoke. Members of Kabir Kala Manch, who are artists-activists, participated too.

The second event was next day, January 1, 2018. This was the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Koregaon Bhima, a Pune suburb on Bhima river, where on January 1, 1818, the British defeated the remnants of the Maratha empire. The British side had many dalit Mahar soldiers who overpowered a larger army led by the Brahmin Peshwa.

Since 1927 when B.R. Ambedkar visited the village to speak of the vic-

tory, hundreds of thousands of dalits came to Koregaon Bhima each year to gather at the obelisk raised to mark the battle. But in 2018, there had been tension due to events in the neighbouring village of Vadhu Budruk. This had to do with who had cremated Sambhaji, Shivaji's son, who was executed by Aurangzeb in 1689 near Koregaon Bhima. The Mahars claimed it was one of them, Gopal Govind, who cremated the Maratha in defiance of Aurangzeb's orders. This offended the Marathas, who claimed two of their community had performed the rituals. Govind's tomb in Vadhu Budruk was in the same village square as Sambhaji's. On December 28, a board was placed over Govind's tomb, claiming the feet of his cremation of Sambhaji. The next day Govind's tomb was desecrated — the board was removed and the umbrella structure over the tomb was damaged. A complaint was filed by dalits under the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Prevention of Atrocities Act. The Koregaon Bhima panchayat asked its residents to boycott the January 1 event and called for shops to remain shut. That morning violence erupted between dalits, who said they were attacked by a group carrying saffron flags, and

the local Marathas, who said they were attacked by dalits. One Maratha was killed. The violence spread to other towns in western Maharashtra and 300 dalits, including children, were held by the Mumbai police.

The third event was a police complaint, filed a few days later, by a man who said the Elgar Parishad's agenda was "to mislead the dalit community, to convert them to Maoist thought... and adopt the path of violence", and that "through their publications, books and speeches, they wanted to increase enmity in society". The man who filed the complaint, Tushar Damgude, said he followed a "simple" rule for his Hindutva: "We should keep things which are helpful for Hindus; the rest should be abandoned."

It was on the basis of this complaint that the police began arresting the activists, many of whom had nothing to do with, and weren't present in Bhima Koregaon. The fourth event was a report produced by an RSS outfit called the Forum for Integrated National Security, whose secretary general, Seshadri Chari, was on the BJP's national executive committee. This report said there was a Maoist strategy to lure people into joining "mass organisations" concerned

about issues like caste, justice and equality, which would then help the Maoists recruit for the final armed struggle against the State. This report was released on March 9, 2018.

Another report by the same author was submitted to Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis in April. In May, the UAPA law was added to the Bhima Koregaon case. On June 6, the Maharashtra police arrested five people including Dhawale of the Republican Panthers, lawyer and dalit activist Surendra Gadling, scholar Mahesh Raut, who worked on adivasi rights, assistant professor of English at Nagpur University Shoma Sen and Rona Wilson of JNU, who worked with the Committee to Release Political Prisoners. They were described by the police as the "top brass of the urban Maoists".

The police claimed it found a letter in Wilson's house dated July 2017 which said: "Comrade Kisan and few other senior comrades have proposed concrete steps to end Modi Raj. We are thinking along the lines of another Rajiv Gandhi-type incident."

On the basis of this, the police arrested Sudha Bharadwaj, who studied mathematics at IIT Kanpur and gave up her US citizenship at age

18; Gautam Navlakha, who also wrote for *Economic and Political Weekly*; Anand Telumbe, assistant professor at Goa Institute of Management and married to a grand-daughter of Ambedkar; Arun Ferreira, a lawyer defending the accused in this case; Vernon Gonsalves, a professor of business management and economics at Ruparel College and HR College of Commerce and Economics; Varavara Rao, an author and poet who was a lecturer on Telugu literature; Hany Babu, a professor of linguistics at Delhi University. Three members of the Kabir Kala Manch — Sagar Gorkhe, Jyoti Jagtap and Ramesh Gaichor — were arrested, and Father Stan Swamy, 83-year-old Jesuit and theologian.

None of them had anything to do with the Bhima Koregaon violence, and weren't even present there. The case is said to be sensitive because of the assassination plot allegation, but the trial hasn't started.

Last year, the BBC carried a report on Stan Swamy headlined: "The oldest person to be accused of terrorism in India".

The writer is a columnist and a senior journalist

Subhani



Liberty and rights for all: Myth of the Magna Carta



Mohan Guruswamy

We now take our liberties and rights for granted, and the way of life it guarantees us as inherent. But what we now have has come after a long process of evolution, and many a time they flowed out of something else quite unintended. The Magna Carta is a case in point. In June, the entire English-speaking world celebrated the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta, or Great Charter, that is synonymous with the fundamental rights and rule of law which are considered the cornerstones of modern democracy. Much of the world now believes that the Magna Carta came out of an eruption of a long-suppressed yearning among the common people for protection against the caprices of the monarch and the nobility. But it is not so.

It came out of an intricate struggle between 40 barons and their King. England's King John had emptied the royal treasuries in a fruitless war with France, and the barons were no longer willing to meet his demands for higher taxes. The consequence was the Magna Carta to protect the barons from the King's demands. Another myth that endures is that the twin notions of "democracy" and "the rule of law" somehow originated with the Magna Carta and its acceptance. The fact is that the King rejected the Magna Carta soon after it was presented to him. But King John avoided the consequences of the barons' indignation by helpfully dying and thereby perpetuating the myth.

The first democracies long preceded the Magna Carta of 1215. Even as early as the sixth century BC, several "independent republics" existed in India as "sanghas" and "ganjas". The main characteristics of these sanghas and ganjas were a raja, elected or hereditary, and a deliberative assembly. These assemblies met regularly and passed laws pertaining to finances, administration and justice. The raja and other officials obeyed the decisions of these assemblies. While these assemblies were mostly comprised of the nobility and

landowners, in some cases they included all free men. But the Brahminical system prevailed in the sense that the monarch always had to be a Kshatriya. While the Licchavis, who held sway over the Kathmandu Valley in present-day Nepal and a major part of northern Bihar, were governed by an assembly of about 7,000 rajas who in turn were the heads of all the major families, others like the Shakyas, the clan to which Gautam Buddha belonged, had assemblies open to all people, rich or poor, and noble or common.

The greatest contribution to the evolution of democracy as a philosophy was in Athens, where great philosophers like Socrates, Plato and Aristotle lit up the public discourse with their brilliance and original thinking. Socrates and his pupil, Plato, deliberated and expounded on the role of a citizen within a community and laid down the foundations of the political philosophy that flourished in Athens and spread to most of the world over the next two and a half millennia. Aristotle, who counted among his students Alexander the Great, dwelt more on systems of government and who first qualified liberty as the fundamental principle of democracy.

This principle that "whatever is decided by the majority is sovereign" has always had to contend with the rights of the individual.

In the United States of America, which was formed after a great debate among the founding fathers as a democracy, it was by majority will

that slavery had flourished till the Civil War. It took another century before equal rights for black people became the majority will. This constant struggle for individual rights against the will of the collective has been the central story of the evolution of the modern democratic state.

Free India by contrast provided for all these rights and liberties from the beginning in its Constitution. The Magna Carta, because it sought to limit the powers of the ruler, perhaps still has a place in our hearts and minds, because of just that. To most of us citizens in democratic states, our life is also a constant struggle against the assertion of collective will to trample individual liberties or the rights of smaller groups.

The rise of democratic and elected parliaments in England and Scotland just 50 years after the Magna Carta is not a coincidence but the consequence of that demand to share power. It is from the Magna Carta that the English writ of habeas corpus evolved, safeguarding individuals and their freedoms against unjust and unlawful imprisonment with the right to appeal. It is from this emergence of petitions of the body that parliaments in due course became to be increasingly used as a forum to address all the concerns and grievances of ordinary people.

Thus, whatever be the first intent of the Magna Carta, its consequences greatly expanded over the centuries into a charter, which guarantees individual liberties, equality and justice to all, irrespective of their race, religion and class. But that struggle is far from over. It goes on and only its forms change as human values and means change.

The writer, a policy analyst studying economic and security issues, held senior positions in government and industry. He also specialises in the Chinese economy.

LETTERS

RAIN MISHAPS

Every year during the rainy season, it is not unusual to see mishaps (*Smart city become flood city, DC, July 12*). Why are the open drains not closed despite money being allocated for the same? GHMC authorities must be questioned. The lives of people must be given importance, not money.

Shaik Yousuf Ali
Hyderabad

TEXTBOOKS

The textbooks published by government are not available at schools. They are sold in book stalls at Secunderabad and Koti on the condition that students buy notebooks along with the textbooks. Due to online classes, many notebooks from last year are available with the students. I request the minister to make textbooks available at all schools.

G.N. Vinay Kumar
Secunderabad

BAD PLANNING

The area between Habsiguda and Nacharam is densely populated and the main road sees heavy movement of traffic. The footpath along the road is tiny, but manageable for pedestrians. Now saplings have been planted on the footpath and tree guards will come up, leaving no place for pedestrians. Plantations are good but they could have been planted sparing the footpath. Good intentions are going wrong with bad planning.

Tejas Dhanraj
Hyderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

Moroccan King executes ring leaders

RABAT, JULY 12. The principal ring-leaders of the abortive military coup against King Hassan were executed by a firing squad early today, official sources said.

The names of the officers executed after a summary court martial would be formally announced later. They said the executions were still continuing. It was not immediately clear whether all the six leading conspirators reportedly arrested have already been shot. King Hassan told that the officers who carried out the coup would all be dead by this evening.

SHORT TAKES

SC TO HEAR BIHAR'S PLEA ON SENARI MASSACRE

PARMOD KUMAR | DC
NEW DELHI, JULY 12

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear Bihar government's appeal challenging the Patna High Court verdict acquitting all the 13 accused — allegedly linked to banned Maoist Communist Centre (MCC) — who were convicted by the trial court for their involvement in 1999 Senari massacre in which 34 upper caste people were killed.

A bench comprising Justice S. Abdul Nazeer and Justice Krishna Murari while admitting the appeal by Bihar government against High court order asked it to serve notice on all 13 acquitted accused persons. The High Court in May 2021 had set aside the judgment of a lower court while acquitting the 13 accused and ordered their immediate release.

In 1999, extremists allegedly linked to the MCC executed 34 people belonging to an upper caste in the open field in Senari. On November 18, 2016, the Jehanabad district court had sentenced 10 persons to death and awarded life imprisonment to three others. The district court had acquitted 23 others for lack of evidence.

JAISHANKAR TO ATTEND SCO MEET IN TAJIKISTAN

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JULY 12

With Afghanistan descending into chaos and anarchy following the withdrawal of US troops, India on Monday said external affairs minister S. Jaishankar would visit Tajikistan on July 13-14 to take part in the meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Foreign Ministers and would also attend the SCO Contact Group on Afghanistan that will meet on July 14 with the participation of the Afghan Government.

As reported by this newspaper last week, the meeting is expected to be attended by Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi as well. Both neighbours along with Russia, China, and most of the Central Asian Republics are members of the SCO. The meetings in the Tajik Capital Dushanbe are expected to discuss the fluid situation in Afghanistan.

In a statement, the MEA said, "The meeting will discuss the achievements of the organisation as it celebrates the 20th Anniversary of its formation in this year. It will also assess the preparation for the upcoming SCO Council of Heads of States on 16-17 September 2021 in Dushanbe and exchange views on current international and regional issues."

IN ALL-PARTY DELEGATION TO VISIT DELHI

G. BABU JAYAKUMAR & D. SEKAR | DC
CHENNAI, JULY 12

Reflecting the collective sentiments of the people of Tamil Nadu, an all-party delegation would go to New Delhi and put pressure on the Union government to refrain from giving permission to Karnataka to build a dam across the Cauvery at Mekedatu.

A meeting of leaders of all legislative parties in the state passed a resolution to that effect, besides extending support and cooperation of the government in all its efforts to stop Karnataka from going ahead with its plans on building the dam and also expressing their united opposition to the project.

The first of the three resolutions urged the Centre not to give permission for the Mekedatu project as it would impinge the share of Cauvery water for the farmers of the State and had also thrown a big challenge to the Constitution.

Attended by leaders of all political parties having representation in the Assembly, the meeting expressed concern over Karnataka attempting to build the dam when the Supreme Court had made it clear that no work on the river system could be undertaken without permission from the riparian states.

Of the three sources of water flow into Tamil Nadu, only one did not have the control of Karnataka government and that was from the catchment area downstream of both the Kabini and Krishnarajagarsasagar dams, Stalin said in his address at the meeting.

VACCINE DRIVE NOT HELD IN 25 RAJ. DISTS DUE TO SHORTAGE

Jaipur, July 12: Covid-19 inoculation sessions were not conducted in at least 25 of Rajasthan's 33 districts on Monday due to vaccine shortage, an official said.

"The state had only 10,000 doses on Monday. So, vaccination sessions could not be conducted in about 25 districts of the state," health secretary Siddharth Mahajan said.

Rajasthan will receive eight lakh doses on Monday night and this will be consumed in the next two days, he said.

Mahajan said that the state had demanded 1.5 crore anti-Covid vaccine doses for July, but the Centre allocated 65 lakh doses. The officials said that a large number of people need to be vaccinated for the second dose in July for which adequate supply is required.

Rajasthan has also written to the Centre to give the vaccine doses allocated to private hospitals to the state government, Mahajan said.

According to the health department, from June 21 to July 8, the state had received 31.63 lakh vaccine doses from the Centre.

During this period, 48 lakh people were vaccinated against the coronavirus and among the doses administered, were also those which the state had purchased on its own expense.

On July 9, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot in a letter to the Union health minister had urged the Centre to not only increase vaccine allocation, but also to allocate Rajasthan's full quota, which also includes vaccines for private hospitals, to the state government.

Currently, daily vaccination is limited to the extent of supplies received from the central government, he had said.

The daily average of vaccine doses received, since the start of the vaccination drive for 18 years and above, has been around two to three lakh only, Gehlot said.

In Rajasthan, over 2.63 crore people have already received their first dose, and out of these, over 46 lakhs have received the second dose. — PTI

Different strokes



Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's son Raihan Rajiv Vadra during his first exhibition 'Dark Perception: An Exposition of Light, Space and Time', at Bikaner House in New Delhi on Monday. The 20-year-old said, "I would never say yes or no to anything. But photography is going to be definitely one of the things that I would like to do for a long time." — PTI

TALIBAN CAN TARGET INDIAN ASSETS, WARNS ADVISORY

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JULY 12

Indian assets and personnel working in Afghanistan could be targeted by the Taliban in the coming days and thus need to be put on high alert "with strict security protocols." This specific advisory has been given by country's premiere external intelligence agency Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW), which is closely monitoring the "evolving security situation in Afghanistan."

Sources said there was considerable concern among New Delhi's security and intelligence top brass over increased Taliban activities in Afghanistan as they feel this could adversely impact Indian assets there in the coming days.

The R&AW advisory specifically mentions that "Indians were at a high risk of kidnapping in Afghanistan by terrorist groups, particularly Taliban as they would use this to seek ransom as they are in desperate need to generate financial resources. So Indians should not travel out of safe zone."

"With US pulling out of Afghanistan the Taliban will start looking for soft targets to foment further trouble and India along with some other countries could be potential targets. India has a fairly large presence in Afghanistan in terms of diplomatic staff or those involved in construction and development activities. So we need to keep a very close watch on our citizens and other assets in Afghanistan in the next few weeks," a senior security official said.

In fact, sources said the Government's decision to evacuate more than 50 diplomats and other staff members at the consulate in Kandahar was also taken in view of the R&AW advisory.

Government had used special Air Force aircraft to evacuate Indian staff from the consulate and others in Kandahar. So while Kandahar consulate has been shut down temporarily, the one in Mazar-e-Sharif remains functional but security cover there has been considerably enhanced.

Over 47,000 pvt. schools in MP suspend online classes

Schools demand waiver of annual recognition fee, restarting physical classes

DC CORRESPONDENTS
Bhopal, July 12

Over 47,000 private schools in Madhya Pradesh on Monday suspended online classes demanding waiver of annual recognition fee and resumption of physical classes for students from standard nine to 12.

Around 45,000 private schools in the state are affiliated to Madhya Pradesh Board of Secondary Education and 2,800 others are affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

"We are constrained to suspend online classes for students from class 1 to 12 indefinitely from today since our demands evoked no response from the state government," Ajit Singh, president of MP private

schools association said here.

He said the association's major demands include revision of the present rule of according recognition to schools by MPBSE for one year. The recognition should be given for five years to save the management of the private schools from unnecessary harassment.

Besides, the state government should also seriously consider resuming classes from standard nine to 12 in view of slowing down of Coronavirus cases in the state.

The schools and colleges in the state have remained closed since April, 2020 when the Coronavirus pandemic caused havoc in MP killing many people. The state government, however, was yet to

respond to the development.

The association has also disapproved of the recent order by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan not to collect tuition fees from students since they did not attend classes in the schools.

Sources, however, said the association may withdraw the decision to suspend online classes very soon following opposition to the move by a section of managements of private schools.

Meanwhile, India reported 37,154 new cases of Covid-19 and 724 deaths in the last 24 hours. However, at the same time, 39,649 patients were discharged from medical care and India's Recovery Rate increased to 97.22 per cent.

Country's active caseload is currently at 4.51 lakh which constitutes 1.46 per cent of the total cases and its daily positivity rate is 2.59 per cent.

Delhi recorded 45 cases on Monday, which was the lowest ever in a day while Mumbai reported less than 500 cases for the third time in July. Maharashtra reported 7,603 new cases, Haryana 28, and Telangana 696, Kerala 7,798 and Manipur reported 890 new cases.

Uttarakhand, which is

witnessing a huge surge of tourists reported 51 new cases. The state government has extended Covid-19 curfew till July 20 and 50 people will be allowed in weddings as well as funerals.

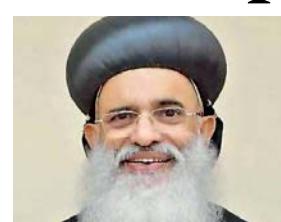
The Indian medical Association (IMA) has warned that going by the

global trend a third wave is "inevitable and imminent" and that tourism, pilgrim travel and crowding at public places should wait for some more time.

On the vaccination front, several centres remained shut in Delhi and other places due to shortage of jabs. However, the Union health ministry said more than 1.54 crore balance and unutilised vaccine doses are still available with the states/UTs and private hospitals to be administered.

So far more than 38.86 crore vaccine doses have been provided to states/UTs and a further 63,8230 doses are in the pipeline, the ministry said. The ministry said India's cumulative vaccination coverage has exceeded 38 crore as on date.

Head of Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church passes away at 74



Moran Mor Baselios Marthoma Paulose

overall condition especially lung complications took a turn for the worse.

The mortal remains of the Catholicos was kept for ceremonial public exhibition at the Parumala Church till 7 pm. The funeral ceremony would be held at Devalokam, the headquarters of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Catholic Church in Kottayam at 5 pm on Tuesday.

Baselios Mar Thoma Paulose II was the eighth Catholicos of the East in Malankara and 91st Primate on the Apostolic Throne of St Thomas. He was enthroned as the

Catholicos of the East and Malankara Metropolitan in November 2010.

Acting Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court Rajesh Bindal on Monday reappointed West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's election petition to Justice Shampa Sarkar, for its hearing after Justice Kausil Chanda recused himself last week from hearing the Trinamul Congress supremo's plea following her high voltage allegations against him of bias to the BJP.

Unlike Justice Chanda, who is an additional

judge against whom allegations of political bias have not surfaced so far.

Judge, Justice Sarkar is a permanent judge against whom allegations of political bias have not surfaced so far.

In her letter to the acting CJ earlier, the Chief Minister, apart from her complaint of political bias, had also objected to the assignment of her election petition to an additional judge which later left Justice Chanda anguished.

Permanent judge to hear election plea of Mamata

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC
KOLKATA, JULY 12

Acting Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court Rajesh Bindal on Monday reappointed West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's election petition to Justice Shampa Sarkar, for its hearing after Justice Kausil Chanda recused himself last week from hearing the Trinamul Congress supremo's plea following her high voltage allegations against him of bias to the BJP.

Unlike Justice Chanda, who is an additional

Banerjee's election petition, challenging her defeat at Sovendu Adhikari of the BJP at Nandigram in the recently concluded Assembly polls, may come up for hearing before Justice Sarkar this week.

While recusing himself from the prayer of the TMC chief on July 7 Justice Chanda, however, had slapped a fine of ₹5 lakh on her for defaming him as a "BJP man."

Though Banerjee's election agent, Abu Sufyan, initially declared that the penalty would be challenged legally, no such move followed.

9-day Rath Yatra starts on colourful note sans devotees

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC
PURI, JULY 12

Lord Jagannath's annual nine-day Rath Yatra festival on Monday began on a colourful note, despite the absence of lakhs of devotees who throng the pilgrimage city during this period every year to participate in the grand event.

As the devotees stayed away due to Covid-19 restrictions and watched the festival on television screens for the second year in a row, hundreds of servitors of Srimandir, the abode of Lord Jagannath pulled the chariots of the deities.

All the servitors had undergone strict Covid-19 tests to check infection in the city. "We cannot express the pain in our

heart as the Covid-19 situation keeps lakhs of devotees away from Lord Jagannath. The Rath Yatra is meant for devotees who gather here to see the deities on the chariots with a belief that such a darshan will pave the way for Moksha or liberation of soul from rebirth. It is also meant for people of other sects and faiths who on normal days do not have access to Srimandir for darshan. They come here to see the deities but also pull the chariots," said Pandit Suryanarayan Rath Sharma, a priest at Srimandir and Jagannath cult researcher.

The process of the Rath Yatra began with the priests conducting all the morning rituals after which Lord Jagannath and two His siblings — elder

brother Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra were led on a procession to the chariots amidst playing of drums cymbals.

After the deities were mounted on the chariots, Sankarcharya Swami Nischalananda Saraswati offered his prayers following which Gajapati King Dibyasingha Deb performed the customary Chherapanaha or cleaning of chariots with a gold-coated broomstick.

Around 500 servitors of the temple along with the security personnel pulled the three chariots — Nandighosa of Lord Jagannath, Taladhwaja of Lord Balabhadra and Darpadalan of Devi Subhadra — to Gundicha Mandir, a temple located at distance of two km from Srimandir.

Gundicha Mandir is the aunt's house and birthplace of the deities. During their nine-day sojourn at Gundicha temple, the deities also offer darshan to common people. However, as prohibitory order has been issued on the entry of people from outside to the city during the festival, there shall be no congregation at the place this time.

Earlier in the morning, President Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik extended warm greetings to the people of the country, seeking blessings of the Holy Trinity for healthy and prosperous life to all.

The President, in a tweet in Hindi, extended Rath Yatra wishes to every Indian. He also sought blessings of the Almighty

for healthy life during the time of the pandemic.

Modi tweeted, "Greetings to everyone on the special occasion of the Rath Yatra. We bow to Lord Jagannath and pray that His blessings bring good health and prosperity in everyone's lives. Jai Jagannath!"

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, while wishing the citizens of the state, shared a message through a video clip. In his tweet, he stated, "May the state be Covid-free with the blessings of Lord Jagannath."

Patnaik had earlier appealed to the people of Odisha to celebrate the mega festival in strict adherence to Covid protocols, thereby setting an example of a disciplined and sacred life before the world.

No Rath Yatra in J'khand this year

Ranchi, July 12: Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren has requested people in the state to worship Lord Jagannath at their homes as Rath Yatra will not be taken out this year due to the prevailing Covid-19 situation.

Soren said that Rath Yatra could not be allowed for the second consecutive year as the Coronavirus threat is still looming large in the state.

"It pains me to not allow Rath Yatra but many stern steps have to be taken to

secure our tomorrow. Celebration of many festivals had to be subdued due to Coronavirus pandemic. Seek blessings of Lord Jagannath from the safety of your homes," the Chief Minister said in a statement issued late on Sunday night.

Meanwhile, Jharkhand's Coronavirus tally stands at 3,46,279, of which 423 are active cases, while 3,40,737 people have recovered from the disease and 5,119 patients have succumbed to the infection to date. — PTI

SHORT TAKES

RAJINI SAYS NO PLAN TO ENTER POLITICS

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, JULY 12

Actor Rajinikanth, who reneged on his plans to launch a political party at the eleventh hour just before the Assembly elections, said that he would not enter politics in future, too, on Monday and dissolved the Rajini Makkal Mandram (Rajini People's Association).

The Mandram was formed as a prelude to the political party that was on the anvil and several office bearers were named at the State and district levels, besides forming subsidiary organisations. Work was also in full swing with the office-bearers preparing the ground for facing elections.

All those office bearers would go back to the Rajinikanth Fans Service Club, which was actually converted into the Mandram in the first place to play a precursory role to the formation of the party.

The role of the Mandram was different to that of the previous fan club of the actor. Now that there is no purpose behind the running of the Mandram, it would revert to being the fan club, Rajinikanth told a meeting of the Mandram's office-bearers.

BABU GETS GUARD OF HONOUR IN RAIN

Mumbai, July 12: Mumbai's additional municipal commissioner Ashwini Bhade was on Monday accorded a guard of honour in pouring rain by fire service personnel when she visited the Fire Brigade office.

Bhade, an IAS officer of the 1995 batch, reached the Mumbai Fire Brigade headquarters around 11 am. The Fire Brigade jawans who were part of the guard of honour squad, were apparently waiting there since a couple of hours, braving the downpour.

A video of the guard of honour amid the downpour has gone viral. It shows the senior bureaucrat, accompanied by a person holding an umbrella for her, receiving the guard of honour.

A user compared the incident to another one last month in when deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar, during a visit to Osmanabad, declined to receive a guard of honour when he saw the police personnel in the squad standing in the rain.

Pawar, who was in the town in Marathwada region to review anti-coronavirus measures, had reached the district collector's office when he saw the police personnel standing in pouring rain to accord him a guard of honour.

PATOLE SAYS GOVT. KEEPING WATCH ON HIM

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC
MUMBAI, JULY 12

Maharashtra Congress president Nana Patole has created yet another controversy by accusing his own MVA Government of keeping 'a watch' on him. He had earlier levelled phone-tapping allegations against the BJP-led government led by Devendra Fadnavis.

Speaking at a meeting of party workers in Lonavala, Mr Patole said chief minister Uddhav Thackeray of the Shiv Sena and home minister Ajit Pawar from the NCP receive an intelligence report every morning and are upset by the Congress' growing strength.

"Every morning at 9, intelligence report is submitted to the chief minister and the home minister on what is happening in the state. They receive reports about everything. Who is protesting where, everything needs to be updated. They even know what I am doing. The CM and Deputy CM are keeping a watch on me," he said.

Congress is one of the three alliance partners in the MVA government. Shiv Sena and Nationalist Congress Party are the other two allies.

"The system is not allowing me to live peacefully. My phone is being tapped. Wherever I go, whatever I speak, a report is sent to the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister and Home Minister. Some people seem to dislike that Congress was growing in strength," Mr Patole added.

However, he later said he did not mean the state government was keeping a watch on him. "My allegations were against the Centre. I will issue a clarification when I return to Mumbai," he said.



Vehicles trapped in flood water due to heavy rain after a cloudburst at Mcleodganj near Dharamshala on Monday.

Cars, buildings swept away as flash floods hit Himachal

Three NDRF teams rushed to flash flood-affected regions of Himachal

Dharamshala (HP), July 12:

Flash flood triggered by heavy rains swept away buildings and cars at tourist spots as bad weather also led to the closure of the airport here.

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has rushed three teams to conduct rescue-and-search operations in the flash flood-affected regions in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh. The teams were sent after heavy rains hit many parts of the district and several people were reported stranded near Boh and Tatwani villages, said airport's in-charge Gaurav Kumar.

Owing to flash flood at Manjhi Khad area adjoining Dharamsala, two buildings were swept away while several others were reported to be damaged, the video clips showed. The flash floods also

A drain near Bhagsu Nag in upper Dharamsala adjoining Mcleodganj changed its course owing to heavy rains, sweeping away four cars and several bikes, video clips showed.

A government school building at Bhagsunag was also damaged and adjacent hotels there were inundated, it showed.

"Due to inclement weather and heavy rains, all incoming flights to Dharamshala airport at Gaggal have been cancelled," said airport's in-charge Gaurav Kumar.

Owing to flash flood at Manjhi Khad area adjoining Dharamsala, two buildings were swept away while several others were reported to be damaged, the video clips.

The flash floods also

THE DISTRICT administration is making elaborate arrangements for the safety of the tourists staying in Dharamsala and its surrounding areas.

damaged a bridge on the Mandi-Pathankot highway after which traffic was stopped on both sides, leading to a traffic jam.

In a tweet, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, "The situation in Himachal Pradesh due to heavy rains is being closely monitored. Authorities are working with the State Government. All possible support is being extended. I pray for the safety of those in affected areas."

Union Home Minister Amit Shah spoke to Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah spoke to Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur.

on Monday to take stock of the situation arising due to the floods in several districts of the state and assured him all possible help from the Centre.

Thakur also expressed concern over the losses due to heavy rain and directed the administrations of various districts to ensure speedy relief and rescue operation in the affected areas.

He also urged the local people and tourists to refrain from going near the river banks to avoid any untoward incident.

Deputy Commissioner Dr Nipun Jindal said, "All the tourists visiting Dharamsala have been instructed to postpone their tour so that they do not face any kind of inconvenience."

He said the tourists who

have already arrived in Dharamsala and its surrounding places have also been advised to stay where they are as roads etc. have also been damaged due to heavy rains, which may cause problems in their movement.

The district administration is also making elaborate arrangements for the safety of the tourists staying in Dharamsala and its surrounding areas, he said. In case of any problem, they can contact the toll free number 1077 of the disaster control room, he said.

"Instructions have also been given to people to not go to sensitive places prone to landslides. Some people have also been shifted to safer places due to flood conditions in some areas of the district."

Lightning in MP, Raj, UP kills over 80 people

DC CORRESPONDENT
with agency inputs
JAIPUR / BHOPAL /
LUCKNOW, JULY 12

Incidents of lightning strikes in various states of the country have left over 80 people dead.

In Uttar Pradesh, the death toll due to lightning strikes rose to 42 people.

The maximum 14 fatalities due to lightning were reported from Allahabad, followed by five deaths each in Kanpur Dehat and Fatehpur among others, officials said, adding 23 persons were injured in such incidents.

Similarly, as many as 23 people, including 12 in Jaipur, were killed and 27 injured in incidents of lightning strikes in Rajasthan, officials said on Monday. Besides Jaipur, the deaths were reported from six other districts — Kota, Jhalawar, Baran, Dholpur, Sawai Madhopur and Tonk — according to the Disaster Management and Relief department.

In a major tragedy in Jaipur, 12 people, mostly youngsters, were killed and 11 injured in an incident of lightning strike at the iconic watch tower

near the Amber Fort.

Some of them were taking "selfies" on the watch tower, while the others were on the hill nearby, they said, adding that those on the tower fell on the ground when the lightning struck late on Sunday evening.

Meanwhile, 11 people were rescued on Monday following flash floods in Kathua district of Jammu region where heavy rains disrupted normal life and inundated several areas. Eleven people belonging to a nomadic community were stuck in flash floods in Ujh river in the Rajbagh area and were rescued.

SBSP CHIEF TO MEET KEJRIWAL NEXT WEEK

PRIYANKA TO KICK-START 'MISSION UP'

Ballia (UP), July 12: Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) chief Om Prakash Rajbhar on Monday said that he will meet Aam Aadmi party leader Arvind Kejriwal this week to firm up an alliance for the Uttar Pradesh assembly polls.

Smaller parties, he said, will play a major role in forming the next government in the state after the 2022 assembly polls.

"I will meet Kejriwal on July 17 in presence of Raja Sabha MP Sanjay Singh. During the meeting talks will be held to include the AAP in the Bhagidari Sankalp Morcha as an ally," Rajbhar said. The Morcha is a front of smaller parties led by Rajbhar. Rajbhar said the Morcha has held initial level talks with the SP for an alliance.

The chief of Jan Adikar Party, which is an ally of the Morcha, met SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, he added.

On the result of the meeting, Rajbhar said they held preliminary level talks. Asked whether Yadav would be ready for an alliance with AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi, Rajbhar said there is no enemy in politics.

Priyanka will hold meetings with all PCC members and district and city presidents from various parts of the states, sources said.

New Delhi, July 12: Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will be on a visit to Lucknow from July 14 to hold meetings with party functionaries which will be followed up by tours of other districts of the state aimed at energising the party cadre and preparing the organisation for a pitched electoral battle against the BJP.

Ahead of her visit to Lucknow, Priyanka Gandhi on Monday brainstormed with senior Congress leaders from Uttar Pradesh on the preparations for the next year's assembly polls.

During the meeting, the party resolved to hit the streets against the BJP government over issues such as unemployment, price rise and law and order.

Priyanka will hold meetings with all PCC members and district and city presidents from various parts of the states, sources said.

— PTI

Islamic State 'conspiracy': NIA raids continue in Kashmir

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC
SRINAGAR, JULY 12

The Mamata Banerjee government has switched on the criminal investigation department (CID) to probe leader of the opposition Suvendu Adhikari's role in the case of his former security staff Shubhabrata Chakraborty's murder more than two and half years ago when the Nandigram BJP MLA was in the Trinamul Congress and held a cabinet portfolio.

On Monday the state detective agency took over the murder case from the Contai police station in East Midnapore where it was registered under IPC sections 302 (murder) and 120B (criminal conspiracy) on July 7 following a complaint by Chakraborty's wife, Suparna, against Mr Adhikari and his aide Rakhal Bera directly accusing them of killing her husband.

A four-member CID team including a female cop later visited Suparna at her residence in Mahishadal of the district and recorded her statement. On October 13 in 2018, Chakraborty, a cop, was found with bullet injuries on head at the police barrack in Contai. He succumbed to his injuries at a private hospital in Kolkata the next day.

The state cabinet had approved the bill which envisages imposition of complete ban on transport of cattle outside the state.

alias Nadim and Arif Muhammad into custody. Another person identified as Arif Hussain Qadri was detained for questioning following a raid at a private printing press in the neighbouring Ganjiwara area.

A laptop in his use was also seized, the sources said.

The NIA had on Sunday conducted raids at seven locations in Srinagar and Anantnag and detained six persons including the head of an Islamic seminary for questioning in connection with the case registered by it in New Delhi in June under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 on June 29 "in

connection with the conspiracy of the proscribed militant organization ISIS to radicalize and recruit impressionable youth in India to wage violent jihad against the Indian state".

The agency in a statement issued here on Monday said that after preliminary investigations three persons Umar Nisar, Tanveer Ahmad Bhat and Rameez Ahmad Lone - all from Anantnag - have been arrested formally for being active Islamic State cadres.

The "ISIS voice of Hind case", was registered by it in New Delhi under sections 124A, 153A, and 153B of IPC and sections 17, 18, 18B, 38, 39 and 40 of UAP Act 1967 on June 29 "in

connection with the conspiracy of the proscribed militant organization ISIS to radicalize and recruit impressionable youth in India to wage violent jihad against the Indian state".

The proposed legislation in Assam will replace The Assam Cattle Preservation Bill 2021 in the state assembly which will be passed during the ensuing budget session.

The state cabinet had approved the bill which envisages imposition of complete ban on transport of cattle outside the state.

However, the move of the

Assam government to introduce the bill, which is also defined as "cow protection bill" by the BJP has raised concern in other north-eastern states where beef is consumed.

Meghalaya chief minister Conrad Sangma said that if the transport of cattle to his state is affected by Assam's proposed cattle protection law, he would take up the matter with the neighbouring state and the central government.

"We have to examine the

law after Assam passes and implements it. We have to see the terms and conditions and how they plan to implement it. It would not be correct for me to comment more without seeing the content of the Bill," he told reporters a day before in Shillong.

"However, if there is an issue that will hamper the economy of Meghalaya, the matter will be taken up with the Assam government as well as the Union government," he added.

Beef is popular in Meghalaya and cattle from different parts of the country reach the state through Assam. In fact, all supplies to the north-eastern states are routed through Assam only.

"We have had initial communication with states that provide us with cattle, like West Bengal, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh. Under normal circumstances, the transport of cattle from these

states to Meghalaya through Assam should not get hampered. We will take all steps to ensure that it does not get hampered by Assam's new law," Mr Sangma said.

The Assam government has been determined to introduce the bill as the issue was flagged in the Assam Governor Jagdish Mukhi's address to the state assembly in which he said, "We will adopt a zero-tolerance policy and enforce stringent punishment for the offenders."

FOOD | PROBLEM

North-eastern states raise concern over possible shortage of beef due to ban

Assam Assembly takes up Bill on cattle protection

MANOJ ANAND | DC
GUWAHATI, JULY 12

Ignoring the concern of other north-eastern states, Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma here on Monday tabled the Assam Cattle Preservation Bill 2021 in the state assembly which will be passed during the ensuing budget session.

The state cabinet had

approved the bill which envisages imposition of complete ban on transport of cattle outside the state.

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SHORT TAKES
ARMED ATTACK NEAR NIGER-MALI BORDER KILLS 49

Niamey, July 12: Five civilians, four soldiers and 40 armed attackers were killed Sunday in a clash in Niger's restive southwest region near the border with Mali, the government said. Around 100 heavily armed "terrorists" riding motorcycles attacked the Tchoma Bangou village, Niger's Ministry of Defence said in a statement read on public television that did not identify who it suspected was behind the incident. The "prompt and vigorous reaction" by the Defense and Security Forces, "made it possible to repel the attack and inflict heavy losses on the enemy," the ministry said.

PRO-EUROPEANS' RESOUNDING POLL WIN IN MOLDOVA

Chisinau, July 12: Moldova's main pro-European party has won a resounding victory in parliamentary polls, results showed Monday, strengthening the hand of President Maia Sandu as the former World Bank economist pushes to reform her ex-Soviet country.

Sunday's snap election — called by Sandu in April to shore up her position against pro-Russia forces — saw her centre-right Action and Solidarity (PAS) party take 52.80 percent of the vote. PAS will get 63 seats in the 101-seat parliament for four-year terms, according to the Central Election Commission. A coalition of socialists and Communists, led by former Kremlin-backed president Igor Dodon, came second with 27.17 percent, the commission said Monday, with all votes counted.

MYANMAR VIRUS CASeload HITS SUU KYI TRIAL

Naypyidaw, July 12: Myanmar's spiralling Coronavirus count struck the trial of ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi on Monday, her lawyers said, with a witness for the prosecution failing to testify after becoming infected. Cases are spiking in Myanmar, with the State Administration Council reporting more than 3,400 new cases Sunday, up from fewer than 50 per day in early May.

Suu Kyi was deposed by the military in February, sparking a mass uprising and a brutal crackdown. More than 890 civilians have been killed by the junta's forces.

A second witness gave testimony on the same charges, and the court also heard evidence on separate charges that Suu Kyi illegally imported and possessed walkie talkies, he said.

EGYPT UPHOLDS LIFE SENTENCES FOR 10 ISLAMISTS

Cairo, July 12: Egypt's highest appeals court on Sunday upheld the life sentences of 10 leaders of Egypt's outlawed Muslim Brotherhood, including the group's head, the state-owned MENA news agency reported. In 2019, a Cairo criminal court had convicted all 10, including the group's leader, or supreme guide, Mohamed Badie, of charges related to killing policemen and organising mass jail breaks during Egypt's 2011 uprising.

That revolt culminated in the ouster of longtime autocrat Hosni Mubarak. The defendants were found guilty of helping around 20,000 prisoners escape, and of undermining national security by conspiring with foreign militant groups — the Palestinian Hamas and Lebanon's Hezbollah.

RIOT INTENSIFIES, S. AFRICA TO DEPLOY MILITARY

Johannesburg, July 12: The South African government is all set to deploy troops to control the violence that has erupted in various parts of the country over the jailing of former president Jacob Zuma for contempt of court. Initially, soldiers will be deployed in two provinces — Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal, the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) announced on Monday.

KwaZulu-Natal is Zuma's home province. Zuma is currently imprisoned in the Estcourt Correctional Centre for failing to obey a court order to testify at a judicial commission that is investigating allegations of corruption during his term as South Africa's president from 2009 to 2018.

The 79-year-old politician, who denies corruption, handed himself in to police on Wednesday last week to begin his 15-month sentence.

Appoint Deuba PM: Nepal SC

Apex court reinstates the lower house second time in five months

Kathmandu, July 12: In a landmark verdict, Nepal's Supreme Court on Monday directed President Bidya Devi Bhandari to appoint Nepali Congress chief Sher Bahadur Deuba as prime minister by Tuesday and reinstated the House of Representatives for a second time in five months.

A five-member Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court led by Chief Justice Cholendra Shumsher Rana issued the verdict stating that President Bhandari's decision to dissolve the lower house upon a recommendation of Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli was unconstitutional.

Polls. The bench issued a mandamus to appoint Deuba as the Prime Minister by Tuesday, Deuba, 74, has served as the prime minister on four occasions; first from 1995 to 1997, then from 2001 to 2002, again from 2004 to 2005, and from 2017 to 2018.

Currently, he is the Leader of the Opposition in the House. The court also ordered summoning a new session of the House of Representatives at 5 PM on July 18.

Chief Justice Rana also said that the bench has concluded that party whip does not apply when lawmakers take part in the voting to elect new Prime Minister as per Article 76(5) of the Constitution. The bench comprising four other senior most jus-

tices — Dipak Kumar Karki, Mira Khadka, Ishwar Prasad Khatiwada and Dr Ananda Mohan Bhattacharai — had concluded hearings in the case last week.

President Bhandari had dissolved the 275-member lower house for the second time in five months on May 22 at the recommendation of Prime Minister Oli and announced snap elections on November 12

and November 19. Last week, the Election Commission had announced the schedule for mid-term elections despite the uncertainty over polls. Welcoming the apex court verdict, senior leader of the Nepal Communist Party-UML Madhav Kumar Nepal said that the judge's decision was commendable.

"The Supreme Court has done a commendable job. This has saved the political system that is in place. Since the court has directly asked to appoint Deuba as new prime minister, we have no role to play now," he said.

Under Madhav Nepal's leadership, 23 lawmakers of UML had put their signature in favour of Deuba's claim to the prime ministership.

Madhav Nepal also said that Parliament will take all the decisions.

"Parliament has been reinstated. We will now go to Parliament. All the decisions will be taken from Parliament now," he said.

"The court's verdict has also raised moral questions on Oli's actions."

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Oli's supporters, including youths and students affiliated to the ruling CPN-UML, took to streets here to protest against the apex court's verdict against the 69-year-old Communist leader. Cadres of the National Youth Force affiliated to CPN-UML gathered in Maitighar Mandir near the court premises chanting slogans against the verdict.

— PTI

ASSASSINATION SUSPECT HELD BY HAITIAN COPS

Port-Au-Prince, July 12: Haitian police announced Sunday they had arrested a Haitian national "who had political objectives" in recruiting the gunmen who assassinated President Jovenel Moise last week.

"This is an individual who entered Haiti on a private plane with political objectives," said Leon Charles, head of the Haitian National Police. Christian Emmanuel Sanon, 63, who is of Haitian nationality, arrived in the island nation in June accompanied by several Colombians, according to details provided at a press conference.

Several Haitian ministers were also at the conference. "The mission then changed," Charles said, explaining that the intent had originally been to arrest Moise, and the operation was mounted from within the country.

"Twenty-two other individuals entered Haiti," Charles said. Eighteen Colombian citizens have been arrested since Wednesday. By interrogating them, the Haitian police learned that Sanon had recruited 26 team members via a Florida-based Venezuelan security company named CTU.

"When we, the police, blocked the progress of these bandits after they committed their crime, the first person that one of the assailants called was Christian Emmanuel Sanon."

"He contacted two other people that we consider to be the masterminds of the assassination of President Jovenel Moise," Charles said, without disclosing the identity of the two other suspects. Members of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), State Department, Justice Department, National Security Council and Department of Homeland Security arrived Sunday in Haiti and met with the director general of police. The 28-member hit squad burst into Moise's family home and opened fire on him and his wife, Martine.

— AFP

Digging up the past in Israel



Israeli students excavate at the site of Khirbat er-Rai near the southern Israeli city of Kiryat Gat on Monday, where a 3,100-year-old pottery fragment bearing a rare inscription was found. It dates from around 1,100 BCE. — AFP

2 Jordanians jailed over coup

Amman, July 12: A Jordanian state security court on Monday sentenced two former officials to serve 15 years in prison over an alleged plot against the Western-allied monarchy involving the half-brother of King Abdullah II. Bassem Awadallah, who has US citizenship and once served as a top aide to King Abdullah II, and Sharif Hassan bin Zaid, a member of the royal family, were found guilty of sedition and incitement charges.

al-Khasawneh, a lawyer for Sharif, said they would appeal the verdict. He declined to comment further. They two men were swept up in a wave of arrests in April and Hamzah was placed under house arrest.

The royal family says it resolved the dispute with Hamzah, whose exact status is unknown but was never formally charged. Awadallah's US lawyer says his client alleged he was

tries racing to express support for Abdullah.

Hamzah denied the allegations in video statements released in April after he was placed under house arrest, saying he was being silenced for speaking out against corruption and poor governance by the ruling system. The palace drama exposed deep-rooted economic and social challenges in the country, which has long been seen as a bastion of stability in a volatile region.

The royal family says it resolved the dispute with Hamzah, whose exact status is unknown but was never formally charged. Awadallah's US lawyer says his client alleged he was

tortured in Jordanian detention and fears for his life. Abdullah is expected in Washington on July 19, when he will be the first Arab leader to meet with President Joe Biden at the White House.

Jordan is a close US ally in the Middle East and is seen as a key partner in eventually reviving the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. Lt. Col. Muwafaq al-Masaieh, a military judge, announced the verdict following a closed-door trial that consisted of just six hearings. The two were sentenced to 15 years for each of two felonies, but the judge said only one sentence would be imposed on them.

— AP

Rare anti-govt protests erupt in Cuba

HEAR PROTESTERS, BIDEN URGES CUBAN AUTHORITIES

Washington, July 12: President Joe Biden on Monday urged Cuba's communist government to "hear" protesters demanding an end to "repression" and poverty.

"We stand with the Cuban people and their clarion call for freedom and relief from the tragic grip of the pandemic and from the decades of repression and economic suffering to which they have been subjected by Cuba's authori-

tarian regime," Biden said in a statement. "The United States calls on the Cuban regime to hear their people and serve their needs at this vital moment rather than enriching themselves."

— AFP

"We want liberty," with a heavy military and police presence deployed after demonstrators massed outside the Capitol building.

Several hundred protesters marched through the capital Havana chanting,

ast 10 people were arrested, while officers used plastic pipes to beat protesters, AFP journalists witnessed.

Several thousand protesters — mainly young peo-

ple — also took to the streets of San Antonio de los Banos, a town 30 kilometres (20 miles) southwest of Havana.

Security forces arrived

began, and Diaz-Canel later visited the town himself surrounded by party activists as residents heckled him, according to videos posted online.

The president lashed out in a television address, saying: "The order to fight has been given — into the street, revolutionaries!"

"We call on all revolutionaries of the country, all communists, to go out in the streets where these provocations occur, from now on and in the next few days, and to face them in a decisive, firm and courageous way."

— AFP

COMPENSATION FOR FISHERMEN HIT BY SHIP FIRE

Colombo, July 12: The Sri Lankan government on Monday said it has started the process of paying compensation to local fishermen affected by the fire aboard a Singapore-flagged container ship that was carrying tonnes of hazardous chemicals and sank off the country's coast.

MV X-Press Pearl was carrying 1,496 containers of chemicals and cargo when it went up in flames on May 21 near the Colombo Port. The Sri Lankan Navy, Airforce and the Indian Coast Guard jointly doused the fire in an operation that took days. However, the ship sank off Colombo's coast on June 17.

The state minister of fisheries, Kanchana Wijesekera, said the payment for the compensation has been made possible by an interim claim laid on the insurance company of the ship's owners.

"The fishermen's activities were badly affected since May 20, in addition to the environmental damage. Our interim claim was in respect of expenditure incurred in assessing the damage," Wijesekera said. — PTI

NORMS BREACHED

Concern as changes will give FB access to more information on users

WA faces EU consumer complaint over privacy

London, July 12: Facebook's WhatsApp faces a complaint from European Union consumer groups who say the chat service has been unfairly pressuring users to accept a new privacy update in what it calls a breach of the bloc's regulations.

The European Consumer Organisation, or BEUC, filed a complaint Monday over the way WhatsApp has brought in changes to its terms of service and privacy policy, saying they aren't transparent or easily understood by users.

Many WhatsApp users switched to other chat apps like Signal and Telegram because of privacy concerns when the update was rolled out earlier this year because of concerns the changes would give Facebook access to more information on users.

"WhatsApp has been bombardarding users for months with aggressive and persistent pop-up messages to force them to accept its new terms of use and privacy policy," BEUC Director General Monique Goyens said.

"They've been telling users that their access to their app will be cut off if they do not accept the new terms. Yet consumers don't know what they're actually accepting."

"Our recent update explains the options people have to message a business on WhatsApp and provides further transparency about how we collect and use data," WhatsApp said in a prepared statement.

"The update does not expand our ability to share data with Facebook, and does not impact the privacy of your messages with friends or family, wherever they are in the world."

— AP

Choksi gets bail from Dominica for treatment

New Delhi, July 12: In a major setback to India, the Dominica High Court has granted bail to fugitive diamantaire Mehul Choksi, allowing him to travel to Antigua and Barbuda for treatment of his neurological condition, local media there reported.

The high court granted a consent order by Choksi's legal team and the state's lawyer, permitting him to go to Antigua, where he has been staying as a citizen since 2018 after he left India, after depositing Eastern Caribbean Dollars 10,000 (approximately Rs 2.75 lakh as per exchange rate) as bail money to seek medical attention from a specialised neurologist, *Antigua Breaking News* reported.

The court has also stayed the ongoing trial before a magistrate for his alleged illegal entry into Dominica on May 23 till his return, it said.

"Dominican courts finally upheld the rule of law and rights of a human to be treated in the medical facilities of his choice. And, all attempts by various agencies did not bear fruits. There is a solace in saying that all clever foxes end up as fur coats," Choksi's lawyer Vijay Aggarwal said. The order has come as a major jolt to Indian efforts to bring back Choksi, who is wanted



Mehul Choksi
ed in the ₹13,500 crore scam in the Punjab National Bank, from Dominica where he was held for illegal entry after his mysterious disappearance from Antigua and Barbuda.

His lawyers had alleged that he was abducted from Antigua and Barbuda in an elaborate plot hatched by men of Indian origin and a mystery woman named Barbara Jabarica who had befriended him during last six months. After news of Choksi being held in Dominica surfaced, India rushed a team of officials led by Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) DIG Shardha Raut to make every effort to bring Choksi back on the basis of a Interpol Red Notice against him. The effort was unsuccessful as Choksi's lawyers moved to file a Habeas Corpus petition.

— PTI

EU puts digital tax plan 'on hold'

Brussels, July 12: The European Commission said Monday it would delay its plan to propose an EU digital tax in order to not jeopardise efforts to secure a global deal on fairer taxation.

After an "extraordinary" breakthrough at G20 talks on Saturday, "we have decided to put on hold our work on a proposal for a digital levy," an EU spokesman said, a day after Washington asked Brussels to delay its tax plan. Meeting in Venice, G20 finance ministers on Saturday endorsed a plan agreed by 132 countries to overhaul the way multinational companies, including US digital giants, are taxed.

The G20 ministers of finance called on negotiators to swiftly address the remaining issues and finalise the agreement by October.

They approved the result of negotiations — including Ireland, which has become a European base for a raft of US companies thanks to low tax rates — have yet to sign up to the OECD agreement.

— AFP

quick BITES

INDICATORS %

Sensex	52372.69	-0.03
Nifty 50	15692.60	0.02
S&P 500*	4,377.84	0.19
Dollar (₹)	74.58	0.08
Pound Sterling (₹)	103.35	-0.36
Euro (₹)	88.39	0.09
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	46,796▼169	0.36
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	74.77	-1.03
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.220	0.00
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.365	0.009

* As of 8:30 PM IST

Biz activity back to pre-2nd wave levels: Nomura

Business activity has rose to the pre-second wave levels, with the seventh consecutive week of surge in levels as new Covid infection cases fall. The Nomura India Business Resumption Index accelerated to 95.7 for the week ending Sunday, from 91.0 the previous week, it said, adding that it is only 4.3 percentage points below the pre-pandemic levels of March 2020 and back to pre-second wave levels from mid-March.

Maruti hikes prices of Swift, all CNG models



Maruti Suzuki India said it has hiked prices of hatchback Swift and CNG variants of other models by up to Rs 15,000. The price change for Swift and all CNG variants is owing to an increase in various input costs, Maruti Suzuki aid in a regulatory filing. "Increase in ex-showroom prices (Delhi) is up to Rs 15,000 on the above models. The new prices are effective from today i.e. July 12," the filing further said.

Airtel records over 1,000 Mbps speed in 5G trial

Bharti Airtel recorded a speed of over 1 gigabit per second during a 5G field trial in Mumbai using Nokia's network gear, sources said. Airtel is running a live 5G trial in Mumbai's Phoenix Mall in Lower Parel. "Airtel is conducting the trial in the 3500 MHz band using 5G gear from Nokia as per DoT guidelines. The trials have delivered speeds of over 1 Gbps with ultra-low latency," one of the sources said.

MobiKwik files draft papers for ₹1,900-crore IPO

Digital payments startup One MobiKwik Systems filed preliminary papers with the Sebi to raise Rs 1,900 crore through an initial share sale. The IPO comprises fresh issuance of shares worth Rs 1,500 crore and an offer for sale of up to Rs 400 crore by promoters and existing shareholders, says its draft red herring prospectus. Those offering shares include promoters Upasana Rupkrishna Taku and Bipin Preet Singh.

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■ Q1 preview: Expect a better quarter YoY A consolidation phase for banks

FALAKNAAZ SYED

MUMBAI, JULY 12

The second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, coupled with localised lockdowns, is likely to impact the asset quality performance of banks, but to a lesser extent compared to the first lockdown.

Analysts expect bad loan formation for the April-June quarter (Q1FY22) to remain moderate—also reflected in the lower cheque bounce rate of 30 per cent versus a peak of 38 per cent last year—partly offset by restructuring and the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS).

Within retail loans, stress remains elevated, mainly in commercial vehicle loans, personal loans, loan against property, two-wheeler loans and microfinance loans, which should lead to higher stress formation for banks with higher exposure to these segments such as HDFC Bank, IndusInd Bank, RBL Bank, Bandhan Bank, AU SFB and Ujjivan, analysts said.

Bad loans in credit cards could be limited as banks and customers have explored the EMI option. Similarly, SME stress could largely be suppressed via ECLGS/restructuring option. Overall credit cost too could be elevated due to upfront stress recognition, partly offset by some contingent provision buffer usage by select banks.

"We expect overall pre-



provisioning operating profit (PPoP) growth to be soft due to subdued growth/continued softness in Net Interest Margins (Indian, Union Bank) should boost profits. SBI and Indian Bank will be outliers, added Dama.

The momentum in recovery gained over 4QFY21 was impacted by the second Covid wave, with the asset quality outlook deteriorating once again. Business activity was impacted by the second wave over April to May 2021. As a result, systemic growth moderated to 5.8 per cent as of June 18, 2021 (1 per cent decline over FY22 year-to-date).

While economic activity has started to pick up since June, business growth may remain modest over 1QFY22, said Motilal Oswal in a report.

According to Gaurav Jani of Centrum, "Midcap banks could see loan growth at 6.8 per cent year-on-year, largely led by Federal Bank and City Union Bank. Being SME-focused, asset quality impairment could be more pronounced for City Union Bank and DCB Bank."

treasury performance, but limited credit cost and lower tax incidence for select banks (Indian, Union Bank) should boost profits. SBI and Indian Bank will be outliers," added Dama.

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ABBOTT LAUNCHES HOME TEST KIT FOR COVID-19

FC BUREAU

HYDERABAD, JULY 12

Medical devices and healthcare company Abbott on Monday said it has launched an affordable Covid-19 home test kit in the country for detecting the Sars-CoV-2 virus infection.

The kit, priced at Rs 325 for a single test pack, can be used in adults and children with or without symptoms.

In a statement, Abbott said it will deliver millions of Panbio Covid rapid antigen tests.

In alignment with the current ICMR advisory on self-use, these tests will be made available to ramp up testing of symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals and contacts of confirmed coronavirus cases, the statement added.

"Scaling access to easy, accurate, and fast testing can speed up the country's preparedness and curb community contagion," ICMR's former director-general Nirmal Kumar Ganguly said. Self-testing is the first line of protection against disease transmission, he added.

There is also the issue of congestion in servers or networks experienced by some market participants during popular IPOs, driven by high demand during a short time span.

— PTI

The Pre-IPO Open application feature was specifically designed to help such users.

A user can now place an IPO order 24x7 on days once the application feature is enabled by the platform.

The order is recorded on Paytm Money's system, and sent to the exchange for processing whenever the IPO opens. The user is notified of her application status throughout the journey, to ensure a seamless experience.

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Paytm lets users to pre-apply for IPOs



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New Delhi, July 12: Leading digital brokerage Paytm Money on Monday announced the launch of an innovative feature that allows users to apply for initial share sales before the IPO opens for subscription in the market.

The move is expected to increase the participation of retail users in initial public offerings (IPOs). Paytm Money launched the feature with the Zomato IPO, and thousands of applicants on the platform have already placed their orders over the last two days, the digital brokerage said in a statement.

The conventional application process for IPOs was designed around timings, and till date, users were able to apply for an IPO only during select market hours over a window of three days.

A large proportion of the investing community does not trade actively, and is likely to be busy during market hours, missing out on some of these IPOs. This is particularly true in case of millennials and young investors.

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— PTI

RETAIL INVESTORS CAN SOON BUY GOVT BONDS FROM RBI

FC BANKING BUREAU

MUMBAI, JULY 12

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday issued a 'RBI Retail Direct' scheme, which is a one-stop solution to facilitate investment in government securities by individual investors.

Under the scheme, retail investors (individuals) will have the facility to open and maintain the 'Retail Direct Gilt Account' (RDG Account) with the RBI, the central bank said.

Also, the RDG Account can be opened through an online portal provided for the purpose, it said. The 'online portal' will also give the registered users facilities like access to primary issuance of government securities, the RBI said,

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No fee will be charged for opening and maintaining 'Retail Direct Gilt account' with the RBI. However, a fee for payment gateway, as applicable, will be borne by the investor.

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Non-Resident retail investors eligible to invest in government securities under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 can also invest under the scheme.

The RDG account can be opened singly or jointly with another retail investor who meets the eligibility criteria, the RBI said.

The funding was by

Walmart's Flipkart investment more than doubles in value

SANGEETHA G

CHENNAI, JULY 12

Ahead of a proposed IPO, Walmart-owned Flipkart has raised \$3.6 billion from a group of investors at a valuation of \$37.6 billion. Japanese SoftBank, which had sold its stakes to Walmart in 2018, has once again invested in the company.

The investment values the group at \$37.6 billion post-money, which is 130 per cent higher than the \$16 billion valuation it got during Walmart's acquisition of the home-grown e-commerce company in 2018.

Flipkart Group had raised \$1.2 billion from investors and its parent Walmart in July last year. The valuation of the company then stood at \$24.9 billion.

Flipkart Group has raised \$3.6 billion in the latest funding round participated by global investors, including sovereign wealth funds and private equity funds as well as Walmart.

The sharp rise in factory output was due to the base effect, as the country was under a strict lockdown in May last year. Six out of the eight core sectors that constitute 40 per cent of the whole IIP recorded positive growth in May.

Singapore's sovereign wealth fund GIC, Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPP Investments), SoftBank Vision Fund 2 and Walmart. Sovereign funds DisruptAD, Qatar Investment Authority, Khazanah Nasional Berhad and marquee investors Willoughby Capital, Antara Capital, Franklin Templeton and Tiger Global also participated.

According to Walmart officials, Flipkart might get listed in the bourses, most probably next year. Flipkart is also offering buyback of employee stock options worth about Rs 600 crore. In an e-mail to employees, Krishnamurthy said the group will buyback 5 per cent of the past three years' vested options.

INFLATION REMAINS HIGH, IIP JUMPS ON BASE EFFECT

FC BUREAU

NEW DELHI, JULY 12

Consumers have reason to worry as the country's retail inflation as measured by Consumer Price Index or CPI remained high at 6.26 per cent in the month of June as compared to 6.09 per cent reported in the year-ago period.

While industrial output, as measured by the Index of Industrial

Production (IIP), recorded 29.3 per cent

SHORT TAKES



Coach Ramesh makes Tokyo side

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 12

Hyderabad-based athletics coach N. Ramesh is among the coaches and support staff who will accompany the 26-member Indian athletics team for the Tokyo Olympics.

Ramesh has mentored sprinter Dutee Chand, who has qualified for the Games.

The coaching team will be headed by chief coach Radha Krishnan Nair and consists of 13 coaches, eight support staff and two officials, according to the list released by the Athletics Federation of India.

THE LIST

Coaches: Radha Krishnan Nair, Galina Bukharina, Dr Klaus, Mohinder Singh, Uwe Hohn, Rajmohan, Amritsh Kumar, Alexander, S Murali, N. Ramesh, Alexander Sintysin, Rakhi Tyagi and Gurmeet Singh.

Support staff: Elmira, Abhishek Pandey, Ishaan Marwaha, Dr Andrei, Simoni Shah, Chandrej, Pawan Kumar, Ketaan Hulawale.

Team Doctor: Dr Brajesh Koushik. **Team Leader:** Dr Madhukant Pathak.

Hyderabad FC sign medio Garcia

Hyderabad: Indian Super League side Hyderabad FC have completed the signing of Spanish player Eduardo Edu Garcia ahead of the 2020-21 season. The experienced attacking mid-fielder, who can operate multiple roles, joins

Manolo Marquez's side from last-season's runners-up ATK Mohun Bagan. "I promise to give my best and help the club grow with my experience and my work," said Garcia after penning a one-year deal with Hyderabad FC.

Born in Zaragoza, Spain, Garcia spent three seasons with the Real Zaragoza's 'B' side before going on to represent the senior side in the 2016-17 season of the Spanish Segunda Division. He moved to India for the first time with Bengaluru FC in 2017, making 14 appearances in the ISL. — PTI

Ex-SAAP chairman Mohan no more

Hyderabad: P. R. Mohan, former Andhra Ranji Trophy cricketer and chairman of erstwhile Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh, passed away due to cardiac arrest, in Sri Kalahasti Chittoor district on Monday.

He was 72 and is survived by his wife, son and daughter.

A hard hitting batsman and agile fielder, he was also a yoga expert and fitness fanatic. He served the Andhra Cricket Association in different capacities as selector and coach of various teams during the 1980s.

"I am very sorry to hear about the sad demise of Sri P. R.

Mohan garu. He served ACA in various capacities as player and administrator. He also worked hard for the development of sports and games as chairman of SAAP. My sincere condolences to his family members.

May his soul rest in peace," said MSK Prasad, former India cricketer and chairman of the national senior selection committee.

The Hyderabad Cricket Association too paid tributes to Mohan. "Sad to hear this. May God embrace his soul, rest in peace sir," said secretary R. Vijayanand on behalf of the HCA and Apex Council members.

TCA tournaments from next month

Hyderabad: The Telangana Cricket Association is conducting age-level tournaments from the second week of August at various venues.

The U-19 Inter Districts (two-day format) will be held from August 10 to 31 in Nizamabad, Bhadrak, GodavariK, Miryalaguda; U-23 Inter Districts (two-day format) from August 27 to September 17 in Adilabad, Warangal, Gajwel, Ranga Reddy; Seniors Inter Districts (one-day format for men & women) from September 12 to October 10 in Mahabubnagar, Kamareddy, Mahbubnagar, Sangareddy and the U-16 Inter Districts.

— AFP

Djoker is top card

Novak considers himself best player after winning 20th Slam

London, July 12: Novak Djokovic said Sunday he considers himself the "best player" after winning a record-equalling 20th Grand Slam title but refuses to anoint himself as the "greatest of all time".

The 34-year-old went to 20 majors alongside Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal courtesy of a sixth Wimbledon title secured by a 6-7 (4/7), 6-4, 6-3 victory over Italy's Matteo Berrettini.

If he wins a fourth US Open in September, he will become the first man since Rod Laver in 1969 to complete the calendar Grand Slam and just the third in history.

"I consider myself best and I believe that I am the best, otherwise I wouldn't be talking confidently about winning Slams and making history," said Djokovic.

"But whether I'm the greatest of all time or not, I leave that debate to other people."

"I said before that it's very difficult to compare the eras of tennis. We have different racquets, technology, balls, courts. It's just completely different conditions that we're playing in, so it's very hard to compare from 50 years ago to today."

"However, I am extremely honoured to definitely be part of the conversation."

Despite his caution, Djokovic knows he has time and momentum on his side.

At 34, he is a year younger than Nadal and has the best part of six years on Federer who turns 40 in four weeks' time.

Nadal skipped Wimbledon after losing to Djokovic in the French Open semifinals last month.

Federer made a quarter-final exit at the All England Club.

SURPASSING FEDERER

Eight of Djokovic's 20 Slams have been won since he turned 30.

He has also won seven of the last eight Grand Slam finals he has contested, with his only defeat in that time coming against Nadal at the French Open last year.

Goran Ivanisevic, the 2001 Wimbledon champion and now part of



Novak Djokovic eats a blade of grass from the Centre Court as he celebrates after defeating Italy's Matteo Berrettini in the Wimbledon men's singles final at the All England Club in London on Sunday. — AP

Djokovic's coaching team, insists there is "no debate" over who is the greatest.

"For me Novak is the best ever. He's writing history. He's going to do it in the US Open. I strongly believe he's going to do it, he's going to win all four in one year. Then I think story's over," said Ivanisevic on Sunday.

"For me it was over a long time ago. Between these three guys, 60 Grand Slams.

"It's unreal. For me, not because I'm here, before I was a member of the team, for me he was the best."

"If he wins the US Open, I think it's over. He wants to win more. But for me Novak is the biggest ever. I don't even have to debate about that." — AFP

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Wimbledon final loss a new 'beginning' for Berrettini

London, July 12: Matteo Berrettini says his valiant effort in losing to Novak Djokovic in four sets in the Wimbledon final on Sunday is "not the end, it is the beginning" and he believes he can one day lift the trophy at the All England Club.

The 25-year-old Italian showed great pluck to come from a break down and win the first set before the Serb gathered himself and won 6-7 (4/7), 6-4, 6-3 for a record equalling 20th Grand Slam and sixth Wimbledon title.

Berrettini said he would draw on Djokovic's example of how he improved himself as a player and hopefully become Italy's first Grand Slam male winner since Adriano Panatta at the 1976 French Open.

Berrettini — the first Italian to reach a Wimbledon singles final — also lost in four sets to Djokovic in last month's French Open quarter-

finals. "In order to win against him (Djokovic), I have to improve more," said Berrettini.

"Like he said, he was losing against Rafa and Roger, and thanks to them he improved."

"That's what I'll try to do. Thanks to him, I'm going to try to get better," he added.

Berrettini may have had the majority of the 15,000 capacity Centre Court crowd behind him but he said he would need more than that if he is to beat Djokovic.

— AFP

SPORTS AWARDS SELECTION AFTER TOKYO OLYMPICS

New Delhi, July 12: The process of picking this year's national sports awards winners is set to be postponed until after the Olympic Games to ensure that medal winners in Tokyo are duly considered by the selection panel, which is yet to be instituted.

The awards are given away each year by the country's president on August 29, the National Sports Day which is also the birth anniversary of hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand. The Olympics will run from July 23 to August 8.

"We have already received nominations for this year's National Sports Awards. The dates of nominations are closed as of now. But in our last meeting we have discussed about including Olympic medalist, if any, for consideration in this year's awards," a sports ministry source said.

"The Olympic ends on August 8 so the process for selection of awardees might get delayed," he added.

The ceremony itself could also be delayed if the selection panel is unable to finalise names of the awardees within 10 days of the Games' end.

"We will take a final call on this issue soon. If any of our athletes win an Olympic medal, he or she will definitely be considered. If we can conduct the meeting within a week or 10 days after the Olympics, then the awards will be given on August 29 otherwise it might be postponed by a few days," the source said.

— PTI

ICC PLAYER OF MONTH

Sophie pips Indian duo to win award

Dubai, July 12: England spinner Sophie Ecclestone edged out India's teen batting sensation Shafali Verma and all-rounder Sneh Rana to become the ICC Player of the Month for June, while New Zealand opener Devon Conway bagged the honour in the men's category.

Left-arm spinner Ecclestone thus became the second English female to win the award after Tammy Beaumont, who was crowned in February.

she added.

Big-hitting opener Verma had been nominated for her Player of the Match effort of 96 and 63 on her Test debut in the one-off fixture against England and some useful runs in the two subsequent ODIs.

In men's cricket, Conway became the maiden New Zealand player to win the award after an astounding first month in Test cricket.

The left-hander had cracked a solid double century on debut against England at Lord's, following it up with two half-centuries in his next two games, including in the World Test Championship final against India in Southampton. Conway won the award ahead of team-mate Kyle Jamieson, who was the Player of the Match in the WTC final, with South Africa's Quinton de Kock the other nominee for his fine performances on their tour of the West Indies.

— PTI

AUSSIE HANDSCOMB TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

Melbourne, July 12: Out of favour Australian batsman Peter Handscomb was forced to miss his county match against Leicestershire in England after testing positive for Covid-19.

The 30-year-old, who has been captain of Middlesex this season, couldn't play their Championship Group Two game on Sunday after being forced into isolation following a positive test result.

He has fallen out of the radar of the national selectors and last played a Test against India in Sydney in January 2019.

His last T20I was also against India at Bengaluru in February, 2019.

His last international match was an ODI against England at Birmingham in July, 2019.

— PTI



Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo (34) scores against Phoenix Suns during the second half of NBA Finals in Milwaukee on Sunday. — AP

Bucks trim Suns' lead in NBA Finals

Milwaukee (United States), July 12: Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 41 points and grabbed 13 rebounds on Sunday to lead Milwaukee over Phoenix 120-100, reviving the Bucks' chances to win their first NBA title in 50 years.

The 26-year-old Greek forward joined Shaquille O'Neal in 2000 and LeBron James in 2016 as the only NBA Finals players with back-to-back 40-point, 10-rebound performances.

Two-time NBA Most Valuable Player Antetokounmpo, who had 42 points and 12 rebounds in a game-two loss, sparked the Bucks to a victory that pulled them within 2-1 in the best-of-seven championship series that continues Wednesday at

— PTI



Players and officials of the Hyderabad District Handball Association pose after inauguration of the International Handball Week on Monday at Chintal Basti grounds (Ram Leela Ground) in Hyderabad on Monday. Celebrations will continue till Sunday during which various matches will be held at grounds across the city.

Handball week



Players and officials of the Hyderabad District Handball Association pose after inauguration of the International Handball Week on Monday at Chintal Basti grounds (Ram Leela Ground) in Hyderabad on Monday. Celebrations will continue till Sunday during which various matches will be held at grounds across the city.

Quick passes
English coach owns blame for penalties

England manager Gareth Southgate said it was his decision to put teenager Bukayo Saka as his team's final penalty taker in their shoot-out loss to Italy in Sunday's Euro 2020 final.

Southgate also brought on Jadon Sancho and Marcus Rashford deep into extra time specifically to take spot-kicks, and they also both missed as England blew an early advantage in the shoot-out.

"I chose the takers. I'm unbelievably disappointed not to go one step further," Southgate told *ITV*.

"We decided to make the changes at the end of the game, but we win or lose together as a team," he further added.

— AFP

Worst feeling in the world: Kane

England captain Harry Kane admitted his side's penalty shoot-out defeat in the Euro 2020 final against Italy on Sunday was "the worst feeling in the world".

"Penalties is the worst feeling in the world when you lose," Kane told *ITV*.

"Anyone can miss a penalty. Penalties is penalties. We went through a process. The boys did everything they could, it just wasn't our night," he said.

"We were playing against a very good side. We got off to the perfect start. Maybe dropped a little too deep sometimes. They had a lot of the ball. You've got to hold your heads high. It's been a fantastic tournament," Kane further added.

— AFP

Ronaldo finishes as Euro's top scorer

Portugal forward Cristiano Ronaldo finished as the top scorer at the European Championship with five goals. Ronaldo had the same number of goals as Czech forward Patrik Schick but the Portuguese great will get the award because he had an assist. Portugal were beaten 1-0 by Belgium in Round of 16.

Karim Benzema (France), Emil Forsberg (Sweden), Romelu Lukaku (Belgium) and Harry Kane (England) had four goals each.

Meanwhile, Italy's Gianluigi Donnarumma became the first goalkeeper to win the Player of the Tournament at the European Championship.

— AFP



The Italian team celebrates with the Euro trophy after beating England in the penalty shootout at Wembley stadium in London on Sunday. — AP

ROMEANCE

Italy win Euro Cup on penalties to wreck England party

London, July 12: Italy

wrecked England's Euro 2020 party at Wembley on Sunday, winning a tense final on penalties to plunge the host nation into despair and prolong their 55-year wait for a second major title.

Roberto Mancini's men recovered from the shock of conceding the quickest goal ever in a European Championship final to equalise and held their nerve to claim a 3-2 shootout victory after a 1-1 draw following extra-time.

It is the second time Italy have been crowned European champions and comes after the embarrassment of failing even to qualify for the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

Three players fluffed penalties for England,

extending their poor record in shoot-outs and leaving the hosts waiting for another major trophy after the 1966 World Cup.

Italians spilled on to the streets from Milan to Palermo to celebrate their side's triumph, pushing aside thoughts of the Coronavirus pandemic which has gripped the nation.

Earlier, a partisan crowd of more than 67,000 mostly England fans at Wembley was whipped into a state of fever pitch by rousing renditions of "Three Lions" and "Sweet Caroline" before kick-off.

Gareth Southgate's team raced out of the blocks and were ahead in just the second minute when defender Luke Shaw finished coolly at the back post after an

Italy 1
(Leonardo Bonucci 67)

England 1
(Luke Shaw 2)

Italy won 3-2 in penalty shootout

inviting cross from Kieran Trippier. Italy grew stronger as the match went on and equalised with 23 minutes remaining when Leonardo Bonucci scrambled the ball into the net from close range.

With four minutes remaining of normal time a pitch invader stopped the action and stewards struggled to catch him, adding to a sense of chaos

at the stadium after ticketless fans earlier forced their way in. Normal time finished goalless despite a flurry of substitutions and the sides were still locked at 1-1 after extra time.

England goalkeeper Jordan Pickford saved spot-kicks from Andrea Belotti and Jorginho but Marcus Rashford hit the post and Gianluigi Donnarumma kept out Jadon Sancho and Bukayo Saka, sparking scenes of delirium from the players and the small pocket of Italian fans.

UNBEATEN ITALY
Italy had been arguably the team of the tournament heading into the final, sweeping through the group stage with a perfect record before knock-

ing out Austria, top-ranked Belgium and Spain to reach the final.

Revitalised since Mancini took over after their failure to qualify for the 2018 World Cup, the Azzurri are now unbeaten in 34 matches.

The four-time world champions' lone previous European Championship triumph came in 1968. They were beaten finalists in 2000 and 2012.

England fans will have to come to terms with a painful defeat just when it seemed they were on the brink of ending their tournament drought.

Southgate urged England to use the pain to fuel success in the future, accepting the blame for the heartbreaking penalty shoot-out defeat.

Italy captain felt magic in the air

London, July 12: Italy coach Roberto Mancini hailed his side's performance and said Italy "dominated" England after conceding an early goal at Wembley on Sunday to win the Euro 2020 final.

"We did well. We conceded a goal straight away and struggled, but then we dominated the game," Mancini told *RAI Sport* following the 3-2 win on penalties after the match ended 1-1 after extra time.

"The lads were wonderful, I don't know what more to say. It's important for all the people and all the fans."

"I hope they're celebrating (in Italy)," he added.

Leonardo Bonucci cancelled out Luke Shaw's half-volley in the second half, and the two teams could not be separated in extra time. It went to a shoot-out, with Gianluigi Donnarumma making two decisive saves after Marcus Rashford hit the wood-work.

Italy won the title for the second time after 1968.

"It's incredible, when I think back to where we started," said Bonucci.

Italy are now on a 34-match unbeaten run, bouncing back in style after suffering the humiliation of failing to qualify for the 2018 World Cup.

"When you are at the bottom of the hole, you see how great men regain their strength," Bonucci added.

"I want to say thank you to

We have been saying that something magical is in the air since the end of May, day after day. A few tears fell. We all deserved it, at this age we realise even more what it means to win such a trophy.

— GIORGIO CHIELLINI
Italian captain

our great coach, our great team, our great country. We are full of joy and happiness," he further added.

Captain Giorgio Chiellini said "there was something magical in the air" since the tournament kicked off in Rome a month ago.

"A few tears fell. We all deserved it, at this age we realise even more what it means to win such a trophy," said the 36-year-old.

"We have been saying that something magical is in the air since the end of May, day after day," he added.

Donnarumma replaced veteran goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon after the qualifying disaster three years ago.

"We were amazing, we didn't give up an inch. We did it from scratch, we are a fantastic team and we deserve this success. The goal could have killed us, but we always remained vigilant and never give up," said Donnarumma.

— AFP



Italian goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma saves a shot by England's Jadon Sancho (not in frame) in the penalty shootout during their Euro final at the Wembley Stadium in London on Sunday.

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