

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA
HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | 6 SEPTEMBER 2020

WEATHER

Max: 33.2°C
Min: 24°C
RH: 60%
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Cloudy sky.
Rain likely. Max/Min temp. 33/24 °C

COVID-19 CUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+94,732)	(+1,059)
41,09,476	70,673

covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+2,511)	(+11)
TS: 1,38,395	877
(+10,825)	(+76)
AP: 4,87,331	4,347

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

2,69,48,953
DEATHS
8,81,347
COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES
213

worldometers.info/coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Bhadrapada Bahula Chavithi till 7.07 pm
Star: Ashwini till 5.23 am (Monday)
Variyam: 12.52 am to 2.40 am (Monday)
Durmuhurtam: 4.44 pm to 5.33 pm
Rahukalam: 4.30 pm to 6 pm
HJRI CALENDAR
Muharram 17, 1442 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5.02 am
Zohar: 12.24 pm
Asar: 4.35 pm
Maghrib: 6.31 pm
Isha: 7.40 pm
SUNSET TODAY 6.25 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.03 AM
MOONSET TOMORROW 9.10 PM
MOONRISE TODAY 9.09 AM

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COUNTER POINT

What a wonder!
There are so many games other than PUBG!

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BRIEF

80 special trains from Sept. 12

New Delhi: Eighty new special trains will be operational from September 12, reservations for which will begin from next Thursday, Railway Board chairman V.K. Yadav said on Saturday. At a media briefing, the railway board chairman said, "Eighty new special trains or 40 pair of trains will start operating from September 12. Reservations will begin from September 10. These will run in addition to the 230 trains already in operation." Yadav said the railways will monitor all the trains that are currently in operation to determine which trains have a long waiting list.

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ARMY

Army jawan dies in Pak LoC firing

Srinagar: An Army jawan was killed and two others were injured in the latest incident of cross-border firing in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district on Saturday. Defence spokesman, Colonel Rajesh Kalia, said here that Pakistani troops "initiated an unprovoked ceasefire violation" along the Line of Control (LoC) in Nowgam sector of Kupwara by firing mortars and other weapons resulting in on-the-spot killing of one Indian soldier and injuring two others. "They were evacuated to the 92-Base Hospital in Badami Bagh Cantonment and their condition is stable," he said.



WORLD | 8

Postal voting marks start of US Prez election



SPORTS | 9

Hamilton breaks record for pole position in Italy

TABLOID

South's take on Queen in trouble



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South India film industry ignored in Unlock 4 talks

MD ILYAS | DC VIJAYAWADA, SEPT. 5

South India has again found no place in a meeting that the Centre has called with the film industry to discuss the reopening of cinema theatres as part of Coronavirus Unlock 4.

The Union ministry of home affairs is conducting a meeting on September 8 with representatives of cinemas and multiplexes. No one from the southern states has been invited despite it being the biggest contributors to Indian cinema.

Union home ministry undersecretary Ashish Kr Singh issued a notice on Friday that the Union home secretary will meet representatives of cinema, multiplex associations and hear their views through videoconferencing about reopening of cinema halls and multiplexes in Unlock 4.0.

Those invited were secretary, I&B ministry, PVR Cinemas chairman Ajay Bijli, East India Motion Pictures Association West Bengal chairman Ratan Saha, UP Cinema Exhibitors Federation member Ashotosh Agarwal, Cinema Owners and Exhibitors Association Gujarat secretary Vadan

● **THE HOME** affairs ministry is conducting a meeting on September 8 with representatives of cinemas and multiplexes.

● **NO ONE** from the southern states has been invited despite it being the biggest contributors to Indian cinema.

Shah, Multiplex Association of Gujarat president Manubhai Patel and Central Circuit Cine Association Maharashtra representative Akshaye Rathi.

This has shocked Telugu film industry, aka Tollywood, which is the main contributor to Indian film industry with a 17 to 30 per cent of Indian box-office revenue besides being a major player in Bollywood.

A producer of Telugu film industry on the condition of anonymity said that Sahoo is one of the biggest blockbusters and it collected ₹357 crore of revenue. He said that the Tamil film industry produces blockbusters and mega hits in multiple languages. It was the same with Kannada and Kerala film industries.

■ **Page 3: Discrimination by Centre found baffling**

TELANGANA THIRD IN EASE OF DOING BIZ, AP NUMBER 1

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 5

Telangana state has dropped one rank to the third position in the nation-wide Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) rankings for 2019, that were released on Saturday. Andhra Pradesh tops the list, followed by Uttar Pradesh.

According to officials of the industries department, the state lost out due to difference in the feedback percentage for implementing reforms when compared to UP.

They said that EoDB rankings were based on points gained by each state in implementation of 17 categories. While it implemented the reforms, the state could not meet the requirement of filling up 90 per cent vacancies in specialised commercial courts implementing a system that allows publishing of e-cause lists for commercial disputes. The reforms pertaining to digitalisation of the transactions in the state excise could not be implemented.

■ **Page 5: EoDB calculated based on 17 reforms**

TWO MOSQUES, 1 TEMPLE, 1 CHURCH IN NEW SECTT: CM

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, SEPT. 5

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao on Saturday announced that the state government will reconstruct a temple and two mosques and build a church inside the new Secretariat complex and bear the cost.

The mosques are to be reconstructed at the place where they stood earlier.

The temple and mosques were damaged during the recent demolition of old buildings on the Secretariat premises.

"Telangana state will treat all religions equally and will continue to practice religious tolerance. The state is a symbol of Ganga Jamuna tehzeeb. Hence, new places of worship will be constructed in the new secretariat for all religions," Rao said.

He was speaking with a delegation of Muslim community elders led by home minister Mohd Mahmood Ali and MIM president and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi.

■ **Page 3: CM to lay stone for shrines in Sectt**

India tells China to disengage

No breakthrough in talks at SCO meeting between defence ministers

PAWAN BALI | DC NEW DELHI, SEPT. 5

In the first high-level political contact between the two countries ever since the border tensions between them flared-up in early May, defence minister Rajnath Singh categorically told his Chinese counterpart General Wei Fenghe that there should be no doubt about India's determination to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity and China should not make attempts to unilaterally change status quo at the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Mr Singh also said that the current situation should be handled responsibly and that neither side should take any action that could either complicate the situation or escalate matters.

Mr Singh met General Wei in Moscow on Friday at the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Moscow for two-and-a-half hours. However, no breakthrough seems to have emerged from the bilateral meeting.

Chinese state media reported that during the meeting Gen. Wei said that India bears full responsibility for current China-India border tensions and that the Chinese military has determination, capability and confidence to safeguard China's territorial integrity. Gen. Wei reportedly also said that "not an inch of China's territory should be lost."

The Chinese statement comes in backdrop of Indian Army's move to preempt PLA and occupy over two dozen strategic peaks on the southern banks of Pangong Tso and Spanggur Gap. This has not gone down well with Beijing.

Indian defence ministry said in a statement that the two ministers had frank and in-depth discussions about developments in the India-China border areas as well as on India-China relations. "Raksha Mantri categorically conveyed India's position on the developments along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), including in the Galwan valley in the Western Sector of the India-China border areas in the last few months," said the defence ministry statement.

Mr Singh told the Chinese delegation that the actions of the Chinese troops were in violation of the bilateral agreements and not in keeping with the understandings reached between the Special Representatives of two sides. He said that Chinese side should work with India for complete disengagement at the earliest from all friction areas, including Pangong Lake as well as de-escalation in border areas in accordance with the bilateral agreements on maintenance of peace at borders.



A member of the Tibetan community shouts slogans during a protest against China, outside the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi on Saturday. — PTI

Army gears up for winter after growing tall on PLA

VIKRAM SHARMA | DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 5

On the hilltops and inhospitable ridgelines at mind-numbing altitudes of more than 15,000 feet, when the temperatures plummet to -25° Celsius and lower, all that one has for "company" constantly are frost-bite, chilblain, blood clots, lung infection and even memory loss amid the heavy snowfall. The wind-chill factor makes it worse. Taking it easy for a while could mean sure death, a painful one at that.

High altitude warfare is nothing new for the Indian Army which has battled the elements at Siachen glacier, Ladakh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and several points along the Line of Control with Pakistan. Now, with massive deployments on the northern and southern banks of Pangong Tso, after capturing strategic heights from where soldiers are keeping an eye on the People's Liberation Army (PLA), the Indian Army is gearing up to battle the ele-

● **HIGH ALTITUDE** warfare is nothing new for the Indian Army which has fought in Siachen glacier, Ladakh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and points along the LoC with Pakistan.

● **ARMY HAS** procured a large number of extreme cold weather clothing systems and mountaineering kits for soldiers

ments at strategic heights even as the "road open period" to Ladakh from Rohtang and Srinagar-Kargil route will soon close due to heavy snowfall.

Highly placed sources told *Deccan Chronicle* that the Army has procured a large number of extreme cold weather clothing systems and mountaineering kits for the soldiers who have been deployed in massive numbers along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh. The soldiers have begun to put on the special clothing as night temperatures have begun to drop. These are similar to the ones

used by soldiers deployed in the Siachen glacier, the world's highest battlefield.

With unpredictable weather throwing a major challenge and frequent avalanches, large quantities of K-oil (kerosene), canned food, medical supplies, repair equipment for communication, vehicles among other logistics are being supplied to the strategic locations. This is beside the massive supply of ammunition to ensure that the soldiers easily sustain for months. The supplies are being divided among all Army posts. Supplies are stocked up well before the road closes. Thereafter, supplies are sent by air when needed.

The weather turns harsher towards October and November after which it remains extreme till February and beyond. Unlike at Siachen, the main culprit in the heights of eastern Ladakh is the wind-chill factor, which makes for a deadly combination along with heavy snowfall.

■ **Page 5: Accommodation still biggest challenge**

China abducts 5 Arunachal porters

MANOJ ANAND | DC GUWAHATI, SEPT. 5

Amid escalating border tension with China in Ladakh, a report that five Arunachalee youths serving as porters for the Indian Army were allegedly been abducted by the Peoples' Liberation Army (PLA) of China on Thursday has created tension on the eastern frontier though there is no official confirmation of it yet.

Reports claim that the family members of the porters came to know

about the incident through a wireless message of Indian Army. It said, "Five persons have been abducted by the Chinese Army at the Sera-7 area near McMahon line." The kin of those missing then took to the social media to raise awareness and ensure their safe return.

The Upper Subansiri district administration said that they have not received any complaint or information in this regard, but have taken note of social media reports and asked police to go to the

frontier areas where the incident is reported to have taken place.

Deputy commissioner of Upper Subansiri, Kento Dangen, told this newspaper, "We have not received any complaint or even information about such an incident so far. Following the hype created on social media we have asked police to rush officers to the areas where these incidents are reported to have taken place. We are also trying to reach out to the Indian Army."

Mr Dangen said that

they are also in the process of reaching out to the villages and villagers who reported this incident in social media posts.

Security sources in the intelligence wing, engaged in global border management, said that Indian Army headquarters have also been establishing contact with the patrolling teams operating in remote areas along the McMahon line to verify the villagers' claim. The incident came to light through WhatsApp messages in Arunachal Pradesh.

LANCET | STUDY

Many suspected Covid patients taken dead to hospitals, tests get delayed, not in official toll

India's 1.8% fatality dubious, deaths under-reported

KANIZA GARARI | DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 5

Are there under-reported, missed and suspected deaths in India due to Covid-19? The official statement of Centre of case fatality rate going down to 1.8 per cent is being doubted by experts who have raised the issue in the journal *Lancet* in its September issue.

With 4.02 million Covid-19 cases, 3.11 million recovered patients and 69,561 deaths as on September 5, mortality data is shrouded with uncertainty. The reason for this doubt is that

there are many cases of suspected Covid-19 patients being brought dead to hospitals and the arrival of test results after the death of a patient. This data has not been included in the toll.

Maharashtra, West Bengal and Telangana state have not included cases of death where co-morbid conditions were high, in their data from from April to June. Tamil Nadu revised its toll by more than 400, which got public health specialists to point out that this could be the case in all other states. Experts have pointed out

● **MAHARASHTRA, WEST Bengal and Telangana did not include cases of death where co-morbid conditions were high, in their data from from April to June.**

● **TAMIL NADU** had revised its toll by more than 400

five grey areas for this under-reporting. One there were many patients brought dead to hospital and as bodies are not tested it is not been known whether they were Covid-19 positive.

Second are those categories where patients have been admitted for treatment but died in a few hours and the results came later but was not disclosed or updated by the state governments.

From April to June in Telangana state and many others, private hospitals were not given permission to treat Covid 19 patients. They treated severe respiratory syndrome, cardiac and other co-morbid conditions but the death of suspected Covid-19 patients was passed off as death due to these conditions. Fourth was the social

stigma where families did not want Covid-19 as the cause of death in the death certificate.

Fifth, the Integrated Disease Surveillance System (IDSS) collecting data of the disease and deaths has not been allowed to function according to the rules as many states have taken the control of data to the office of health ministers. Due to this reason, clear-cut numbers have not been given to them and data collection and assimilation has been very poor.

■ **Page 5: Data from rural areas may be guess work**

Harish tests positive, tells aides to isolate

BALU PULIPAKA | DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 5

Finance minister T. Harish Rao on Saturday said he had tested positive for Covid-19. In a post on his Twitter page, Harish Rao said "On getting initial symptoms of Coronavirus, I got tested for Covid-19 and report came out to be positive. My

health is fine, I request that all those who have come in contact with me in the last few days, please isolate yourself and get Covid test done."

He is the third member of the state Cabinet to test positive for the disease so far.

■ **Page 5: Harish Rao may not be able to attend House**

IN BRIEF

Body arrives from Gulf after 145 days

Hyderabad: Due to the lockdown and Covid 19 crisis, the mortal remains of 55-year-old Sunke Rajaiah of Kondapur in Velagatur mandal of Jagtial district arrived in Hyderabad 145 days after his death from Saudi Arabia. The shipment of the coffin was delayed as there were no flights. Rajaiah had died on April 14 and the issue of bringing his body back was taken up by Legislative Council member T. Jeevan Reddy with the Indian Embassy in Riyadh. About 2,600 Indians die in Saudi Arabia every year according to data provided in the Lok Sabha, and it has been noted that there is delay in sending dead bodies even during normal times.

TSWRS, CHEVELLA TO ATTEND GLOBAL MEET

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 5

The TS Social Welfare Residential School (TSWRS), Chevella, has been selected by T4 Global Network to make a presentation on the topic 'Democratic Education System - Functioning of Freedom Schools' at its conference to be held online in October.

T4 Global Network that works in the fields of education, international development and technology, has selected 100 schools from across the world to showcase their innovative ideas and programmes aimed at shaping the leaders of tomorrow and transforming the lives of students, said an official communication. Dr R.S. Praveen Kumar, secretary, TS Social and Tribal Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Societies, said it was a matter of great pride that TSWRS-Chevella students would share their experiences on a global platform.

ORDER ON FIRE SAFETY NOC TO COLLEGES SOON

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 5

The government will soon take a decision on issuing fire no-objection certificates to junior colleges while ensuring student safety along with making sure that the careers of students are not impacted in the event of closure of erring colleges. Home department officials are expected to examine this issue in detail, suggest solutions and issue orders soon.

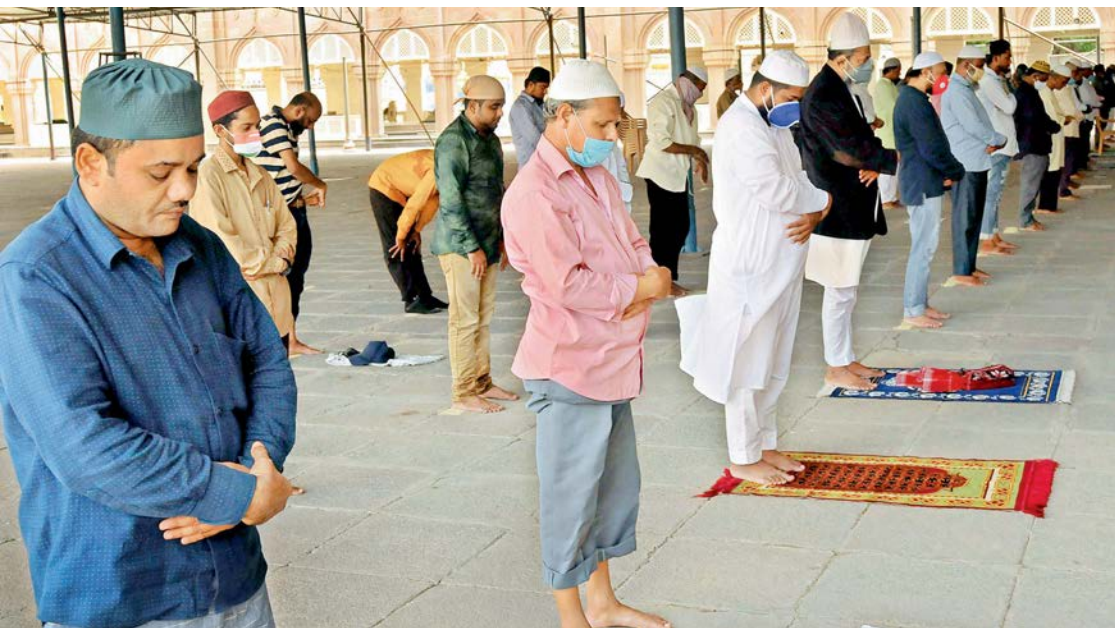
This decision was taken at a meeting attended by senior officials of the home and education departments as well as those from the GHMC. The meeting was chaired by home minister Mohammed Mahmood Ali, and education minister P. Sabitha Indra Reddy. The meeting discussed the difficulties facing the Board of Intermediate Education with respect to sanctioning affiliation to junior colleges that lack fire NOCs, an issue that could affect lakhs of Intermediate students, according to a news release from the home minister's office.

4 NGOs TO SET UP COVID-19 CARE UNITS, HC TOLD

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 5

The state government informed the High Court that it had accorded permission to four NGOs to set up Covid-19 care and isolation centres in order to help the Coronavirus-affected homeless and destitute people in the city.

A division bench headed by Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan had earlier sought an explanation from Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar on a grievance which charged that the government was permitting star hotels and other luxurious places to arrange isolation centres but was not allowing NGOs to help the poor. The government said the NGOs permitted to set up these centres were Jain International Trade Organisation at Begumpet, CASA Owners Association at Kondapur, Tata Consultancy Services at Madhapur and Hockey Stadium Association at Begumpet. They were to provide isolation and quarantine centres to the destitute and homeless poor without charging money. These NGOs had approached the medical and health department for approval to run the Centres, but authorities had not granted them permission till the High Court intervened.

Macca Masjid opens up

A large number of devotees offer prayers at the historic Macca Masjid on Saturday after the state government relaxed restrictions imposed in view of the Covid-19 pandemic.

— P. SURENDRA

CM to lay stone for shrines in new Sectt

TS govt will construct temple on 1,500 square yards

From Page 1

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao told the delegation that he would lay the foundation stone for the shrines soon after the Assembly session concludes.

The government will construct the temple on 1,500 square yards and hand it over to the endowments department. Two mosques, each of 750 square yards, including the imam's quarters, will be constructed at their previous location and handed over to the Wakf Board.

Following a request by the Christian community, the Chief Minister said the government had decided to construct a church on the premises.

The government would expedite the construction of Anees-ul-Gurbah, the institution which gives shelter to and educates orphaned Muslim children, Rao said that about 80 per cent of the construction works had been completed. The government would release ₹18 crore for speedy completion of the remaining work. The CM said that the construction of the Islamic Centre was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and said the work would be put on the fast track. He also promised to develop graveyards for the Muslim community at different places in the city over a total of 150-200 acres. The collectors of Ranga Reddy and Medchal-Malkajigiri districts had been instructed to identify land for the purpose.

In the wake of damage caused to the ashurkhana at Narayanpet due to road widening, he instructed the collector to identify land and construct the Ashurkhana.



MIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi, along with members of AIMPLB and other Muslim organisations, addresses a press conference at Darussalam on Saturday.

— DC

Muslim leaders hail CM for mosques in Sectt

ATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 5

Muslim religious and community leaders thanked Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao for consenting to reconstruct two masjids at their respective locations inside the Secretariat premises.

A delegation of All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) and religious organisations had called on the Chief Minister at his residence and discussed various issues related to the community.

Speaking to the media later, MIM president Asaduddin Owaisi clarified that a masjid was damaged during the regime of Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy and was rebuilt. The Secretariat is under the control of the government and it is their responsibility to rebuild it.

"The Chief Minister showed us a place in the plan and said if we approve, a big masjid will be built there.

However, theologians clarified the Islamic point of view and asked not to change the locations," he said. Owaisi said the Chief Minister asked roads and buildings minister Vemula Prashanth Reddy to consult with MIM leader Akbaruddin Owaisi for preparing the design.

"We requested the Chief Minister to allocate lands for two graveyards around the Outer Ring Road. We also asked him to expedite works on construction of Anees-ul-Gurba orphanage. We asked him to appoint a person fluent in Urdu as Vice-Chairman of the Official Language Commission and start constructions for Islamic Cultural Centre." The CM agreed to all of this. On the Congress' plan to raise the issue in the Assembly session, he said, the party should first clarify about the demolition of Babri Masjid. Congress is mischievous-monger and it had welcomed construction of Ram mandir at Ayodhya, he said.

AIMPLB secretary Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani said, "we acquainted the Chief Minister that the masjid is part of our faith and once built, it will remain forever. Even the person who endows it will not remain the owner. We clarified that the building is not considered as a masjid, but the place where it was constructed. That's why the reconstruction of the masjid at it has existed is obligatory."

Mohammed Ziauddin Naiyar, vice-president, Taamir-e-Millat, said "we raised the issue of Masjid Noor and Masjid Amberpet as well."

Moulana Akbar Nizamuddin, Proctor, Jamia Nizamia, informed "It was clear that the masjids were not hindering the proposed plan. In the proposed plan, a place was earmarked for the masjid that was far away from where the two masjids stood. On our request, he agreed to build the two on places they had existed."

PIL TO RECONSTITUTE POLLUTION CONTROL APPELLATE AUTHORITY

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 5

Complaining against the apathy of the state government in constituting statutory bodies for years together, a PIL has been filed before the Telangana High Court seeking to direct the govern-

ment to immediately reconstitute the Telangana State Pollution Control Appellate Authority.

After the formation of Telangana state, the authority was constituted in 2015 and functioned up to May 2017, under the chairmanship of former judge Justice

C.V. Ramulu. Thereafter, the Authority was non-functional due to the inaction of the government in its reconstitution. Because the appellate authority has been non-functional for three years, several cases related to air, water and land pollution were kept pending, the petition said.

₹75L EXTRA AID FOR SRISAILAM FIRE VICTIMS' KIN

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 5

D. Prabhakar Rao, Transco and Genco CMD, on Saturday announced additional ex gratia of ₹75 lakh each to the nine persons killed in the fire mishap that occurred at the Srisaillam Left Bank hydroelectric power house last month. He said that a decision in this regard was taken at the Genco board meeting at Vidyut Soudha.

He said with the additional ex gratia the family of deputy engineer Srinivas Goud who died in the fire will get a total quantum of financial assistance of ₹1.25 crore, and the family members of the other victims ₹1 crore each.

He said one person from each bereaved family will be provided with a job in addition to all department wise benefits.

Prabhakar Rao said that the board held a detailed review of the accident and offered condolences to the bereaved families. Principal secretaries Ramakrishna of finance and Sandeep Sultania of energy participated in the meeting. The board unanimously decided to consider the incident as a very special case and offer compensation accordingly.

Prabhakar Rao said, "It was an unfortunate incident that took the lives of our colleagues in a very cruel way. No matter what we say about their courage in the last few seconds of their life, we can't bring them back. But we can try to alleviate the pain endured by the families. This is the reason the Genco has decided to add our share of assistance to what the government has already declared."

BIAS BY CENTRE FOUND BAFFLING

From Page 1

He stated the industry was badly affected during the lockdown and was eagerly waiting for reopening of theatres. The discrimination of the Union government is baffling, he said. He sought the government to take opinions of all stakeholders of Indian cinema, including representatives of southern states. Another producer recalled that earlier also the southern film industry was put aside for an interaction with PM Narendra Modi in 2019.

Metro coaches temp fixed at 24-30°C: HMRL

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 5

Strict Covid-19 control measures will be in place at every Metro Rail station as well in the trains with Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited set to restart operations from Monday, HMRL managing director N.V.S. Reddy said on Saturday.

Speaking to reporters here, Reddy said the services will start in a staggered manner from September 7 and, for the first two days, be limited to 7 am to noon and from 4 pm to 9 pm. From September 9, full services in all three corridors will be available, he said.

It was decided to run trains every five minutes but the frequency can either be increased or decreased depending on the passenger traffic and based on the need to avoid overcrowding, he said.

Reddy said air intake into the coaches will be

increased to 75 per cent and the inside temperatures will be maintained between 24° and 30° Celsius depending on the weather. Everyone will be expected to follow physical distancing measures and the required markings have been put in place in the stations and in the trains. "We will also be monitoring the movement of people through our CCTV cameras," he said.

Reddy assured that every station and train will be sanitised every day and passengers should get their tickets either online or use smart cards for travel. Masks will be mandatory and anyone who does not have one, can purchase one at the stations, he said.

Thermal screening will also be mandatory and anyone found to be a suspect in terms of health, will be referred to the nearest Covid-19 testing centre for check ups and follow ups, he said.

2,511 new Covid cases, 11 more deaths in TS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 5

With 2,511 new Covid-19 cases, the total Coronavirus infections in the state rose to 1,38,395 while the number of fatalities climbed to 877 with the health authorities reporting 11 more deaths.

As per the Covid-19 bulletin on Saturday, the 24-hour period between 8 pm on Thursday and 8 pm on Friday also saw 2,579 Covid-19 patients being declared as recovered, taking the total recovered cases to 1,04,603. The health department said that during this period, 62,132 Covid-19 determination tests were conducted and 3,145 reports were pending as on Friday evening.

The GHMC area registered the highest number of cases with 305 followed by 184 in Ranga Reddy district, 170 in Nalgonda, 150 in Khammam, 142 in Karimnagar, 134 in Medchal-Malkajigiri and

KEEP SURROUNDINGS CLEAN TO CHECK DENGUE, MALARIA: ETALA

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 5

Health minister Etela Rajendar on Saturday appealed to the citizens to maintain personal hygiene and keep their surroundings neat and clean. He was speaking with visitors who came to meet him at the camp office in Hyderabad about precautions to be adopted to contain dengue, malaria, chikungunya and other vector-borne diseases.

The minister said that to contain the mosquito menace, citizens should ensure that there should

not be any water stagnation points. He said the cases of dengue, malaria and chikungunya were less when compared to last year.

The GHMC entomology wing demonstrated the use of gambusia fish, which eats mosquito larvae. The chief entomologist briefed the minister on the different varieties of mosquitoes and the diseases they spread.

Rajendar later released a poster and pamphlet on the 10-minute Sunday 10 am programme launched by minister K.T. Rama Rao.

96 each in Warangal Urban and Suryapet districts.

The health department urged people to wear masks covering their mouth and nose when out of their homes and not spend time in crowded areas.

It also urged everyone to maintain physical distance of six feet from other people.

Anyone with symptoms has been advised to visit the nearest government health care facility for tests and possible treatment.

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GUTHULLAPUR CIRCLE-25					
NIT No.	Name of the work	Estimate Amount in Rupees in Lakhs	Start date & Time	Last date & Time for receipt of Bid	Name & Address of EE
21/DB/EE/ Circle/GHMC/2020-21.	Laying of CC Roads etc.	234.50	08-09-2020 9.00 PM.	11-09-2020 2.30 PM.	1. Executive Engineer, Cell No: 9701908887
Further details can be seen at e-procurement @ www.tender.telangana.gov.in					
R.O. No: 4650/CL/ADM/1/2020-21 Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, GUTHULLAPUR CIRCLE-25, GHMC					

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA		
O/o Regional Officer, P.R Mahabubnagar.		
NIT No. 134 to 158/2020-21.	e-Proc. Tender Notice	Dt: 04.09.2020.
No. of works (25) Name of the works: C/o 2 BHK (24) Houses at Kothalakunta thanda, Ghanpur (M) Wanaparthy (D), C/o 2BHK (59) Houses at Revally (V), Revally (M) Wanaparthy (D) and other all civil works in undersigned. TOTAL ECV: 78.63 Crores. The Tenders will be available on e-Procurement https://tenders.telangana.gov.in from 08.09.2020 to 16.09.2020. Further details can be had from the office.		
DIPR R.O. No.: 441-DP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2020-21		Sd/- Regional Officer, PR Mahabubnagar.

	HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	
	OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER	
	7 th Floor East Wing, Swarna Jayanthi Commercial Complex, Ameerpet, Hyderabad 500 038, Tele- Fax: 040 27014060	
E - Procurement Tender Notice		
NIT. No.: HMDA/DB/CE/04/2020-21 (2nd call)		Date: 05-09-2020
Tenders are invited on e-procurement from valid registered contractors for the work of "Construction & Development of Skywalk / Boardwalk at Uppal Junction, Hyderabad." The last date for submission of the bids is on 14-09-2020 up to 3.30 pm. For further details visit https://tenders.telangana.gov.in		
DIPR R.O. No.: 863-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2020-21		Sd/- Chief Engineer, HMDA

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA		
O/o District Panchayath Raj Engineering, Nirmal District.		
E-PROC. TENDER NOTICE		
NIT No.145 to 153/DPRE/NIRMAL/2020-21.	Dt:05.09.2020.	
No. of works(09) Name of the works: C/o Additional class Rooms at MPSS New Pochampad, New Pochampad (V) of Nirmal (M&D) and other all civil works in undersigned. TOTAL ECV:68.00 Lakhs. Tender Documents will be available in e-Procurement market place in between 19.09.2020 to 25.09.2020. Validity of the tender will be (07) days from the date of publishing of the tender. Further details can be obtained from e-Procurement market place on www.tender.telangana.gov.in		
DIPR R.O. No.: 448-DP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2020-21		Sd/- District PR Engineer, Nirmal District.

VIJAYAWADA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (VMC)		
'E' Procurement Notice No.22/VMC/AE/2020-21. Dt.05-09-2020		
Sl. No.	Name of work	Estimate Amount Rs. in Lakhs
1	Construction of 0.5 MLD STPs in Governorpeta & Punnami Ghat, O & M of 150 TPD Capacity Municipal solid waste Processing facility based on Windrow composting Technology machines, Providing end to end shoulders with paver blocks, Foot paths Nirmala Convent Road, Development of Landscape (Softscape & Hard Scape) works in New H.B. Colony, Providing BT Roads and CC Roads, CC Drains, UGD Lines in Circle-1.2 & 3 areas in VMC (16 Works)	1810.18
Contact: Superintending Engineer (Works & Projects), VMC, Vijayawada-520 001 Further details can be seen @ 'e' procurement market place @ www.tender.aeprocurement.gov.in		
Download of bid documents starts from		- 08-09-2020 @ 4.00 P.M.
Last date / time for receipt of tenders from		- 22-09-2020 up to 4.30 P.M.
Sd/- For COMMISSIONER		

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
ORDNANCE FACTORY HOSPITAL MEDAK,
P.O. YEDDUMAILARAM
SANGAREDDY DISTRICT (T.S.) PIN CODE: 502205
HIRING OF MBBS PROFESSIONALS

Ordnance Factory Hospital Medak, Yeddumailaram intends to hire service of THREE MBBS Medical Professionals on contractual basis immediately for a tenure of Six Months. So a panel will be prepared from a walk-in-interview which will be valid for 6 months. The remuneration will be paid @ Rs. 75,000/- per month or part thereof basis on all working days.

The basic qualification required for the above post is M.B.B.S. Degree from M.C.I. Recognized Medical College of India only and he/she should be Registered with any State/Central Medical Council. The terms and conditions of the contract may be enquired from Ordnance Factory Hospital, Yeddumailaram (Telephone No. 040-23283480).

Interested candidates may attend the walk-in-interview with all originals and a set of attested copies of the requisite documents (MBBS Degree, Registration Certificate, chance certificate/marksheet and Xth, XIIth certificates etc.) to be handed over at Ordnance Factory Hospital Office, Yeddumailaram between 14.30 Hrs. to 17.00 Hrs. on 08-09-2020.

Sd/- Sr. Splt. Medical Officer - I/c
For General Manager
OFMK Hospital,
Yeddumailaram

SHORT TAKES

NAIDU SAFE AFTER
ACCIDENT TO
CONVOY VEHICLESBALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 5

Andhra Pradesh former chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu had a close shave when a car in his convoy met with a minor accident. Naidu was in the car following the one that met with the accident.

Naidu was on his way to Hyderabad from Amaravati. The accident occurred near Dandumalkauram village in Choutuppal mandal of Yadadri-Bhongir district.

The incident happened when the vehicle leading the convoy slowed suddenly to avoid hitting a cow on the road. This led to the second vehicle running into the lead vehicle. The occupants of the two vehicles did not receive any major injuries, and moved into the other vehicles in the convoy, police said.

CONGRESS SAYS
TRS DIDN'T FULFIL
ITS PROMISESDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 5

TPCC working presidents A Revanth Reddy, Ponnamp Prabhakar and J. Kusuma Kumar said the Congress will expose the failures of the TRS during the election campaign for the Greater Hyderabad, Khammam and Warangal municipal corporations.

They said that the TRS government had failed in fulfilling its promises made to the people of the three cities during the last elections.

Revanth Reddy said that he will launch padayatra in his Lok Sabha segment from October 3 to enlighten the people about the false promises of the TRS government including the issue of double bedroom houses.

Ponnamp Prabhakar said the Chief Minister had made huge promises to the people of Warangal but failed to fulfil them. Kusuma Kumar said that the TRS corporators had revolted against the corruption of their own mayor in Khammam city.

EDN SOCIETY ASKS
FOR ORDER ON
PAYING FEESATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 5

M.S. Farooq, general secretary, All India Muslim Educational Society, said that the memo issued by the Special Chief Secretary regarding the commencement of the academic year from September 1 was silent on parents making the fee payments immediately.

He said the government did not verify whether the internet facility is available with all students. There are network issues even in Hyderabad, Farooq said. Besides, children from poor families are not able to login for online classes because of non-availability of equipment such as smartphones and laptops.

He said the state government had adopted a stepmotherly attitude towards private educational institutions, particularly budget private schools. The government had earlier issued orders stating that no fee other than monthly fee was to be collected, but failed to issue an order asking parents to make the fee payments.

CAUTION NOTICE

The General Public and all concerned are hereby informed that my clients Sri Mir Faiyaz Ali Khan, S/o. Habeeba Sultan, Smt. Siddiqua Sultana, D/o Late Sultan, Saibin Bin Omar and 15 others has preferred a Revision Petition No. D5/954 of 2019 aggrieved by the part of order in Case No. A2/2689/2015, dated 09.02.2018 passed by the Revenue Divisional Officer, Kandukur Division, R.R. District, to modify the impugned order by declaring that the entries of the Respondent Nos. 3 to 5 in panahies and other revenue records in respect of land in Sy. No. 42, 43, 56, 57, 58, 59 and Sy. No. 60, situated at Mamidipally Village, Balaour Mandal, R.R. District are without the orders of any competent authority etc. and other reliefs and the said Revision is pending for adjudication before the Joint Collector, R.R. District at Lakdikapool. My clients reliably learnt that said Respondent Nos. 3 to 5 having no right or title over the said property, falsely claiming as if they are the exclusive owners of property covered under the above revision, are trying to alienate the same to third parties by suppressing the real facts. Thus, the general public and all concerned are hereby cautioned that M/s. Phoenix India Company, Sri Gollapalli Kishna Reddy, Sri Gollapalli Raj Reddy and M/s. Patel Engineering Limited, are not the owners of the above property and the said property is inherited by my client from ancestors and he is the absolute owner and possessor of the said property. In spite of the same, if any purchase is made ignoring the pending revision case as well as claims of my client, the same shall be subject to the result of the revision filed by my client and they will be doing so at their own risk and peril.

G. JINTORAR, Advocate
Kings Kothnoor Towers, PVR Express
Pillar No. 65, Beside Roop Garden
Function Hall, Rethibowli, Mehdiapatnam
500028. Phone : 8187860286.

Pragathi Bhavan security tightened



Barbed wire fencing is being installed along the compound of Pragathi Bhavan, the Chief Minister's camp office at Begumpet, on Saturday to prevent protesters from scaling the walls. — S. SURENDER REDDY

Teachers too learn
with online classes

Teachers relieved classes started despite lockdown

HARLEEN
MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 5

With restrictions across the country in view of the pandemic, the education system has been hit severely, pushing the imparting of lessons to the digital domain. This has been difficult not only for the students, especially those living in remote areas, but also for teachers who switched to the online mode of teaching overnight.

On a day when the country celebrated and thanked the teaching community on Saturday on the occasion of Teachers' Day, teachers from all sections of the system, from private to public, and colleges to universities, evaluated and assessed the digital journey in the last six months.

The biggest challenge that teachers from all se-

ctions felt was the switch from the regular to online classes, that lacked the aspect of clear and efficient interaction.

Prof. Sheela Prasad from the Centre for Regional Studies, University of Hyderabad, said, "Nothing can replace the experience of a physical classroom. Online classes are only a stop gap arrangement at the moment, because we have no choice. It is difficult to connect with each student virtually, and providing adequate resources as per each student's needs and calibre has become a Herculean task."

Similar is the case with intermediate and degree college teachers who teach students from all sections of society and are concerned that several students are losing out. However, teachers at colleges and universities say that they

are much better placed because of the flexibility that the structure of the collegiate education system provides, than the structured system in case of school education.

Teachers at public or government schools are only relieved that classes in some form have begun for their students, even as issues of accessibility in rural areas persist. Bharathi, a government school teacher from Khammam, said that the need to supervise children in taking classes being broadcast over TV or T-SAT has added to the struggles of teachers in rural areas. She said that teachers go to each student's house to check whether classes are being taken effectively.

Teachers at private schools pointed out that the lack of proper interaction and assessment of each student has become

a task. Some even said that this has deflated the morale of the teaching community, however support of the management of schools and parents have kept them going. Teachers from Glendale Academy and Meridian School praised the management for helping teachers sail through these difficult times with proper guidance and training. Aparna Tivary from Glendale Academy said, "Our management was ready well in advance, foreseeing a possible lockdown situation. This helped the teachers get accustomed to the change."

One common takeaway that all teachers recognised is that the shift to online teaching has been a learning curve in their careers and that it has opened a vast sea of resources for them to experiment with.

BANDI DEMANDS
SPECIAL PACKAGE
TO TEACHERSDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 5

BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Saturday demanded that the state government announce a special package for teachers, who have been suffering since the lockdown came into force. He also sought implementation of the promises made to them during the Assembly elections.

In a statement, he criticised the state government for failing to protect the interests of the teachers. He said that both government and private teachers have suffered equally during the prolonged lockdown while the government has not announced a package for their welfare.

Sanjay said that certain private academic institutions had stopped paying salaries to teaching staff while other institutions had slashed salaries in the last four months.

Pointing out that the situation of private teachers and lecturers was deplorable, he charged the government of failing to pay the remaining part of salaries to government teachers and pensions to retired teachers.

He said "the Telangana state government, which considers itself as a rich state, is not in a position to pay full salaries to its teachers and lecturers at least on the occasion of Teachers' Day."

He alleged that the government was forcing teachers to take online classes without providing them with necessary technical support. Further alleging that the government has failed to fill vacancies from primary school teachers to university professors and was burdening the existing staff, he demanded filling up of all vacant posts immediately.

● **POINTING OUT** that the situation of private teachers and lecturers was deplorable, Bandi Sanjay charged the government with failing to pay the remaining part of salaries to government teachers as well as pensions.

SHABBIR DOUBTS
CM, OWAISI ON
SHRINES AT SECTDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 5

Former minister Mohammed Ali Shabbir alleged that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao and MIM president Asaduddin Owaisi were misleading the people by making another false promise of re-constructing two mosques and a temple at the same site in the Secretariat premises.

Reacting to the meeting that the Chief Minister had with Muslim leaders at Pragathi Bhavan on Saturday, Shabbir Ali said that it was an eyewash and an attempt to dilute the ongoing protest against the demolition of the shrines.

Shabbir Ali demanded that the Chief Minister place the design of the new Secretariat in the public domain and clearly identify the location where the two mosques and temple would be reconstructed.

He said "There is no reason to wait for a month for the foundation stone laying ceremony for reconstruction. The reconstruction should begin immediately. The state government should specify what happened to the copies of the Holy Quran, prayer mats and other material of Masjid-e-Moatamadi and Masjid Hashmi, which were demolished."

GUDURU WANTS PPE QUALITY PROBED

Hyderabad: Expressing concern over the state's health-care workers having the highest Covid-19 positivity rate in the country, TPCC treasurer Guduru Narayana Reddy slammed the government for not taking precautions.












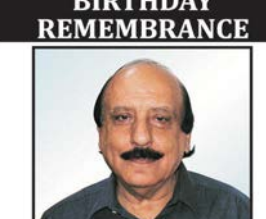



He said over 2,000 health-care workers, including doctors, were infected with Covid-19 and at least 14 had died due of the disease. Union health ministry statistics had revealed that TS

topped the positivity rate for health workers at 18 per cent.

He said Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao was directly responsible for these infections and deaths as he did not take measures to protect frontline warriors.

He demanded a high-level enquiry into the procurement and supply of PPE kits.

Those responsible for supplying poor quality PPE kits should be booked for murder and attempt to murder.

OBITUARY We deeply regret the sad demise of our beloved sister  Dr. Molala Sujatha (Principal, DBPM College, Secunderabad) W/o Late Sri. M. Dwarakanath, FCA D/o of Late Prof. V. Ramakrishna & Smt. Radhamma on 5th September 2020 (Saturday) She was a devoted wife, caring daughter, loving mother, wonderful sister and a passionate teacher who touched the lives of many through her care and concern. Deeply mourned by: V. Narendar & Sunethra, V. Shekhar & Venuradha V. Venkata Ramana & Navanitha, V. Madhusudan & Sridevi Children: Radhika & Kishore Kedari Trivikram Molala & Shilpa		11th DAY REMEMBRANCE  SALLAM SRINIVAS (Dynamic Youth Leader & Social worker BHEL, Hyd) DOB: 08-06-1976 DOD: 27-08-2020 "You were a symbol of Love & Affection for your family & friends. You left us but you will remain in our hearts forever." Inserted by: VADETTI VENUNATH (Friend & Family Member) with deepest condolences Condolences also from: Sallam Parivara, Vaddeti Parivara, All Near Family Members, Nieces & Friends.	
Funeral held on same day OBITUARY "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith... There is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, shall give me at that day." 2 Timothy 4:7, 8  Mrs. KADARI APARANJI CHRISTOPHER W/o Late Kadari, Christopher D.O.B: 06/07/1936 D.O.D: 05/09/2020 The Funeral Ceremony will leave on 06/09/2020 @ 11:30 a.m. from her Residence at TRT Qtrs 119, Sitaphalmandi. Followed by Burial at CSI Cemetery, Boiguda, Secunderabad. Inserted by: Family Members Ph. No's: 8978934794, 940794089. (CA: 3401)		SAD DEMISE  Late. Sri Regula Narayana Rao (SBI) who left for heavenly abode on 27/08/2020 "Your exemplary ways, character and ideals, remain with us forever." Your loss appears irreparable to us. Son: R.V. Praveen (9908815195) & Family Members Srinagar Colony, Hyderabad.	
OBITUARY (29th AUGUST 2020)  We are sad to announce the sudden demise of Chetta Prema Latha a Devoted Wife Loving Mother & Grand Mother. Please join us for the 10th Day Ceremony on 7th Monday Sept. 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Deeply Missed by: Husband: C.R. Laxmi Narayana, Son: C.L. Naveen Raj, Daughter-in-law: C.N. Radhika Raj, Daughters: B. Srisha Naidu, Son-in-law: B. Ramesh Naidu, Grand Children: Ayush, Anvith, Shubham & Ashrith & Near & Dear		IN LOVING MEMORY OF  MR. DANDI ELLAIAH Born on: 25th Dec. 1938 Died on: 28th Aug. 2020 WITH LOVE.. Inserted by: Son - Daughter-in-Law Daughters - Son in Laws Grand Sons & Grand Daughters	
OBITUARY (29th AUGUST 2020)  We are sad to announce the sudden demise of Chetta Prema Latha a Devoted Wife Loving Mother & Grand Mother. Please join us for the 10th Day Ceremony on 7th Monday Sept. 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Deeply Missed by: Husband: C.R. Laxmi Narayana, Son: C.L. Naveen Raj, Daughter-in-law: C.N. Radhika Raj, Daughters: B. Srisha Naidu, Son-in-law: B. Ramesh Naidu, Grand Children: Ayush, Anvith, Shubham & Ashrith & Near & Dear		11th DAY CEREMONY  Shri D. VITTAL RAO S/o Dharmiah D.O.D: 29-08-2020 11th Day Ceremony will be held at Plot No. 99, Teachers Colony, Trimulgherry, Secunderabad-15 on 7th September, 2020. Ph: 9866112762 Inserted by: Family Members (S/2021/D00543)	
SHRADHANJALI  G. RAMCHANDER (Ex. H.P. Dealer) Expired on: 28-08-2020 Dasasthu on 06-09-2020 Subhasekaram on 09-09-2020 Deeply Mourned by: Wife, Sons & Family Members. Phone: 9290942918 (S/2021/D00519)		IN LOVING MEMORY  I.F. IRUDIANATHAN (Dass Saab) 3-6-1930 - 27-08-2020 Prop: Auto Diesel Service, Puttibowli Xavier's Family Thanks you for your kind condolences and prayers. Ph: 9391146182 / 8096780131 (S/2021/D00549)	
BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE  WE MISS YOU Shri OMPRAKASH NAGPAL DOB 6-9-1939 DOD 7-06-2010 Founder Mis NAGPAL'S FOAM PALACE NAGPAL FAMILY Opp: Triumph Motorcycles Showroom Road No 12, Banjara Hills, Hyd-34 Ph: 95732 84811		BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE  ASHOK SACHDEV 06/09/1946 - 09/07/2020 Thinking of you on this day, and every other. We miss you! From: Sachdev family	
Birthday Remembrance  Late. Smt. RAJNI MAKKER W/O P. Awtar Singh Makker We all miss you... Inserted By: MAKKER'S FAMILY Ph: 9866885002 / 9849090851		1st Anniversary  P. Panduranga Rao Garu (1936-2019) Your guiding hand on our shoulders remain with us. Our love for you remain forever. P. Srinivas, Anuradha, P. Omprakash, Prashanthi, V. Vivekananda, P. Padma Sunday - 06-09-2020	
DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, SEPT. 5		35th Anniversary  PILLI JOHN BHASKAR RAO (Asst. Registrar High Court of A.P.) D.O.B : 14.06.1931 D.O.D : 06.09.1985 Loving Son : Pilli David Daughter : Sudeepa and all Family Members	

NEP speaks of nutrition too: Gov.

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 5

The National Education Policy 2020 has the potential to transform the country's education system and turn India into a global knowledge superpower, Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan has said.

She said that the early childhood education plans that are a part of the new policy also ensure that nutritional needs of the children are met along with education and this will lead to a

healthy nation.

The Governor was addressing a webinar, 'National Education Policy-2020 with reference to school education' on the occasion of Teachers' Day from Raj Bhavan on Saturday. Among the participants were Kendriya Vidyalaya principal Krishna Murthy, JNV principal Daniel Ratna Kumar, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan director Rama Devi, Maharshi Vidya Mandir principal Vasanthi Parushuram, HPS principal S. Narasimha Reddy, and Na-

tional Institute of Open School regional director Anil Kumar Reddy.

"Teachers," the Governor said, "are the designers of the nation's destiny and they create the leaders for different fields to take the country forward." The destiny of the nation and that of its people is created in classrooms, and teachers with their commitment and selfless service make students realise their full potential.

"Whatever I am today is because of my teachers. My father was busy

in the political sphere. He could not give enough time to take care of my studies. But my teachers from nursery to medical college took care of me and gave me the confidence to become whatever I am today. I salute all the teachers on the occasion of Teachers' Day," Dr Soundararajan said.

Earlier, the Governor offered floral tributes to the portrait of former President Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, whose birth anniversary is celebrated as Teachers' Day.

SHORT TAKES

ACCOMMODATION
REMAINS BIGGEST
CHALLENGE

From Page 1

The biggest challenge remains accommodating the soldiers. For now, soldiers are being sent to the heights on rotation. Besides the posts where men are squeezed in, trenches have been dug up to fight the enemy.

"In the harsh weather, even urine becomes ice immediately. Exposing the skin for a few seconds can end up in frostbites and other health issues which can be fatal, just like it is in Siachen. Now that we know that this (stand-off with China) is going to be a long haul, we are fully geared up and there are several other plans in place," they said adding that every unit has their own Regimental Medical Officer (RMO).

They said that unlike China, officers in the Indian Army are compulsorily posted at high altitudes for five to six years which gives them all the exposure they need to make them battle-hardened. This gives them an edge over PLA, which is not used to facing their opponents in such temperatures.

DATA FROM RURAL
AREAS MAY BE
GUESS WORK

From Page 1

When systems of data collection have not worked in urban areas and have faced many challenges, experts say using the data from rural areas is completely ruled out as those numbers will be only guess work.

Dr Santosh Kraleiti, public health specialist, explained, "No two states in India have the same data matrix. Every state reports the way it suits them. There are guidelines from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the World Health Organisation's International Classification of Diseases-10 but those are taken only as advisories."

Dr Kraleiti said every state medical bulletin is different and it would require comparing data from different states to understand the truth in the reporting. "Missed, under-reported and unaccounted numbers are also due to the taboo in society, which is not right," he said.

There have been examples where the death certificate of doctors and paramedical staff stating that they suffered from viral pneumonia and severe respiratory syndrome and had tested Covid-19 positive, but the cause of death is stated as cardiac arrest.

These certificates have made many in the medical fraternity ask why the death certificates do not mention Covid-19. These examples have led to public health specialists across the country to demand that the reporting of deaths has to be revised and it will require correction.

The Centre has to look into this issue as it will help to understand the disease spread, virulence and actual prevalence better. By under-reporting it is only leading to under-estimating the virulence of the virus and will not help in public health management.

To have better and effective real policies it is important that real-time and right data reporting is carried out which will go a long way in strengthening public health systems and addressing gaps in the policies.

● **THERE HAVE** been examples where the death certificate of doctors and paramedical staff stating that they suffered from viral pneumonia and severe respiratory syndrome and had tested Covid-19 positive, but the cause of death is stated as cardiac arrest.

● **THE CENTRE** has to look into this issue as it will help to understand the disease spread, virulence and actual prevalence better.

Rush hour in Unlock 4



Panjagutta sees a massive traffic jam on Saturday a day after the Centre eased more restrictions for Unlock 4.

—S. SURENDER REDDY

Biggest Swachh drive to see
10K toilets by Oct. 2 in Hyd

8,100 toilets to be free; GHMC aims to give 1 toilet per 1K persons

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 5

The GHMC has set a target to have 10,000 public toilets in the city by October 2. It has already constructed about 7,800 till date. Of these, citizens can use 8,100 toilets for free.

The corporation has also invited expression of interest (Eoi) for maintenance of the toilets and preference will be given to safai karamcharis. About 1,900 new toilets have been set up on the build-operate-transfer (BOT) model while the remaining will be taken up on cluster maintenance basis.

The GHMC indents to

ensure at least one toilet seat per 1,000 persons in urban areas. Accordingly, municipal administration and urban development (MA&UD) minister K.T. Rama Rao instructed officials to prepare proposals and take up the construction of public toilets on priority.

At that point, the GHMC had 3,000 public toilets. The race is on to complete the rest.

The design and award of construction works were finalised by a committee of engineers following the approval of GHMC commissioner D.S. Lokesh Kumar. The cost of each design varies from ₹65,000 to ₹1.5

lakh. Each toilet is equipped with ventilation, water supply and electrical connection.

In important commercial areas, they were taken up on BOT basis on self-sustainable public private partnership mode on the lines of the Loo Café.

A top official in the corporation said five to 10 toilets would form a cluster. The private agency which bags the project to maintain cluster toilets would act as per the standard operating procedure prescribed by the corporation. The agency should clean the toilets at least six times a day. Based on the result, the toilet will expand the project to the remaining clusters.

The corporation has earmarked ₹22 crore as the estimated cost for annual maintenance.

"It is the largest drive to build public toilets anywhere in the country. Hyderabad will be, by far, the only city with more than 10,000 public toilets," the official.

He said the corporation will construct another 10,000 toilets during the next financial year and zonal commissioners were searching for sites to install them. The official only matter of concern was that the public toilets will be trespassing into city footpaths since most of them will construct an extension of bus shelters.

EODB CALCULATED
BASED ON 17
REFORMS STEPS

From Page 1

The 17 reforms cover labour regulation, access to information and transparency, commercial dispute resolution, and administration and transfer of land and property, land availability and allotment, inspection, construction permits, single window system, environmental registration, obtaining electricity connection, paying taxes apart from sector specific issues, and feedback obtained on their implementation.

The rankings were released by Union minister Piyush Goyal in the presence of ministers Nirmala Sitharaman and Hardeep Singh Puri.

● **THE 17 REFORMS** cover labour regulation, access to information and transparency, commercial dispute resolution, and others.

Police bust fuel scam; 11
TS, 19 AP bunks involvedSANJAY SAMUEL
PAUL | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 5

The Cyberabad police, along with the legal metrology departments of Telangana state and Andhra Pradesh, cracked open a sophisticated racket in which some petrol and diesel bunk owners in the two states were siphoning off fuel without the knowledge of their customers from last year.

Eleven fuel stations in Telangana state and 19 in Andhra Pradesh were involved in the racket that operated with full knowledge of the fuel pump owners, Cyberabad police commissioner V.C. Sajjanar told reporters at a press conference here on Saturday. The architect of the racket was Subhani Basha,

alias Basha, a resident of West Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh, who had worked for many years at a fuel station and developed expertise in installation of manipulated chips in fuel dispensing machines that would make them deliver less fuel. For example, Sajjanar said, only 960 ml of petrol is delivered while the meter displays that 1000 ml has been dispensed.

Basha used to purchase the chips and manipulated software from Jo Joseph and Shibu Thomas of Mumbai, and installed them in fuel stations in the Telugu states. Basha and his associates used to charge from ₹80,000 to ₹1.2 lakh for the purpose.

The fraudsters used to install the integrated chips only in one fuel pump at a

station out of every two and pump staff used to encourage vehicle owners to line up before the doctored pumps. When someone wanted to fill a bottle or a can with fuel, they would be directed to the normal pumps to ensure shortages are not noticed.

So far, four people who organised the racket as well as nine owners of fuel stations have been held and the police is on the look-out for 11 others. The raids were conducted over the last two days, Sajjanar said.

Information related to cheating and irregularities has been shared with the concerned companies — Indian Oil Corporation Ltd, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd, and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited.

Rajnath giving half-truths on China: Owaisi

ATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 5

MIM president Asaduddin Owaisi speaking on the issue of talks between defence minister Rajnath Singh and Chinese counterpart Gen. Wei Fenghe alleged that Singh was telling "half-truths".

"I tweeted yesterday that eight hours had passed since the Chinese defence minister released the statement but Rajnath Singh did not release any statement. The fact of the matter is that the Chinese government is going

● **OWAISI SAID** foreign minister S. Jaishankar was on record that this was the most serious situation since 1962. That clearly showed that the Chinese were inside LAC.

● **ON THE** scrapping of Question Hour in the oncoming Parliament session, he said Telangana state Assembly will have the Question Hour.

to vacate one thousand square kilometres, which they occupied inside Indian LAC. There is no clarity."

He said foreign minister S. Jaishankar was on record that this was the most serious situation since 1962. That clearly showed that the Chinese were inside India's LAC, he said.

Owaisi said the Modi government did not release any statement, perhaps because "our Prime Minister was engaged in feeding peacocks in his residence. However, the nation wants to know what was told by our defence minister to his Chinese counterpart. Whether he told him that you have to

leave our territory and if he condemned the killing of 20 of our soldiers."

On the scrapping of Question Hour in the oncoming Parliament session, he said Telangana state Assembly will have the Question Hour.

"Our Chief Minister is open to accountability and is ready to answer on the floor of the Assembly. If the government does not want Question Hour, it means that it is running away and does not want to be accountable for the people of India," he said.

Kishan asks vendors to
apply for loan post-CovidS.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 5

Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy on Saturday asked street vendors in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), to apply for the loan of ₹10,000 to start their business post-Covid-19 lockdown, if they had not done so previously, as the government was making arrangements to extend the last date.

Kishan Reddy was speaking after reviewing development projects and schemes including PM Street Vendors Atmanirbhar Nidhi Scheme (PMSVANidhi), Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSC) under PM Awas Yojana, with officials here at CGO Towers, Kavadiiguda.

He also reviewed the arrangements for procurement of cotton with officials of the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) and Markfed, Nafed and the state agriculture department.

Addressing the media, Kishan Reddy said that the GHMC area has about 2 lakh street vendors of whom only 1 lakh had applied for loans. He said vendors require an identity card from the GHMC to avail the loan, but the corporation had issued only 30,000 of them. The minister instructed GHMC officials to speed up the process.

The minister said that as part of the Centre's CLSC under the PM Awas Yojana to provide housing for all, one lakh applications were pending with the GHMC since 2018. He asked GHMC officials to clear all the applications.

Kishan Reddy said that the Centre had sanctioned 168 wellness centres (Basti Dawakhana) to Telangana state and these were being established across the state to extend healthcare facilities to the people in urban areas.

The Centre with the help of the Telangana state government will

ensure that cotton procurement centres are established by October 10, by converting over 325 ginning mills into procurement centres to speed up the process.

Kishan Reddy wanted the state government to place a sufficient number of moisture measuring meters at each centre to help farmers to complete their transaction in a short period of time.

The minister said, "there is an unmoved stock of over 4 lakh bales of cotton because of the lockdown. Hence, we must increase the number of warehouses to store the incoming cotton till the market situation improves."

He assured the farmers that within a week the amount will be deposited into their bank accounts under the direct benefit transfer (DBT) scheme.

Kishan Reddy explained that several factors including low production and shipment problems affected the imports of urea.

Harish may miss session

From Page 1

Previously, home minister Mohammad Ali and labour minister Ch Malla Reddy had tested positive for Covid-19 and have recovered from the infection.

Soon after Harish Rao announced the news, his cousin and

minister K.T. Rama Rao tweeted support saying he was confident that Harish Rao will recover quickly. Former Nizamabad MP K. Kaviha, and Rama Rao's sister, too, put out a message in support to the finance minister.

Harish Rao is not expected to attend the

monsoon session of the Legislature, which convenes on Monday, owing to his current health condition.

The Legislature has already announced a slew of steps to keep MLAs, MLCs, staff, police personnel and media personnel safe from the disease while attending the session.

Govt. of Bihar						
Bihar Medical Services & Infrastructure Corporation Limited A Govt. of Bihar Undertaking 4 th Floor, BSBCC Building, Hospital Road, Shastri Nagar, Patna Phone:- +91 612 2219634, Fax:- +91 612 2219634						
NOTICE INVITING SHORT TENDER (Through E-Procurement Mode Only) N.I.T No.-BMSICL/Infra/29/2020						
BMSICL, Patna invites Tender in two bid (Technical & Financial) system in Item Rate Method through e-procurement (www.eproc.bihar.gov.in) process from Civil Contractors (Work to be executed by specialized agency)/Specialized Firm for SITC of Medical Gas Pipe Line/Plant at Following District Hospitals of Bihar under COVID-19.						
Gr. No.	Name of District Hospital	Quantity	Amount of EMD (in Rs.)	Cost of Bid Document (in Rs.)	Bid Processing Fee (in Rs.)	Period of Supply & Installation
1.	i) District Hospital Buxar ii) District Hospital Kaimur iii) District Hospital Arwal iv) District Hospital Saran v) District Hospital Sheohar	As per BOQ	4,66,000/-	10,000/-	1,180/-	2.5 Months
2.	i) District Hospital Lakhisarai ii) District Hospital Nawada iii) District Hospital Sheikhpura iv) District Hospital Jamui	As per BOQ	3,60,000/-	10,000/-	1,180/-	2.5 Months
3.	i) District Hospital Supaul ii) District Hospital Katihar iii) District Hospital Kishanganj iv) District Hospital Khagaria	As per BOQ	3,87,000/-	10,000/-	1,180/-	2.5 Months
2. Tender Schedule:						
Sl. No.	Activity	Date				
1.	Period of Sale of Tender Document (Download)	Upto 20.09.2020 till 15:00 hrs.				
2.	Date, Time and Place of Pre-Bid meeting	09.09.2020 at 11.00 hrs. in the office of BMSICL, Patna.				
3.	Last Date and time for receipt (upload) of Tender	21.09.2020 upto 17:00 hrs. on website				
4.	Date/Time for submission of Original/Hard Copy of cost of BOQ, Earnest Money.	22.09.2020 upto 15.00 hrs. in the office of BMSICL, Patna.				
5.	Date/Time and Place for Opening of Technical –Qualification Bid.	22.09.2020 at 15.30hrs. in the office of BMSICL, Patna.				
6.	Date/Time & Place for opening of Financial Bid	25.09.2020 at 15.30hrs. in the office of BMSICL, Patna.				
General Instructions:-						
(1) The Bill of Quantity, Qualification Criteria, Technical Specification and other conditions can be seen in the Tender Document downloaded from the website of www.eproc.bihar.gov.in.						
(2) The firm registered under MSME are exempted from submitting EMD but they will have to submit cost of bid document and bid processing fee. No other exemption will be allowed under this category.						
(3) Bidders are also requested to visit the site prior to bidding, any claim regarding non availability of space, approach etc will not be considered.						
विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर संपर्क करें						
Chief General Manager BMSICL, Patna						
PR-06210 (Ni Ni) 2020-21						
नोवल कोरोना के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सहाय्य हेतु 24x7 Toll Free No.: 104 पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।						
खाद सामग्री - संकेत की त्रुटि तब की जानकारी अथवा सुझाव हेतु दूरभाष संख्या 0612-2217636 पर संपर्क किया जा सकता है।						

GDP growth mustn't hurt environment: Expert

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 5

The path to economic recovery from the Covid-19 impact may be down a road that could put some strain on the environment. According to Dr Saswat Kishore Mishra from the Centre for Healthcare Management at the Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), the economic jumpstart induced by a stark

fall in the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) can be achieved only at the cost of environment. The path towards economic recovery from Covid-19 must embrace sustainability at its core and redefine people-planet relationship, he said.

Dr Saswat was speaking after inaugurating an online conference organised by ASCI and the Centre for Innovations in Public Systems, 'Health

Emergency and Disaster Risk Management during Covid-19 Pandemic' here on Saturday.

As many as 96 professionals from various fields including medicine, disaster management practitioners, public health consultants, government officials and scholars from different parts of the world took part in the webinar. Dr Unni Krishnan, humanitarian director, War Child,

The Netherlands, said among the issues to be aware of when overcoming a situation such as the Covid-19 pandemic, was the ability of the current conditions to implant bitter memories resulting in emotional ripples that linger for a long time and can eclipse recovery efforts.

Dr Chandrakant Lahariya from the World Health Organisation pointed out that investing on a stronger health

system is not only important for better health of people but also to ensure society being better prepared to respond to outbreaks and epidemics.

Dr Suresh Kumar Rathi from the Indian Institute of Public Health raised a concern that the pandemic has overshadowed other parallel disasters and suitable response requires a multi-hazard multi-sectoral approach.

DECCAN Chronicle

6 SEPTEMBER 2020



Krishna Shastri
Devulapalli

Off the beaten track

Blame it all on those vile Mughals

Apparently, our glorious land was ruled at various times by, among others, the Mauryas for 550 years, the Chalukyas for 600 years, the Satavahanas for 500 years, the Cholas for 1,000 years, the Pandyas for 600 years and the Kapoors for 100 years (okay, the last one I made up). But all we hear about, Facebook and WhatsApp tell me of late, is the wretched Mughals who ruled for a measly 300 years. And that this injustice should be corrected at once on a war footing as we scream *Jai Hind*.

As a baby step, I don't know, perhaps we could ban biryani, a diabolical Mughal invention that has enslaved us for several centuries. And make Chole Bhature, an all-time favourite of Raja Raja Chola's, the most ordered dish on Swiggy for the next one year and show those arrogant, if dead, Mughals a thing or two. And be declared the most patriotic nation in the universe by Nasa. And have that underwritten by Unesco.

Jokes apart, why is it important that we read up on these kings? With immediate effect? As opposed to those other terrible kings about whom far too much has been written?

Well, could it be because, unlike those dastardly Mughal invaders, these were all good, benevolent, tolerant kings, who didn't bump off their own family members to ascend the throne, had no blood on their hands, whose armies didn't rape, pillage or plunder, didn't hanker after power, were uniformly kind to their subjects, didn't ever impose taxes, planted shady trees, built wide roads and never ate biryani? And that Kangana Ranaut and Arnab Goswami have in their possession UHD videos from centuries ago as incontrovertible proof of their munificence?

Indulge me as I relate a tiny tale with a happy ending.

A man was travelling with his family along a long and winding road. It had been quite a journey. There was no denying the path had been bumpy and unpredictable, and his car rattled and wheezed a bit from the strain. But there was also no denying he had made progress. Mainly because he had kept his eyes open. And on the road ahead.

Suddenly a man waving a bright red flag jumped in his path and stopped the car.

"You know what a horrible, dangerous, pot-hole filled road you have been driving on so far?" he said. "Don't you see the injustice of it? Shouldn't you be taking all those responsible for building such an evil, un navigable road to task, make them pay? And keep looking out for how dangerous and harmful the road behind you is?"

"Yes, you are absolutely right, sir," the driver said gratefully. "From now on, I won't take my eyes off the rear-view mirror when I drive. I'll keep a keen eye on how bad the road behind me is. Thanks for the invaluable tip."

The driver restarted his car, and proceeded, his eyes firmly on the rear-view mirror. And promptly drove off a cliff at the next bend, family and all. And they all lived happily ever after.

Not a believable story? Why then are so many of us obsessed with the road that we have already negotiated? Good, bad and ugly, though it might have been. Like any long road. At the expense of looking at the road ahead?

Understanding history and its older sibling, mythology, is okay. Good even, up to a point. But isn't it obvious that we have gone way past that? Obsessively looking at the past — real and mythical — is merely not wanting to look at the present; an inability to deal with reality. And an unwillingness to take responsibility.

How about we put history aside for a bit, and mythology, too, and brush up on reason, scientific thinking and logic instead. Even get ourselves a (slim) book on compassion, perhaps. Maybe it's time to forget yesterday for a minute and figure out what we need to do today so that we actually have a tomorrow. Not be diverted by people who don't want us to see the here and now.

See what we've allowed to happen because we've been told to stare at the rear-view mirror.

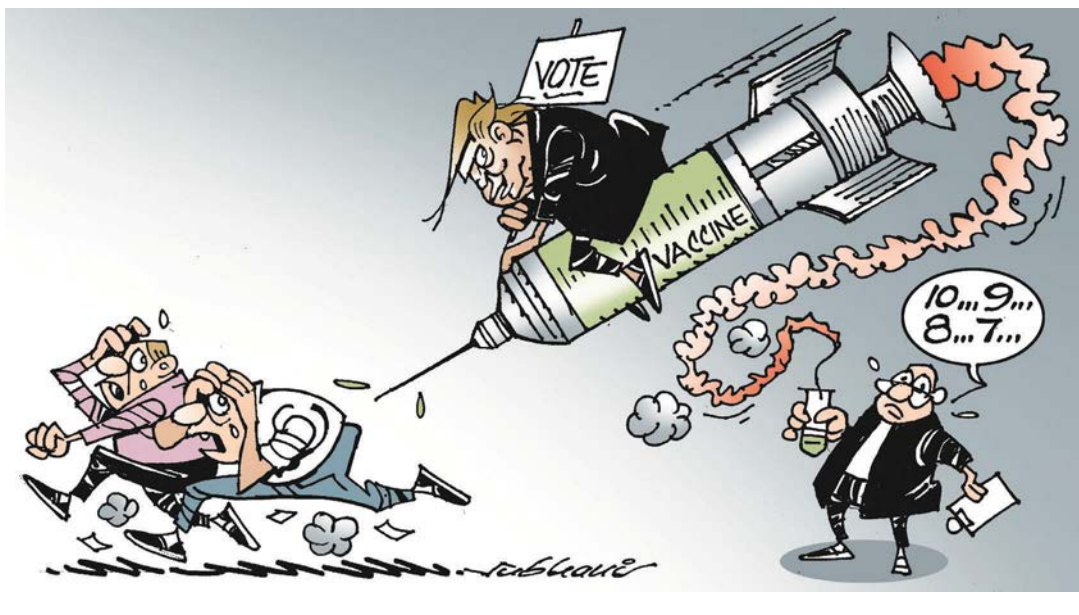
And, yes, let's thank god for biryani.

Krishna Shastri Devulapalli is a humour writer, novelist, columnist and screenwriter



As a baby step, I don't know, perhaps we could ban biryani, a diabolical Mughal invention that has enslaved us for several centuries. And make Chole Bhature, an all-time favourite of Raja Raja Chola's, the most ordered dish on Swiggy for the next one year and show those arrogant, if dead, Mughals a thing or two.

Subhani



For democracy's sake, don't scrap Q-Hour



Pavan K. Varna

Chanakya's View

Frankly, to have a Parliament session without question hour is like visiting a forest without trees. The BJP's decision to scrap Question Hour in the forthcoming parliamentary session is both worrisome and opportunistic. The BJP may be in power right now, but surely it must remember its days in the Opposition, and not lose sight of the fact that it could be there again. In democracy — and in life — nothing ever remains unchanged. Ghalib's immortal line comes to mind: *Har bulundi ke naseebon mein hai pasti ek din*: it is the in the destiny of every pinnacle to hit the dust sometime.

If the BJP would have been in the Opposition today, would it welcome a parliamentary session without the opportunity to put the government on the mat? Especially if there were burning issues to discuss like there are today: the economic crisis, the handling of the Corona pandemic, and Chinese aggression on the border. The reasons being touted against holding the question hour are hardly convincing. Democratic governments function on the basis of accountability. Within the hallowed precincts of Parliament, the nation's highest democratic forum, question hour is the one institution where government ministers can be directly questioned. Nothing else substitutes for this interrogatory interaction, and compels the government to explain and defend its

actions and policies. Let us examine the arguments against Question Hour being put by the ruling dispensation. Firstly, it is said that even in the absence of Question Hour, written answers can be provided to questions provided in advance. My experience of being in Parliament compels me to unhesitatingly throw this argument out of the window. There are two categories of questions that can be asked in Parliament, unstarred and starred. The first merit only written replies. This incorporates the art of drafting a reply, that mostly says as little as possible, while fulfilling the perfunctory requirement of answering the question. As a diplomat-bureaucrat before joining politics, I have been on the other side of the fence of drafting replies to unstarred questions. The achievement lay in hiding the full truth, and revealing only what is unavoidably necessary, playing on words, and using the loopholes in the question itself — many of which are badly drafted — to get off the hook. The answers are circulated in Parliament, and mostly forgotten, except as a written record of what little the government had to say when asked a straightforward question.

Starred questions, on the other hand, come up in Question Hour. The concerned minister, and sometimes the Prime Minister himself, has to physically answer the question. Moreover, each question allows for a minimum of three sup-

The argument that Question Hour can be substituted by Zero Hour or by special leave mentions, is fallacious. Both are usually about urgent but localised issues, and do not allow for the range of interrogation that a question hour does.

plementary questions related to the original question. This requires the minister to prepare himself fully, and gives the Opposition a much needed opportunity to hold the government accountable in a much more direct way than the anonymity of a written reply. If the minister prevaricates, or seeks to evade the questions asked, the Chair of the House can pull him up, and if she does not have the answers it becomes an embarrassment for the government. In other words, if Parliament's principal purpose is to provide a democratic forum for holding the government accountable, this is the hour when it happens best.

The argument that starred questions require the minister to be accompanied by a number of officials from the ministry concerned since, depending on the question asked, they can quickly send across from the officials' gallery briefing notes or facts to the minister, is fallacious. If even MPs will now be able to enter Parliament only with a negative certificate on Corona, why can't each ministry identify a few selected officials required to be present on question day, to do the same?

The argument that Question Hour can be substituted by Zero Hour or by special leave mentions, is fallacious too. Both are usually about

urgent but localised issues, and do not allow for the range of interrogation that a question hour does. Short duration discussions on specific subjects, or call attention motions, are difficult to schedule, and do not allow the exercise of accountability to be exercised on a daily basis as happens during question hour. The fact that some state Assemblies have dispensed with Question Hour, should be no reason why Parliament, the apex legislature where national issues need to be discussed, has to do the same. Similarly, for the BJP to argue that because Question Hour has frequently been disrupted by the Opposition, Question Hour itself can be dispensed with, is hardly tenable. Unfortunately, disruptions do take place in Parliament. But, the BJP when in Opposition perfected the art of such disruptions. Would it have then agreed that as a result of its behaviour Question Hour should be scrapped?

It is true that these are not normal times. The Corona pandemic has led to modifications in the working of institutions. It is for this reason that the session of Parliament is taking place after a prolonged hiatus, and for a truncated period. Parliament cannot only be a mechanical institution for a ruling party with a brute majority in the Lok Sabha, and a usually managed majority in the Rajya Sabha, to pass legislation. A government has to be held accountable. It is hoped that the BJP's own professed commitment to democracy will prompt it to rescind its decision to do away with Question Hour.

The writer, an author and former diplomat, is in politics

LETTERS

TEACHERS' DAY

As we celebrate Teachers' Day every year on September 5, we must remember that teachers working in private schools are facing many problems. Even though salaries are poor, work is being extracted from them. Government teachers are getting three times more than private teachers with pension, etc. I request the government to announce sops to private teachers.

P. Samuel Suresh
Hyderabad

ONLINE CLASSES

The so-called online classes by almost all private schools are nothing but a big fraud to collect term fees. It's an open dacoity and loot.

A. Venkatachary
Hyderabad

FOCUS ON ECONOMY

Economy should be the foremost concern of the government and financial stability of the RBI. They have to work together to ensure that the economy keeps booming while not compromising on financial stability. If economy is pushed to back-burner and focus is kept on Hindutva and citizenship, it shows misplaced priorities.

Vikas Panchareddy
Hyderabad

REVENUE LAW

Revenue law is an ancient land-reforms law (*KCR is firm on new revenue law, DC, Sept. 5*). In ancient India, the Maurya king Chandragupta and his political guru Chanakya introduced land reforms that were subsequently removed by foreign invaders. Governments are coming and going but there is still no reforms for "Annadata". That is because of their illiteracy.

K.N. Vikram Raj
Hyderabad

ADVICE TO IPS

Though we welcome the PM's advice to IPS probationers, it is an open secret that governments are misusing them and undermining their dignity (*PM gives success tips to 131 IPS probationers, DC, Sept. 5*). The fact is that IPS officers are forced to work under immense pressure and unable serve people due to bad political scenario.

G.S. Dwivedi
Hyderabad

Ailing MP to princes' rescue

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 5 But for the lone vote of an ailing Jana Sangh member, the Constitution (24th Amendment) Bill to abolish privy purses and privileges of former rulers, would perhaps have gone through the Rajya Sabha today. Mr. Sri Kant Mishra, who had been under treatment for lung cancer at the Wellington Nursing Home here, was brought by his party colleagues to vote against the Bill.

He was driven to Parliament in an ambulance, about half an hour before the division took place, and carried to the chamber on a stretcher. Dr. R.K. Caroli, Physician of the nursing home, told UNI that the member had been taken away by party workers against medical advice.

Post Shah illness, now stars don't seem aligned for BJP rejigs

Scindia kept waiting

The expansion of both the BJP national executive and the Union Cabinet is unlikely before the Parliament session. It has been nine months since J.P. Nadda took over as party president but there is no sign of a new team. The BJP office bearers were supposed to be appointed in August but home minister Amit Shah's illness is said to have delayed it. Now the stars have turned hostile. BJP insiders now claim that an "inauspicious" Shraadh fortnight has come in the way of a BJP executive and Cabinet expansion. Jyotiraditya Scindia will be disappointed if he fails to join Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Cabinet before the Madhya Pradesh Assembly bypolls. Mr Scindia thinks he can influence voters in 27 constituencies if he is given a Cabinet rank.

Mukul must pay

The Congress's Mukul Wasnik is finding himself on a sticky wicket following his move to align with the 23 dissenters. Mukul is AICC general secretary in charge of Madhya Pradesh where crucial Assembly

by-elections are to be held. But Mr Wasnik is unable to visit on account of his 'rebel' stance.

There are four AICC secretaries under him who in private are giving him an earful for allegedly "compromising" their integrity and loyalty to the party. In principle, AICC secretaries are supposed to take direction and guidance from the general secretary but in Mr Wasnik's case, neither side is speaking to one another. Former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Kamal Nath fears this deadlock would cost the party dearly.

Thirty minutes only

Criticised for cancelling 'Question Hour', the Narendra Modi government will allow a 30-minute question hour in the upcoming Parliament session scheduled to be held from September 14 to October 1. So far, India and Russia had been two democracies dithering on convening their Parliaments in the wake of Covid-19. On the other hand, as many as 105 parliaments worldwide have been meeting and discussing issues amid the pandemic. In the British Parliament, Prime Minister Boris



By WAQYANAWIS

Johnson has been fielding questions after spending a considerable time in the hospital

ICU after getting infected by the Coronavirus.

A piece of Mukherjee

With former President Pranab Mukherjee gone, attempts to usurp his legacy are underway by non-Congress parties, particularly by the BJP and the Trinamul. PM Modi had a picture of him touching Pranab's feet while Rahul Gandhi's rather 'perfunctory' tweet was subject to social media criticism.

Pranab's diaries

Pranab Mukherjee's daughter Sharmishta, currently the Congress spokesperson and the Delhi Mahila Congress unit head, is said to be in possession of her father's diaries. These entries, written at the end of each day as his habit, are more than a goldmine. Sharmishta's brother Abhijit is also in the Congress, having served two terms in the Lok Sabha. Pranab's diaries are being eyed by the Congress, BJP, the Trinamul and several publishing houses.

Sonia calls Sharmishta

When Pranab Mukherjee was battling for his life at the Army's Research and Referral hospital in Delhi, Sonia Gandhi reportedly called up Sharmishta enquiring not just about Pranab but her as well. When she learnt that Sharmishta was alone, Sonia got restless and worried over the young Mukherjee, who had to calm and assure her that she was fine.

Priyanka's new abode

Priyanka Gandhi has a new address in New Delhi. She has a duplex in Sujan Singh Park, facing the Ambassador Hotel and in the vicinity of Khan Market. It is one of the most sought-after addresses in the capital. Built by Khushwant Singh's father, Sujan Singh Park is one of the first residential apartments of Delhi, where stories of the residents are as interesting as its architecture. Sujan Singh was Khushwant's grandfather. Priyanka, reliably learnt, is staying there as a tenant.

The writer is a keen observer of the goings-on in backrooms of power

SHORT TAKES

7 GUEST WORKERS KILLED IN ROAD MISHAP

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, SEPT. 5

At least seven guest workers were on Saturday killed and a dozen others injured when a bus in which they were travelling had a head-on collision with a truck on the outskirts of Raipur. The mishap took place at around 3.30 am.

The ill-fated bus was carrying around 75 guest workers from Ganjam to Surat.

The passengers who had returned to their villages in Ganjam district following nationwide lockdown enforced in March due in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak were migrating to Surat to resume their work.

“Seven people were killed and seven others injured in the incident. All the injured have been admitted to local government hospital”, Raipur senior superintendent of police Ajey Yadav said.

The tragedy took place when the speeding truck coming from the opposite side rammed into the speeding bus near Indira Gandhi Agriculture University in Raipur.

The accident was so severe that the front portion of the bus mangled trapping many passengers. Police with the help of locals removed the bodies of the deceased as well as the injured from the bus.

MOSQUE WILL BE OF SAME SIZE AS BABRI MASJID

Lucknow, Sept. 5: A mosque that will come up in Ayodhya pursuant to the Supreme Court verdict in the Ram Jannabhoomi case will be of the same size as Babri Masjid, said an office-bearer of the trust formed for its construction.

The five-acre complex in Ayodhya’s Dhamnipur village will also house a hospital, a library and a museum among others, the office-bearer said, adding that retired professor and noted food critic Pushpesh Pant will be consultant curator of the museum.

“The complex of the mosque, which will be built in Dhamnipur, will also have facilities like a hospital, a museum at the Indo-Islamic Research Centre. The mosque will be on 15,000 square feet, while the rest of the land will have these facilities,” Athar Hussain, the secretary and spokesperson of Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation said on Saturday. “Noted food critic Pushpesh Pant gave his consent to curate the museum on Friday,” Hussain said.

The Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board has formed the Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation (IICF), a trust, for the construction of the mosque on the five-acre plot.

ACTRESS WIFE SLAPS DV CASE AGAINST BJD MP

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BHUBANESWAR, SEPT. 5

Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Lok Sabha member from Kendrapara, Anubhav Mohanty, on Saturday landed in trouble as his wife and noted Odia film actress Barsha Priyadarshini filed a case of domestic violence against him.

The case was filed under Section 12 of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act against the MP for allegedly assaulting and harassing Barsha.

In her petition filed before the Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate Court, Cuttack, Barsha appealed to the court seeking monthly maintenance from Anubhav, besides an indemnity of ₹15 crore.

Barsha in her petition said that Anubhav is a habitual drunkard and he often drinks with his friends at home. The MP also assaulted and harassed her mentally, she alleged.

“He invites his friends to our bedroom and drinks with them. If I resist, he would beat me up severely. He often asked me to leave his home,” the actress said.

The actress further alleged that whenever she tried to prevent Anubhav from drinking, he would become violent and physically assault her and tried to throw her out of the house.

Levelling another serious allegation, she said Anubhav has extramarital affair with multiple women from the Hollywood or Odia film industry.

Take nation into confidence, says Cong

Congress says people want to know about the outcomes of the repeated conversations with China

New Delhi, Sept. 5: The Congress on Saturday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to take the nation into confidence on talks with China on the border row in Ladakh, saying people want to know about the outcomes of the repeated conversations with the Chinese side.

The Opposition party’s demand comes a day after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Chinese counterpart Gen. Wei Fenghe held an over two-hour-long meeting in Moscow with a focus on easing escalating border tension in eastern Ladakh.

Congress’ chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said it was “Rajdharm” of the prime minister and the defence minister to take the nation into confidence on the important issue.

Listing the various levels of talks held with the Chinese from the foreign ministers level and corps commanders level to the defence ministers’ discussions, Surjewala asked what is the outcome of these talks.

“What is the conversation about, what is happening. Will Prime Minister Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh take the country into confidence?” he asked.

Surjewala also referred to Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla’s remarks that it was an “unprecedented” situation at the India-China border and “we’ve never had this sort of a situation since 1962”, to underline the seriousness of the issue.

“The important part is what is the outcome of the repeated conversations with the Chinese counterparts by our government.... How will we ensure that Chinese transgressions are defeated,” Surjewala said in a

● **CONGRESS’ CHIEF** spokesperson Surjewala also referred to Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla’s remarks that it was an “unprecedented” situation at the India-China border and “we’ve never had this sort of a situation since 1962”, to underline the seriousness of the issue.

● **CONGRESS LEADER** Rajeev Shukla said they hoped that the issue can be resolved through talks, but he added conflicting statements coming from the government on the border stand-off are a matter of worry.

video posted on his Twitter account.

He said people want answers to questions such as how the Chinese will be repulsed to “reclaim our motherland”.

“We hope Prime Minister Modi and the defence minister will come forward and take the nation into confidence. That is the true Rajdharm. We will await an answer,” he said.

Later, at an online briefing, Congress leader Rajeev Shukla said, “We hope that the issue can be resolved through talks.”

He, however, demanded that the government should give a clear picture of the situation.

“Conflicting statements coming from the government is a matter of worry for us,” he added.

The tension between the two sides had escalated manifold after the violent clashes in Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh on June 15 in which 20 Indian Army personnel were killed. The Chinese side also suffered casualties but it is yet to give out the details. According to an American intelligence report, the number of casualties on the Chinese side was 35.

- PTI



China’s Minister of National Defence Wei Fenghe, left, Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu, center, and Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh, right, pose for a photo with their colleagues at a Joint Meeting of Defence Ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, Commonwealth of Independent States and Collective Security Treaty Organization Member States in Moscow.

- PTI

Army helps out stranded Chinese citizens

New Delhi, Sept. 5: At a time it is engaged in a fierce standoff with China’s PLA in eastern Ladakh, the Indian Army on Wednesday provided food, warm clothes and medical assistance to three Chinese citizens who had lost their way in sub-zero temperatures at an altitude of 17,500 feet in a border area in North Sikkim, officials said.

The Army personnel deployed in the area also guided the Chinese citizens, including a woman, to return to the Chinese side and reach their destination.

The humanitarian ges-

● **THE HUMANITARIAN** gesture by the Army came when it is dealing with an aggressive behaviour by the Chinese troops in eastern Ladakh.

● **THE ARMY** said the three Chinese citizens lost their way in the Plateau area of North Sikkim.

ture by the Army came when it is dealing with an aggressive behaviour by the Chinese troops in eastern Ladakh.

The Army, in a statement, said the three Chinese citizens lost their way in the Plateau area of

North Sikkim. “Realising danger to the lives of the Chinese citizens in sub-zero temperatures, the soldiers of Indian Army immediately reached out and provided medical assistance including oxygen, food and warm clothes to protect them from the vagaries of extreme altitude and harsh climactic conditions,” the Army said.

It said the Indian troops also gave them appropriate guidance to reach their destination after which they returned.

“The Chinese citizens expressed their gratitude to India and the Indian

Army for their prompt assistance,” the Army said. The Indian and Chinese troops are locked in a bitter border row in eastern Ladakh for the last four months. The tensions had escalated manifold after 20 Indian Army personnel were killed in a fierce clash between the two sides in Galwan Valley on June 15. The Chinese military is yet to reveal the casualties it suffered in the clash.

Tensions flared up again in the region after China unsuccessfully attempted to occupy Indian territory on the southern bank of Pangong lake around a

week back.

Following the attempts, India occupied a number of strategic heights on the southern bank of Pangong lake and strengthened its presence in Finger 2 and Finger 3 areas in the region to thwart any Chinese actions. China has strongly objected to India’s move.

India has also rushed in additional troops and weapons to the sensitive region following China’s transgression attempts.

Defence ministers of the two countries met on the sidelines of a multilateral meet in Moscow on Friday.

- PTI

COVID DEATHS INCH CLOSER TO 70,000-MARK

New Delhi, Sept. 5: Covid-19 infection tally sprinted past 40 lakh officially, just 13 days after it crossed 30 lakh, with a record 86,432 cases being reported in a day, while recoveries have surged to 1,07,223 on Saturday pushing the recovery rate to 77.23 per cent, according to the Union Health Ministry.

The total coronavirus cases mounted to 40,23,179, while the death toll climbed to 69,561 with 1,089 people succumbing to the disease in a span of 24 hours, data updated at 8 am showed.

India’s Covid-19 cases jumped from 10 lakh to 20 lakh in 21 days. It took 16 more days to race past 30 lakh and 13 days more to cross the 40-lakh mark.

It took 110 days for the Covid-19 cases in the country to reach one lakh while it had taken 59 days more to go past the 10-lakh post.

The case fatality rate due has further declined to 1.73 per cent.

- PTI

Seat sharing is a thorny issue for RJD-led alliance

NAYEAR AZAD | DC PATNA, SEPT. 5

Seat sharing among Grand Alliance partners has turned into a thorny affair as most of the political parties including smaller partners have been demanding sizable seat share for the ensuing Assembly elections.

Political analysts believe that Tejashwi Yadav, the political heir of RJD Chief Lalu Yadav will have to leave his rigidity to end brewing resentment among Grand Alliance partners over the issue of seat adjustments in Bihar.

RLSP leaders in Patna recently met RJD state president Jagdanand Singh and submitted a list of seats it wanted to contest.

Sources in the grand alliance said that the negotiations among partners were in the final stages and likely to get sorted out by mid-September.

RLSP insiders told this newspaper that the party has staked claims on 48

● **THE GRAND** alliance in Bihar comprises RJD, Congress, Upendra Kushwaha’s RLSP, Mukesh Sahani’s VIP and three Left parties (CPI, CPM and CPI-ML).

seats which include 23 seats it contested in 2015 besides 25 other constituencies where the party claims to have a vote base.

Besides, three Left parties the CPI, the CPM and the CPI-ML have also submitted their lists and have urged the RJD to finalize the seat-sharing deal without delay.

Another smaller partner Mukesh Sahani of the Vikasheel Insaan Party (VIP) has also sent a list of its candidates demanding “sizeable seat share” for the party.

With Jitan Ram Manjhi in NDA fold and no clarity yet on Sharad Yadav’s Loktantrik Janata Dal (LJD), the grand alliance in Bihar comprises RJD, Congress, Upendra Kushwaha’s RLSP,

Mukesh Sahani’s VIP and three Left parties (CPI, CPM and CPI-ML).

Upendra Kushwaha with around 10 per cent voter base of his Koeri community is considered a strong player in the grand alliance. Mukesh Sahani’s Nishad community accounts for 14 per cent of the state population and the RJD’s M-Y combination forms about 30 per cent vote share (Muslims 16 and Yadav 14 per cent).

Sources said both RJD and Congress will take a call on the number of seats that would be distributed to alliance partners RLSP, VIP and left parties. The date of their meeting is yet to be finalized but “things these things will be sorted out soon. There is no trouble regarding seat-sharing among the grand alliance partners”, a senior RJD leader said.

He further said that the formula will need final approval from RJD chief Lalu Yadav who is serving a jail term in fodder scam case.

HC SAYS NO FOR CBI PROBE INTO HONEY-TRAP SCANDAL IN MP

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, SEPT. 5

The Indore bench of Madhya Pradesh high court on Saturday rejected a petition seeking a probe by Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into the honey-trapping and blackmailing scandal that surfaced in the state last year.

The scandal came to the fore when the MP police busted a racket involved in honey trapping and then blackmailing several bureaucrats and politicians in the state, in November last year, leading the previous Kamal Nath government to constitute a special investigation team (SIT) to probe the matter.

However, several petitions were filed in the Indore bench seeking a CBI probe into the issue arguing that SIT would not be able to unearth the truth considering the high profile nature of the scandal.

A division bench of the high court dismissed the petitions saying that it was satisfied with the progress of the probe by SIT into the matter and there was no need for a CBI probe into it. The SIT has earlier submitted a report detailing the progress in its probe.

The court, however, ordered the SIT to submit the forensic reports of the electronic evidence gathered in connection with the scandal before it as soon as they were available.

The SIT has recovered 4,000 smut videos, sex chat screenshots, photographs in which the accused were seen in compromising positions with their victims, from the laptops, cell phones and other electronic surveillance gadgets seized from the honey-trapping ring that allegedly hooked quite a significant number of movers and shakers in the state.

SSR | SUICIDE The NCB on Saturday has also arrested Sushant’s house help Dipesh Sawant

NCB summons Rhea, to be grilled with Showik

SANJAY RAUT SOFTENS STAND ON KANGANA’S PoK JIBE

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC MUMBAI, SEPT. 5

The Shiv Sena on Saturday appeared to have softened its stand on the controversy involving Kangana Ranaut, who had likened Mumbai to PoK (Pakistan occupied Kashmir).

Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut said he does not have any personal issue with the actress and added that he raised his voice because

Showik and has claimed that he would peddle drugs as per Showik’s requirement. The searches began at

she spoke against Maharashtra. Meanwhile, RPI chief and Union minister for state Ramdas Athawale said his party would take care of Ranaut’s security in Mumbai.

Mr Raut said that those who are insulting Maharashtra, should remember that Maharashtra is because of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Shiv Sena founder Balasaheb

around 6.30 am and the teams of NCB later summoned Showik and Miranda for questioning at their office. Various

Thackeray.

“I don’t have any personal issue with Kangana Ranaut. But insulting Mumbai and Maharashtra will not be tolerated,” the Shiv Sena leader said, adding that linking Mumbai with PoK is a very serious offence.

The Shiv Sena and Congress have been alleging that BJP IT cell is behind Kangana Ranaut’s tweets.

angles surrounding Rajput’s death are being probed by the CBI, Enforcement Directorate and NCB.



SHORT TAKES

AFGHAN FORCES
KILL 46 TALIBAN
TERRORISTS

Kabul, Sept. 5: The Afghan forces have killed 46 Taliban terrorists and injured 37 others during an operation in the northern Faryab province.

Several Taliban units attacked the Qaisar district of the Faryab province but were pushed back by the military, Mohammad Hanif Reza, a spokesman for the 209th corps of the Afghan National Army, also known as the Shaheen Corps, told Sputnik on Saturday.

The spokesman added that the district was under the control of the Afghan forces.

At the same time, Reza said the military operation was still underway, while the Afghan armed forces were clearing the area from the Taliban terrorists.

Meanwhile, the provincial government said several high-ranking members of the Taliban were injured during the operation.

The movement has not yet commented on the incident.

16 KILLED IN
BANGLA MOSQUE
GAS EXPLOSION

Dhaka, Sept. 5: A suspected gas explosion tore through a Bangladesh mosque killing at least 16 people while dozens suffered life-threatening burns, police said on Saturday.

Worshippers were at Friday evening prayers when the blast sent a ball of flames through the mosque in the central district of Narayanganj, emergency services said.

Investigators suspected a spark from an air conditioner — which came on after a power cut — set off the gas.

“Leaked gas entered the mosque,” Narayanganj fire chief Abdullah Al Arefin said.

“When they shut the windows and doors and switched on the air conditioners there was an electricity spark that led to the explosion inside the mosque.” The 16 who died were among 37 taken to a specialist burns hospital in Dhaka, said hospital spokesman Samanta Lal Sen.

He added that the condition of the remaining 21 patients was “very critical” and all had suffered 70 to 80 percent burns.

Police said at least 45 were injured by the blast and that people had spoken of smelling a gas leak.

TALIBAN SAY TEAM
IN QATAR FOR
PEACE TALKS

Kabul, Sept. 5: The Taliban’s negotiating team has arrived in Qatar, a spokesman said on Saturday, in a sign that long-delayed peace talks with the Afghan government are inching closer to starting.

A date for the talks, to be hosted in Doha, has not been set but the warring sides have this week made signals that negotiations could launch soon, including efforts to wrap up a drawn out prisoner exchange.

“All members of our negotiating team have arrived in Doha. The talks will begin once some small technical issues are resolved,” Taliban spokesman Suhail Shaheen said.

The Taliban team had recently been in Pakistan discussing the peace process with the government in Islamabad.

Qatar authorities have been imposing a seven day quarantine period on all arrivals to the country, but have made exemptions for some delegations who undergo regular testing.

The Afghan government’s negotiating team remained in Kabul on Saturday, but a logistics team landed in Doha earlier this week.

Postal voting marks start
of US Presidential election

North Carolina was to begin mailing out more than 6 lakh ballots

Washington, Sept. 5: The US election is officially open: North Carolina on Friday launched vote-by-mail operations for the November 3 contest between President Donald Trump and Democrat Joe Biden, which is getting uglier by the hour.

With two months until Election Day, Trump is seizing on fears over violent protests in US cities and questioning the integrity of voting by mail, while challenger Biden intensified his criticism of a “deplorable” leader who he said is not fit for office.

Worries about the unabated spread of Coronavirus are expected to prompt a surge in the number of ballots cast by mail, as millions seek to avoid polling stations.

In a country on edge over the health crisis and a national reckoning about race, the next 60 days will test the ability of the world’s largest economy to organise its election while

profoundly changed by a pandemic that has killed 1,87,000 Americans.

North Carolina was to begin mailing out more than 6,00,000 ballots, in response to a major spike in demand. Other key battleground states such as Wisconsin — which both candidates visited in recent days — will follow in the coming weeks. How Americans vote has become another flashpoint in an increasingly divisive political landscape.

A recent poll by USA Today and Suffolk University showed that 56 percent of Republican voters surveyed said they would go in person to vote, while only 26 percent of Democrats plan to do the same.

One out of every four Biden voters said that if the Democratic former vice president loses on November 3, they would not be ready to accept a Trump victory as “fairly won.” About one in five Trump voters said a simi-

lar thing. As he seeks a second four-year term, Trump has for months sowed doubt among his base about the legitimacy of an election with a significant number of mail-in votes.

Trump — who himself voted by mail in his adopted home state of Florida — has repeatedly, and without evidence, said mail-in voting could lead to widespread fraud.

He even has suggested to his supporters that they try to vote twice to test the system — earning him scorn on social media and from Democrats.

The tense campaign battle heated on Thursday when *The Atlantic magazine* reported — citing four anonymous sources who said they had firsthand knowledge of the discussions — that Trump had referred to US Marines buried in a World War I cemetery in France as “losers” and “suckers” for getting killed in action. — *AFP*

Don team pushes SM
limits as polls loom

Washington, Sept. 5: A message saying you “won’t be safe” in Joe Biden’s America. The former vice president shown “sleeping” during a television interview. Biden “hiding” — alone — in his basement. All three videos featured in social media of President Donald Trump and his team as recently as the past week as he sought to close the gap on his Democratic rival. And each was labeled as false or manipulated content by social media giants and fact checkers.

While negative campaigning has long been a fixture of American politics, the open use of digitally-altered images by Trump and other candidates in 2020 has tech giants worried.

Twitter has cracked down by removing or labeling several of the president’s tweets. Facebook, citing the risk of civil unrest, announced on Thursday that it would not allow new political ads on its platform in the last week of the November 3 race.

There remain questions whether such messages — almost impossible to stop once they become viral — are working on voters but a line has already been crossed.

“There’s a long tradition in politics of competing politicians presenting their opponents’ words or beliefs in edited ways, right? That’s part of politics,” Ethan Porter, assistant professor of media and public affairs at George Washington University, said. — *AFP*

FB FORBIDS
LIVESTREAMED
DEATH

Dijon, Sept. 5: Facebook said on Saturday it would block the livestream of a Frenchman suffering from an incurable condition who wanted to broadcast his death on the social media platform.

Earlier, Alain Cocq announced that he was now refusing all food, drink and medicine after President Emmanuel Macron turned down his request for euthanasia.

Cocq, 57, who suffers from a rare condition which causes the walls of his arteries to stick together, said he believed he had less than a week to live and would broadcast his death from Saturday morning.

“Although we respect (Cocq’s) decision to want to draw attention to this complex question, following expert advice we have taken measures to prevent the live broadcast on Alain’s account,” a Facebook spokesman said. — *AFP*

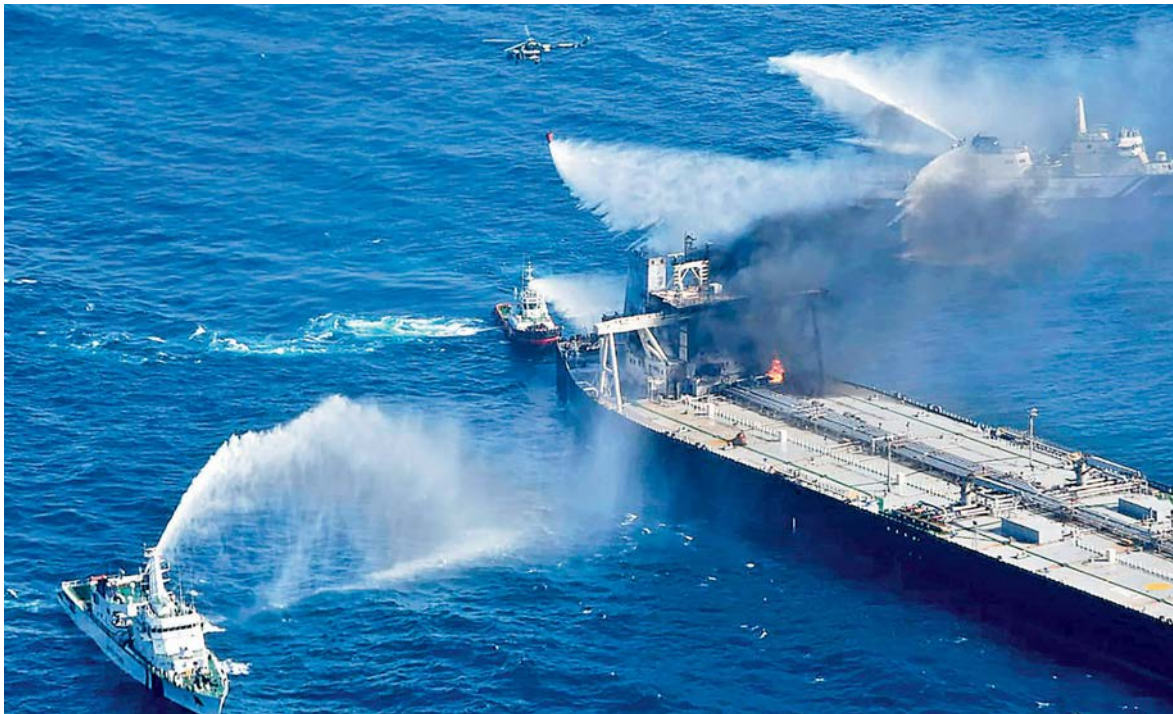
UK CLIMATE
ACTIVISTS TARGET
NEWSPAPERS

London, Sept. 5: Climate change protesters in Britain blockaded two printing presses on Saturday, disrupting the distribution of numerous national newspapers as they step up 10 days of protests demanding action on environmental issues.

Activist group Extinction Rebellion (XR) targeted both the plants, just north of London and near Liverpool in north-west England, causing delays to deliveries of papers including *The Times*, the *Daily Telegraph* and *The Sun*.

Dozens of activists blocked roads outside the sites using vehicles and by attaching themselves to other obstacles, “to expose the failure of these corporations to accurately report on the climate and ecological emergency.” — *AP*

Tanker fire under control



Tug boats and ships battle the fire on MT New Diamond in the Indian Ocean, on Saturday. The fire on the large oil tanker off Sri Lankan coast has been brought under control but is still not extinguished, the navy said on Saturday. The tanker, carrying nearly 2 million barrels of crude oil, was drifting about 20 nautical miles (37 kilometers) from Sri Lanka’s eastern coast and on Friday evening a tug boat towed it to the deep sea away from land, said navy spokesman Capt. Indika de Silva.

— *AP*

Biden confirms Covid-19 test,
says he’ll be tested regularly

Wilmington, Sept. 5: Joe Biden has said that he’s been tested at least once for the Covid-19 virus and promised he will be tested regularly during his general election campaign against US President Donald Trump.

The Democratic presidential nominee on Friday told reporters of his testing protocol during a wide-ranging news conference in which he blasted Trump for downplaying the Coronavirus and thus ensuring that it will continue to kill Americans and ravage the economy.

For much of the summer, Biden’s advisers deflected questions about whether the former vice president was being tested himself as he anchored his campaign almost exclusively from his Delaware home, travelling sparingly as a precaution.

“They’re going to do it on a regular basis,” Biden said of the testing. He noted that the Secret Service agents assigned to protect him and “everyone” else who comes into his home is tested already. Biden said he didn’t know specifically when his next test would be. “I just, ‘yes, sir,’ show up and put my head back,” Biden said.

“I imagine it’ll be sometime this week, but it will be a regular basis,” Biden and Trump offer voters a sharp contrast on the pandemic and its economic fallout.

In the Oval Office on Friday, Trump hailed a new jobs report and repeated his optimism that a Covid-19 vaccine could be available even before the November 3 election.

Hours later, during a fundraiser, Biden said, “I

hope like hell they have a vaccine,” but questioned Trump’s timeline and ability to distribute it. “We’ve got to make sure they’re not just hyping... that they actually finish all the testing,” Biden said, adding that Trump’s public questioning of scientists and medical experts will reduce confidence in a vaccine whenever it comes online.

“People don’t trust a damn thing he says,” Biden quipped. Further, the former vice president questioned how well the administration is planning for distribution, given the White House’s rocky distribution of Covid-19 tests and protective equipment.

“Discovery of a safe vaccine isn’t enough,” Biden said. “The road from approval to injection is a long road.” — *AP*

BIDEN SLAMS DON
FOR MOCKING
U.S. MARINES

Washington, Sept. 5: Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden declared President Donald Trump “unfit” for the presidency on Friday, delivering an impassioned reaction to a report that Trump — who never served in uniform — allegedly mocked American war dead.

The allegations, sourced anonymously, describe multiple offensive comments by the president toward fallen and captured US service members, including calling World War I dead at an American military cemetery in France “losers” and “suckers” in 2018. — *AP*

Russia defiant
over Navalny

Moscow, Sept. 5: Russia defied threats of new sanctions over the poisoning of Alexei Navalny, as US President Donald Trump said on Friday he had not yet seen proof that the Kremlin critic was a victim of Moscow’s Novichok programme.

A new crisis in ties between Russia and the West broke out after Germany said this week there was “unequivocal evidence” that President Vladimir Putin’s top foe had been poisoned using the Soviet-era nerve agent.

Western leaders and many Russians have expressed horror at what Navalny’s allies say is the first known use of chemical weapons against a high-profile opposition leader on Russian soil.

The 44-year-old lawyer fell ill on a Siberian flight last month and was evacuated to Germany for treatment. He has been in an artificially induced coma for the past two weeks.

The Kremlin again denied responsibility for the attack on Friday.

● **WESTERN LEADERS** and many Russians have expressed horror at what Navalny’s allies say is the first known use of chemical weapons against a high-profile opposition leader on Russian soil.

“A whole number of theories including poisoning were considered from the very first days,” Putin’s spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters. “According to our doctors, this theory has not been proved.”

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Germany’s justice ministry had so far failed to share any findings with Moscow’s prosecutors, adding that Russian authorities had “nothing to hide”.

Trump said on Friday he had yet to see proof from Berlin that Navalny had been poisoned.

“I don’t know exactly what happened. I think it’s tragic, it’s terrible, it shouldn’t happen,” the president told a press conference. — *AFP*

Violent typhoon
heads for Japan

Kagoshima, Sept. 5: An extremely powerful typhoon was barreling towards southwestern Japan on Saturday as authorities issued evacuation advisories to thousands of residents, warning of unprecedented violent winds, heavy rain and high waves.

Haishen churned near Okinawa in southern Japan on Saturday afternoon and was expected to approach Kyushu late Sunday or early Monday, the meteorological agency said.

The storm is expected to affect Japan from late Saturday, with winds of up to 290 kilometres per hour (180 miles per hour), making it a “violent” storm — the top level on the country’s classification scale.

“There is a danger of record winds, heavy rain, high waves and storm surge,” Yoshihisa Nak-

amoto, an agency officer, told a news conference, calling for an early evacuation and “maximum caution.” Yuhei Takamura, a government official, said, “A disaster will occur. There is almost no doubt about it.” About 4,600 people in Tatumizu, Kagoshima, were urged to evacuate swiftly, while authorities in other areas of Kyushu were warning their residents to prepare.

Satoshi Sugimoto, another agency official, said the latest typhoon could generate high waves as powerful as a tsunami.

“It’s going to be the last chance to flee” when the agency formally issues the nation’s highest storm warning, Sugimoto told reporters.

Authorities on Minami-daitojima instructed about 1,300 residents to evacuate as the storm was expected to hit the remote island, east of Okinawa. — *AFP*

NEW | LIFE

Pak court had approved the relocation of an elephant to Cambodia after a campaign

‘World’s loneliest elephant’ okayed to quit zoo

Islamabad, Sept. 5: An elephant who has become a cause celebre for animal rights activists around the world will be allowed to leave his Pakistani zoo and transferred to better conditions, the animal welfare group helping with the case said on Saturday.

Dubbed the ‘world’s loneliest elephant’ by his supporters, Kaavan has languished at a zoo in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad for more than 35 years.

Martin Bauer, a spokesman for Four Paws, said the elephant has been finally given medical approval to travel, most likely to Cambodia, where he will find companionship and better conditions.

The overweight elephant Kaavan underwent a full medical examination at the zoo on Friday, said Bauer.

In May, Pakistan’s High Court ordered the Marghazar Zoo closed because of its abysmal conditions

blamed on systemic negligence.

Rescuing Kaavan from the zoo’s dire conditions attracted the attention of animal activists around the world, and celebrities including US singer Cher, who lobbied for his relocation.

“Unfortunately, the rescue comes too late for two lions that died during an attempted transfer at the end of July after local animal handlers set a fire in their enclosure to

force them into their transport crates,” Bauer said in a statement released on Saturday.

He said Four Paws was invited by the Islamabad Wildlife Management Board to safely transfer the remaining animals in the zoo.

Kaavan has until now been forced to live a solitary life in a small enclosure.

Friday’s medical examination showed the elephant was over-

weight, even as he showed signs of malnutrition. His nails were cracked and overgrown apparently from years of living in an improper enclosure with flooring that damaged his feet.

“Following the checks, which confirmed Kaavan is strong enough, steps will now be taken to finalize his relocation to an animal sanctuary potentially in Cambodia,” Bauer said. — *AP*



A team of veterinarians from the international animal welfare organization Four Paws briefs media prior to examining an elephant Kaavan at Maragzar Zoo in Islamabad, Pakistan.

— *AP*

SU♦DO♦KU

	2		6	9	1		
				5			4
4		3			2	5	
6		7		3			5
	1		7		6		8
2			8		7		6
		9	5		6		7
8				7			
		2	9		1		5

WHAT
TO DO

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Every puzzle has only one correct solution.

YESTERDAY’S ANSWER

4	6	7	9	3	5	1	2	8
9	2	1	7	8	6	5	4	3
8	3	5	2	1	4	7	9	6
1	4	9	5	6	3	8	7	2
3	5	6	8	2	7	4	1	9
2	7	8	4	9	1	6	3	5
6	8	2	1	7	9	3	5	4
7	9	4	3	5	8	2	6	1
5	1	3	6	4	2	9	8	7

SU♦DO♦KU 2

9			7		4			2
	5			6			1	
	8						4	
5			8		3			1
6		8				3		5
3			6		7			8
	9						5	
	6			1			9	
1			2		6			4

Did you think
SU♦DO♦KU

on the left was easy? Try this. Check the solution tomorrow. Tips available at www.sudoku-xts.com DC AGE SU DO KU FORUM: Discuss the SU DO KU puzzles printed and contribute mini teasers of your own at www.sudex-el.com/forum

YESTERDAY’S ANSWER

3	9	5	2	8	7	6	1	4
1	4	7	6	9	3	8	5	2
8	2	6	4	5	1	3	9	7
6	3	4	8	7	9	1	2	5
2	1	8	3	4	5	9	7	6
7	5	9	1	2	6	4	3	8
4	8	3	5	1	2	7	6	9
9	6	2	7	3	8	5	4	1
5	7	1	9	6	4	2	8	3

SHORT TAKES

Midfielder Havertz joins Chelsea

London: Chelsea took its spending spree on new players to more than \$250 million ahead of the new season by signing highly rated Germany attacking midfielder Kai Havertz from Bayer Leverkusen. The 21-year-old Havertz, who is one of the great young hopes of German football, moved for a fee that reportedly will rise to a maximum of 70 million pounds (\$92 million) and will form part of Chelsea's new-look attack that also includes fellow new signings Timo Werner and Hakim Ziyech. With England left back Ben Chilwell and Brazil center back Thiago Silva also joining the London club in the offseason, manager Frank Lampard is going into the 2020-21 campaign starting September 12 having changed half his team. Havertz is arguably the most exciting transfer of them all. A left-footed player who is at home as an attacking midfielder or as a central forward, Havertz was Leverkusen's top scorer last season with 17 goals in all competitions. — *AFP*

Ceballos, Brahim go out on loan

London: Arsenal signed Spain midfielder Dani Ceballos on a second straight season-long loan from Real Madrid. Ceballos played 37 games for Arsenal last season and gradually became an integral part of Mikel Arteta's team, helping it win the FA Cup. "I love Dani's passion and commitment and he's a highly skilful player. We're all delighted to welcome him back," Arteta said on Friday. Meanwhile, Brahim Diaz has been sent out on loan by Real Madrid to AC Milan for next season, the Spanish champions announced on Friday. "Real Madrid and AC Milan have reached an agreement over the loan of Brahim Diaz for next season in a deal that runs until 30 June 2021," Madrid said in a statement. Media reports in Spain suggest that Italian league side Milan do not have an option to buy the 21-year-old midfielder next summer. Spaniard Brahim signed for Real in January last year but has only been used sparingly since. — *AFP*

Hyderabad FC bring in Konsham

Hyderabad: Hyderabad FC on Saturday said they have completed the signing of 23-year-old defender Konsham Chinglensana Singh for the next two seasons of the Indian Super League. Known in the footballing circuit as Sana, the Manipuri defender joins in after a three-year spell with FC Goa and has penned a two-year deal till the end of the 2021-22 season. "The club is building a new squad with a lot of ambition in an exciting project," said Sana. "I want to be part of this team and play my role in helping the club establish its legacy in Indian football by trying to win trophies and bringing back glory days to the city of Hyderabad," he added. Sana became the third new Indian signing at Hyderabad FC this season after Subrata Paul and Halicharan Narzary. Hyderabad FC co-owner Varun Tripathi said, "Sana is one of the most exciting and talented young defenders in the country." — *PTI*

CHENNAIYIN RETAIN GOALIE KARANJIT

Chennai: Two-time ISL champions Chennaiyin FC on Saturday announced goalkeeper Karanjit Singh's contract extension by one year till the end of the 2020-21 season of Indian Super League which begins in November. The 34-year old is set for his sixth consecutive campaign for the team, having won the ISL twice with the club in 2015 and 2017-18. Having donned the dual role of goalie-cum-goal-keeping coach last season, Karanjit will continue in a playing capacity in the upcoming campaign as new head coach Csaba Laszlo is expected to bring in a goalkeeping coach as part of his backroom staff. "Chennaiyin FC is my home. I didn't have to think twice before taking the decision to continue with my adopted family and represent our loving fans and the city of Chennai for one more season," the veteran custodian, who has made 62 appearances for the club, said. — *PTI*

DEKO DEALS DRAW

Edin ends Italy's 11-game record winning streak

Rome, Sept. 5: Edin Dzeko's goal helped Bosnia-Herzegovina hold Italy to a 1-1 draw in the UEFA Nations League, ending the Azzurri's record winning streak at 11. Dzeko, who plays his club football with Roma and is therefore no stranger to Italy, put Bosnia ahead near the hour mark from close range on Friday. Stefano Sensi equalised 11 minutes later with a shot that was deflected in off a defender. Also in League 'A', the Netherlands beat visiting Poland as Steven Bergwijn tapped in for his first international goal — giving the Oranje 30 goals in their last 10 competitive home games. In Florence, both sides hit the post early in the second half. First, Bosnia's Armin Hodic got past goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma before striking the woodwork from the sharpest of angles. Then Italy's Lorenzo Insigne found the goal-frame with a header. Two minutes later, Dzeko had time following a corner to let the ball bounce before scoring from six meters (yards). It was Dzeko's 59th goal in 108 matches for Bosnia — both records. Sensi's equaliser came following a cross from Lorenzo Insigne, then Bosnia goalkeeper Ibrahimovic saved a potential winner from Alessandro Florenzi. The last match Italy failed to win was a scoreless draw with Portugal in November 2018 — also in the Nations League. With international football returning for the first time since the outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic, all 54 games that are scheduled to take place across the continent over six days are taking place with strict hygiene measures, including the exclusion of fans.

COVID-19 HIT CZECH BEAT SLOVAKIA

In League 'B', a Czech staff member tested positive for the Coronavirus the second such case in the team's squad this week before a 3-1 win in Slovakia. After the match, the Czech federation said the team's home match against Scotland on Monday in Olomouc would not take place due to additional Coronavirus concerns. The Czech plans ahead of the Slovakia match had been affected after West Ham midfielder Tomas Soucek and RB Leipzig striker Patrik Schick were told to self-isolate after coming into contact with the staff member who tested positive. In League 'C', Kazakhstan won 2-0 in Lithuania and Albania won by the same score in Belarus. — *AP*



Memphis Depay (left) of the Netherlands vies for the ball with Poland's goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny during their UEFA Nations League match in the Johan Cruyff Arena in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, on Friday. Holland won the match 1-0. — *AFP*

Forced to stay at Barca: Messi

Madrid, Sept. 5: Lionel Messi said he will stay at Barcelona but only because the club's president Josep Maria Bartomeu broke his word to let him leave. Messi's stinging attack on Bartomeu and the club means his future still remains in doubt. Even if he is not allowed to go this summer, 33-year-old Messi can negotiate with other teams from January 1 and leave for free when his contract expires in July. Bartomeu could yet respond with his resignation, having previously indicated he would step down if Messi publicly said he was the problem and agreed to stay. "It has been a long time since there has been a project or anything at all," Messi said in an explosive interview with *Goal*. "I believed that the club needed more young people, new people and I thought my time in Barcelona was over, feeling very sorry because I always said that I wanted to finish my career here. "It was a very difficult year, I suffered a lot in training, in games and in the dressing room. Everything became very difficult for me and there came a time when I considered looking for new goals, new horizons. "It wasn't because of the Champions League result against Bayern, I had been thinking about it for a long time. I told the pres-



Barcelona's Lionel Messi in this file photo.

ident and the president always said that at the end of the season I could decide if I wanted to go or if I wanted to stay and in the end he did not end up keeping his word," he added. Barcelona ended the season without a trophy for the first time since 2008. Messi said his decision to leave left his wife and three sons distraught. "When I told my family that I could go it was a drama. They all started crying," he said. Despite his unhappiness at having to stay, the Argentinian insists he will give his all for the team next season under

new coach Ronald Koeman, who is trying to overhaul the squad. "I am going to continue at Barca and my attitude is not going to change, no matter how much I have wanted to go," Messi said. "I will do my best. I always want to win. I am competitive and I don't like to lose ever," he added. "There is a new coach and a new idea. That's good, but then we have to see how the team responds and if it means we can compete or not. What I can say is that I'm staying and I'm going to give my best," the Argentine said. — *AFP*

LIONEL YET TO REPORT FOR TRAINING

Barcelona, Sept. 5: Lionel Messi was a no-show at training with Barcelona on Saturday morning despite his decision to stay at the club under duress. The Argentine superstar announced on Friday he had been forced to remain at Barcelona, claiming after club president Josep Maria Bartomeu broke his word to let him leave. It came after 10 days of tension since his bombshell fax telling Barcelona he wanted out. But while other players including Jordi Alba and Philippe Coutinho arrived for the session, Messi failed to appear at the Joan Gamper training complex for the early morning session. Last Sunday Messi deliberately skipped the mandatory coronavirus test for Barcelona players. According to local media, Messi must first pass the Covid-19 test with a return to the squad possibly on Monday. He could then figure in new coach Ronald Koeman's first fixture, a friendly against third division Nastic on September 12. — *AFP*

MONZA | GRAND PRIX

Hamilton breaks record for pole

Monza (Italy), Sept. 5: Lewis Hamilton claimed pole position with a new lap record at Monza for Sunday's Italian Grand Prix with Valtteri Bottas taking second in Saturday qualifying for another Mercedes front row lock-out.

McLaren's Carlos Sainz posted the third fastest time and is joined on the second row by Sergio Perez for Racing Point.

The session proved another humbling experience for out-of-sorts Ferrari with Sebastian Vettel going out in Q1 and Charles Leclerc, who won at the circuit last year, in Q2.

This means no Ferrari inside the top-10 at Monza for the first time since 1984. The championship leader and six-time champion clocked a fastest lap in one minute and 18.887 seconds to beat the Finn by 0.069 seconds. In pure speed, Hamilton's track lap record performance produced an unconfirmed fastest lap in F1 history.

It was Hamilton's record-increasing 94th career pole position, his sixth in seven races and his seventh in Italy.

"It wasn't too bad," said

● **With a fastest lap of one minute and 18.887 seconds, Lewis Hamilton sealed his career's 68th pole position at Monza for the Italian Grand Prix, beating his Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas.**

Hamilton, with a hint of a smile.

"It was a fantastic performance from the team — in terms of timing, when they put us out on the track," said Hamilton, referring to Mercedes' avoidance of the jostling mass of cars seeking a slipstreaming tow from each other.

"It was not the easiest as you saw how close it is between us all so it demanded a really clean lap — and I felt I got that, so I am very happy," he added.

Max Verstappen was fifth for Red Bull, Lando Norris qualified sixth in the second McLaren ahead of Daniel Ricciardo of Renault.

— *AFP*



Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton (left) Britain walks past his teammate Valtteri Bottas after clocking the fastest time during the qualifying session for the Italian Formula One Grand Prix, at the Monza racetrack in Monza, Italy, on Saturday. — *AP*

SHUBHANKAR MISSES CUT IN SPANISH EVENT

Valderrama (Spain), Sept. 5: Indian golfer Shubhankar Sharma missed yet another cut as his lean patch continued into the Estrella Damm N.A. Andalucia Masters on a testing day at the Real Club here. Sharma, who was 10-over on the first day, added 5-over 76 on the second to miss the cut. This was his fifth missed cut in six straight starts since he returned to action after the Coronavirus-forced break. After a disappointing five bogeys, a double and a triple on the first day, he had three bogeys and a double on the second day. John Catlin will take a two-stroke lead into the weekend after starting the day in a four-way tie for the lead. He is now the only player to have carded two sub-par as the field again faced strong winds. — *PTI*

TVESA IS TIED FOR SIXTH AT SWISS GOLF

Flumserberg (Switzerland), Sept. 5: Indian golfer Tvesa Malik overcame a double bogey start to put herself in contention for her first professional title outside the country with a second straight 69 that took her to tied sixth spot at the Flumserberg Ladies Open here.

She is currently at six-under. Tvesa, who had hat-trick of birdies from second to fourth, is three shots behind the overnight leader, Stina Resen (65-70), who was nine-under for 36 holes. The 54-hole event ends on Saturday.

The other India in the event, Diksha Dagar (73-74) also made the cut and was placed tied 38. The cut fell at seven-over with 53 players making the final round. Diksha had an incredible round of two-over 74 which included one double bogey on Par-3 third, which she had birdied on the first day. — *PTI*

Hot Butler serves Bucks roast

Miami, Sept. 5: Jimmy Butler powered the Miami Heat to a 115-100 victory over Milwaukee on Friday that pushed the top-seeded Bucks to the brink of elimination in the NBA playoffs.

Butler scored 17 of his 30 points in the Heat's scorching fourth quarter, Miami out-scoring the Bucks 40-13 in the final period to seize a 3-0 lead in the best-of-seven Eastern Conference semifinal series.

It was the most lopsided final period in a playoff game since the NBA introduced the shot clock in 1954.

Western Conference top seeds the Los Angeles Lakers were also beaten Friday in the NBA's coronavirus quarantine bubble in Orlando, Florida, falling 112-97 to the Houston Rockets in game one of their conference semi-final series.

A near triple-double of 21 points, 16 rebounds and nine assists from the Bucks' reigning NBA Most Valuable Player Giannis Antetokounmpo was simply not enough as

DENVER COACH WANTS FAMILY IN NBA BUBBLE

Lake Buena Vista (US), Sept. 5: Denver coach Michael Malone spent his 60th day inside the NBA bubble at Walt Disney World, and he'd like two things known. One, he misses his family. Two, he doesn't understand why they aren't with him now.

Malone offering perhaps the most impassioned plea of any coach who has spoken on the topic railed against the policy that says coaches are unable to bring family or a guest into the bubble.

Some players were reunited in the bubble with family members or guests for the first time this week, and referees had the option of bringing one guest into the bubble.

"I say, 'Shame on you, NBA.' This is crazy. I miss my family, and I think I speak for me, I speak for my coaches and probably all the coaches down here 60 days and not having access and not being granted the privilege to," Malone said on Friday. — *AP*

the Heat remained unbeaten in the playoffs.

The Bucks, who took the best record in the league into the post-season, must now try to do what no NBA team has done before in 139 prior attempts: Rally from an 0-3 deficit to win a best-of-seven playoff series.

Antetokounmpo said the Bucks could be the first if

they take it not game-by-game but "play-by-play, possession, by possession.

Bam Adebayo added 20 points and 16 rebounds for the Heat. Jae Crowder scored 17 points, Goran Dragic added 15 and Tyler Herro chipped in 13 off the bench.

The Bucks got a scare midway through the first period when

Antetokounmpo rolled his right ankle on a drive.

Despite a few winces he insisted it didn't trouble him, and Milwaukee looked like clawing back a victory when they led 57-50 at halftime and 87-75 going into the fourth quarter.

HARDEN FUELS ROCKETS PAST LAKERS

James Harden's 36 points fueled the Rockets, whose size disadvantage against the Lakers proved no handicap.

Russell Westbrook added 24 points, nine rebounds and six assists and Houston harried the Los Angeles team led by superstar LeBron James and Anthony Davis — who sat out the waning minutes with the game out of hand.

Harden bounced back from a poor shooting night in the Rockets' game-seven win over Oklahoma City on Wednesday.

The Lakers hadn't played since polishing off the Portland Trail Blazers six days earlier.

— *AFP*



SHORT TAKES

Roads named after Anju & Nair

Kottayam, Kerala: "Olympian Anju Bobby George and legendary volleyball player P. Bharathan Nair have been honoured by their hometown in Kerala by having roads named after them," officials said here on Saturday.

"The Changanassery Municipal Council on Friday passed a resolution to name the roads after the sports greats from their town in Kottayam district," officials said.

Sajan Francis, Changanassery Municipal Chairman said it is the duty of the municipality to recognise the achievements of two legendary sports personalities who were born and brought up in Changanassery. Anju said she was grateful to the people of her hometown and leaders of Changanassery Municipal Council for acknowledging her achievements. — *PTI*

Mustafizur denied NOC to play for IPL

Dhaka: The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has refused to give No-Objection Certificate (NOC) to pacer Mustafizur Rahman after he was approached by IPL franchises, in view of the national side's scheduled tour of Sri Lanka beginning next month, according to reports. "The left-arm pacer was approached by Mumbai Indians and Kolkata Knight Riders for the upcoming season in the UAE, both of whom had one of their pacers withdrawn from the squad," a report in *Cricbuzz.com* said.

However, BCB refused the NOC since Bangladesh are set to tour Sri Lanka for a three-match Test series scheduled to start on October 24, at a time when IPL will be played in the UAE. — *PTI*

Farah, Hassan break records

Brussels: With no fans to cheer them on, four-time Olympic champion Mo Farah and Sifan Hassan both broke the rarely run one-hour world record at the Memorial Van Damme meeting.

In an empty stadium because of the Coronavirus crisis, Hassan first improved the previous women's mark of 18.517 kilometers set by Ethiopia's Dire Tune at the Ostrava Golden Spike meeting in 2008 by covering 18.930 kilometers.

In the final race of the meeting, which is part of the Diamond League series, Farah broke Haile Gebrselassie's 13-year-old record of 21,285 kilometres on his return to the track. Farah established a new world mark of 21.330 km. — *AP*

TT World Cups to be held in China

Hong Kong: Table tennis' men's and women's World Cups and tour finals will be held in China in November, the Table Tennis world body announced, in a rare instance of international sport in the country since the Coronavirus pandemic. The men's and women's World Cups are shifting from Dusseldorf and Bangkok despite a mandate from Chinese authorities banning most international competition to prevent the deadly Coronavirus outbreaks.

No venues were announced for the World Cups in mid-November which are pencilled in for December 10-13. — *AFP*

Live on TV

CRICKET

England vs Australia 2nd T20 from 6.30 pm on Sony Six, HD

FORMULA ONE

Italian Grand Prix
Main Race from 6.35 pm on Star Sports Select 2, HD

CARIBBEAN PREMIER LEAGUE

St Kitts & Nevis Patriots vs Trinbago Knight Riders from 7.30 pm; St Lucia Zouks vs Jamaica Tallawahs from 11.30 pm on Star Sports 1, 2, HD

US OPEN TENNIS

Matches from 8.30 pm on Star Sports Select 1, 2, HD

UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE

Wales vs Bulgaria from 6.30 pm; Ireland vs Finland from 9.30 pm; Spain vs Ukraine from 12.15 am (Monday) on Sony Ten 2, HD; Switzerland vs Germany from 12.15 am (Monday) on Sony Ten 1, HD

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No.1 cruises into 16
Top seed Djokovic makes US Open pre-quarters

New York, Sept. 5: Novak Djokovic sailed into the Last 16 of the US Open on Friday as off-court intrigue forced the delay of a men's singles match over issues linked to coronavirus. Djokovic outclassed Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff 6-3, 6-3, 6-1 in a routine victory for the world number one, who is chasing an 18th Grand Slam singles title.

Far from routine was a last-minute attempt by New York health officials to prevent France's Adrian Mannarino from playing his last-32 encounter against Alexander Zverev.

The intervention led to a back and forth between tournament organisers and the state government and resulted in the match, which Zverev won in four sets, starting over three hours late.

"It was a weird situation for me," said Mannarino, one of 11 players put under enhanced safety protocols earlier this week after compatriot Benoit Paire was withdrawn from the tournament after testing Covid-19 positive.

"I was just laying on the sofa still trying to be focused just in case I would go on court," he said, following Zverev's 6-7 (4/7), 6-4, 6-2, 6-2 victory. Zverev

will now play unseeded Spaniard Alejandro Davidovich Fokina in the last 16 while Djokovic will play Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta for a place in the quarter-finals.

TSITSIPAS STUNNED

In the men's draw, Croatia's 27th seed Borna Coric staged a remarkable Houdini act to stun fourth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas in a 4hr 36min late-night thriller.

Coric appeared to be heading for certain defeat after Tsitsipas, leading by two sets to one, opened up a 5-1 lead in the fourth.

But Coric rallied superbly, saving six match points and fighting back to take the set 7-5 to force a decider. Tsitsipas went a break up once more in the fifth but couldn't press home the advantage as Coric forced a tie break before clinching a 6-7 (2/7), 6-4, 4-6, 7-5, 7-6 (7/4) win.

Twelfth seed Denis Shapovalov recovered from 5-2 down in the fourth set to pip American number 19 seed Taylor Fritz 3-6, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (7/5), 6-2.

Fritz, 22 was within two points of victory before the 21-year-old Shapovalov completed a remarkable comeback. — *AFP*

THE RESULTS

Men's singles third round (number in brackets denotes seeding): Novak Djokovic (SRB x1) bt Jan-Lennard Struff (GER x28) 6-3, 6-3, 6-1; Denis Shapovalov (CAN x12) bt Taylor Fritz (USA x19) 3-6, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (7/5), 6-2; Pablo Carreno-Busta (ESP x20) bt Ricardas Berankis (LTU) 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; David Goffin (BEL x7) bt Filip Krajinovic (SRB x26) 6-1, 7-6 (7/5), 6-4; Jordan Thompson (AUS) bt Mikhail Kukushkin (KAZ) 7-5, 6-4, 6-1; Alejandro Davidovich (ESP) bt Cameron Norrie (GBR) 7-6 (7/2), 4-6, 6-2, 6-1; Alexander Zverev (GER x5) bt Adrian Mannarino (FRA x32) 6-7 (4/7), 6-4, 6-2, 6-2; Borna Coric (CRO x27) bt Stefanos Tsitsipas (GRE x4) 6-7 (2/7), 6-4, 4-6, 7-5, 7-6

(7/4); Corentin Moutet (FRA) bt Daniel Evans (GBR x23) 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7/5), 7-6 (7/1)

Women's singles third round: Jennifer Brady (USA x28) bt Caroline Garcia (FRA) 6-3, 6-3; Angelique Kerber (GER x17) bt Ann Li (USA) 6-3, 6-4; Yulia Putintseva (KAZ x23) bt Aliaksandra Sasnovich (BLR) 3-6, 6-2, 6-1; Petra Martic (CRO x8) bt Varvara Gracheva (RUS) 6-3, 6-3; Naomi Osaka (JPN x4) bt Marta Kostyuk (UKR) 6-3, 6-7 (4/7), 6-2; Anett Kontaveit (EST x14) bt Magda Linette (POL x24) 6-3, 6-2; Shelby Rogers (USA) bt Madison Brengle (USA) 6-2, 6-4; Petra Kvitova (CZE x6) bt Jessica Pegula (USA) 6-4, 6-3.



Germany's Alexander Zverev returns to Adrian Mannarino of France in their US Open third round match in New York on Friday. Zverev won 6-7 (4/7), 6-4, 6-2, 6-2. — *AP*

Osaka stretched in 3rd Rd

New York, Sept. 5: Two-time Grand Slam winner Naomi Osaka battled into the Last 16 of the US Open on Friday, requiring three sets to defeat 18-year-old Ukrainian Marta Kostyuk.

Osaka, the 2018 US Open champion, needed 2hr 33min to beat the unseeded world number 137 6-3, 6-7 (4/7), 6-2 inside an empty Arthur Ashe Stadium.

"She was very good. I'm kind of scared of how she is going to be in the future," Osaka said of her vanquished opponent.

Frustration got the better of the Japanese fourth seed in the second set. After recovering from 5-3 to force a tie-break she threw her racquet when Kostyuk tied the match 1-



Japan's Naomi Osaka wears a protective facemask with the name Ahmaud Arbery stenciled on it after winning her third round match against Marta Kostyuk of the Ukraine on Friday. — *AFP*

1. "I just felt like I had so many points that I didn't capitalise on. I think when I went up, I became

a bit passive and then she came in because she has no fear," Osaka said. But Osaka's experience

came through in the deciding set as she held her serve and broke Kostyuk twice for a place in the quarter-finals.

Osaka walked onto the court wearing a facemask emblazoned with the name of Ahmaud Arbery, an unarmed black man who was shot dead in broad daylight while jogging in the town of Brunswick, in southern Georgia, in February.

Elsewhere, sixth seed Petra Kvitova breezed past American Jessica Pegula 6-4, 6-3 to set up a last-16 encounter with Shelby Rogers, also of the United States.

Eighth seed Petra Martic of Croatia swept aside unseeded Russian Varvara Gracheva 6-3, 6-3. — *AFP*

BOPANNA IN MEN'S DOUBLES SECOND ROUND

New York, Sept. 5: Experienced Indian Rohan Bopanna and his Canadian partner Denis Shapovalov advanced to the second round of the US Open men's doubles event here. Bopanna and Shapovalov hardly broke a sweat to get past their American rivals Ernesto Escobedo and Noah Rubin 6-2, 6-4 in their tournament opener that lasted one hour and 22 minutes on Friday.

The Indo-Canadian pair will next play sixth seeds Kevin Krawietz and Andreas Mies.

Bopanna is the lone surviving Indian in the tournament after the exits of Sumit Nagal and Divij Sharan. — *PTI*

INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

Watson relieved after 1st session

Dubai, Sept. 5: Former Australian all-rounder Shane Watson on Saturday said it won't take long to regain touch despite a bit of rustiness as he hit the nets with his Chennai Super Kings teammates ahead of the 13th IPL beginning on September 19.

Rocked by a series of Covid-19 cases, Chennai Super Kings led by Mahendra Singh Dhoni could finally start training on Friday after clearing a third round of testing for the virus.

"How exciting it was to be back with all of my @ChennaiIPLmates for our first training session!!! It was so much fun. There was a little rust that will not take long to go," Watson wrote on his twitter handle.

The 39-year-old, who was bought by CSK ahead of the 2018 IPL, has scored 953 runs in 32 matches for the franchise in the last two years, besides capturing six wickets.

His highest score was 117 not out in the finals of the 2018 edition against SunRisers Hyderabad.

Watson is an important member of the CSK team which has been left depleted after the pull out of senior players Suresh Raina



Shane Watson

● **The 39-year-old, who was bought by CSK ahead of the 2018 IPL, has scored 953 runs in 32 matches for the franchise in the last two years, besides capturing six wickets.**

and Harbhajan Singh. CSK was forced to delay its training plan after completing the six-day quarantine after Deepak Chahar and Ruturaj Gaikwad tested positive last week along with 11 members of the the contingent.

The 13th IPL is scheduled to be held from September 19 to November 10 across three venues — Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Sharjah. — *PTI*

EMPTY STADIUMS CAN BE CHALLENGING: RCB COACH

Dubai, Sept. 5: Royal Challengers Bangalore head coach Simon Katich feels that while younger guys will feel lesser pressure in empty stadiums but it could well be a challenge for the senior cricketers as they gear up for Indian Premier League.

The 13th edition of the IPL, which begins on September 19, will be held in a bio-secure environment behind closed doors — at least the first phase — in wake of the raging Covid-19 pandemic.

"Personally, I think some of the younger players actually enjoy the fact that there will be a little less pressure with less people at the ground, creating all that noise and distraction," Katich said during RCB's YouTube show '*Bold Diaries*'.

"I think it will be more of a challenge for some of the older guys that are used to the buzz of the crowd and getting their adrenaline going. But I think there will still be a lot of motivation within our squad to go out and perform well," he added.

Experienced mental conditioning coach Paddy Upton had earlier said that cricketers like Virat Kohli who depend on external stimulation and are used to 'pressure' are "really going to struggle" in front of empty stadium but self-motivated players will "do a hell lot better" in this year's IPL.

RCB completed their mandatory quarantine upon their arrival in Dubai and had started their training camps last week. — *PTI*

England pip Aussies in final-ball thriller

Southampton, Sept. 5: Tom Curran held his nerve as England beat Australia by two runs in a final-ball thriller to win the first Twenty20 international at Southampton on Friday and go 1-0 up in a three-match series.

Australia, in their first competitive match for nearly six months because of the coronavirus, were making light work of a target of 163 while captain Aaron Finch (46) and David Warner (58) were putting on 98 for the first wicket.

But star batsman Steve Smith's exit for just 18 sparked a collapse that saw

FIRST | TWENTY20

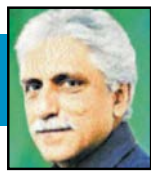
Australia lose four wickets for nine runs in 14 balls.

A target of 15 off six balls became five off one.

But Marcus Stoinis, having hit a six off Curran earlier in the over, couldn't hit another six needed for a win or the four that would have tied the scores and taken the match into a Super Over. — *AFP*

Brief scores: England 162/7 in 20 overs (D. Malan 66, J. Buttler 44; Richardson 2/13, Maxwell 2/14) bt Australia 160/6 in 20 overs (D. Warner 58, A. Finch 46; Archer 2/33, Rashid 2/29).

Are sudden IPL pullouts signs of an emergency?

Ayaz Memon
Over The Top

The past few days haven't been kind to Chennai Super Kings. Two players (from 13 in all, including support staff and management) tested positive for Covid with barely a fortnight for the IPL to start, raising doubts whether the franchise would be ready to play in the opening tie on September as scheduled.

While the two players, Deepak Chahar and Rituraj Gaikwad, have tested negative since, CSK suffered other serious setbacks. Within days of each

other, senior pros Suresh Raina and Harbhajan Singh have pulled out of the tournament for 'personal reasons'.

This leaves the three-times champions beleaguered, however CSK is not the only team to feel distress. Mumbai Indians veteran Lasith Malinga, the highest wicket-taker in IPL history, and still a force to reckon with despite his advancing years, has also pulled out for personal reasons.

Malinga's decision has not invited as much media scrutiny as Raina's and

Harbhajan's because he is not an Indian star. But overall, the timing of these pull-outs as well as lack of clarity in why they have done so has left diehard IPL followers flummoxed.

The timing of the pull-outs by these players, as well as lack of clarity in why they have done so has fueled speculation and set tongues wagging about whether there is more than meets the eye about their belated withdrawal.

There is nothing that can, or should, prevent a player to withdraw from an event or tournament. As free agents, players have the absolute right to ply their skills — or not — within contractual limits.

'Personal reasons' is ordinarily a valid enough ground for a player's absence, but extremely

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wide in its ambit to find complete acceptance in these trying times where the usual yardsticks don't apply and it is incumbent on players, teams, federations to be upfront on such matters to prevent misapprehensions.

The issue with Raina, Harbhajan and Malinga is not of the kind that Leo Messi, who wants to leave Barcelona Football Club

after spending a lifetime with them because of a tussle with the team's management. But it could be argued Messi also wants to leave Barca for 'personal reasons'.

That Messi has since backtracked because of a complex contract that could cost him dear is another story altogether. Seen in a wider perspective, how much better that the real issue in the Messi story was in the public domain. This prevented misplaced conjecture and needless conspiracy theories.

Transparency is all the more important in these extraordinary times, when the fear of Covid is all pervasive. It redounds to the credit of Rafael Nadal that he took a decision early and candidly on not participating in this year's US

Open because of the coronavirus factor.

In the case of the three cricketers under discussion, their sudden pull-out from the IPL bespoke of an emergency. But in the present circumstances, it is imperative to know what this urgency was about? Is it family related, Covid-linked or some other?

I don't know much about Malinga's recent situation, but Raina has had a terror assault on his family which may have brought him back. (Though why he went to UAE then remains unanswered). Harbhajan's mother has been ailing for a while, and he may have stretched the waiting period to take a final call.

These are strong reasons for not playing a tournament. And if so, why can't these be publicly disclosed? In Raina's case, the

flip-flop statements by the owner of CSK N. Srinivasan and the player himself added more grist to the rumour mill.

Within the IPL fraternity itself, lack of clarity leads to rise in conjecture and paranoia. I've received class from people associated with different franchises, wanting to know what's happening.

The issue goes beyond salacious gossip about dissonance within teams. Given the present environment, these people may be more worried about Covid infection, and whether they are being told the truth about the scale of problem, and how safe it is to be playing the tournament.

That's a dangerous route, which is why full disclosure in such matters is imperative.