

IN BRIEF

Teen stabbed to death for refusing to bring snacks

New Delhi: A 14-year-old boy was allegedly stabbed to death in southeast Delhi's Kalindi Kunj area after he refused to get snacks for a man who was consuming alcohol, police said on Thursday. The incident took place on Wednesday and the accused has been arrested, they said. According to deputy commissioner of police (southeast) R.P. Meena, they received information on Wednesday that a 14-year-old boy was being taken to the Apollo Hospital. The hospital informed police that the injured boy had been declared brought dead, the DCP said. The body has been preserved in the mortuary of the hospital. There were multiple injuries on the body of the deceased, police said. During enquiry, the statement of an eye witness was recorded who said the deceased was assaulted by a person named Shadab, a resident of Madanpur Khadar Extension, Meena said, following which a case under section 302 (murder) was registered at Kalindi Kunj police station. Shadab, who is in his early 20, has been arrested, police said. The boy was going for some work when he was stopped by the accused, who was consuming alcohol. The accused asked the boy to get snacks for him. When the boy refused, he assaulted the boy and later stabbed him, a senior police officer said. Further investigation is underway, police added.

HC asks MCDs to pay arrears to staff

New Delhi: Unpaid MCD employees and retired staff have faced the real and maximum pinch during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Delhi High Court Thursday said, asking the civic bodies to make an attempt to release the arrears as festival of Diwali is round the corner. The high court lamented over the sad situation where pensioners have not been paid pensions by the North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NrDMC) after April and it was not acceptable that the retired staff are completely left high and dry as others are at least paid something. "At the end of the day, the real pinch is being faced by the employees and their family members who have limited resources available to them and have stretched it to the maximum over the entire period of pandemic with hardly any nest egg left to tide over," a bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Subramonium Prasad said. The bench was hearing various petitions relating to non-payment of salaries of employees and pensioners of different cadres by the three municipal corporations of Delhi — North, East and South. The list of petitioners includes doctors, nurses, paramedic staff, safai karamcharis, teachers, class-IV employees and retired staff like teachers and engineers.

— PTI

ESG latest weight loss surgery: Experts

New Delhi: Health experts claimed that Endoscopic Sleeve Gastroplasty (ESG), the latest weight loss surgery, is less invasive and not very complex. Prof Galvao Neto, a Brazilian expert who is a pioneer in ESG procedure in the world, said that the ESG is the latest type of weight loss surgery and it results in significant loss of weight as the surgery limits the food intake. Prof Galvao Neto, a board-certified specialist in digestive surgery, gastroenterology and digestive endoscopy with a vast understanding of bariatric endoscopy, was in the national capital to participate in workshop on the latest procedure of Bariatric Surgery - Endoscopic Sleeve Gastroplasty (ESG) organized by HCMCT Manipal hospitals. Addressing the workshop, head and consultant, department of minimal access surgery, Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery, Manipal Hospital, Dr Randeep Wadhawan said that ESG surgeries are less invasive and not very complex and patients can leave hospital on the same day after the completion of the ESG procedure. "ESG surgeries are proving very effective for those who wish to lose weight. It is a hormonal surgery which includes a variety of procedures to perform on people who are suffering from obesity," Dr Wadhawan added.

■ Noida, Ghaziabad, Gurgaon and Faridabad also choke on toxic air

Delhi's air quality dips to worst since December '19

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

Delhi's air quality on Thursday dropped to its worst level since December last year with farm fires accounting for 42 per cent of its pollution, the maximum in this season so far, according to data from Central government agencies.

Experts said unfavourable meteorological conditions — calm winds and low temperatures — and smoke from farm fires in neighbouring states led to a dense layer of haze on Wednesday night as the air quality index entered the 'severe' zone.

The haze thinned on Thursday with higher wind speed helping in dispersion of pollutants. However, the 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) was recorded at 450, the highest since December 30 last year, when it was 446.

All the 36 monitoring stations in Delhi recorded air quality in the 'severe' category. The neighbouring cities of Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Greater Noida, Gurgaon, and Noida also recorded 'severe' air pollution.

The ministry of earth sciences' air quality monitor, Safar, said the farm fire count in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and neighbouring areas increased significantly and stood at 4,135 on Wednesday, the highest in this season so far.

Safar said the boundary layer wind direction was northwesterly, favourable for the transport of pollutants from farm fires. It predicted conducive conditions for dispersion of pollutants over the next two days.

70 city BJP netas to work for sanitation during Diwali

SHASHI BHUSHAN
NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

In an attempt to make the city neat and clean during the upcoming Diwali and Chhath, the ruling BJP has roped in 70 senior leaders to coordinate with party ruled municipal corporations to ensure proper sanitation. Each of these senior Delhi BJP leaders entrusted one assembly constituency to coordinate with area councilors and ensure proper sanitation during the festivities.

Delhi BJP vice president and convener of special sanitation drive, Virender Sachdeva told this newspaper that party ruled civic bodies will ensure a neat and clean city during festivities of Diwali, Chhath and beyond. "Our senior leaders in coordination of our party municipal councilors hit the street and ensure proper and regular cleanings of streets and markets. These senior experienced leaders will guide our councilors and suggest measures to improve cleanliness. Most of these leaders have vast experience of organization and some of them have also held key positions in civic bodies in the past. Their valuable inputs help our councilors to improve sanitation services in the city," Mr Sachdeva added.

These leaders include current and former office bearers, former MLA and councilors, and senior leaders. Names of some leaders, who entrusted with the responsibility includes Delhi BJP general secretaries Kuljeet Chahal (Karawal Nagar), Harsh Malhotra (Viswahas Nagar), vice presidents Mr Shaddeva (Krishna Nagar), Ashok Goel Devraha (Rajendra Nagar) and Sunil Yadav (Patel Nagar), former MLA Subhash Sachdeva (Rajouri Garden), former mayor and general secretary Ravinder Gupta (Sadar Bazar), spokespersons Pravin Shankar Kapoor (Kasturba Nagar), Harish Khurana (Tilak Nagar) and Aditya Jha (Ghonda).



An EMDC tanker sprinkle water on road to control air pollution in New Delhi on Thursday.

— G.N JHA

Health experts said that during the Covid-19 pandemic, air pollution has become a serious health concern for about two crore residents of the national capital. Intake of every 22 micrograms per cubic metre of polluted air is equivalent to smoking a cigarette.

visibility to merely 600 metres at the Safdarjung Observatory, smudging landmarks from view. On top of that, a large number of people across Delhi-NCR burst firecrackers to mark the Karwa Chauth festival.

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According to a doctor at the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, intake of every 22 micrograms per cubic metre of polluted air is equivalent to smoking a cigarette.

Ajit Jain, the nodal officer for Covid-19 at Rajiv Gandhi Super Specialty Hospital, said air pollution is turning the pandemic

catastrophic. "The wind speed slowed down suddenly in the Delhi-NCR region. The temperatures have dipped alarmingly over the last few days," V.K. Soni, the head of IMD's environment monitoring research centre, said. The haze was primarily smoke from stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana. Unfavourable meteorological conditions trapped it in Delhi-NCR, he said.

The air quality worsened in Noida, Greater Noida, Ghaziabad, Gurgaon, and Faridabad in the National Capital Region (NCR) on Thursday to reach "severe" levels, which affects healthy people and seriously impacts those with existing diseases, according to a government agency.

5 arrested for cheating 27K persons thru fake jobs site

New Delhi, Nov. 5: The Delhi police has arrested five members of a gang which allegedly duped over 27,000 job seekers of ₹1.09 crore by promising them jobs through a fake website, the police said on Thursday.

The police claimed to have recovered ₹49 lakh of the duped amount and also seized seven mobile phones and three laptops from them.

The gang was headed by Vishnu Sharma and Ramdhari, who operated from Hisar in Haryana.

Since August 2020, the duo along with their associates cheated over 27,000 job seekers by promising them government jobs, the police said.

Ramdhari, who was one of the key conspirators, has been arrested while raids are being conducted to nab Vishnu Sharma who is still at large, it said.

Apart from Ramdhari, the police has arrested other gang members—Sunder Singh (50), Sandeep (32), and Joginder Singh (35)—from various parts of Haryana

and Delhi.

According to the police, the fraudsters created a fake website of a fictitious entity — Swastha Avam Jan Kalyan Sansthan (SAJKS) under the ministry of health and family welfare — and offered over 13,000 fake jobs through their bogus website. The police claimed that the fake website was so convincing that even the mainstream media reported the news of 13,000 job openings, which led more people falling prey to the fraud.

— PTI



Battery Rickshaw Sangh activists protest over challan levied by Delhi Police at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Thursday.

— PTI

HC seeks replies of 12 DU colleges over non-payment of staff salaries

New Delhi, Nov. 5: The Delhi High Court on Thursday sought response of 12 Delhi University colleges, which are fully funded by the AAP government, on a plea challenging the decision asking the institutes to pay outstanding salaries of staffers from the Students Society Fund (SSF).

Justice Jyoti Singh issued notices to the 12 colleges and asked them to respond to the petition filed by Delhi University Students Union (DUSU), which has challenged the October 16 order of Delhi government asking the institutes to pay the salaries of over 1,500 staff — both teaching and non-teaching — from the students fund.

The court listed the mat-

ter for further hearing on November 9, when another similar petition is to be heard. "Let some money come to these colleges and teachers also," the judge orally observed.

The high court had on October 23 issued notice to the Directorate of Higher Education, Delhi University and Delhi government and sought their replies on the petition by DUSU.

It had earlier observed that in the blame game between the AAP government and DU colleges, teachers cannot be allowed to suffer. It had also observed that DU is the guardian of all its colleges and there is some responsibility of the varsity to put things in order and solve the issues.

— PTI

City records 6,715 cases, 66 deaths; Covid tally over 4.1L

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

Delhi recorded as many as 6,715 fresh coronavirus cases on Thursday. With this, the tally of Covid-19 cases in the state has reached over 4.1 lakh, while the death toll mounted to 6,769. Sixty-six fatalities have been recorded in the last 24 hours, according to the latest bulletin issued by the Delhi health department.

The case tally stands at 4,16,653 in the national capital, including 3,71,155 patients who have either been discharged, or have migrated or recovered. The number of active cases is 38,729.

Meanwhile Delhi health minister Satyender Jain on Thursday said that Delhi is doing much better than all the metro cities in India and is on the 17th position in Covid death per million population. Adding to this statement Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said that the Delhi government has taken several steps to ensure that fatality rate does not increase despite an increase in the number of Covid cases.

To analyse any data regarding Covid-19 Delhi should be compared with the metro cities of India. By comparing with the other metro cities of India it should be noted that Delhi is at the 17th position in terms of Covid death with 338 cases whereas Mumbai tops the list of death per million due to Covid-19 as it has around 831 cases followed by Chennai which has 518 cases, Kolkata which has 503 cases, Bangalore urban which has 408 cases.

Taking to the Twitter, Mr Jain said: "Delhi is on 17th position in covid death per million population. Far behind all metro cities." Adding to this statement Delhi CM

Home ministry rules out further lockdown in Delhi

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

Even while the Union home ministry has ruled out any possibility of further lockdown in Delhi as of now amid rising number of corona cases, it insisted that stringent health protocols will be followed by launching a more aggressive tracing and isolation. However, sources claim that in case situation deteriorates further access control in affected zones would be put in place.

"If this trend continues in Delhi we will have to ensure that the affected people in worst areas remain isolated either

within their homes or at the treatment centres. Similarly, some movement in these areas will have to be restricted so that the disease does not spread to other areas," a senior home ministry official said.

The home ministry is also closely monitoring the situation in Delhi hospitals to ensure that there is no shortage of ICU beds in case the corona cases continue to rise sharply. "There are some reports that there is a shortage of ICU beds for corona patients in private hospitals. So we are working closely with the Delhi government that no such situation arises," the official added.

Arvind Kejriwal tweeted, "Del govt has taken several steps to ensure that fatality rate does not increase despite increase in no of cases."

From the day one of the Covid-19 pandemic the Delhi government has worked around the clock to keep a check on the fatality rate. Delhi government has also stringently implemented the lockdown rules in Delhi and with time aggressively increased the testing capacity in the capital.

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Ban spraying disinfectants on humans: SC to Centre

PARMOD KUMAR
NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Centre to issue directions either banning or regulating the use of disinfection tunnels involving spraying or fumigation of chemical or organic disinfectant on the human bodies.

A bench comprising Justice Ashok Bhushan, Justice R. Subhash Reddy and Justice M.R. Shah in their judgment on Thursday said that the Centre could issue directions in exercise of its powers under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

Giving a month's time to comply with its directions, the court said that the ministry of science and technology, ministry of agriculture and farmers welfare, Karnataka, Punjab and Delhi governments too will take steps to protect the humans from exposure to artificial ultraviolet rays.

"Looking at the health concerns of the people in general, the aforesaid exercise be completed by the ministry of science and technology within one month", the top court said in its directions.

The court said this while disposing of a public interest petition by one Gursimran Singh Narula seeking direction to forthwith ban on spraying of all kinds of disinfectants on human beings which is being done supposedly to protect them from Covid.

Hindu Rao nurses call off strike after release of salary

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

The North Delhi Municipal Corporation on Thursday claimed that nurses and para-medical staff of its five major hospital and 17 polyclinics called off their strike and agreed to resume their duties after they were informed that their salary upto September were released.

North Delhi mayor Jai Prakash, former Union minister Vijay Goel and former mayor Avtar Singh met the striking nurses and para-medical staff of five major hospitals and 17 polyclinics of North Corporation and informed them that their salary upto September, 2020, has been released.

They appealed to them to resume duties in the public interest as patients are facing tough times due to their strike. The nurses and para-medical staff on his appeal called off their strike and agreed to resume their duties.

"We are making efforts

to release the salary of all the hospital and health institutions' staff in a single attempt. It is only the municipal administration that knows how the funds are arranged to release salary of the employees in the wake of non-cooperation and exploitation of Corporation by the Delhi government out of the party politics only," said Mr Prakash.

Mr Prakash further said that it is evident from the past, until there was AAP government, corporations never faced such a situation of financial crunch where releasing of salary of employees on time has become a challenge.

Amrapali Group directors held in 14 old cases

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Delhi police has arrested directors and other officials of Amrapali Group in 14 old cases for allegedly cheating home buyers.

The police said that the group had promised to complete the construction of the residential apartments and hand over the possession within a period of 36 months, but failed to give possession even after a period of more than 10 years.

The accused have been identified as Anil Kumar Sharma (56), a resident of Maharani Bagh, and Shiv Priya (46), a resident of Noida, both directors of the company.

According to joint com-

missioner of police (EOW) Dr O.P. Mishra, a complaint was received where in the complainant alleged that Amrapali Centurian Park Private Limited, a company of Amrapali Group, had launched its project "Amrapali Centurian Park, Terrace Homes" at Plot No. GH-05, Sector Techzone-IV, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

"The complainant alleged that the directors of Amrapali Group had launched the above said project and had given a wide publicity and advertisement in leading newspapers. It was claimed that the project is approved by the competent authority. He had booked two flats in 2017 and made full payment of the flats and the builder-buyer agreement

The group had promised to complete the construction of residential apartments and hand over the possession within 36 months, but failed to give possession even after 10 years, police said

was executed. During enquiry, 168 more complaints with similar allegations were received against the alleged persons," said the Joint CP.

"In another complaint received by the EOW, the complainant had alleged that M/s Amrapali Smart City Developers Pvt. Ltd launched its project "Amrapali Golf Homes" at Greater Noida.

"It was further represented that the possession

of the project would be handed over to its buyers in 2014. Accordingly, the complainant executed the builder-buyer agreement and paid ₹17, 47,169 to the alleged company but no possession was given till date," said the Joint CP.

"An FIR was registered and the accused are presently in judicial custody in other cases. After obtaining permission from court, the EOW team interrogated and formally arrested accused Anil Kumar Sharma and Shiv Priya," said the Joint CP.

"The EOW has arrested the directors and other officials of the Amrapali Group in 14 more cases. Chargesheets have already been filed in 15 cases. Further investigation is in progress," the joint CP added.

SHORT TAKES

Odisha youth carries mom's body for 2km

Bhubaneswar: A youth carried his mother's body on his shoulders for two kilometres as the government-run hearse van 'Mahaprayan' allegedly was not provided to them, reports said on Thursday. According to reports, Laxmi Gauda, a resident of Badagada village under Sorada block in Odisha's Ganjam district was on Wednesday admitted at the local community health centre (CHC) after she complained of respiratory problems. She died during treatment at the hospital. Laxmi's family members alleged that when they asked the hospital authorities to provide a van to carry the body, the authorities did not pay any heed to their request, stating that no such facility was available at the hospital. The family members alleged that the hospital authorities even forced them to shift the body at the earliest. Though they tried to hire an auto-rickshaw and even a tricycle, no one agreed to carry the body suspecting that she might have died of Covid, they said.

5-yr-old gets stuck inside bore well

Bhopal: The rescue operation launched by the army to save a 5-year-old boy, who fell into a 200-ft borewell in the village of Sitapur in Niwaddi district in Madhya Pradesh, continued for the second day on Thursday. Condition of Pralhad Kushwaha, who has remained stuck inside the bore well since last 33 hours was stated to be stable. "He is being monitored by a CCTV installed inside the bore well. His condition was stated to be stable. Hopefully, he will be rescued within 4-5 hours", a senior district police officer camping at the spot told this newspaper unwillingly to be quoted. A doctor team was camping at the spot to provide first aid to the boy when he would be brought out of the bore well. "A tunnel is being dug to reach the boy trapped inside the borewell. The rescue team personnel are just 6 feet away from the boy", the officer said.

J&K: 6 more deaths, 524 new Covid cases

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday recorded 524 fresh Covid cases and six fatalities linked to the disease in the last 24 hours, bringing the infection count to 97,224 and the death toll to 1,517, officials said. Of the fresh cases, 185 were from the Jammu division and 339 from Kashmir valley, they said. The officials said Srinagar district recorded a maximum of 155 new cases, followed by 99 in Jammu. The Union Territory has 5,802 active cases of the novel coronavirus while 89,905 patients have recovered so far, they said. — PTI

BJD suspends former party MLA Jiban Dash

Bhubaneswar: Two days after polling in the by-election to Balasore assembly segment, ruling Biju Janata Dal president Naveen Patnaik on Thursday suspended former party MLA Jiban Pradi Dash from the regional outfit. Dash has been suspended from the party on charge of anti-party activities during the by-polls which were held on November 3 following the demise of the sitting MLA Madan Mohan Dutta. Jiban Pradi Dash, Ex-MLA, Balasore is hereby suspended from Biju Janata Dal for his anti-party activities with immediate effect, a statement issued by the BJD General Secretary (Media Affairs), Manas Ranjan Mangaraj said. — PTI

Meghalaya: 5 bills tabled in Assembly

Shillong: Five bills including the Meghalaya Right to Public Services were tabled on the first day of the five-day Autumn session of the Meghalaya Assembly on Thursday. Meghalaya chief minister Conrad K. Sangma tabled the Meghalaya Right to Public Services in the House. "The government intends to enact a law to provide for time bound delivery of the services to the citizens including liability of the government servant in case of default to deliver service to citizens," Mr Sangma said. The bill said every citizen shall have the right to obtain citizen related services in Meghalaya and every designated officer shall be duty bound to deliver services within the time period as notified. — PTI



UP Congress workers detained by police during a demonstration against the government over the alleged atrocities faced by women in Lucknow on Thursday. — PTI

Military joint services drill concludes at Nicobar Islands

PAWAN BALI
NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

India's first and only geographical operational tri-service theater command Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) carried out joint services exercise code-named 'Bull Strike' from November 3 to 5 at the remotely located Teressa Island, in the strategically important Nicobar group of Islands. The exercise "Bull Strike" involved all the three services components of Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) including elements of Indian Army's Parachute Brigade, Marcos and Special Forces. In a theatre command, all the assets of the army, air force and navy in a particular theatre of war are placed under the command of a three-star officer.

The "Bull Strike" exercise was carried out to validate and rehearse operational plans and contingencies in a realistic tactical setting under the overall command and control of Andaman and Nicobar Command.

The major training activities comprised combat free fall and para drop from strategic lift aircraft C-130 by a company of Para Commandos from the mainland, action by MARCOS of Indian Navy and Special Heli Borne Operations (SHBO) by Indian Army Ghatka Platoons.

Naravane conferred honorary rank of Nepal Army general

PAWAN BALI
NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

Indian Army Chief General M.M. Naravane was on Thursday conferred the honorary rank of general of the Nepal Army by President of Nepal Bidya Devi Bhandari.

He was honoured at a special ceremony at the President's official residence 'Shital Niwas' in Kathmandu. He was also presented a sword and scroll during the function. The ceremony was attended by the Prime Minister of Nepal K.P. Sharma Oli, Indian Ambassador Vinay M. Kwatra and other senior officials of both the countries.

The practice follows a



Gen. M.M. Naravane

seven-decade-old tradition of conferring Army Chiefs of each other's country with the honorary title.

Commander-in-Chief General K.M. Cariappa was the first Indian Army Chief to be decorated with the title in 1950. In January last year, Chief of Nepali Army, General Purna Chandra Thapa, was also made the honorary general of the Indian Army by President Ram Nath Kovind at a ceremony in New Delhi. General

Naravane arrived in Kathmandu on Wednesday for a three-day official visit to Nepal, on the invitation of General Purna Chandra Thapa, Chief of Army Staff, Nepali Army.

This is the first high profile visit by an Indian official to Nepal since the diplomatic relations came under strain in May after India inaugurated an 80-km-long strategically crucial road connecting the Lipulekh pass with Dharchula in Uttarakhand on May 8. Nepal has protested the inauguration of the road claiming that it passed through its territory. Nepal also came out with a new map showing Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura as its territories.

Odisha farmers hold rally against Centre's farm laws

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO
BHUBANESWAR, NOV. 5

Thousands of farmers under the banner of Naba Nirman Krushak Sangathan (NNKS), on Thursday, marched to Bhubaneswar as a mark of protest to the three farm laws passed by the Narendra Modi government in the last monsoon session of the Parliament.

The outfit leaders alleged that all democratic norms were flouted to get the three farm reform bills passed in a hurry.

Before the farmers entered the heart of the city, the police swung into action and stopped the march at Hitech Hospital Square and took into cus-



Farmers during protest over farm laws passed by the Parliament on Thursday.

tody several leaders, including Akshay Kumar, Seshadev Nanda, and Manohar Ali.

Protesting the arrest of their leaders, the farmers sat on a dharna on the National Highway 6. A

scuffle broke out between the outfit members and the police, sources said.

"We are opposing the Central farm laws, including the stoppage of the Minimum Support Price system. Due to such

laws, the prices of essential commodities have risen sharply. We also demand amendment of the relief code to provide a compensation of ₹15,000 per acre to farmers for crop loss," said Mr Kumar.

In September, the The National Democratic Alliance government had passed three farm bills—the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020; the Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020; and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020.

While the Centre held that the farm laws would

bring prosperity to the farmers, the peasant leaders, however, said these would ruin the small and marginal cultivators as they would find it difficult to compete with big farmers.

In October, a six-hour long marathon meeting was held at Kurukshetra, which was attended by leaders of the farming community from Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Odisha, and Delhi.

The farmers' outfits from eight states had then decided to intensify their stir against Centre's controversial Agri Acts by launching a nationwide 'Chakka Jam' protest on November 3.

■ Biden nears finish line, Trump says he will move SC

US polls: India keeping close watch on results

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI
NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

With the Democrats seemingly on the verge of victory in the US Presidential polls, India is in wait and watch mode but may soon have to deal with a new order and changed priorities in Washington such as an increased focus on human rights although bilateral ties are expected to remain strong.

Till Thursday evening, Democrat Presidential candidate Joe Biden was within striking distance of getting the required number of votes in the electoral college to become President although the Donald Trump appeared set to move the US Supreme Court after alleging electoral discrepancies.

Both Mr Biden and Democrat vice-presidential candidate Kamala Harris — who is part of Indian origin — are known

■ TILL THURSDAY evening, Joe Biden was within striking distance of getting the required number of votes in the electoral college to become President although the Donald Trump appeared set to move the Supreme Court after alleging electoral discrepancies

to be strong advocates of human rights and a new US Administration could therefore turn the heat on India on the Kashmir issue and the CAA.

On the other hand, a new administration under Mr Biden is also expected to be more lenient on the H1B visa issue, which is expected to be good news for India and Indian techies seeking to work in the US. But it is widely believed that even a new Democrat Administration in the US — that will not assume office at least until the third or fourth week of

January — will see the big picture in bilateral ties in the context of the changed global realities and consolidate it.

Also, it should be noted that Mr Biden was US Vice-President for eight long years when the Barack Obama Administration strengthened ties with India including under the current Narendra Modi Government from 2014-16. It may be recalled that PM Modi had developed a close understanding and rapport with Mr Trump in the past four years which had culminated in the US President's much-publicised visit to India this year and the Indo-US 2+2 Dialogue at the foreign and defence ministerial level just days ago in New Delhi when the Trump Administration had declared that it "stands with India" in the face of China's aggressive military posture.

India slams Pak for transferring Kartarpur Sahib's management to non-Sikh body

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

India on Thursday strongly condemned Pakistan's reported move to "transfer the management and maintenance" of the historic Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara from the Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (PSGPC) — a body run by Pakistan's minority Sikh Community — to the administrative control of the Evacuee Trust Property Board, a non-Sikh body.

Asking Islamabad to reverse its "arbitrary" decision, New Delhi said, "Pakistan's move runs against the spirit of the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor as also the religious sentiments of the Sikh community at large", adding that it exposes the "tall claims of preserving and protecting the rights and welfare of the religious minority communities".

The Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara is the site where the first Guru of the Sikhs and founder of Sikhism Guru Nanak had spent the

last years of his life in the 16th century AD.

In a statement, the MEA said, "This unilateral decision by Pakistan is highly condemnable and runs against the spirit of the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor as also the religious sentiments of the Sikh community at large. We have received representations from the Sikh community expressing grave concern at this decision by Pakistan targeting the rights of the minority Sikh community in Pakistan."

Congress MLA's college in MP demolished for encroachment

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY
BHOPAL, NOV. 5

A day after Congress MLA Arif Masood was booked for 'hurting religious sentiments' by giving 'provocative' speech during an anti-France demonstration here last week, an anti-encroachment squad of Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Thursday demolished a portion of a building of a college run by him.

The BMC team bulldozed part of the college built on the catchment of 'Badi Talab', a huge water body that surrounds Bhopal city, amid heavy deployment of police forces.

"Anti-encroachment drive was launched in Khanuagan area to free the encroached lands", Bhopal range deputy inspector-general of police Irshad Wali said.

Mr Masood, however, regretted the demolition of the college building by the local administration saying that he got a stay order from the court in the case.

"Part of the building of my college was demolished despite a stay order given by the court in the case", he said and added that education of students studying in the college would be hit following the incident.

Congress veteran and former chief minister Digvijay Singh slammed the move by the local administration to demolish the college building, describing it 'partisan'.



Gorkha Janamukti Morcha supremo Bimal Gurung during a press conference in Kolkata on Thursday. — PRITAM BANDYOPADHYAY

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS

It is notified for the information of all concerned that Railways have decided to Cancel following Passengers Special Trains in view of the Gurjar Agitation in Rajasthan :-

| CANCELLATION OF SPECIAL TRAINS | |
|---|---|
| Train No. & Name | Date of cancellation (from the Originating Station) |
| 02059 Kota - Hazrat Nizamuddin Jan Shatabdi Special Train | 06.11.2020 |
| 02060 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Kota Jan Shatabdi Special Train | 06.11.2020 |
| 02402 Kota - Dehradun Nanda Devi Express Special Train | 06.11.2020 |

Note: For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website: www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

Security Helpline No. 182

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For and on behalf of President of India, Sr. Divisional Security Commissioner (Cord)/ RPF/Northern Railway, Delhi Division, New Delhi invites 'e-Tender' in prescribed tender form for the following work:-

| Sl. No. | Name of the work with its location | Approx. Cost of work (Tender value) (Rs) | Rs. |
|--|---|--|-----------|
| 1 | Comprehensive AMC of 27 Nos. Baggage Scanner Machine installed over Delhi Division under Security plan for One year. | | |
| 2 | Office Address | Sr.DSC (Co-ordination)/RPF, P.K. Road, New Delhi. | |
| 3 | Approx. Cost of work (Tender value) (Rs) | Rs. 57,95,000/- With GST | |
| 4 | E.M.D. (in Rs) | Rs. 1,15,900/- | |
| 5 | Online bid submission start date | As per NIT | |
| 6 | Online bid submission End date & time | 19.11.2020 at 15.00 hrs | |
| 7 | Bid opening date online | 19.11.2020 at 15.00 hrs | |
| 8 | Website particulars where complete details of tender document can be seen | www.ireps.gov.in | |
| 9 | Cost of tender document Fee in respect of e-tendering should be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. | | |
| T. Notice No. Sr.DSC(Cord)-RPF-BSM/CAMC/DL/2019(20-21) | | | |
| Date: 05.11.2020 | | | 2448/2020 |

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SHORT TAKES

PAK ARMY SHELLS
3 SECTORS ALONG
LOC, INDIA REPLIES

Jammu: A temple and some houses were hit by bullets as Pakistani troops violated ceasefire by resorting to unprovoked firing and mortar shelling in different sectors along the International Border (IB) and Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua and Poonch districts, officials said on Sunday. The Army and Border Security Force retaliated befittingly and there was no report of loss of life on the Indian side, the officials said. The temple of lord Shiva and houses suffered minor damages in the firing in Manyari, Chandwa and Londi villages of Hiranagar sector along the IB in Kathua district, the officials said. A couple of bovines sustained bullet injuries and were treated by veterinary doctors, they added. The firing from across the border started around 9.45 pm on Saturday and the exchange of fire between the two sides continued till 5.25 am on Sunday, causing panic among the border residents who were forced to spend the night in underground bunkers, the officials said. A defence spokesperson said Pakistani Army also resorted to mortar shelling and small arms firing in Shahpur, Kirni and Qasba sectors along the LoC in Poonch district. At about 7:30 am, Pakistan initiated unprovoked ceasefire violations by firing with small arms and shelling with mortars along LoC in Shahpur, Kirni, and Qasba sectors. Indian Army is retaliating befittingly, the spokesperson said. — PTI

AP scam: SC issues
notice on 'SIT probe'

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday issued notice on Andhra Pradesh government's plea challenging the state high court's order staying the constitution of cabinet subcommittee and the setting up of a Special Investigation Team to probe the alleged irregularities committed by the previous Telugu Desam Party government in Amravati land and other scams. Heading a bench also comprising Justice R. Subhash Reddy and Justice M.R. Shah, Justice Ashok Bhushan also issued notice on the State government plea for stay of the operation of the High Court's order putting on hold government orders constituting Cabinet subcommittee and setting up the SIT. Issuing notice, the court said that the "government can always appoint a commission to inquire so that remedial steps can be taken".

My last election,
says Nitish, on
eve of last phase

■ Continued from Page 1
BJP leader Prem Ranjan Patel said.

Political analysts are of the view that Mr Kumar may have said this to attract voters in his party's favour as he has been facing massive anti-incumbency in the polls. Recently, while addressing a rally in Madhubani, onions were thrown at him while he was speaking about employment and development.

"Even if he has announced that this is going to be his last election, we know that he will continue to work for the welfare of people. His statement cannot be seen as his retirement, he has a long way to go," JD(U) spokesperson Ajay Alok said.

"All is well that ends well," the chief minister said on Thursday while addressing a gathering of his party's supporters during his public meeting.

Mr Modi, in his open letter, reminded people of Bihar that one of the biggest achievements of the NDA government has been to lead the state from "abhaav" to "aakash" (deficiency to aspiration) and asserted that people have voted for development, good intentions, good governance and aatmanirbhar and not on caste lines, or for corruption and opportunists.

"I am very much convinced about the development of Bihar. I need Nitish Ji's government in Bihar so that the all round development does not get stalled or gets astray. I am confident that the strength of a double engine will take Bihar to new heights of development in this decade," the PM wrote in his letter.

LJP will form govt with
BJP in Bihar: Chirag

NAYEAR AZAD
PATNA, NOV. 5

On the last day of campaigning for the Bihar Assembly elections, LJP chief Chirag Paswan launched a stinging attack on Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar saying that he will be seen bowing in front of RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav on November 10 after the declaration of election results. Terming Bihar CM Nitish Kumar as "a weak and corrupt CM", he said that, "Neither are you able to persuade the centre for works nor you have any solution to resolve the problems of Bihar. You always give excuses and leave everything for the central government and others. When everything is to be seen by others, then why are you sticking to your chair and sitting in 1, Aney Marg".

Continuing his attack on Bihar CM, Mr Paswan

ASSEMBLY POLLS



Chirag Paswan

said, "You are trying to return as Chief Minister again only for power. Earlier you used to criticize the Prime Minister but now you are seen sharing dais with him and praising him and never hesitate to bow before him. This shows your desperation for power. After the elections, you will bow in front of Tejashwi Yadav and will go to Ranchi to meet and take blessings of Lalu Yadav for power".

Chirag Paswan has been aggressively campaigning

against Nitish Kumar and highlighting failures of the state government in the state. On many occasions during his election campaign, he held Nitish Kumar led government responsible for the coronavirus crisis in the state, raised the issue of unemployment and development.

On Thursday before winding up his campaign for the third and the final phase of assembly elections, Chirag Paswan talked to reporters in Patna where he exuded confidence that "after the polls, it's the BJP and LJP which will form a government as our party is winning on most of the seats in Bihar".

In a tweet later he said that "youths who are going to vote for the first time have been asking Nitish Kumar about the development during the last five years but he has not been able to say anything".

CBI eye on
J&K officials
for role in fake
gun-licences

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

Role of at least four senior officials of the Home department of Jammu and Kashmir government is now under the scanner of the CBI in connection with the agency's ongoing investigation into the alleged gun-licensing racket in the state. The agency is already probing the role of several IAS officials posted in J&K for their alleged involvement in issuing arms licenses fraudulently in the state.

The CBI has already booked two former district magistrates of Kupwara — Rajiv Ranjan, an IAS, and Irit Hussain Rafiqui — as part of its investigation into the scam. "CBI sleuths have collected sufficient evidences against senior public servants in connection with the scam. Apart from the then district-level officials, senior home department officials (2012-16) of the J&K government are equally responsible. The agency will soon call four senior officials of the home department for interrogation," sources said.

The alleged gun-licensing racket came to light after the Rajasthan Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) in 2017 unearthed one of the biggest gun licenses scam operating from J&K. Key districts involved in the racket included Kupwara, Ganderbal, Leh, Rajouri, Ramban, Reasi and Udhampur. The agency had registered two FIRs in this regard with the consent of the J&K government.

The CBI is probing lakhs of arms licenses that were issued in the last one decade from various districts of the militancy-hit region, sources said.

■ Continued from Page 1

It was unclear when a national winner would be determined after a long, bitter campaign dominated by the coronavirus and its effects on Americans and the national economy. But even as Mr Biden's prospects improved, the US on Wednesday set another record for daily confirmed coronavirus cases as several states posted all-time highs. The pandemic has killed more than 233,000 people in the United States.

Mr Trump spent much of Wednesday and Thursday in the White House residence, huddling with advisers and fuming at media coverage showing his Democratic rival picking up battlegrounds. Mr Trump used his Twitter feed to falsely claim victory in several key states and amplify unsubstantiated conspiracy theories about Democratic gains as absentee and early votes were tabulated. Aides did not



Renowned sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik created a sand sculpture on the US election at Puri beach on Thursday. — PTI

China temporarily suspends
entry of Indian nationals

Measure taken as caution to prevent Covid spread

SRIDHAR
KUMARASWAMI
NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

Beijing on Thursday announced a temporary suspension of travel to China from India of all foreign nationals holding Chinese visas or residence permits due to the Covid pandemic but said the "entry into China with visas issued after November 3, 2020 is not affected". It also said "foreigners holding Chinese diplomatic, service, courtesy and C visas are not affected". Reacting to the developments on Thursday evening, Indian Government sources said "the measure is not India specific and that similar measures have been announced in respect of several other countries" and that New Delhi "is in touch with the Chinese side to facilitate essential travel of Indians to and from China".

Indian government sources also said "the reason behind the measure seems to be Chinese concerns on possible rise in Covid-19 cases globally,

INDIAN GOVERNMENT sources pointed out that while 'action taken (by China) is to temporarily suspend existing visas only, future visa applications (for travel from India to China) have not been banned (as) visas issued after November 3 is valid for travel to China'.

aggravated due to the advent of autumn and winter in the Northern Hemisphere". Indian government sources pointed out that while "action taken (by China) is to temporarily suspend existing visas only, future visa applications (for travel from India to China) have not been banned (as) visas issued after November 3 is valid for travel to China".

On Thursday, the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi announced, "Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it's hereby announced that China has decided to temporarily suspend the entry into China by foreign nationals in India holding valid Chinese visas or resi-

dence permits. The Chinese Embassy/Consulates in India will not stamp the Health Declaration Forms for the holders of the above-mentioned categories of visa or residence permits."

The Chinese embassy further said, "Foreigners holding Chinese diplomatic, service, courtesy and C visas are not affected. Foreigners with emergency or humanitarian needs to visit China, can submit visa application to the Chinese Embassy/Consulates in India. The entry into China with visas issued after November 3rd, 2020 is not affected. The suspension is a temporary measure that China has to adopt to deal with the current pandemic. China will make further adjustment and announcement in accordance with the ongoing pandemic situation in a timely manner."

Reacting to developments, Indian government sources said, "The announcement made by the Chinese embassy indicates that the measure is a temporary action."

Only half of students allowed to attend campus classes
Varsities can open with conditions

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

The central government has allowed universities, closed since March due to Covid-19 pandemic, to reopen for physical classes but with conditions. These include reducing the size of class, having a six-day week schedule to accommodate more students, having isolation centres in universities and allowing only one student in each hostel room.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) on Thursday issued guidelines for the universities and colleges for reopening their campuses. These guidelines have been vetted by the ministry of health and family welfare and approved by the ministry of home affairs and the ministry of education. The UGC said the guidelines may be adopted by the institutions as per local conditions and directives of the government authorities.

India-bound passengers may
undergo Covid test at airports

New Delhi, Nov. 5: The government on Thursday issued a set of revised guidelines for international arrivals, under which travellers seeking exemption from institutional quarantine will need to submit a negative RT-PCR report 72 hours before undertaking the journey.

The India-bound passengers can also undergo Covid-19 testing at the airports where the provisions are available.

According to the guidelines issued by the health ministry, passengers would need to give an undertaking on the portal or to the ministry of

civil aviation through concerned airlines before they are allowed to undertake the journey, stating that they would abide by the decision of the appropriate government authority to undergo facility/ home quarantine/self-monitoring of their health for 14 days, or as warranted.

"Only for compelling reasons/ cases of human distress such as pregnancy, death in family, serious illness and parent(s) with children of the age of 10 years or below, home quarantine may be permitted for 14 days," it said.

— PTI

The universities and colleges outside the containment zones can be opened in a graded manner after consultations with con-

cerned State/UT Governments and subject to adherence to the guidelines/SOP for safety and health protocol. Social dis-

Covid sees resurgence due
to 'festivities and pollution'

50, 210 fresh cases reported across India in 24 hours

VINEETA PANDEY
NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

Blame it on pollution, festive gatherings or outings due to lockdown fatigue — the daily cases of novel coronavirus have started rising in India again after a brief period of decline. Kerala (6, 820) and Delhi (6, 715) are the biggest contributors in daily cases. In fact, the Delhi high court on Thursday, while expressing displeasure over the rising Covid-19 cases in the national capital, said the city could soon become "corona capital of the country". Union health minister Dr Harsh Vardhan on Thursday held a meeting with Delhi LG, health minister and senior officials to discuss ways to contain the spread of the virus in the city.

In the last 24 hours, 50, 210 fresh cases were reported across India out of which over 20,000 were from Kerala, Delhi and Maharashtra. India's

Covid-19 tally climbed to 83.64 lakh. So far 1.24 lakh deaths have occurred due to the virus out of which 704 took place in the last 24 hours. India's Covid-19 case fatality rate has reached 1.49 per cent while the national Recovery Rate has improved to 92.20 per cent. There are 5.28 lakh active cases in the country.

Containing fresh cases comes with a new challenge after the Supreme Court asked the Centre to ban within a month the use of disinfectant tunnels, fumigation, sprays, and ultraviolet rays on human beings as part of tackling Covid-19.

As a precautionary measure to prevent lung infections and breathing related problems that may aggravate among Covid patients or lead to higher infections, Delhi chief minister on Thursday announced to ban firecrackers this Diwali.

This comes days after Rajasthan, Haryana,

Odisha and West Bengal announced a ban on firecrackers.

During the meeting, Dr Harsh Vardhan expressed concern over the surge in number of cases and the high positivity rate in the North, Central, North East, East, North West and South East districts of Delhi. The minister pressed for mandatory testing of all Rapid Antigen Tests negative persons if they develop ILI/SARI symptoms afterwards adding that false negative results might give way to complacency among the Covid-19 infected.

While health ministry claimed that Delhi has a "highly skewed" RAT to RT-PCR ratio — 77 per cent of the tests are RAT based while RT-PCR comprises only 23 per cent, Delhi government said this is because Delhi has adopted an aggressive testing strategy and is testing more than any city or state in India.

Nyay Yojna: A boon for
Chhattisgarh's economy

Hyderabad, Nov. 5: A wave of joy and enthusiasm strikes the rural areas of Chhattisgarh, especially the agrarian sector with the Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojna, launched by the C h h a t t i s g a r h Government, to boost the rural economy.

Within a few months of its launch, it has proved to be a boon for the entire state's economy.

The scheme has strengthened and uplifted the rural livelihood from its core.

Chhattisgarh has bagged the first position nationwide, along with Andhra Pradesh, by collecting 26% more GST in this year's month of October, when compared with the same month last

year, amid the economic slowdown caused due to Covid-19 crisis.

Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel led state government, launched the Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojna, on May 21 on the martyrdom day of the late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

The scheme had derived its initial vision and essence with Rahul Gandhi's Promise of Nyay in his manifesto.

It was decided that to make the rural economy self-sufficient and self-reliant, direct money needs to be transferred into the farmer's bank accounts and not mere loans can solve the existing issues, which are making them weaker day by day.

Shah: 'Death knell' for Didi govt

■ Continued from Page 1

the internal security of the nation. I appeal to the people of Bengal to oust the present government to ensure the nation's security, jobs for unemployed youth and relief to the poor from their plight. Please give the BJP a chance. We will work all out to create a 'Sonar Bangla' under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership."

Mr Shah has set a target before the BJP to win more than 200 Assembly seats out of 294 in West Bengal next year.

"The 22 seats (last Lok Sabha Election in West Bengal) were won courtesy to your hard work except four-five seats where we lost by few thousand votes. But now we will win more than 200 seats in the coming Assembly polls here. Whoever wants to laugh, let them do so. But we will do it following our strategy with dedication," he

told the party workers at a meeting in Bankura. Attacking the Trinamul supremo, the home minister said: "On one hand a dangerous public anger against the Mamata Banerjee government is visible, while on the other great respect full of hope towards Mr Modi is seen for a change in Bengal under his leadership."

Stung by Mr Shah's blistering attack, chief minister Mamata Banerjee angrily said: "I can well understand the meaning of 'Uthakar Phek Do'. Will it be good if I also ask for the same in reply? So better keep your own things to yourself. We respect all our legends, Bengal will not accept if some outsiders think they will break her nationalist feelings and destroy the state. Bengal never bows her head." Referring to the BJP's event, she alleged: "Some political parties are not abiding by the law for the Covid-19 pandemic.

Rajnath tough
line as India,
China in talks
at LAC today

■ Continued from Page 1

diamond jubilee of the National Defence College.

Defence secretary Ajay Kumar said India had made it clear it stood for an inclusive and rules-based order. "We don't believe in any one country trying to unilaterally dominate its position over others by force," he said. "We have shown very clearly that when these values are attacked or going to be challenged, we will stand up to them. We have stood up to what has happened in the eastern border and we have stood up to any pressure mounted against us in this regard," Mr Kumar added.

The defence minister said peace can only be ensured through the ability to deter war. "We have attempted to build this deterrence through a judicious combination of capability development and an emphasis on the long-term policy of indigenisation," said Mr Singh. He said one of the most important elements of India's foreign and security policy was the "Neighbourhood First" initiative.

"With the exception of Pakistan, given its agenda of fuelling terrorism, India has improved its relations with all neighbours. We have invested heavily to help and support our friends to forge a relationship of mutual respect and mutual interest," said the defence minister. He said: "We have achieved substantial success in working with progressive and like-minded countries to not only expose Pakistan's regressive policies but also make it increasingly difficult to continue with its previous business as usual approach."

THE ASIAN AGE

6 NOVEMBER 2020

Biden or Trump? US is facing uncertain future

Three days after a deeply divided America went to the polls to elect its next President, we still don't know for sure if Donald Trump will stay at the White House for the next four years, or if his Democratic challenger Joe Biden – and his running mate Kamala Devi Harris – will take the oath of office on January 20 next. With this election having seen a record turnout, and over 100 million votes – close to half the total – being cast ahead of the actual date, not to mention the larger-than-usual number of mail-in ballots (particularly due to the Covid-19 pandemic, in which the US recorded the largest number of cases), the counting is still going on relentlessly in several of the so-called “battleground” states.

At the point of writing while it does appear Mr Biden, the former vice-president who served under President Barack Obama, is likely to get a clear majority of the popular vote, and is far closer than Mr Trump, the incumbent, to reaching the 270 magic figure in the Electoral College, and becoming America's 46th President, nothing is ever certain till he actually reaches that mark. That might happen tonight, or sooner, or it may take many days, if not weeks, but the rules of the game require that all ballots must be counted.

Shockingly, however, the sitting President, who is sworn to uphold the US Constitution, doesn't seem to feel so, and in an outrageous statement at the White House on Wednesday demanded the counting be halted and declared that he had already won. This while votes were still being tallied in several states, and he himself was leading in some of them. He also threatened to move the Supreme Court to get the count halted, and by Thursday his campaign's legal teams followed through in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Georgia, and sought a recount in Wisconsin, which had gone in Mr Biden's favour, to stave off the President's defeat. We don't know yet how the US courts, including the Supreme Court (which has a conservative majority inclined towards Mr Trump's right-wing ideology), will react to the President's manoeuvres, but if the vote count is halted anywhere till every ballot was recorded, it will be a terrible negation of the people's rights in a country that prides itself as the world's oldest democracy.

If Mr Biden does succeed finally in making it to the White House, despite all the impediments put in his way, he will find that governing will not be an easy task. Disappointingly for him, the vote on Tuesday was not the decisive rejection of “Trumpism” he and his party had campaigned for, and though the Democrats managed to retain control of the House of Representatives, their likely failure to wrest back control of the Senate means that a Biden administration will face roadblocks all the way, and perhaps be forced to resort to executive orders to deliver on its agenda. While a change of guard in Washington may be welcomed in most of the world, especially among America's closest allies, Mr Biden might find his diplomatic skills may first have to be deployed to work with the Senate's Republican leaders. The strong India-US strategic partnership is expected to remain on track, as it has bipartisan support in America, but New Delhi should be prepared for some pinpricks.

Threatened to move the Supreme Court to get the count halted, and by Thursday his campaign's legal teams followed through in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Georgia, and sought a recount in Wisconsin, which had gone in Mr Biden's favour, to stave off the President's defeat. We don't know yet how the US courts, including the Supreme Court (which has a conservative majority inclined towards Mr Trump's right-wing ideology), will react to the President's manoeuvres, but if the vote count is halted anywhere till every ballot was recorded, it will be a terrible negation of the people's rights in a country that prides itself as the world's oldest democracy.

Alimony guidelines welcome

The Supreme Court's order laying down guidelines for the lower courts when deciding petitions for interim compensation and quantum of maintenance in matrimonial cases is a welcome step on many counts. First and foremost is that there is a set of guidelines to be followed by family courts, magistrates and lower courts to ensure uniformity and consistency in such cases. This should help early settlement of cases as the presiding judges have a solid base to build their orders on. The second is that maintenance will be paid from the date of filing of a petition in a court. This one norm will disincentivise husbands from prolonging such cases, which often end up in the Supreme Court. The court has observed that the pendency of the cases and the final settlement, could take years and the estranged partner would be living a miserable life, unable to meet life's expenses. The guidelines assure the woman a source of money even if it comes bit late. In economic parlance, she can monetise her petition and escape penury.

The apex court has taken care to make the process of deciding alimony as transparent and just as possible. The courts must henceforth take into account the financial position and assets of both the partners before deciding the quantum of maintenance; the expenses of the children and the basic needs, and the spiralling inflation should also be factored in while arriving at a sum. That the court has attached such orders the authority of an order of a civil court will enable the aggrieved partner to approach the authorities to enforce it, should there be a breach. In short, through a single order, the apex court has some shed light into the lives of thousands of women whom patriarchy had dumped into the dungeons of misery on the watch of a heartless judicial system. They can now hope for an escape.

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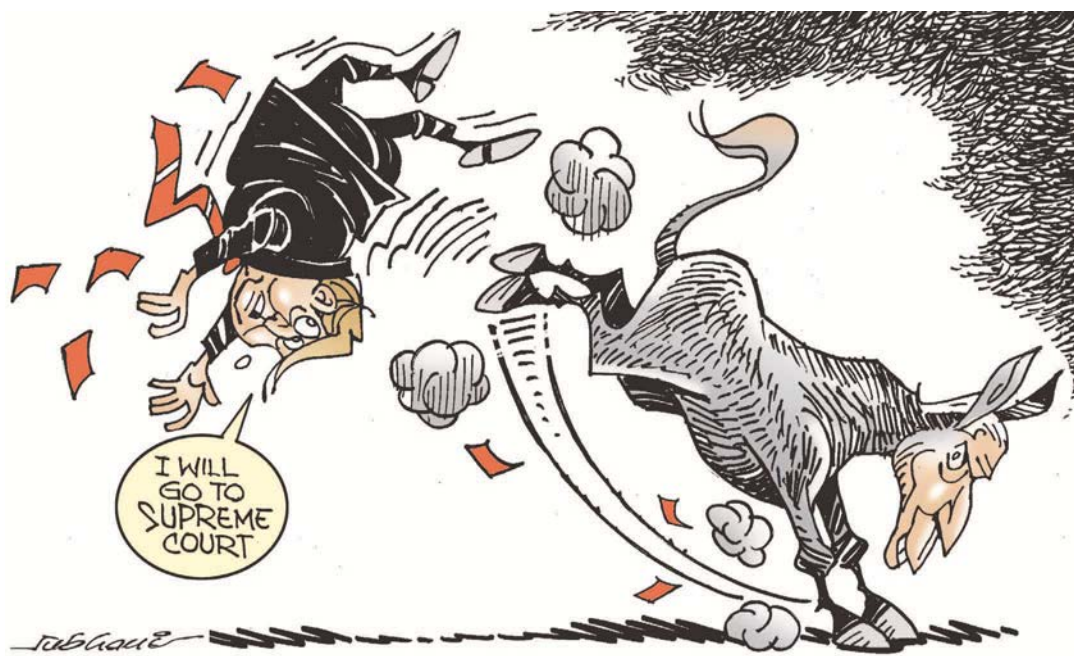
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Subhani



Pakistan in free fall is dangerous for India



Syed Ata Hasnain

Pakistan is in the news again, this time over looming threats to the Imran Khan government from a surprisingly united Opposition. Coupled with the bankruptcy of the economy, the cozying up to Turkey and Malaysia's wholly Islamist agenda, the fall-out with France over the recent terror and *Charlie Hebdo* cartoon issue, and its retention on the Financial Action Task Force's grey list; all these are creating a spectre of uncertainty and despair. The visible symptoms of the Opposition taking Imran Khan's government to the cleaners are there for all to see. Massive demonstrations under the banner of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) were held in Gujranwala and other cities. The PDM is an 11-party conglomeration (not an alliance yet) that has surprisingly seen Bilawal Bhutto's PPP and Nawaz Sharif's PML(N), represented physically on the frontlines by his daughter Maryam Nawaz, coming together with Maulana Fazlur Rahman of Jamiat Ulema-e Islam. It includes Balochistan National Party chief Sardar Akhtar Mengal. The objective is to rid Pakistan of the rule of Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), that was catapulted to power by the Pakistan Army in 2018. The ultimate intent is, of course, to remove the all-pervasive hand of the Army from Pakistan's politics. These leaders hope to throw up a civil society movement to achieve that, but Pakistan's civil society along with its media have been emaciated over the years. In 1968, Ayub Khan could be overthrown partially due to the powerful civil society-led movement in the streets, although it did lead to the imposition of martial law. Ever

since the overthrow of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in 1977, the powerful Pakistan Army has ensured the further weakening of civil society and the media to obviate the possibility of popular street revolts. The “Deep State”, which runs Pakistan, despite the front of so-called elected civilian governments, has cleverly used the draw of religion and ideology along with outsourced power to the clergy to keep intact its influence and power. But now things seem to be changing, with the altered circumstances. Can these circumstances make a difference in the internal power game in Pakistan?

We have earlier seen massive turnouts of people in Pakistan, but mostly on religious and ideological calls. Islamabad was blockaded by such calls many times in the past five years. This time it is for a political cause after long, and unity among political parties isn't something to be easily expected. Things appear much more serious with the two strongest parties PML(N) and PPP having set aside their differences for the moment and agreed upon a compromise leader in Maulana Fazlur Rehman. This unity may not last long due to their regional power bases attempting to upend each other. The PDM proposes to launch a mass protest campaign comprising public gatherings, political rallies, no-confidence motions, en masse resignations from assemblies and, finally, a long march in January that will culminate in a sit-in in Islamabad until their demands are met. Sticking together long enough to see it through will be a major challenge. The Army may have some ways of its own to break this unity; an offer of power to one

party may well be on the cards: anything is possible in Pakistan's fractious politics.

What does favour the Opposition is the abysmal state of the economy and the fact that Imran Khan and the Army have little clue on what to do about it. In addition, the most emotive issue of Kashmir seems to be slipping from the Pakistan government's hands after the Indian moves of August 5, 2019, which abrogated all special constitutional provisions for J&K. In a recent move, Saudi Arabia released a new banknote and the world map displayed on the obverse side of the note doesn't show Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir as parts of Pakistan. This coming from a nation that supported Pakistan for many years and was responsible for almost all its economic bailouts clearly shows that its interests do not lie with Pakistan's awkward internal politics or its inability to pursue American-Saudi interests. Pakistan's support to Turkey and Malaysia in an apparent bid to cultivate new power equations within the Islamic world is bringing it to grief with Saudi Arabia. Now with further efforts to be more Islamic than the others, by taking on France, Pakistan is actually falling foul with the Western world in general without considering the future of its economic bailouts; as China's largesse is not unending. China, that invested \$60 billion in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project, is also hand in glove with the Islamabad regime in exploiting Balochistan and Sindh, which is

fuelling discontent among the people of these provinces.

Where the Opposition has a slight advantage is that the Army may have no plan to step in to directly rule a nation with a bankrupt economy. Thus, martial law is a long shot and unlikely. The fairly professional Pakistan Army may appear to be united behind its chief, Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa. However, the ambitions that subordinate generals harbour are rarely known. The batches of generals who were overlooked for the top slot due the controversial three-year extension given to Gen. Bajwa by Imran Khan, would yet wish to see his back. With a new government there could be the possibility of a new Army leadership, though Gen. Bajwa will use all his guile to stay on and be the guiding light to a new dispensation if he ditches Imran Khan.

The Pakistan Army under Gen. Bajwa does not seem to be as intelligently energetic as in the past. Its handling of the Sindh police case in the totally unnecessary effort to intimidate Nawaz Sharif's son-in-law, Safdar Awan, has badly let down its image. What also appears true is the inability of the Pakistan Army to push back sufficiently on J&K. It may rest content with what has happened in Ladakh but another year in J&K with the networks under strain, different leaderships wiped out and fresh ones unable to infiltrate, is likely to see much higher advantage to India. It is at such times that India needs its antennae up higher than usual. When an adversary's military used to internal control at its bidding and perceived success in a proxy war which it intends fighting for long, suddenly finds itself under pressure from different directions with few good options, it is time for caution. A Pakistan in free fall is always unpredictable and thus dangerous.

The writer, a retired lieutenant-general, is a former GOC of the Srinagar-based 15 Corps

When an adversary's military used to internal control at its bidding and perceived success in a proxy war, suddenly finds itself under pressure from different directions with few good options, it is time for caution

LETTERS

AND THE WINNER IS...

Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar's sentimental appeal to the people is his last attempt to make the people vote for him in these Assembly elections. It very well indicates which way the wind is blowing. Mr Kumar's government has failed to stand by the people during these very trying times of the pandemic. It will, therefore, be thrown out. Tejashwi Yadav's coalition is set to win this election.

Bhagwan Thadani
Mumbai

BJP EXPOSES ARNAB

BY PROTESTING the arrest of Arnab Goswami who is accused of cheating a man of his dues and driving him to suicide, the BJP is proving that it is indeed patronised by Republic TV which is infamous for its jingoism and shrill coverage of non-news. Mr Goswami has not been arrested for the TRP scam or for poor journalism, hence its invocation of press freedom and the Emergency is unwarranted. The offence Mr Goswami is accused of committing carries a maximum jail term of 10 years. Let justice be served.

Ibne Giasuddin
Mumbai

NO MURUGAN WALK

IN A SETBACK to the BJP's Tamil Nadu unit, the state government informed the Madras high court on Thursday that it has denied permission for the party's 'Vetrivel Yatra' citing the Covid-19 pandemic as reason. The BJP had proposed to embark on the yatra from November 6 to December 6 across Tamil Nadu to celebrate Tamil deity Lord Murugan in its attempt to consolidate the Hindu vote bank. Well done, court.

Sankar Paul
Chakdaha, West Bengal

SETBACK FOR INDIA

THE TRENDS emerging from the counting of the votes in the US presidential elections do not auger well for India. The candidate, who is slowly expanding his lead over his rival, has shown a distinctly anti-Indian bias during the propaganda stages of the polls. If he indeed becomes the next incumbent of the White House, then the entire Muslim world (especially Pakistan) and, perhaps, even China will be seen celebrating his victory.

Arun Malankar
Mumbai

Every Monday the best letter of the week wins ₹500. Email: asianage.letters@gmail.com.

Raj Mohan Tella



IPL's purpose to boost talent, but cricket should always come first

For a cricket spectator like me, the IPL or the Indian Premier League presents long periods of intense self-absorption. But I am sometimes intrigued by what could have been the actual purpose of this greatly addictive tournament.

Great cricket, a revenue opportunity for the cricket board, advertisers getting to reach cricket-worshipping India, spectators banding together as fan armies — all of this, yes, but the one that appeals to me deeply is this — it is a platform for young cricketers to play, compete with some of the best players in the world and gain that much-needed international exposure.

Imagine a T. Natarajan bowling to Chris Gayle. Or an Ankit S. Rajpoot getting advice from Steve Smith. IPL seems to help in gaining confidence, earning a standing and possibly even bolstering their self-worth. For some of them, it has

paved the way to donning the India colours. If you ask me, this is the real worth of IPL.

“Yatra pratibha avsara prapnoti-hi”, which means “Where talent meets opportunity”. This is what is inscribed on the IPL trophy. And this rings so true hearing Hyderabad bowler Mohammed Siraj's down-to-earth articulation of his humble beginnings and passion for cricket. How cricket and his IPL earnings gave him an opportunity to provide basic creature comforts to his parents and brother. This season, Siraj has hit the headlines in IPL for several reasons. And now he is also a part of the Indian Test team. There are many more young cricketers who have stories similar to Siraj's. All of which reflect IPL's real brand purpose.

But does purpose really matter? Especially for brands and businesses? We hear so much talk from mar-

keting wizards that purpose guides brands and purpose it is when you have to connect with the new, thinking consumer. Some pundits even say that purpose means brands having a point of view and appeal to the higher, emotional needs of a consumer. No disagreements on that. But isn't the fundamental question the ability of a brand to deliver a functional benefit, solve a problem or meet a need? Certainly, a brand can advocate a purpose, but while doing that the assumption is that the functional aspects are getting delivered. Because that allows for basic survival of the brand. And purpose helps building on it with elements of emotion and differentiation.

In the difficult times we live in now, when survival of businesses seems to be paramount, functionality is at the core. It cannot be sacrificed for purpose. And merely having one is not enough. What pur-

pose does have a Parle G have, except to give us all a satisfying and value for money biscuit time? It is in fact one of India's most popular comfort food. Or for that matter isn't the purpose of all payment apps to deliver convenience and speed while protecting our details? But if you were to say a hospital brand or an organic food company needs to have a purpose, I would agree. Purpose is not a holy grail. Marketers need to prioritise functionality and layer this with the avowed purpose. I would suggest a four-point check list for deciding on the purpose — understand the functional benefits of your brand, assess the emotional dimensions your brand can shoulder, do a pulse check on your more vocal target audiences, their needs and aspirations, and draw a strong connection between the purpose and your line of business.

Switching back to IPL and brand

purpose in that context — don't we all need to have great, gripping and enjoyable cricket first, then as fans or rather as consumers of cricket, we move our attention to the other outcomes, like young names getting recognised and gaining a semblance of financial stability? Just imagine; if IPL were to only tell you they were bringing young cricketers together and providing them a platform. Would you watch IPL with the same enthusiasm? Well as a fan and cricket lover you would want the big names, the fanfare, the myths and stories that cricket creates and the nailbiting finishes — all of which are the promise of IPL. After that comes the purpose that has let a Mohammed Siraj bowl us over...

Raj Mohan Tella is the founder of Brandlogues, a global brand consulting firm. He can be reached at rajmohan@brandlogues.com.

IN BRIEF

THREE HAFIZ SAEED AIDES SENTENCED

Lahore, Nov. 5: An anti-terrorism court in Pakistan on Thursday handed down up to 16 years' imprisonment to three top leaders of the banned Jamaat-ud-Dawah (JuD), including the brother-in-law of Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed, in two cases of terror financing.

The Anti-Terrorism Court Lahore convicted Saeed's brother-in-law Hafiz Abdul Rehman Makki, Zafar Iqbal and Muhammad Ashraf in two more cases of terror financing registered by the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Punjab police.

The JuD leaders were present in the court as Presiding Judge Ijaz Ahmad Buttari announced the sentence in two cases of 2019.

UK FURLOUGH WAGE PLAN EXTENDED

London, Nov. 5: UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak on Thursday extended the furlough, or taxpayer-funded wage support scheme, until the end of March next year.

Sunak, who has been leading the UK's economic response to the Coronavirus pandemic, made a statement in Parliament to confirm that the scheme will pay up to 80 per cent of employee wages up to £2,500 a month, with a review of the policy scheduled for January next year.

The revised version of the furlough or forced leave scheme, which is designed for employees to hold on to their jobs through lockdown, will mean that anyone made redundant after September 23 can be re-hired and put back on furlough. "I've always said I would do whatever it takes to protect jobs and livelihoods across the UK," he said.

DUBAI DRAW: INDIAN EXPAT WINS \$1 MN

Dubai, Nov. 5: An Indian expat in Bahrain has won a whopping \$1 million in the Dubai Duty Free Millennium Millionaire draw. Sunil Kumar Kathuria, 33, who works as a sales person for a private company in Manama, became the 342nd person to win the million dollars on Wednesday, *Gulf News* reported.

A resident of Manama, he won \$1 million with his ticket purchased online on October 17. He is also the 170th Indian to win \$1 million at the DDF Millennium Millionaire draw. "I am a second generation expat living here (in Bahrain). It has been almost 10-12 years since I visited Dubai. I will make a trip sometime," Kathuria was quoted as saying by the report.

"It (money) will be put to good use. I want to do some charity, perhaps buy a home. I will discuss with my parents and see what to do with it. Right now we are just excited with the win," he said. According to DDF organisers, Indian nationals make up the highest number of Dubai Duty Free Millennium Millionaire ticket buyers.

VATICAN NOD TO PRIEST SEX ABUSE PROBE

Warsaw, Nov. 5: The Vatican has ordered an investigation into allegations that a now-retired archbishop in Poland was negligent in investigating reports of sex abuse of minors by priests in his Gdansk archdiocese.

The Vatican Embassy in predominantly Roman Catholic Poland said the archbishop of Warsaw had been assigned to conduct the probe and that the preliminary investigation into Archbishop Slawoj Leszek Glodz has been completed. The embassy provided no details about the outcome in a statement issued this week.

Pope Francis accepted Glodz's resignation on his 75th birthday in August, a sign he was taking the allegations against the archbishop seriously. Glodz, who had also served as the chief chaplain of Poland's armed force, denies any negligence. Abuse survivors included Glodz in a report identifying two dozen current and retired Polish bishops accused of protecting predator priests. The report was delivered to Francis on the eve of his 2019 global abuse prevention summit at the Vatican.

Oregon police face off with far-left protesters, arrest 10

Riot declared in Portland, emergency order extended fearing violence

Portland, Nov. 5: Oregon police and National Guard troops in camouflage trucks pursued far-left protesters around the US city of Portland as a riot was declared late Wednesday, making at least 10 arrests.

The northwestern city that has seen continuous protests since summer had been placed on high alert by Governor Kate Brown, who extended an election-night emergency order amid fears of violent clashes over the contested US polls.

A heavy law enforcement presence flooded the streets after a handful of demonstrators broke off from hundreds-strong anti-Trump protests to shatter storefront windows, and a man believed to have thrown a Molotov cocktail was arrested.

The Multnomah County Sheriff's Office cited "widespread violence" in the city's downtown area, including glass bottles thrown at police who advanced on demonstrators. An *AFP* journalist at the scene witnessed two arrests during a skirmish on a street corner that left protester Michael Ream with a bloodied face.

"It's the same thing it always is — just horrible conduct of the police force and the terrible legacy that they carry every day," the 38-year-old PhD student told *AFP* as police handcuffed him.

Asked whether this week's contested election had brought him to the streets, he replied: "More or less. I mean, I haven't been out (protesting) in a while." Portland has seen months of clashes between police and demonstrators, angered at the repeated killings of POC Americans by law enforcement officers across the country. — *AFP*



An Oregon State Trooper hits a protester with his baton while dispersing a crowd of protesters in Portland, Oregon on Thursday. Protests, some peaceful and others violent, broke out in Portland as the presidential election remained undecided. — *AFP*

No comments: UN spokesman

United Nations, Nov. 5: A spokesperson for UN Secretary-General António Guterres has said that he has no comments as of now on the 2020 US Presidential Election and the process is being watched closely. "No, not at this point. I mean, we're all watching, obviously, closely. The process is still... is

● **SPOKESMAN FOR the UN Secretary-General Stéphane Dujarric was responding to a question whether Trump's assertion that he won the poll is helpful or dangerous.**

playing itself out. We do not have a comment at

this point," Spokesman for the Secretary-General Stéphane Dujarric said on Wednesday. He was responding to a question on if he has a comment yet on the US election and whether President Donald Trump's assertion that he won the election is "helpful or dangerous." — *PTI*

Over 12 Indian Americans win polls

Washington, Nov. 5: More than a dozen Indian Americans have won state-level elections. This is besides the four Indian Americans elected to the US House of Representatives: Dr Ami Bera, Pramila Jayapal, Ro Khanna and Raja Krishnamoorthi.

The five women elected are Jenifer Rajkumar to

the New York Assembly, Nima Kulkarni to the Kentucky State House, Keshia Ram to the Vermont State Senate, Vandana Slatter to the Washington State House, Padma Kuppala to the Michigan State House, Niraj Antani to the Ohio State Senate, Jay Chaudhuri re-elected to the North Carolina State Senate,

Amish Shah to the Arizona State House, Nikil Saval to the Pennsylvania State Senate, Ranjeev Puri to the Michigan State House, Jeremy Cooney to the New York State Senate. Ash Kalra has been re-elected to the California State Assembly for the third consecutive term.

Ravi Sandill has won the

District Court Judge polls in Texas. Keshia Ram is the first woman of colour elected to the Vermont State Senate, Nikil Saval is the first Indo-American elected to the Pennsylvania General Assembly, Jenifer Rajkumar is the first South Asian woman elected to the New York state office. — *PTI*

UK min warns of virus fines

London, Nov. 5: The UK government on Thursday reminded people about the tough fines in place over severe breaches as England entered its second stay-at-home lockdown in order to try and control the rapid spread of Covid-19 infections, expected to last at least until December 2.

UK Justice Secretary Robert Buckland said that while the police forces of the country will continue to follow the principle of policing by consent, they would respond to "egregious breaches" and hand out fines where necessary. Under the legal requirements in place, people have been told to stay at home unless leaving for work if they can't work from home or to shop for essentials or a form of daily exercise.

All non-essential shops, pubs, bars, restaurants and gyms have been ordered to close and households are also banned from mixing indoors or in private gardens, unless in a so-called "support bubble". There is a £200 fine for each breach which doubles on every offence up to a maximum of £6,400 and organisers of large gatherings face a £10,000 fine.

U.S. SETS RECORD WITH OVER 1LAKH NEW INFECTIONS

Washington, Nov. 5: The United States set another record for daily confirmed Coronavirus cases as states around the country posted all-time highs, underscoring the vexing issue that confronts the winner of the presidential race. The surging cases and hospitalisations reflect the challenge that either President Donald Trump or former Vice President Joe Biden will face in the coming months over the pandemic, with winter and the holidays approaching. Public health experts fear potentially dire consequences. — *AP*

"Where a more intense intervention is needed then the police will be involved and of course the fine structure is still in force," Buckland told the BBC. "I think the message has to go out very clearly that this will only work if we all play our part," he said. — *PTI*

Don immigration rule takes effect

Chicago, Nov. 5: A federal appeals court has allowed a Trump administration rule that would deny green cards to immigrants who use public benefits like food stamps to go back into effect while it considers the case.

The Election Day development was the latest dizzying twist in a legal battle over the controversial rule that the Trump administration argues helps ensure those who are self-sufficient come to the country. On Monday, US District Judge Gary Feinerman in Chicago struck down

the rule and US Citizenship and Immigration Services stopped applying it to pending applications.

Government attorneys appealed, and the 7th US Circuit Court of Appeals put a hold on the ruling the next day, allowing the restrictions to take effect again. USCIS spokesman Matthew Bourke said Wednesday that the agency would immediately restart applying the rule to pending cases, but not "re-adjudicate any applications or petitions that were approved" in light of Monday's decision.

Under the Trump administration rule, officials can deny permanent residency to legal immigrants over their use of food stamps, Medicaid or other public benefits. Green card applicants must show they wouldn't be burdens to the country, or "public charges". Immigrant rights advocates deemed it a "wealth test," while health experts warned of poorer health outcomes and rising costs as low-income migrants chose between necessary services and trying to stay in the country legally.

The Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights and Cook County filed the lawsuit in Chicago and planned to submit arguments to the appeals court this month. "It's no surprise that Trump's team is attempting to remove barriers that wouldn't allow enforcement of his unlawful public charge definition, even after the courts clapped back at him earlier this week," Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx, whose office argued the case, said in a statement. — *AP*

Despite virus, TJ Karachi meet today

Lahore, Nov. 5: Facing intense pressure from religious leaders, the Pakistan government has allowed thousands of Tableeghi Jamaat members to hold a three-day gathering in Lahore starting from Friday despite an uptick in the number of new Coronavirus cases. "The government has allowed the Tableeghi Jamaat to hold annual religious congregation in Raiwind with the participation of 54,000 followers," said a handout

issued by the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) government on Thursday.

It added that the three-day congregation will start on Friday and attendees have started to arrive from across the country. However, no one from outside the country is allowed to participate in the religious gathering, the statement read. The government said the COVID-19 rules will be strictly followed in the congregation. — *PTI*

Man charged under new Oz foreign laws

Melbourne, Nov. 5: A 65-year-old man has become the first person to be charged under Australia's foreign interference laws that were passed two years ago, police said Thursday.

Di Sanh Duong has a relationship with a foreign intelligence agency, an Australian Federal Police statement said. Police would not name the country, but the legislation largely targets China's growing influence. Duong was charged

in the Melbourne Magistrates Court on Thursday with preparing for a foreign interference offense, which carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison.

He was released on bail to appear in court again in March. The charge followed a yearlong investigation by the Counter Foreign Interference Task Force which was led by the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, the nation's domestic spy agency. — *AP*

Extradite Nirav, Mallya from UK soon, says India

London, Nov. 5: Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla held talks with British Home Secretary Priti Patel in London during which he strongly underlined India's interest in the expeditious extradition of former Kingfisher Airlines chief Vijay Mallya, who has completed all the legal processes related to extradition from the UK, and fugitive diamond merchant Nirav Modi.

On the last leg of his three-nation Europe tour, Shringla visited London where he held discussions with several UK ministers and officials and during his interactions with Patel and UK Foreign Office Minister for South Asia, Lord Tariq Ahmad, on Tuesday, the issue of economic offenders being extradited to face the Indian judicial system was among the issues raised.

"We strongly underlined our interest in seeing the early, expeditious extradition of Vijay Mallya, who is an economic offender who has completed all extradition procedures in the UK. We would like him to return to India as soon as possible," said Shringla. "Also, Nirav Modi. I raised this with both Lord Ahmad and the Home Secretary, and both took very careful note of our priority and sentiments in that regard," he said. Mallya, wanted in India over fraud and money laundering charges in relation to loans taken out by his now-defunct Kingfisher Airlines from state-owned Indian banks, has been found to have a case to answer in India by the UK courts.

He is currently on bail, undergoing a "confidential" legal issue before Patel can consider sign-



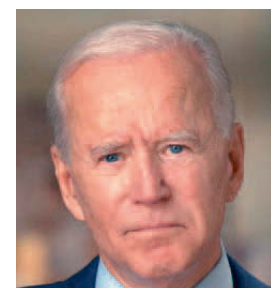
Vijay Mallya



Nirav Modi

ing off on his extradition order. On the other hand, Modi, the fugitive diamond merchant accused of fraud and money laundering in relation to the state-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB), is currently lodged in Wandsworth Prison in London as he fights his extradition to India at Westminster Magistrates' Court.

Shringla arrived in London following visits to Paris and Berlin on Tuesday and has held a series of meetings to cover a wide range of issues, including the India-UK vaccine partnership in a post-Coronavirus world and climate change as well as highlighting India's outlook on the growing importance of the Indo-Pacific region. On India-UK bilateral ties, he noted the backdrop of Britain's exit from the European Union. — *PTI*



Joe Biden

BIDEN VOWS TO REJOIN PARIS CLIMATE DEAL

Washington, Nov. 5: Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden has pledged that his administration would rejoin the historic Paris Agreement on climate change. Biden, 77, has not won the presidential elections yet, but is inching closer to be declared the winner by garnering 253 electoral votes out of the required 270. His Republican rival and incumbent US President Donald Trump has got 213 electoral votes, according to latest projections released by the US media. On November 4, the US formally withdrew from the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change, a decision originally announced three years ago.

"Today, the Trump Administration officially left the Paris Climate Agreement. And in exactly 77 days, a Biden Administration will rejoin it," Biden tweeted on Wednesday night, reflecting his decision to reverse one of the key policies of the Trump administration on day one. The US, under the Obama administration, had acceded to the Paris Agreement in 2016. It was a signature achievement of the Obama administration.

The Paris accord committed the US and 187 other countries to keeping rising global temperatures below 2C above pre-industrial levels and attempting to limit them even more, to a 1.5C rise. Trump argues that the agreement is disadvantageous for the US, while it gives benefits to countries like China, Russia and India. — *PTI*

FLOOD | FURY

28th storm of the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season, ties a record set in 2005

Eta: 5 killed, fishermen stranded in Atlantic

Tegucigalpa, Nov. 5: Honduras girded for further floods and landslides even as Storm Eta weakened into a tropical depression on Wednesday on its course towards Florida, after at least five deaths and dozens of fishermen left stranded in the Atlantic.

Eta, one of the most powerful storms to strike Central America in years, hit Nicaragua as a Category 4 hurricane before weakening as it swept over neighbouring Honduras.

Eta is forecast to return to sea and regain momentum as a tropical storm, reaching Cuba and south-

ern Florida this weekend, the US National Hurricane Center (NHC) said.

Across swathes of Nicaragua and Honduras, the storm has damaged homes, roads and bridges, forcing thousands of people to flee to shelters.

With alerts active for "life-threatening" flash flooding, Honduras declared a state of emergency, allowing officials to order evacuations.

The most important thing is human life," government spokesman Carlos Madero told reporters.

By evening, Eta was about 70 miles (115 km) east of the Honduran capital of

Tegucigalpa, and blowing maximum sustained winds of 35 mph (55 kph).

Amid the pummeling rain, a 15-year-old boy drowned trying to cross a river and a 13-year-old girl died in a landslide on her home.

Dozens of people living along Tegucigalpa's Choluteca river evacuated as the water overflowed from the banks.

About 60 fishermen were trapped at sea in the eastern Mosquitia region of Honduras, possibly taking shelter on Caribbean keys, and had not yet returned by evening, said Robin Morales, a representative

of the local population.

The deluge was so extreme in the northern Honduran city of El Progreso that a prison flooded to waist level and 604 inmates were transferred to local gyms, officials said.

In Nicaragua, the storm downed trees and power lines and caused serious flooding. Local media reported that two wildcat miners were killed by a mudslide.

Eta is the 28th named tropical storm of the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season, tying a record set in 2005, the NHC said.

— *Reuters*



Officers of the National Police and residents rescue children at the Alemania suburb in the city of El Progreso, 260 kms north of Tegucigalpa in Honduras, which was flooded by the overflow of the La Arrenera stream, due to the heavy rains caused by Hurricane Eta. — *AFP*

quick BITES

| INDICATORS | | % |
|------------------------|------------|--------|
| Sensex | 41,340.16 | 1.78 |
| Nifty 50 | 12,120.30 | 1.78 |
| S&P 500* | 3,513.95 | 2.05 |
| Dollar (₹) | 74.39 | 0.48 |
| Pound Sterling (₹) | 96.84 | -0.14 |
| Euro (₹) | 87.48 | -0.23 |
| Gold (10gm)* (₹) | 50,980▲158 | 0.30 |
| Brent crude (\$/bbl)* | 40.86 | -0.37 |
| IN 10-Yr bond yield | 5.858 | -0.001 |
| US 10-Yr T-bill yield* | 0.766 | -0.002 |

* As of 8:30 PM IST

PLI scheme for agro-chemicals mfg on cards

The government will bring a production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for promotion of domestic manufacturing of agro-chemicals, minister of state for chemicals and fertilisers Mansukh Mandaviya said. "Like we brought in the pharma sector, we will bring a production-linked incentive scheme for chemicals which are used in agro. Some basic chemicals are the same for all," he said addressing a webinar.

Hyundai drives in all new i20 at ₹6.8 lakh



Hyundai, India's second biggest carmaker, launched its all-new fourth generation Hyundai i20 premium hatchback with prices for the petrol versions starting at Rs 6.80 lakh and the diesel version starting at Rs 8.20 lakh to aggressively push sales in the festive season. The new Hyundai i20 will take on Tata Altroz, Maruti Suzuki Baleno, Toyota Glanza, Volkswagen Polo and Honda Jazz.

Sebi ups foreign investment limit for MFs, ETFs

The Sebi enhanced foreign investment limit for individual fund houses to \$600 million from \$300 million now. The watchdog also increased domestic mutual funds' foreign investment limit in the overseas exchange-traded fund (ETF) to \$200 million. Currently, it is capped at \$50 million. The aggregate ceiling remains at \$7 billion for overseas mutual fund investment and \$1 billion for overseas ETFs.

Dalmia Bharat net rises over six-fold to ₹232 cr

Cement maker Dalmia Bharat reported an over six-fold increase in its consolidated net profit at Rs 232 crore for the second quarter, helped by higher sales volume. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 36 crore during the July-September quarter a year ago. Its revenue from operations was up 7.78 per cent at Rs 2,410 crore. Total expenses were at Rs 2,083 crore against Rs 2,270 crore a year ago.

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Recovery halts in Bharat; net 5.5L jobs lost 50L find salaried jobs in October

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, NOV. 5

Though close to 50 lakh jobs were created for the salaried class in October, huge employment losses in rural India has halted the job recovery seen in the country since May this year. October recorded the first fall in jobs since May, with around 5.5 lakh losing employment during the month, according to think-tank CMIE. Rural small traders and wage labourers accounted for most of the employment loss.

It looks the job scenario has deteriorated after seeing a rapid recovery from May onwards. CMIE says the process of recovery of jobs that was robust during May, June and July and slowed down in August and September has now reversed into a fall in employment in October.

Of the 121 million jobs lost in April, 110 million jobs came back during May, June and July. Then, August and September saw the addition of only 5 million jobs. Now, October recorded the first fall since the recovery began, according to CMIE.

The IHS Markit Services PMI survey too found that employment had declined in October, despite the optimism towards the year-ahead outlook strengthening. Amid reports of workers on leave failing to return and difficulties in hiring staff due to the pandemic, services employment decreased again in



October, the survey said.

Commenting on the CMIE survey, Kruti Shah, economist, Emkay Global Financial Services, said the job losses have happened among small traders and wage labourers in the rural areas. The employment among these categories dipped almost 10.6 million from 130 million to 120 million in a month's time. However, the salaried class added close to 5 million jobs and businesses and farmers another five million, which led to a net job loss of 5.5 lakh, she said.

"The job losses could have happened probably due to the migration of hawkers and wage labourers back to the cities. Due to this migration, rural jobs show a clear dip, but urban centres have not added jobs as companies are still working on limited manpower," Shah added.

This fall in employment has come at a time the demand for jobs is rising. The count of the unemployed who were willing to work increased by 12 million in October.

Accordingly, the employment rate—which measures the extent available labour resources (people available to work) are being used—deteriorated in October. It fell from 38 per cent in September to 37.8 per cent in October. This is an outcome of a combination of a stagnant labour participation rate and an increase in the unemployment rate.

The labour participation rate as of October 2020 remains significantly lower than the levels seen till February 2020. The employment rate had shed a massive 12.2 percentage points in April. Much of this, 10.4 percentage points, was recovered during May, June and July.

The employment rate has been falling every year since 2016-17. It fell by 1.13 percentage points in 2017-18, then by 1.46 percentage points in 2018-19 and by 0.46 percentage points in 2019-20. If this trend were to continue, 2020-21 would see another fall of about one percentage point in the employment rate even if there were no lockdown.

Saudi fund PIF puts ₹9,555 cr in Reliance Retail Ventures

New Delhi, Nov. 5: Mukesh Ambani-run Reliance Industries Ltd's retail arm on Thursday raised Rs 9,555 crore from Public Investment Fund (PIF) of Saudi Arabia, taking total fundraise in the last two months to Rs 47,265 crore.

PIF will take a 2.04 per cent stake in Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL), the Indian firm said in a statement.

The investment values RRVL, the retail arm of Reliance Industries Ltd, at a pre-money equity value of Rs 4.58 lakh crore.

This is second investment by the Saudi Arabian sovereign wealth fund in an Ambani firm. It had previously picked up 2.32 per cent stake in Jio Platforms, the digital and telecom arm of Reliance, for Rs 11,367 crore.

"This investment will further strengthen PIF's presence in India's dynamic economy and promising retail market segment," the statement said.

"The transaction is in line with PIF's strategy as a leading global investor with a proven track-record of investing in innovative and transformative companies globally and develop strong partnerships with leading groups in their respective markets," it said.

India's retail sector is one of the largest in the world and accounts for over 10 per cent of its GDP, which presents meaningful growth potential.

Ambani said: "I welcome PIF as a valued partner in Reliance Retail and look forward to their sustained support and guidance."

—PTI

RBI makes co-lending easier for banks & NBFCs

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, NOV. 5

In a bid to improve the flow of credit to the unserved sectors of the economy and to make funds affordable for them, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday revised the guidelines for banks and NBFCs, including housing finance companies, to jointly lend to the priority sector. Analysts said the co-lending scheme would lead to better churning of funds by NBFCs and improve their retail loan growth.

"The primary focus of the revised scheme, rechristened as "Co-Lending Model" (CLM), is to improve the flow of credit to the unserved and underserved sector of the economy and make available funds to the ultimate beneficiary at an affordable cost, considering the lower cost of funds from banks and



greater reach of the NBFCs," the RBI said in a release.

The CLM is an improvement over the co-origination of loan scheme announced by the RBI in September 2018. Under CLM, banks are permitted to co-lend with all registered NBFCs (including HFCs) based on a prior agreement, the RBI said, adding that "the co-lending banks will take their share of the individual loans on a back-to-back basis in their books. However, NBFCs shall be required to retain a minimum of 20 per cent share of the

individual loans on their books. The guidelines state that if the bank can exercise its discretion regarding taking into its books the loans originated by NBFC as per the agreement, the arrangement will be akin to a direct assignment transaction. The NBFC will not have to maintain the minimum holding period (MHP).

Anil Gupta, vice-president and sector head—financial sector ratings, Icrs, said, "Under the CLM, if NBFCs and banks have a prior co-lending arrangement, NBFCs can immediately sell down their loan portfolio to banks without completing the minimum holding period requirement under the direct assignment transactions. This would lead to better churning of funds by NBFCs and improve their ability to drive their retail credit growth."

Market excited over a likely Biden win

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, NOV. 5

The stock market surged for the fourth straight session to close at over eight-month high, with Sensex and Nifty-50 gaining over 1.75 per cent, in line with the gains in the global markets on emerging US presidential election trends showing Joe Biden leading the race for White House.

Foreign institutional investors were major buyers, by Rs 5,368.31 crore, in the Indian market as per provisional data.

Investors perceive a Biden victory to be good for the global markets and economies and this led to buying in equities all over the world, analysts said.

Following over two per cent gains in the overnight US market, the Indian market, like its peers Asia, made a gap-up opening with the Sensex opening 496 points up at

41,112 and rose steadily through the session to close 724 points up at 41,340.

After a long time, all the 30 Sensex constituents closed in the green led by big gains for the financials mainly banks, IT and index heavy weight Reliance Industries.

The broader market was equally euphoric, with BSE Mid-cap and BSE Small-cap indices gaining 1.74 per cent and 1.70 per cent, respectively.

Adani renames Oz unit to save skin

JAMES THORNHILL NOV. 5

Enterprises Ltd renamed its Australian mining unit in a move critics see as aimed at distancing the rest of the conglomerate from a contentious new coal development.

Adani last year won approval to proceed with the 10 million-tonne per annum Carmichael thermal coal project after a decade-long struggle with regulators and environmental protesters. Carmichael became a lightning rod for climate campaigners because it will open up a new region to coal mining, connecting the Galilee Basin to Queensland's freight network via a new rail line.

The company has renamed itself Bravus Mining & Resources to mark the 10-year anniversary of its operations in the country, and the project's move into the construction phase, chief executive officer David Borshoff said in a statement.

"Adani knows its brand is toxic, which is why insurers, financiers and other contractors continue to abandon it," said Christian Slattery from the Australian Conservation Foundation.

Apollo Syndicate Management last week became the latest insurer to say it would not renew a policy for the project. Meanwhile, Siemens AG earlier this year said it would honor a contract to supply signalling systems to the Carmichael rail link, defying a backlash from activists in Australia and Germany. Adani is self-financing the mine after failing to secure external backing.

Borshoff said Carmichael was on track to produce its first coal in 2021, and had already secured a market for its output in India and Asia. "The quality of coal from the Carmichael Mine is better than the coal it will replace in the market," Borshoff said. "It will produce fewer emissions when burnt to produce electricity." —Bloomberg

Bharat Biotech's Covaxin likely in Feb: ICMR

KRISHNA N. DAS NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

A government-backed Covid-19 vaccine could be launched as early as February—months earlier than expected—as last-stage trials begin this month and studies have so far showed it is safe and effective, a senior government scientist told Reuters.

Bharat Biotech, a private company that is developing Covaxin with the government-run Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), had earlier hoped to launch it only in the second quarter of next year.

"The vaccine has shown good efficacy," senior ICMR scientist Rajni Kant, who is also a member of its Covid-19 task-force, said at the



research body's New Delhi headquarters on Thursday. "It is expected that by the beginning of next year, February or March, something would be available."

Bharat Biotech could not immediately be contacted. A launch in February would make Covaxin the first India-made vaccine to be rolled out.

The country's cases of coronavirus infections rose by 50,201 cases on

even before the third-stage trials are over.

"It has shown safety and efficacy in the phase 1 and 2 trials and in the animal studies, so it is safe but you can't be 100 per cent sure unless the phase 3 trials are over," Kant said.

"There may be some risk, if you are ready to take the risk, you can take the vaccine. If necessary, the government can think of giving the vaccine in an emergency situation."

Health minister Harsh Vardhan said in September the government was considering granting an emergency authorisation for a Covid-19 vaccine, particularly for the elderly and people in high-risk workplaces.

—Reuters

Flipkart invests in USPL to lift up fashion portfolio

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 5

The Flipkart Group on Thursday announced a strategic investment in USPL, a premium youth-focused fashion brand house, in an attempt to strengthen its fashion portfolio.

This is a Series F funding for USPL from the Flipkart Group along with participation from existing investor Accel Partners. This investment will significantly step up the online strategy of USPL by strengthening the existing longstanding engagement between the company and the Flipkart Group. USPL has built a portfolio of premier fashion brands that uniquely cater to the sensibilities, design and fitment needs for the young Indian. Wrogn, USPL's flagship brand, is one of the fastest growing men's casual wear brands in India at scale and has been amongst the leading brands on Myntra over the last few years.

USPL brands are also present in more than 750 offline retail outlets in over 100 cities in India. USPL has been growing at 40-50 per cent year-on-year, a release said.

Ms Anjana Reddy, the founder & CEO of USPL, said, "Over the years, USPL has been home to some of India's best-known fashion brands for youth. The last few months have provided a great opportunity for us to consolidate our market leadership among home-grown brands catering to the youth and expand our market share."

Kalyan Krishnamurthy, CEO, Flipkart Group, said, "USPL's unique brands, backed by celebrity endorsements, have a strong appeal for the young fashion-driven Indian consumer. This investment will help USPL and the Flipkart Group find deeper synergies."

FALLING | INVENTORY

Increasing use of bifacial panel raises demand for glass

Glass shortage threatens solar panel industry

Nov 5: The world's biggest solar power company says a shortage of glass is raising costs and delaying production of new panels, throwing a wrench into China's plans to accelerate its shift to clean power.

Prices for glass that coats photovoltaic panels have risen 71 per cent since July, and manufacturers are struggling to produce it fast enough to keep more than a week's worth of sales in inventory, according to Daiwa Capital Markets. The shortage comes as the solar industry turns toward bifacial panels, which increase both power output and glass requirements.

Solar panel producers like Longi Green Energy Technology Co have asked the government in China, home to most solar manufacturing, to address the situation by approving new factories. Otherwise price hikes may make solar power too expensive, halting the industry's momentum.



"If solar power generators see solar projects as uneconomical, they will delay investing in new projects and that will drag down solar demand," said Charles Jiang, general manager of the supply chain management centre at Longi, the world's biggest solar company by market capitalisation. "Solar power plant profits will drop below acceptable levels without government subsidies if glass makers go on to push up the

costs." In 2018, with the energy intensive and polluting glass industry facing over-capacity issues, China's government forbade companies from adding new production capacity. Longi and five other major solar companies on Tuesday met with government officials and appealed for them to remove the restrictions, at least for solar glass.

Glass demand has also been rising within the solar industry because of the increasing prominence of bifacial panels, which coat both the top and bottom with glass, allowing for a slight uptick in power generation from sunlight reflected off the ground. Such panels are expected to make up half the market in 2022, up from about 14 per cent last year, according to analysts at Sunwah Kingsway.

Stocks of solar glass manufacturers have soared this year, with

Xinyi Solar Holdings Ltd more than doubling and Flat Glass Group Co nearly quadrupling in market value in Hong Kong.

For panel makers, glass now accounts for about 20 per cent of the total cost of production, up from about 10 per cent, Longi's Jiang said. Because glass factories take so long to build, the solar industry could be 20 per cent to 30 per cent short of the glass it needs next year, with the market not being back in balance until 2022, he said.

The shortage is coming at an inopportune time as solar developers are rushing to finish projects by the end of this year to secure government subsidies. It also threatens to halt momentum just as the Chinese government considers increasing renewable power additions as the country aims to rein in pollution and become carbon neutral by 2060.

—Bloomberg

SHORT TAKES

Usman's bro jailed for fake terror plot

Sydney: Australian international cricketer Usman Khawaja's older brother was jailed on Thursday after being sentenced for his actions in framing a colleague using a fake terror plot. Arsalan Tariq Khawaja admitted forging entries in the notebook of his University of New South Wales co-worker Kamer Nizamdeen in August 2018 after being jealous of Nizamdeen's contact with a mutual female friend. Nizamdeen was arrested, locked up in a maximum-security jail for four weeks and incorrectly labeled a terrorist in the media before police discovered he had been set up. Khawaja also admitted phoning authorities in 2017 about a love rival, another man of whom he was jealous, and made visa and terrorism accusations including that the man had trained overseas. In the New South Wales District Court, Judge Robert Weber jailed the 40-year-old Khawaja for four years and six months with a non-parole period of two years and six months. Khawaja made entries on at least 22 pages of a notebook and handed it to university staff. The notebook contained death threats against then Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and the governor-general, as well as lists to attack police stations, the Boxing Day cricket test match in Melbourne and landmarks. — PTI

1,000th win for Nadal in Paris

Paris: Rafael Nadal became the fourth man to win 1,000 Tour-level matches on Wednesday by beating Feliciano Lopez at the Paris Masters, while Diego Schwartzman and Alexander Zverev also reached the third round. The 34-year-old, who won a record-extending 13th French Open title across Paris at Roland Garros last month, followed Jimmy Connors, Roger Federer and Ivan Lendl in reaching the 1,000 mark. The Spaniard had to fight back against fellow Spanish veteran Lopez, 39, but did enough to win 4-6, 7-6 (7/5), 6-4. Nadal was given a special presentation to celebrate his achievement after the match in a near-empty Bercy Arena, with the event being played behind closed doors after France entered its second coronavirus lockdown last week. Meanwhile, Argentinian Diego Schwartzman moved within one win of reaching the ATP Tour Finals for the first time thanks to a third-round thrashing of Alejandro Davidovich Fokina at the Paris Masters on Thursday. The sixth seed raced to a 6-1, 6-1 victory in only an hour and will face either third seed Daniil Medvedev or Australia's Alex de Minaur in the quarterfinals on Friday. — AFP

Bopanna-Marach make quarters

Paris: India's Rohan Bopanna and Austrian Oliver Marach stunned ninth seeds Fabrice Martin and Jean-Julien Rojer in a hard-fought second round encounter to enter the men's doubles quarterfinals of the Paris Masters tennis tournament here. The unseeded Indo-Austrian pair came from behind to defeat their fancied rivals 3-6, 6-4, 10-8 in the round of 16 tie Wednesday night. After losing the first set, the duo of Bopanna and Marach won the second to put the pressure on the French-Dutch pair. In the tie breaker, the 40-year-old Bopanna brought all his experience into play and was helped by Marach's resolve to win the match. — PTI

Live on TV

CRICKET

IPL: Eliminator — Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Royal Challengers Bangalore from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

Women's Big Bash League: Brisbane Heat vs Adelaide Strikers from 6.45 am (Saturday) on Sony Six, HD

TENNIS

ATP Paris Masters: Quarterfinals from 6.30 pm (session 1) and 11 pm (sessions 2) on Sony Six

FOOTBALL

Italian League: Sassuolo vs Udinese from 1.15 am (Saturday) on Sony Ten 2

WWE

NXT: Bouts from 6.30 am (Saturday) on Sony Ten 1

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MIGHTY IN FINAL

Ishan, Suryakumar punch big as Mumbai mum Delhi

Dubai, Nov. 5: Defending champions Mumbai Indians reached their sixth Indian Premier League final beating Delhi Capitals by 57 runs in the first Qualifier on Thursday.

Batting first, MI scored 200 for 5 riding on half-centuries from Suryakumar Yadav (51 off 38 balls) and Ishan Kishan (55 no off 30 balls). Hardik Pandya also scored 37 off 14 balls.

In reply, Delhi Capitals finished on 143 for 8 with Jasprit Bumrah taking 4 for 14.

Suryakumar Yadav's near flawless half-century complemented by Hardik Pandya's death-over fireworks saw Mumbai Indians put up an above-par 200 for 5 against Delhi Capitals in the first qualifier of the Indian Premier League on Thursday.

Surya smashed his way to a 51 off 38 balls to lay a foundation that was enough for Hardik murder the bowling with five sixes in his 14-ball-37.

In between, Ishan Kishan was an ideal anchor with a priceless half-century (55 off 30 balls), adding 60 for the sixth wicket with Hardik in only 3.5 overs.

While Ravichandran Ashwin (3/29 in 4 overs) shone brightly with his cerebral bowling, Shreyas Iyer's captaincy left a lot to be desired due to negative tactics as far as his pace department was concerned.

Starting with left-arm seam of Daniel Sams (0/44 in 4 overs) badly backfired and even worse was Kagiso Rabada (0/4 in 4 overs) and Anrich Nortje (1/50 in 4 overs) also had a forgettable day at the office.

In all, Mumbai Indians hit 15 fours and 12 sixes, a testimony to the number of bad balls bowled by the Capitals attack, especially their speed merchants,



Ishan Kishan of Mumbai Indians plays a shot against Delhi Capitals during their Indian Premier League match at Dubai International Cricket Stadium in the United Arab Emirates on Thursday.

who were bowling short of length consistently.

At the start, Rohit Sharma (0)'s dodgy hamstring did play its part as Ashwin bowled an off-break and the MI captain didn't move his front foot enough to cover the spin and was adjudged leg before. De Kock and Surya however continued in full flow as the boundaries and sixes continued to flow from their blades during the 62-run stand in only 6.1 overs. — PTI

SCORECARD

Mumbai Indians Innings: Quinton de Kock c Dhawan b Ashwin 40, Rohit Sharma lbw b Ashwin 0, Suryakumar Yadav c Sams b Nortje 51, Ishan Kishan not out 55, Kieron Pollard c Rabada b Ashwin 0, Krunal Pandya c Sams b Stoinis 13, Hardik Pandya not out 37. Extras (B-1, LB-2, W-1) 4. **Total (for 5 wickets in 20 overs) 200.**

FoW: 1-16, 2-78, 3-100, 4-101, 5-140. **Bowling:** Sams 4-0-44-0, Ravichandran Ashwin 4-0-29-3, Kagiso Rabada 4-0-42-0, Axar Patel 3-0-27-0, Anrich Nortje 4-0-50-1, Marcus Stoinis 1-0-5-1.

Delhi Capitals: P. Shaw c de Kock b Boult 0, Shikhar Dhawan b Bumrah 0, Ajinkya Rahane lbw b Boult 0, S. Iyer c Rohit b Bumrah 12, Stoinis b Bumrah 65, R. Pant c Suryakumar b K. Pandya 3, Axar Patel c Chahar b Pollard 42, Sams c de Kock b Bumrah 0, Rabada not out 15, Nortje not out 0. Extras (W-6) 6. **Total (for 8 wickets in 20 overs) 143.**

FoW: 1-0, 2-0, 3-0, 4-20, 5-41, 6-112, 7-112, 8-141. **Bowling:** Boult 2-1-9-2, Bumrah 4-1-14-4, K. Pandya 4-0-22-1, Coulter-Nile 4-0-27-0, Pollard 4-0-36-1, R. Chahar 2-0-35-0.

Sunrisers look for fresh push

Abu Dhabi, Nov. 5: With momentum on their side, a confident Sunrisers Hyderabad would look for another complete performance to continue their forward march in the IPL when they face a struggling Royal Challengers Bangalore in the Eliminator here on Friday.

Pushed to the wall after a slow start to the tournament, SRH produced a lion-hearted effort in the second leg and peaked at the right time to qualify for the play-offs by finishing third in the league standings, just ahead of RCB.

It has been contrasting results for the two teams in the business end of the tournament.

While RCB suffered four consecutive defeats to finish the league stage at the fourth spot, SRH registered a hat-trick of wins to edge past Virat Kohli's men in the standings.

| NUMBERS GAME | |
|---|--|
| HEAD TO HEAD | |
| OVERALL: | ● Matches: 16 ● Hyderabad: 8 ● Bangalore: 7 ● Tied: 1 (Sunrisers Hyderabad won in super over after match ended in a tie) |
| MEETING IN 2020 | |
| ● Royal Challengers Bangalore beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 10 runs at Dubai. | ● Sunrisers Hyderabad beat Royal Challengers Bangalore by 5 wickets at Sharjah. |
| FOR THE RECORD | |
| ● Devdutt Padikkal with 472 runs at an average of 33.71 in 14 innings of as many matches is the top scorer for Royal Challengers Bangalore in this IPL. | ● Rashid Khan, who claimed 19 wickets at an average of 15.57, is the highest wicket-taker for Sunrisers Hyderabad in this IPL. |

— S. PERVEZ KAISER

SRH made a remarkable turnaround in their final three games — defeating Delhi Capitals, RCB and table-toppers Mumbai Indians to book their last-fourth berth.

And come Friday, SRH would be brimming with confidence, especially after their 10-wicket win

over MI in the last must-win game.

The credit for SRH's success in the past few matches goes to the opening pair of Warner and Wriddhiman Saha.

The duo has clicked upfront and has so far shared two century stands — 107 against DC

and then 151 against MI.

While Warner has led SRH from the front, scoring 529 runs from 14 games to occupy the second spot in the scorers' list, Saha (184 runs from 3 matches) has proved that the SRH team management has erred in benching him for 11 ties.

On the other hand, knowing very well that another blunder could send them packing, the Kohli-led RCB have a lot to ponder over.

Young Devdutt Padikkal, who scored his fifth fifty of the event in their last game, has been consistent at the top but Kohli needs to step up as of late, his strike rate has come under the scanner.

Kohli and AB de Villiers need to take responsibility in the big match for RCB, which also features the likes of Chris Morris, Shivam Dube and Washington Sundar and bats quite deep. — PTI

‘TEMPERATURE DROP MADE CHASE EASIER’

Mumbai, Nov. 5: Batting great Sachin Tendulkar feels that with temperatures dropping in the UAE, it has become easier to chase in the ongoing IPL as the tournament enters its business end during which the dew factor has also come into play.

“The tournament started six weeks ago. What the temperature was back then compared to what it is now, on an average it has dropped by six degrees,” Tendulkar said on *100MB* app.

“Also if you look at shadows, the positioning is such, sunset timing is different. All these things affect the pitch. The pitch temperature was earlier coming down only in the second innings,” cricket legend Tendulkar further added. — PTI

Sophie trailblazes misfiring Velocity

Sharjah, Nov. 5: Left-arm spinner Sophie Ecclestone grabbed four wickets for just nine runs in a sensational bowling display to help Trailblazers beat Velocity by nine wickets in their Women's T20 Challenge match here on Thursday.

Englishwoman Ecclestone, ranked number one in the ICC T20 rankings, was well supported by veteran Jhulan Goswami (2/13) and Rajeshwari Gaekwad (2/13) as Trailblazers dismissed Velocity in 15.1 overs.

Trailblazers then chased down the small target of 48 in just 7.5 overs with opener Deandra Dottin and Richa Ghosh remaining not out on 29 and 13 respectively.

Despite their win against Supernovas on Wednesday, Velocity's net run rate would take a beating after Thursday's loss and that could hit them hard.

It was, however, a quiet start in the run chase for the Trailblazers as the Velocity bowlers denied them any loose balls. Dottin and captain Smriti Mandhana (6) were finding hard to get the boundaries. Mandhana finally went for the aerial route but perished in the process.

The Trailblazers were 28 for 1 at the end of powerplay and they ended the match in quick time with Ghosh hitting a six to take her side to victory. Velocity captain Mithali



Sophie Ecclestone of Trailblazers in action against Velocity during their Women's T20 Challenge match at Sharjah Cricket Stadium in the United Arab Emirates on Thursday.

— BCCI

Raj's decision to bat first backfired as half of her batswomen were back in the dressing room inside powerplay for just 22 runs.

Shafali threatened to play a big innings as she hit a four and a six early one but the seasoned Goswami outfoxed the youngster, sending her stumps cart-wheeling. — PTI

BRIEF SCORES

■ Velocity 47 in 15.1 overs (Shafali Verma 13; Sophie Ecclestone 4-9, J. Goswami 2-13, RS Gayakwad 2-13) lost to Trailblazers 49/1 in 7.5 overs (Dottin not out 29)

Back-to-back games got to us: Mithali

Sharjah, Nov. 5: The legendary Mithali Raj, who is leading the Velocity team in the Women's T20 Challenge on Thursday, admitted the difficulty of play back-to-back matches with less than 12 hours of recovery time in sultry conditions.

Mithali said her side didn't have enough time recuperate as they crumbled to a nine-wicket defeat in the hands of Trailblazers.

“As far as playing in the afternoon definitely we haven't even got 12 hours to recover from yesterday's game.

“So clearly yes, it has been difficult for the girls to prepare themselves and come back and play the afternoon game after playing last night,” Mithali

said in the post match press conference.

While the other two teams have rest days between their games, Velocity played two consecutive games in less than 24 hours in addition to the travel between Dubai and Sharjah.

As a result Velocity put up a disappointing show to be bundled for a paltry 47 in 15.1 overs as the Trailblazers chased down the target in 7.5 overs.

Talking about the top ranked ICC T20 bowler Sophie Ecclestone Mithali said the Englishwomen did well to quickly adapt to the conditions. That's why she's number one because she has come up with a game plan,” Mithali said. — PTI

WORKING ON WEAKNESS, FITNESS HELPED: BISHT

Sharjah, Nov. 5: Left-arm spinner Ekta Bisht said working on her bowling skills and fitness during the coronavirus-induced break helped her to execute the plans as she returned with a three-wicket haul to guide Velocity to a five-wicket win over Supernovas here.

Ekta (3 for 22) claimed wickets off successive deliveries in the last over as defending champions Supernovas could not accelerate in the death overs to be restricted for a paltry 126 for 8 in the opening match of the Women's T20 Challenge.

“In the lockdown, I stayed back in Almorah and worked on my bowling weakness with my coach. I also worked on fitness and it really helped. We had a long gap after a hectic season so it was good to be back,” she said during the press conference. — PTI



Lionel Messi (right) of Barcelona vies with Dynamo Kiev's Illia Zabarnyi during their UEFA Champions League Group 'G' football match at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on Wednesday.

— AFP

Barca, Juventus clinch wins; PSG, Man U come croppers

Paris, Nov. 5: Lionel Messi scored as Barcelona overcame a depleted Dynamo Kiev 2-1 in the Champions League on Wednesday, while Juventus eased Ferencvaros aside and Manchester United slumped to an unexpected defeat in Turkey.

Nine-man PSG lost to RB Leipzig in a repeat of last season's semi-final and Chelsea proved too strong for Rennes, with Timo Werner twice converting from the penalty spot.

Making his 150th appearance in European competition, Messi dispatched an early penalty at Camp Nou after he was fouled in the area and Gerard Pique headed in Ansu Fati's cross on the hour.

Viktor Tsygankov grabbed a consolation for coronavirus-hit Dynamo as Barca, winless in four games in La Liga, recorded their third successive Group 'G' victory to stay three points clear of Juventus. Cristiano Ronaldo made his

first start for the Italian champions since September after testing positive for Covid-19 in a 4-1 win at Hungarian side Ferencvaros.

However, the Portuguese star was outshone in Budapest by Alvaro Morata, whose two goals put Andrea Pirlo's team in control.

Paulo Dybala added a third before an own goal from Lasha Dvali, with Franck Boli netting for the hosts in the final minute.

United produced a shambolic first-half defensive display as Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side lost 2-1 against Istanbul Basaksehir. Demba Ba collected the ball just inside his own half and raced through to beat goalkeeper Dean Henderson on 13 minutes, with Edin Visca smashing in a second after Juan Mata was stripped of possession.

Anthony Martial's header cut the deficit before half-time but United saw their momentum in

Group 'H' halted after wins over PSG and RB Leipzig last month.

Emil Forsberg's penalty earned Leipzig a 2-1 victory as they came from behind to beat a weakened Paris Saint-Germain, dealing a major blow to the Champions League aspirations of last season's runners-up. Angel di Maria had given PSG an early lead in Germany but Christopher Nkunku levelled before half-time for Leipzig and Forsberg converted from the spot in the 57th minute before the visitors had both Idrissa Gueye and Presnel Kimpembe sent off.

Chelsea strolled to a 3-0 win at home against Rennes who saw defender Dalbert sent off after conceding two penalties in the first half. Werner took over spot-kick duties from Jorginho and confidently tucked both away before Tammy Abraham turned in a third for the Blues on 50 minutes. — AFP